**EXERCISE – SAFE RESPONSE TO PROTECTION INCIDENTS**

**Time**: 20 mins

**Material**: Cards

**Objective**: How to safely and ethically respond to protection incidents that they may hear about or witness in the field?

**Instructions**

* Divide participants into groups. Explain that in the course of day-to-day work humanitarian staff may be exposed to protection incidents – either directly witnessing them or hearing about them. It is important that staff respond in the right way.
* Read aloud the following scenario:

*“You are a food security advisor with no specific expertise in protection. You are visiting a livelihoods project early in the morning. While you are there a boy runs over to your group and tells your team that a woman has been attacked earlier that morning. He takes you to see the woman who is highly distressed”*

* Give the group the white cards from Resource 10: Cards for Safe Response to Protection Incidents. Ask them to read each response card and for each one discuss the following questions:
* Is the suggested action safe or unsafe?
* Why is the action safe / unsafe?

**Response cards**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ask the woman if she is hurt. | Ask for details of what happened. | Ask survivor for details of when and where it happened. | Ask what specific help/assistance she needs. |
| Give the person contact information for health, counseling or other relevant services. | Don’t say anything at the time, but later call the police from somewhere private. | Ask who is responsible for attacking her. | Do nothing if it is a domestic violence or family/community matter. |
| Ask if she is happy for you to contact someone to get support or help. | Check safety: your safety, the safety of other staff members and the safety of the affected person and the community. | Report the incident to your manager / Protection staff member and ask for advice |  |

**Guidance for facilitator**

* Checking if a survivor has any immediate medical needs is a first step in response.
* Without proper training to interview survivors of rights abuses, staff should never attempt to interview or gain further information about an incident.
* Trying to help a survivor access appropriate services (medical; counseling; legal) is an important step. Staff should be provided with a list of services that can be referred to in the area they are working. You must ask the survivor for informed consent before contacting any service providers.
* Give the person contact information for health, counseling or other relevant services.
* If the survivor is not comfortable with you contacting service providers on their behalf you can provide them with contact information of service providers that may be able to help them.
* You should not call the police on behalf of the survivor unless they have requested that you do so and have provided informed consent.
* You should always report the incident to your manager or a protection staff member. They will be able to provide you will further support on the appropriate way to respond.
* Domestic violence is a serious offence in most countries. You should provide the same support to a survivor of domestic violence as any other human rights violation. Ignoring domestic violence is not acceptable.
* Before taking any action you should check that you, other staff, the survivor and the other community members are safe.