# Tool: Gender-Based Violence Safety Mapping

Gender-based violence (GBV) safety mapping helps identify specific places and spaces in everyday agriculture and market systems development (MSD) activities where women and other vulnerable groups may be more at risk for GBV. Safety mapping also explores how different factors contribute to these risks, including, for instance, particular times (day, season), situations, and interactions with others.

This tool can be applied to gather information about GBV risk within specific agriculture and MSD activities, either ongoing or planned. GBV safety mapping can also be integrated as one method for gathering information about GBV risk within targeted GBV, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), or other planned agriculture and MSD assessment studies. This tool may be paired with Annex 4B of the [Toolkit to Address Gender-Based Violence in Agriculture and Market Systems Development](https://www.agrilinks.org/post/awes-toolkit-address-gender-based-violence-agriculture-and-market-systems-development-and) on mapping GBV within projects and as part of a value chain assessment.

The following tool was excerpted directly from the Women’s Refugee Commission’s[*Preventing Gender-based Violence, Building Livelihoods: Guidance and Tools for Improved Programming*](https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/preventing-gender-based-violence-building-livelihoods-guidance-and-tools-for-improved-programming/).

## Safety Mapping Tool: Places and Spaces

**Purpose:**

The goal of safety mapping is to capture local knowledge and perceptions about risk and safety on a map. The map should show places significant to where an agriculture or market systems activity occurs, highlighting those places where women and vulnerable groups feel safer and where there is more risk of GBV. Such spaces can include a range of settings such as markets, travel routes from home to market, trade routes, markets, fields, and different physical locations within a formal workplace.

Often the process of making the map—finding out about the local context and different views on what should go on the map—is just as important as the information the map contains. Maps can also be used as simple monitoring, evaluation, and learning tools. “Before” and “after” maps can be used to record changing perceptions of safety at the beginning and end of a project. Safety maps are not drawn to scale and are not meant to be complete.

With knowledge gained from this tool, practitioners will understand:

* In which places and spaces women, girls, and other vulnerable groups feel safe and unsafe
* What risks increase harm or violence

**Instructions:**

* Organize focus groups disaggregated by gender and age.
* Explain the task: to draw a map of the community on paper, without any rulers, using different color pens or crayons.
* Assure participants that you will not write down their names, that they should feel comfortable speaking freely, and that everyone will keep the conversation confidential. Leave plenty of time to answer questions or concerns.
* Allow people plenty of time to discuss what is meant by a map and to ask questions.
* Allow participants to choose what materials to use in making their map.
* Encourage discussion, but do not control the drawing of the map.
* When the map is finished, ask people to discuss any corrections they think need to be made.

**1. Layers of the Map**

1. Ask participants to first draw a representation of the locality related to the particular agriculture and MSD activity. The map should include whatever boundaries are relevant to the activity, including their homes, travel to and from specific locations, and different places where work occurs.
2. Ask people to highlight where they never feel safe, sometimes feel safe, or always feel safe. Use different symbols or colors to mark these areas.

**Reflection Box:** Are there places where everyone feels unsafe (women, men, girls, and boys) or places where only some feel safe or unsafe, based on their gender, age, or other aspects of their identity?

**2. Questions: Places and Spaces on the Map**

***Place and Safety***

1. Discuss the resources, services, and other spaces/situations that participants drew on the map associated with feeling safer. Why did they draw these items? (If they did not include savings groups, banks, transportation, schools, training centers, health clinics, churches, non-governmental organization offices, ask why not.) Are they accessible or inaccessible? Why or why not?

**Reflection Box:** Are there resources or services that are more accessible to women than men or vice versa? What are patterns in terms of the places of greater safety?

***Forms of GBV and Risks of Harm and Violence***

1. In places where participants “never feel safe,” ask why. What forms of violence or harm “might” a typical woman or other person vulnerable to harm in their community confront? Psychological (intimidation or threat of physical harm, restricted freedom of movement, verbal abuse), physical (beating, forced labor), sexual abuse or exploitation, economic (no control over resources, destruction of property, withholding pay)?
2. In places where participants “sometimes feel safe,” in what conditions do they feel safe, for example, “I feel safe there ***if*** …”
3. In places where participants “always feel safe,” why? What conditions allow them to feel safe, for example, “I feel safe ***because*** …”

**3. Questions: Risk Factors and Protection Strategies**

***Risk Factors: Time***

1. Are there times of the day (morning, afternoon, evening, night) when you feel safer? Why or why not?
2. Are there times of the week (during the week, weekend) when you feel safer? Why or why not?
3. Are there times of the year (holidays, during the dry season, when school fees are due, when men migrate for seasonal work) when you feel safer? Why or why not?

***Risk Factors: Situations***

1. In which situations are harm or violence likely to increase for a typical woman or other vulnerable person in the community (engaged in the agriculture and MSD activity under consideration)? List the following as examples, adjusting depending on the context of the project, and invite reflections on these or additional situations participants identify.
2. Travel to or from market
3. Crossing the border on trade routes
4. Selling goods
5. In locations of greater isolation (probe for specific locations)
6. At markets
7. Borrowing money
8. Getting paid/having money
9. Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Risk Factors: Relationships***

1. To what extent might most women in the community or other vulnerable groups negotiate/bargain equally with or feel safe when negotiating or dealing with:
2. Customers (male, female)
3. Suppliers (male, female)
4. Service providers (loan officer, extension agents)
5. Market administrators
6. Buyers
7. Intimate partner
8. Parents (if speaking to adolescents)
9. Others: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection Box:** Which risk factors are most often cited?

***Protection Strategies***

1. What strategies do you use to protect yourself or reduce the risk of harm or violence?
2. What strategies do others in the community use to protect themselves or reduce the risk of harm or violence?

**Reflection Box:** Which protection strategies are most often cited?

**IV. Safety Mapping Summary Chart**

***Instructions:***

* Fill in the chart separately for women, men, adolescent girls, and adolescent boys. Reflect on the answers for each of these groups and think about overall trends and differences.
* In the left-hand column, list all the places (resources, services, spaces, and situations) participants drew on the map.
* For each place, circle if the participants never feel safe, sometimes feel safe, or always feel safe.
* If they never feel safe, what forms of GBV did participants mention that one “might” confront?
* In the last column, “Risks factors and protection strategies,” what risk factors increased harm or violence?

**SAFETY MAPPING SUMMARY CHART**

| Focus Group #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place or Space | Safety | | Forms of GBV | Risk factors and protection strategies |
|  | Never feel safe  Sometimes feel safe  Always feel safe | | Psychological:  Physical:  Sexual:  Economic: |  |
|  | Never feel safe  Sometimes feel safe  Always feel safe | | Psychological:  Physical:  Sexual:  Economic: |  |
|  | Never feel safe  Sometimes feel safe  Always feel safe | | Psychological:  Physical:  Sexual:  Economic: |  |
|  | Never feel safe  Sometimes feel safe  Always feel safe | | Psychological:  Physical:  Sexual:  Economic: |  |
|  | Never feel safe  Sometimes feel safe  Always feel safe | | Psychological:  Physical:  Sexual:  Economic: |  |

**Reflection Box:**

Which forms of harm or violence are most cited?

Which factors increase this form of harm or violence?

What are the different risks of harm for women, men, girls and boys, and for groups with additional vulnerabilities? Which groups are most vulnerable?

What trends and patterns do you see?