

From Research to Action: Using Participatory Action Research to Mobilize Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence in Protracted Conflict Settings

**Women's Protection and Empowerment Program
IRC Thailand Country Program
Presentation at SVRI Forum
October 12, 2011**



Context: Thailand-Burma Border



- Protracted refugee setting in Thailand (20+years)
- 150,000 refugees in 9 camps
- Conflict ongoing
- Population fatigued by NGO community, academics
- Excessive number of actors/organizations
- Hierarchical/militarized culture

Context: Violence Against Women and Girls

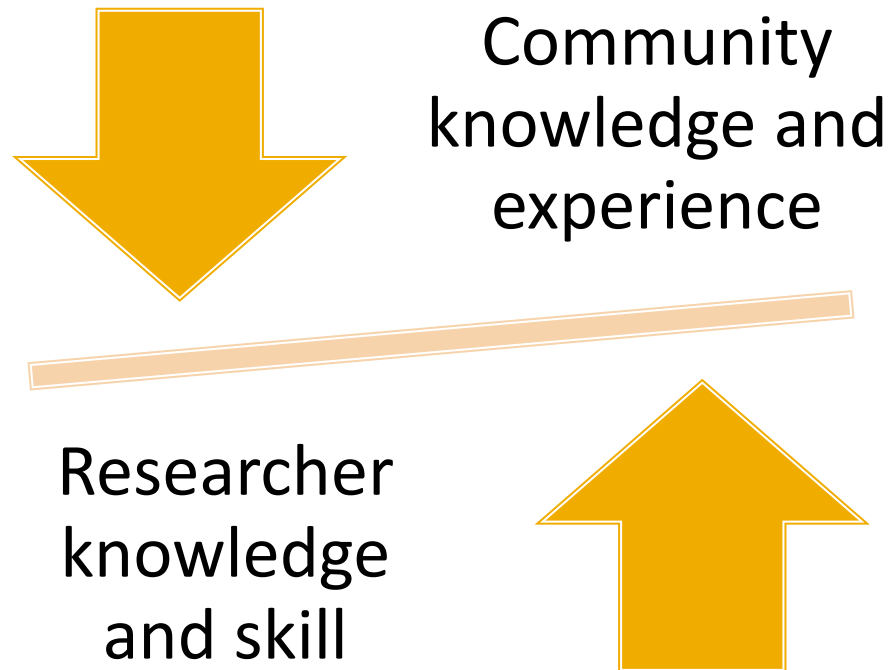


Scope of the Assessments

1. What are the **main problems** for women and girls in the community?
2. What are the **causes** of the main protection problems as identified by the community?
3. What are the community's ideas about how to **prevent** protection issues women and girls face? What resources exist for prevention?
4. What **services /gaps** are there in the community for women and girls if they have experienced GBV? What are the barriers women and girls face in accessing services?
5. What are community member's **attitudes towards gender** and gender roles?

Theoretical orientation :

Participatory Action Research



Methodology:

Emphasis on the Process

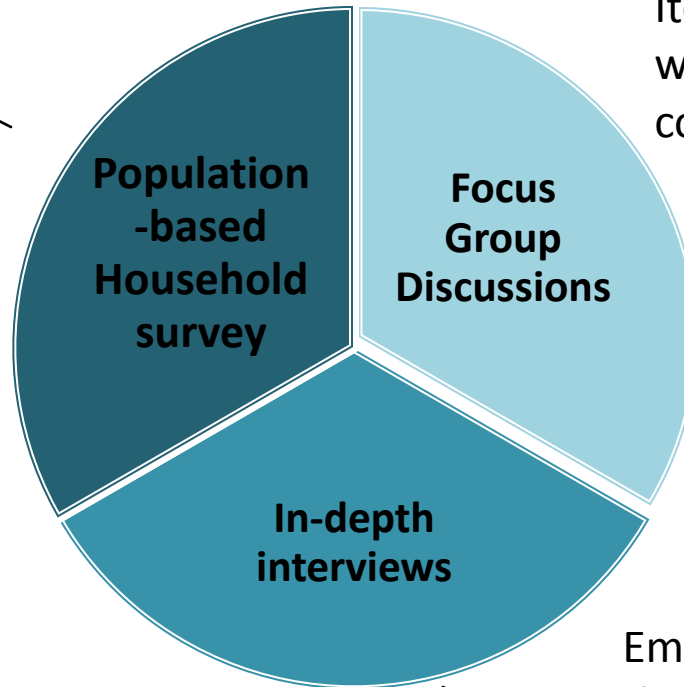
- Introductory meetings with camp governance, major women's organization, and other CBOs
- Advisory Team
- Participatory decision-making tools– Silence is not Consent!
- Data collectors from the community



Methodology:

Data collection and Analysis

Statistical software



Iterative analysis with data collectors

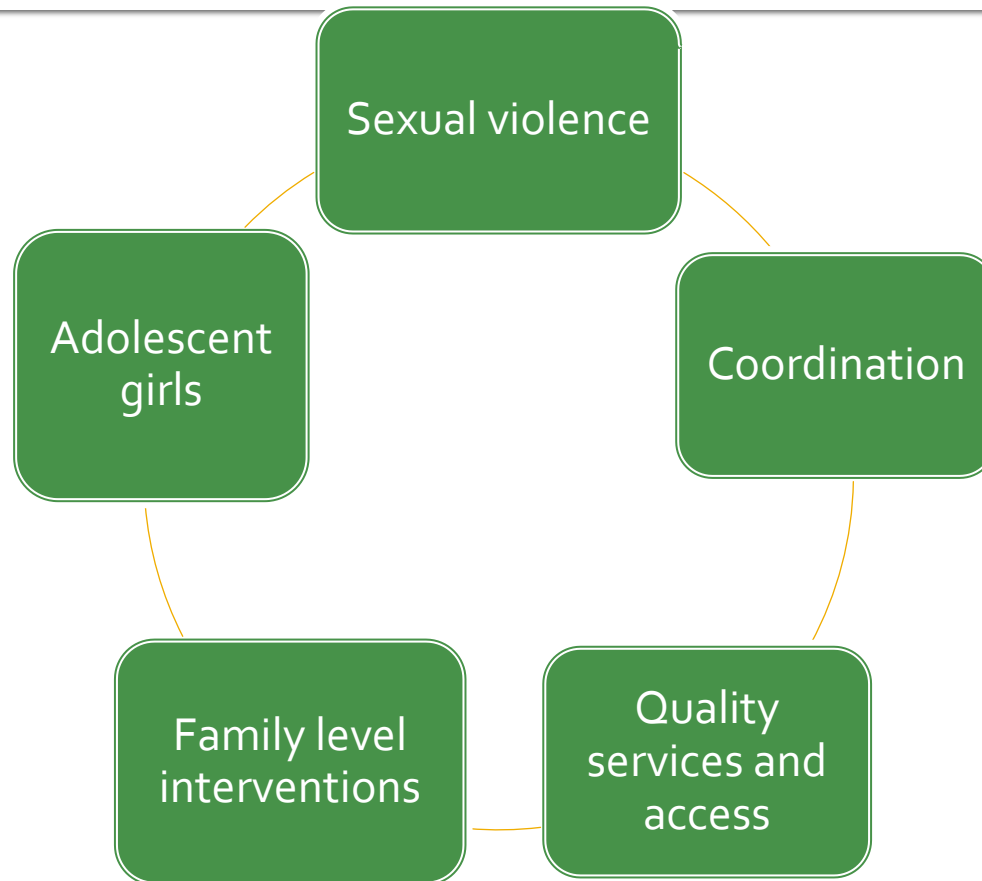
Emerging themes through triangulation

Methodology:

Dissemination and Feedback



Major Findings and Program Strategies: Mae La and Tham Hin Camp



Conclusions:

Process just as important as outcomes

The assessment was also an intervention.

Mobilized attention and support for the issue of GBV and gender equality



Began to build capacity of staff and community for participatory approaches.

Gained access, acceptance and respect in a contentious environment

Laid the foundation for strong relationships with camp leadership and groups

Thoughts . . .

Community drives
research
questions,
process & action



Community
members are
passive subjects
that are
researched

Thank you, Tablu, Kyaye Zu Tin Par Del



Contact: Meghan O'Connor at meghan.o'connor@rescue.org