



*Violence is preventable*



**UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women & UNV  
Asia-Pacific Regional Joint Programme  
for Gender-based Violence Prevention**

# Qualitative Research Training

Conducting life history analysis

# Life history data analysis

- How do we see gender and masculinities in an interview transcript?
- Look at not just what is explicitly mentioned but the underlying gender practices that are expressed
- What people don't say, how they say something, what they are willing to talk about, what they are unwilling to talk about
- See institutions and social groups through a narrative

# Life history data analysis

- It is critical that attention is paid to language and that information is not lost or distorted in translation.
- Exaggeration, sarcasm, use of slang, traditions of narrative, etc. must be considered in interpretations of data.
- Do not suspend your usual ability to look for this in conversation when analysing research data.
- You need to form a view of what parts of data should be taken at face value and what you should be cautious about.
- Comparing the data to other things you know about their lives may help you here.

# Writing up case studies

- Write up a case study as a summary within a conceptual framework.
- Use the themes you have identified as subheadings but consider the whole life.
- Under each subheading consider:
  - gender norms and attitudes.
  - practices such as gender practices, practices of hegemonic masculinity, alternative masculinity.
  - gender identities and masculinity/femininity ideals.

# Suggested case study format

- Timeline narrative of individual life.
- Map gendered relationships in life course.
- Consider how masculinity is constructed in this individual's life.
- Consider experiences of violence across the life course.
- Consider experiences of peace and peace-making.

# Remember to think about:

- The historical and social contexts – contextualize findings in all chapters.
- Link, where relevant, with other forms of oppression or sites of power (race, class, sexuality).
- What are the resistances or resiliencies in men's lives?
- What are the areas of contestations and contradictions in men's lives?
- How does the individual interact with structural or institutional influences (such as religion)?

# Thank you!

[www.partners4prevention.org](http://www.partners4prevention.org)