



Virtual Event 15-18 June
2020
**2020 Asia-Pacific
Statistics Week**

Leaving no one and nowhere behind

Six golden principles for interviewing women who may have experienced violence

Action Area E. (SE1)

Having requisite skills sets

Presenter:

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SIX GOLDEN PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVIEWING WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE



**ESCAP Statistics Week
“Skills for the 21st Century”
16 June, 2020**

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SIX GOLDEN PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVIEWING WOMEN WHO MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE

1 | Empathy & maturity



2 | Sensitization



3 | Confidentiality & safety



4 | Minimizing distress & providing support info



5 | Reaching the unreachable



6 | Taking care of interviewers' own wellbeing



1 | EMPATHY & MATURITY



INTERVIEWER QUALITIES:

- Engage with people of different backgrounds
- Judgement-free, empathetic
- Build rapport with survey respondents
- Comfortable with sensitive issues



Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen/UNFPA

2 | SENSITIZATION



Training must build deeper understandings of gender-based violence



“Violence is something we all know happens. It is distant and close to us always—but we didn't know how to talk about it.”

- Survey interviewer in Mongolia, 2017



2 | SENSITIZATION

Exercise – Imagine....



3 | CONFIDENTIALITY & SAFETY



INTERVIEWERS MUST:

- Respect privacy & confidentiality
- Know how to explain the survey without revealing its true topic, as to not compromise her own safety or the respondent's
- Understand ethical photo best-practices
- Conduct interviews in a private, safe setting
- Know how to handle interruptions
- Come from, and live in, a different community

“Co-workers were sort of interrogating an interviewer about the survey topic, so she made up stories like ‘it’s about women’s health and menstruation.’ After that people said, ‘Oh okay, we don’t want to hear about it.’ Role-playing was one of the biggest tools that helped us.”

- Palau survey coordinator, 2014

4 | MINIMIZING DISTRESS & PROVIDING SUPPORT INFO



INTERVIEWERS MUST:

- Ask questions in a supportive, non-judgmental way
- Be aware of signs of distress & know how to respond
- Be empathetic & supportive without taking on the role of counselor
- Know when & how to terminate the interview
- End in a positive manner
- Provide all respondents with a list of local support services & referrals as needed

“When I encounter a case of abuse, sometimes I feel tense and end up stopping the interview to invite the woman to take some water, give her a tissue and at the same time take a sip of water myself to restore my own psychological balance.”

- Survey interviewer, Viet Nam, 2010

"Our car got stuck one evening so I asked someone to take me on a motorcycle. When I got to my destination, there was no road. I had to climb up a hill. By the time I got to the address, it was quite late at night and everyone was asleep. I had to wake the woman up to interview her."

- Survey interviewer in Mongolia, 2017



Better data is collected by people who are emotionally well and who know how to take care of themselves.





6 | TAKING CARE OF INTERVIEWERS' OWN WELLBEING

“I felt empowered listening to women’s stories of hardship and violence...Their tears run, and mine run too, and their voices break. But I felt overjoyed seeing women’s faces brighten with relief from sharing the burden of violence and abuse.”

- Survey interviewer, Mongolia, 2017





- During the **COVID-19 pandemic**, when women may be stuck at home with their abusers, the gold standards for safely measuring violence against women prevalence are unachievable.
- We cannot prioritize data over women's safety.
- asiapacific.unfpa.org/kNOwVAWdata
-   @kNOwVAWdata

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to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children

