

Handout 3.0 - Scenario case studies

Module 3

Slide reference- 14-15 For- Sharing with participants during the session in groups - Scenario case studies

Read through the case studies of Betty and Garcia and his wife Leti - use Handout 3.1 for reference.

Each group will read one case study.

1. List patterns of abuse.
2. Decide if there are immediate life saving action to respond to.
3. Decide on ways to support the older persons to rebuild their lives.
4. Decide on ways to make their environment safer.
5. What are the possible referral mechanisms needed?

Case 1



A 62 years old women name Betty, living in Colombia was telling why she left her place of residence in another part of Colombia, “People have left their places of residence, both inside and outside the country. One reason is violence, insecurity that affect us due to threatens from security forces, conflicts between police, gangs and illegal armed groups, and robbery. As a result, many families have been displaced from rural and urban areas due to threats, intimidation, extortion and kidnapping. The reason why I left the home is same as why many have left. In addition to being threatened, I had no work as such; I had no way to feed my daughter and my father, because a fortnight’s work would only buy you enough to eat for one day, and it was not easy for me to feed my daughter and my father. He died last year”. (Woman carer and family member, Colombia, 2020).

She continues, “Life is still not easy for me and my daughter. Being alone with my daughter we are always afraid of living in this rented shabby room. We get some work sometime on whatever we can do, and an NGO provides us sometimes with some food. However, the location is far from where we live and it is scary to bring food walking. I have been looted once. My daughter was harassed by a group of youngsters, and now we both go together. At least we are together when someone tries to loot or harass us. Can you imagine, NGO provides some people with lot more food than us. I don’t know how should I convince them that I also need more food. What we get is not enough. Can you please help?”

Case 2



Leti , my wife and me – Garcia ran out of our ancestral place as combatants wanted us to join them. We were living peacefully before and were forced to leave.

I am 70 years old and live with my wife and one son who is married and has one 3 years old daughter. We walked for four days before arriving to town and left everything we had behind. We found temporary shelter in a public school for the first month, when we were asked to leave to make room for others. We found a spot outside town where other migrants live and built the place where we live now. It is made of wood and zinc some people gave us. It is not a proper house to live but I believe it is just a informal settlement. I can barely walk in the house where we live because I have problems with my knees. My wife has cataract, and her sight is blurring.

We were struggling with unavailability of a clean and safe toilet for both males and females. We did not have one. Thanks to the WASH program, an NGO ABC constructed four toilets close to where we live. The facility has well-constructed 5 stairs to walk into it. The toilets have doors but no separate toilets for women and men. ABC established a committee and provided the community with cleaning materials to keep the facilities hygienic. It is not easy, as many people don't know how to read, so were yet to understand instructions on using the cleaning material. Like other women, my wife also doesn't use the toilets. My wife doesn't go because she cannot walk alone, and also, she is not tall enough to close the latch of the door from inside. Other women as they fear that fully closed doors don't provide safety from snakes and required a space for them to evacuate if needed. I can't use these toilets either, as I have difficulty in climbing stairs. We are trying to communicate our problem to the NGO, but we don't know how to do it.

