



REDUCING RISKS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ALTERNATIVE CARE SYSTEMS

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- **UNDERSTANDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISKS IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SYSTEMS**
- **HIGHLIGHT EMERGING PRACTICES AND KEY STANDARDS**
- **IDENTIFY STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO ENSURE RISK MITIGATION IS FULLY INTEGRATED**



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**UNICEF IS CONDUCTING A RAPID
EVIDENCE REVIEW AND
CONSULTATIONS, THIS ARE THE
PERLIMINARY FINDINGS**



WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)?

- GBV is **any harmful act** that is perpetrated against a person's will **based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females**
- The term is primarily used to describe violence caused by an expression of **power inequalities between women and men** that gives women and girls lesser social, economic and political power than men and boys in society.
- GBV can include targeted violence against LGBTI populations, **GBV disproportionately affects girls, particularly adolescent girls**



**LINKS
BETWEEN
GBV AND
ALTERNATIVE
CARE**

Gender
blind AC
systems
may

- Create barriers for women survivors to seeks support due to the fear of having their children removed
- Lead to higher levels of family separations, if a systems does not take into account gender power dynamics at play in intimate partner violence

GBV leads
to the need
for AC

- A crucial safety option
- Should be gender-sensitive and trauma-informed
- If does not offer access to comprehensive GBV services can create further harm

GBV risks
are
exacerbate
d within AC

- Prevalence of all violence is high, risks of GBV specifically
- Well-documented in larger-scale institutional setting
- Less is known in family and community-based care
- Girls with disabilities are particularly at risk

GBV risks
can
increase
when
leaving care

- Girls may be pressured to leave care early
- Isolation and lack of social support can increase their vulnerability to abusive relationships
- Particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking

WHAT ARE GBV RISKS?

connected to how services are delivered and the immediate environment



Girls living in **family-based care**

Girls living in **small group homes**

Girls living in **Residential Care**

- Limited expertise on handling disclosure and access specialised GBV services
- Girls may be expected to take on caregiving roles and be overcontrolled
- The burden of child-care is still greatly disproportionately in women, if this is not considered, increase risks for female caregivers
- Limited individualised care and supervision
- Limited human capacity
- Limited complaint and reporting mechanisms
- Inadequate child safeguarding procedures
- Inappropriate facilities, overcrowding
- Limited human resources quantity
- Issues of access to the facility
- Promiscuous environment which needs specific considerations

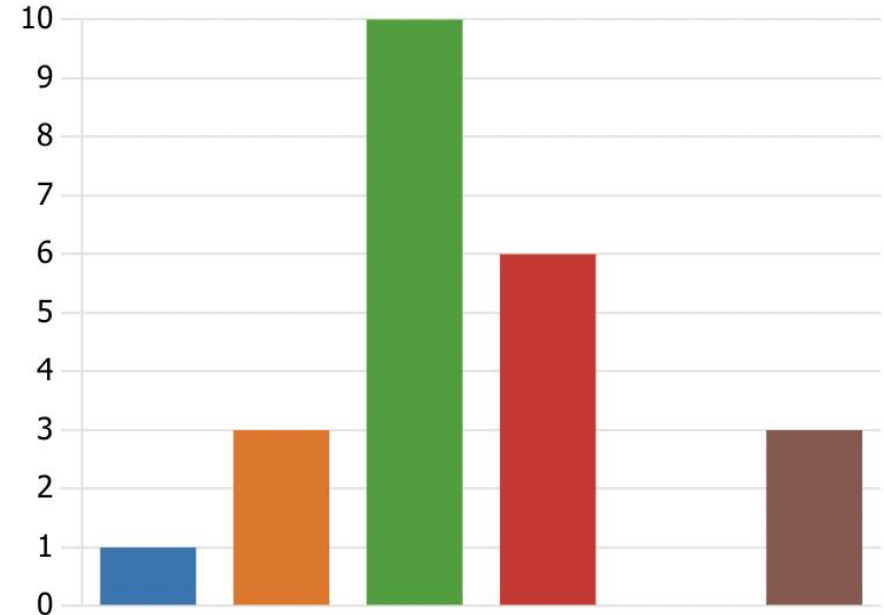
HOWEVER, SYSTEMS ARE OFTEN NOT EFFECTIVELY



15. Overall, how effectively are gender-based violence considerations integrated into the alternative care reform?

[More Details](#)

Very effectively - comprehensiv...	1
Somewhat effectively - some m...	3
Minimally effectively - some ge...	10
Not effectively - GBV is largely o...	6
Counterproductively - current re...	0
Unsure / Don't know	3



GBV RISK MITIGATION

- GBV risk mitigation comprises a range of activities that aim to first **identify GBV risks** and then take specific **actions to reduce those risks**.
- **The overall objective of GBV risk mitigation** is to make care systems and services **safe**, **effective** and **responsive**:
 - It seeks to identify GBV risks
 - Addresses barriers to access to services, particularly for girls
 - Avoid increase the likelihood of GBV occurring



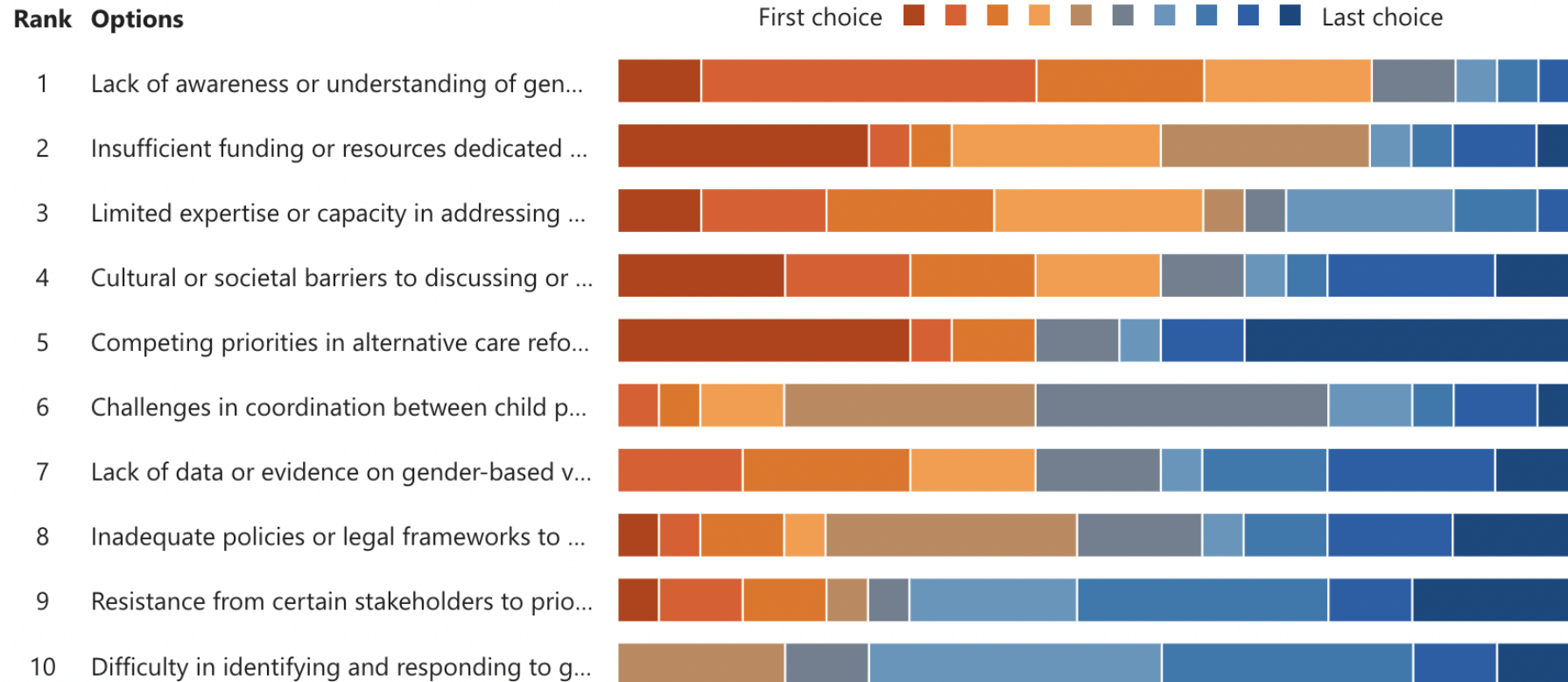
KEY CHALLENGES



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19. What are the main challenges you experience in integrating gender-based violence considerations into alternative care reform? (Rank in order of most relevant to least...)

23 Responses



Girls entering Alternative Care

- Robust and regular individualised risk assessments
- Access to comprehensive, survivor centered Support services
- Trauma-informed care training for caregivers
- Care as a safety option

Girls living in Residential Care

- Adequate physical spaces
- Promoting help-seeking behaviours
- age and gender appropriate reporting mechanisms
- Robust screening and recruitment with ongoing capacity building and support
- Safeguarding policies and procedures
- Regular monitoring, safety audits and risk assessments
- Community involvement

Girls living in family-based Care

- Appropriate matching
- Comprehensive screening - all household members
- Ongoing training, peer support inc on GBV
- Independent regular support
- Community involvement – work with schools and community services
- Culturally sensitive approach – aim for protective not restrictive

Girls leaving Alternative Care

- Life skills training
- Identification of safe and secure housing options
- Actions to prioritize continuation of education or job placements/career counselling
- Community-based reintegration support to reduce stigma, foster acceptance and create protective networks
- Post care monitoring and follow-up

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize evidence review
- Develop programmatic recommendations
- Conduct country deep dives
- Identify strategic priorities and entry points
- Pilot strategies

