

# What Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth say about Prevention of Gender-based Violence: Amplifying Voices through Participatory Research

“My dream for the LGBT community, we’ll have girls, boys and LGBT  
with equal rights.”

Mark Anthony Dasco (ChildFund Philippines)

Mara Quesada (ACHIEVE)

Jessica Izquierdo (ChildFund International)

Danielle Roth (ChildFund International)



# ChildFund's Approach to GBV Prevention

## Child Fund Core Outcomes

### Strategies for addressing GBV against children and youth

Influence formal and informal legal, policy and planning frameworks on GBV against children and youth.

Strengthen sectoral responses and multi-sectoral coordination to GBV.

Mobilize communities to prevent and address GBV.

Develop supportive skills of key adults (parents, teachers, coaches, etc.) and settings/structures (schools, sports fields, etc.) to prevent and address GBV.

Involve and empower individual and groups of children and youth to know their rights, oppose all forms of GBV and act to promote gender equality and access supportive resources in case of GBV.

Promote child and youth participation to ensure their rights and child- and youth-centered GBV responses.

A broad constituency of supporters dedicated to the well-being and rights of children and youth

Families and local organizations networked in their communities promote the development and protection of children and youth

Skilled and involved children and youth  
Educated and confident children and youth  
Healthy and secure infants

### Entry points for strategies to address GBV against children and youth

Advocacy to ensure respect, protect and promote the best interest of children and youth and inclusion of their perspectives and voices.

Child protection committees

Local services: Sexual and reproductive health services, livelihoods, nutrition, psychosocial support

Programs with teachers at schools, early childhood development centers

Supervised recreation

Parenting support

Inter-generational dialogues with community leaders

Enhancing communication skills within relationships

Children and youth reached through schools, families and local organizations and programs.

Peer to peer education and mobilization.

Transform underlying gender norms and inequalities by empowering women and girls and promoting positive masculinities.

# Background



- **LEGAL:** Ratification of core human rights instruments, a constitution that guarantees full respect for human rights and equal protection under the law. Sexual orientation and gender identity are not explicitly mentioned.

▪ **SOCIAL/CULTURAL:** 73% of Filipino respondents in a recent study said that homosexuality should be accepted by society [they also noted]worsening LGBT related crimes. Teaching of Roman Catholic Church and other institutions pervasive, existence of “ ex-gay movements and reparative therapies. “

▪ **SERVICE PROVISION:** Existence of NGOs providing SRH services, psycho-social services, organizations advocating for human rights.



# Research Questions

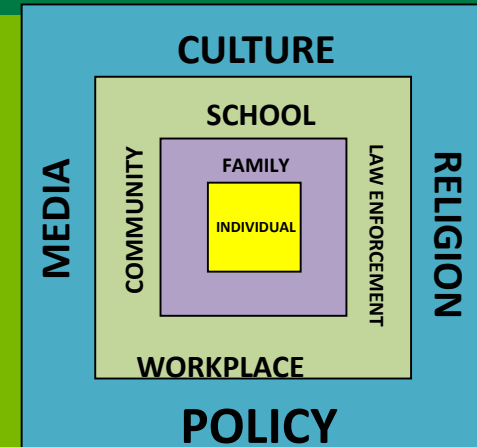
- What are the risks, vulnerabilities and protective factors of LGBT youth to GBV? How do these manifest along the ecological model?
- What are the differences in risks, vulnerabilities and protective factors between lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender groups?

# Methodology

- 1) Stakeholder consultation
- 2) Development of participatory tools for data gathering
- 3) Participatory appraisal workshops in three areas: Baguio City, Dapitan City, and metro Manila
  - 50 youth total, ages 10-24
- 4) Data analysis
- 5) Validation of initial findings

# Participatory Research Tools

- 1) Profile sheets (basic data collection)
- 2) Gender Bread (SOGIE analysis)
- 3) Profiling Exercise (exploration of social perceptions of LGBT)
- 4) Ecological Model (localization of GBV incidents across spheres of social interaction)
- 5) Fears and Apprehensions (localization of incidents of distress across ecological model)
- 6) Freeze Frames (portrayals of GBV scenarios and resolution)
- 7) Mapping of service providers (identification of LGBT support systems)
- 8) Dreaming of a Better Future (identification of aspirations)



# Research Ethics and Limitations

## Research Protocols

Risk analysis conducted with local partners

Assent to participate in research (for participants)

Signing of consent forms (for parents and guardians)

Research staff underwent SOGIE/gender sensitization training

No participants were asked about direct experiences of violence

Deletion of documentation materials

Presence of licensed psychologist in all the sessions

Referral to service providers upon evident need

Program development in response to the research recommendations

## Study Limitations

Unable to secure the review of an external ethical research board; vetted by in-house child protection unit

Workshop methodology for research

Selection of research participants was limited to the communities served by ChildFund in the sites where the organization operates

Sensitivity of instruments to age differences

Very difficult to identify the differences in experiences between L, G, B, and T populations

# Key Findings: Identity

- Fears and apprehensions when sexuality was being discovered
- Limited psycho-social well-being

“ I thought twice about expressing myself as a lesbian because my family might push me away.”

“No one will trust me”

“ My family will humiliate me in front of other people”

“It feels like you have no future because they keep telling you that you’re bad luck.”



# Key Findings: Risks, Vulnerabilities, and Protective Factors

## Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Fluidity in gender expression
- Age
- Internalization of stigma
- Economic Status
- Family Stature
- Values, norms and beliefs of the family that consider non normative sexualities a sin
- Lack of awareness and understanding of gender and sexuality among the family
- Lack of supportive institutions
- Negative stereotypes and beliefs
- Social norms

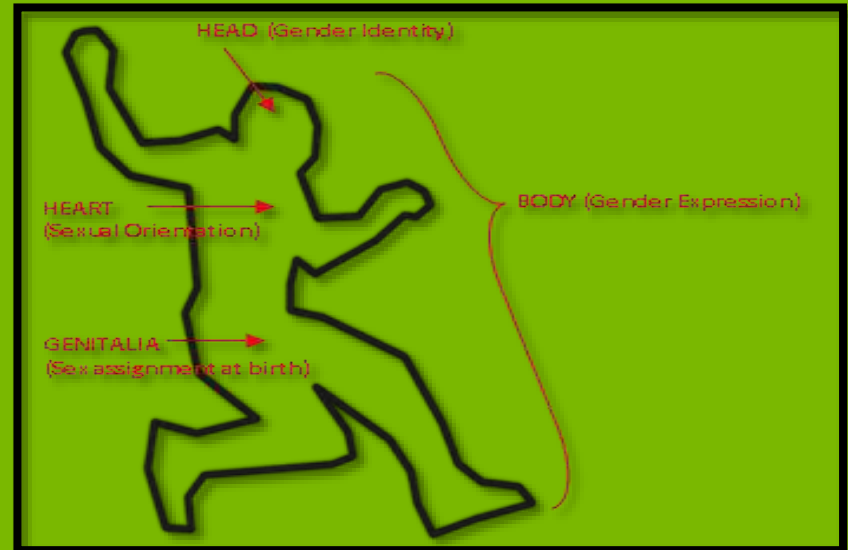
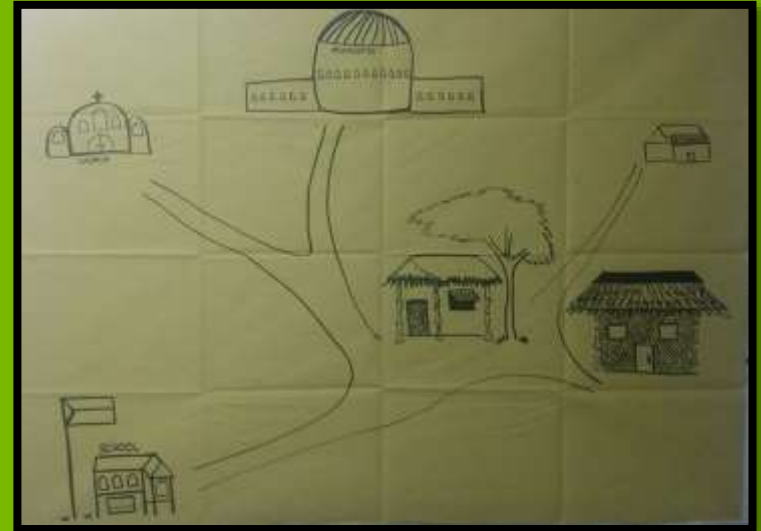
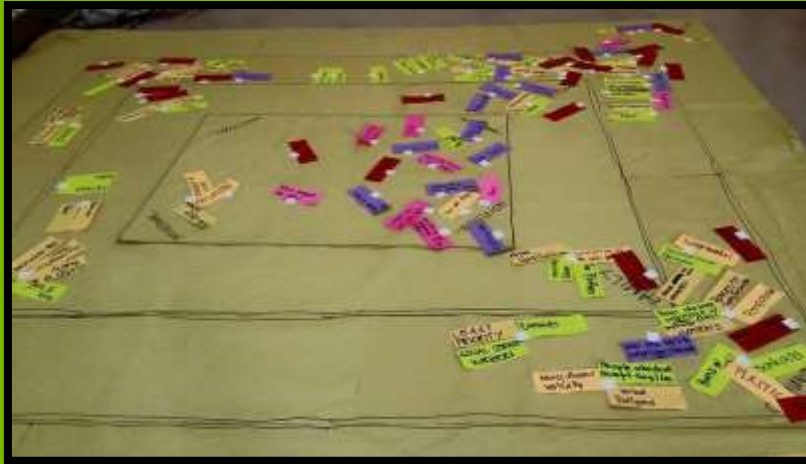
## Protective Factors

- Knowledge of Rights
- Faith
- Supportive values and awareness and understanding at family level
- Higher economic status and familial recognition
- Friends as strong support system
- Dreams and aspirations for the future
- Acceptance of sexuality and gender identity

# Key Findings: Types, Sources and Location of Violence

Types of Violence	Illustrative Acts	Perpetrators	Location
Emotional/Psychological/ Verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal bullying; Isolation/ Ostracism; Media bullying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father and Mother</li> <li>• Siblings</li> <li>• Relatives</li> <li>• Peers</li> <li>• “People I meet”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Religious institutions</li> <li>• Friends</li> </ul>
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punched; Slapped; Hit with sticks; Spanked; Beaten</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father and Mother</li> <li>• Siblings</li> <li>• Relatives</li> <li>• Peers</li> <li>• “People I meet”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family</li> <li>• School</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
Sexual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forced to have sex to earn money; Touching without consent; Raped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other LGBT youth</li> <li>• Customer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
Institutional Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refused access to health services; Given least priority at work; Misunderstood by religious groups;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Media</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference for heterosexual employees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager</li> <li>• Employer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community/ workplace</li> </ul>

# Photo Documentation



# ChildFund Philippines Program Response



- Refinement and additional piloting of tools for deeper data
  - Dialogue with community-based groups about the findings; contextualized approach to responding to LGBT needs from indigenous communities, Muslim- areas and urban groups
  - Staff capacity building to [deepen] appreciation of LGBT issues as human rights issues
  - Integration of LGBT issues and concerns in ASRH and Life Skills Training Modules
- 
- Further research on GBV and LGBT with particular focus on tribal and Muslim communities
  - Include focus on LGBT in school and community based child protection work
  - Facilitate peer support groups
  - Youth-led advocacy work with LGBT and GBV lens

**Thank You!**