Key Areas of Engagement
GBV Response

GBV response relates to actions taken after incidents of GBV, with particular attention to the treatment of survivors by their community and access to survivor-centered services. All survivors of GBV should have access to support and services, based on their needs and preferences, including GBV case management, psychosocial support, justice, and security services. The GBV Response chapter includes ideas for engaging community leaders to strengthen community-based response systems, build community awareness of response services, and foster survivor-centered attitudes, norms, and behaviors.

GBV Risk Mitigation

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action refer to GBV risk mitigation as “reducing the risk of exposure to GBV (e.g. ensuring that reports of ‘hot spots’ are immediately addressed through risk-reduction strategies; ensuring sufficient lighting and security patrols are in place from the onset of establishing displacement camps; etc.)”. Risk mitigation is focused on making communities and services safer for women and girls, and community leaders can influence or lead much of this work. The GBV Risk Mitigation chapter includes ideas for engaging community leaders to identify and address GBV risks.

Transformative Change

Transformative change programming involves addressing root causes of GBV to prevent its occurrence. Preventing GBV requires changes in unequal power relationships between women and men that are replicated across different levels of society, from individual expectations and attitudes to social norms, policies, legal frameworks and systems. Community leaders can influence changes at different levels of their communities. The Transformative Change chapter includes information on selecting or designing GBV prevention programs and ideas for engaging community leaders to build awareness, knowledge and skills; foster gender equitable, respectful and non-violent social norms, attitudes, and behaviors; and promote women’s and girls’ empowerment.

Supporting Women Leaders

Women leaders can represent and promote women’s voices, needs, and perspectives within their communities, but women leaders rarely have adequate representation and influence in community and humanitarian decision-making. Other chapters include attention to how women leaders can contribute to GBV Response, GBV Risk Mitigation, and Transformative Change. The Supporting Women Leaders chapter devotes additional attention to engaging women leaders, including ideas for GBV programs to support women in leadership positions, support emerging leaders, and foster an enabling environment for women’s leadership.