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”

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN AND BOYS
IN THE SYRIA CRISIS
• 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”)

[Logos of UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, and World Vision]
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.