



## How to Analyze GBVIMS Data

### Introduction

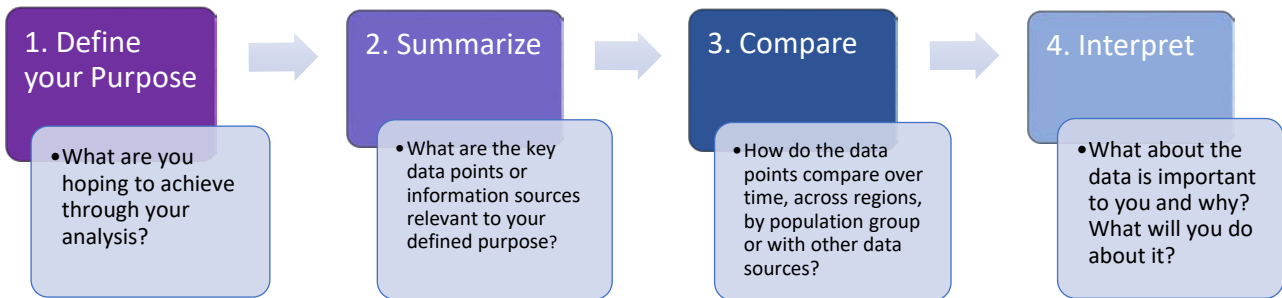
Analysis is an integral part of information management. Collecting data without taking the time to analyze and use it to improve the overall response to GBV is not only a wasted opportunity, it is also unethical. As GBVIMS actors, it is our responsibility to ensure that the information they have allowed us to use, leads to meaningful changes that will benefit survivors as well as the populations we serve. This document is the first in a series providing guidance on how to effectively analyze GBVIMS data.

Data Analysis = 4 Simple Steps

<p><b>What is data analysis?</b></p>	<p><b>In simple terms, analysis is the continuous process of making sense of data. It involves the identification of patterns, trends and relationships in data and explaining their meanings in relation to context.</b></p>
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### The Four Steps

Data analysis consists of a fairly simple series of four steps<sup>1</sup>:



### Step 1: Define your Purpose

As GBV actors, you will generally already have an idea of the principal GBV risks, gaps, and vulnerabilities in your area or country of operation- (i.e. early marriage, intimate partner violence, etc.). However, it is impossible to address all of these in one analysis session. Most organizations/ agencies also have limitations in terms of human and financial resources and therefore need to prioritize their interventions.

Before you start your analysis, therefore, first define your objectives or purpose in accordance with your organizational priorities or at the inter-agency level. You could use the inter-agency

<sup>1</sup> These steps assume that you have already gathered your data using the GBVIMS- other guidance may include several additional steps related to collection, cleaning the data and others that would not apply to GBVIMS users.

GBV Strategy as a guide. The more specific you can get, the better. Your purpose may be thematic, for example to identify what type of violence girls are facing in camps compared with non-camp settings; or it could also be output-based, e.g. to draft your end of year report and define interventions for the following year.

This first step is crucial because it will keep you on track with your analysis as well as narrow down your dataset, thereby saving you a considerable amount of time.

**Ask yourself...**

**What are your expected outputs for this analysis session (whether internal or inter-agency)? E.g. a donor report. OR What decisions do you hope to make based on your analysis, e.g. where to prioritise your resources.**

**What aspect of SGBV would you like to focus on? E.g. Children, Disabilities.**

**Is the analysis to inform something in particular? E.g. a report you are preparing, to adjust/ prioritize your programming, or for advocacy on a specific topic?**

**What decisions do you need to make? E.g. whether or not to hire more case workers?**

**Key Takeaway Message**

**DEFINING AN OBJECTIVE FOR YOUR ANALYSIS SAVES YOU TIME AND ENERGY!**

**Step 2: Summarize**

The GBVIMS can cross compare up to 5,000 different data points- which amounts to a huge amount of data. Luckily, the GBVIMS has already done a big part of Step 2 for you, which is to summarize the most relevant data points in an automatically calculated monthly statistics page in the Incident Recorder. However, if you have successfully completed Step 1, and defined your purpose of analysis as narrowly as possible, you will likely need to narrow the monthly statistics page even further.

A second aspect of this stage is to define your information needs. Since you have already identified your objectives for conducting analysis- you should also be able to define what information you may need to in order to meet these objectives. Remember that the GBVIMS is not the answer to all your data requirements- the more alternative sources of information you add to the mix- the more credible your analysis!

**Ask yourself...**

**What are the key points that stand out in the data in relation to your defined purpose?**

Can you further organize the information? E.g. by location, or population group?

What other information is relevant to your defined purpose? Where can you find it?

### Key Takeaway Message

**DON'T ASSUME YOU NEED A MOUNTAIN OF DATA- START SMALL AND ADD IN DATA AS YOU GO ALONG**

### Step 3: Compare

Data in analysis is the most meaningful when compared to other related data. Looking for differences or similarities in the data allows for the identification of patterns or trends, and the discovery of associations or relationships between the data points.

At this stage, it is crucial that you branch out and consider other sources of information. ***The GBVIMS is only one source of information that is based exclusively on reported incidents- it should never be used alone to draw absolute conclusions on the broader GBV situation.*** Consider therefore how the GBVIMS data compares to other sources of information, for instance surveys, or needs assessments.

### Ask yourself...

Which data points might be related to each other?

Do you see anything in this quarter's data that is similar/ dissimilar to previous quarters?

What patterns/ differences can you see in the data over time, e.g. the last 3 months?

How does the data from one geographical region, or population group compare with others? E.g. risks faced by refugees compared to risks faced by IDPs

### Key Takeaway Message

**RELYING EXCLUSIVELY ON GBVIMS DATA WILL LESSEN THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR ANALYSIS**

## Step 4: Interpret

Interpretation is the process of attaching meaning to data, usually based on the context. ***It is the most important aspect of analysis because it leads to decision making related to the improvement of the GBV response.*** Whether you are doing internal data analysis for your organization, or at the inter-agency level- this stage of analysis is the most effective in a group setting. Be prepared for individuals to have different interpretations of the data. Interpretations are based on different experiences and perspectives, and are a very healthy part of conducting analysis in a group setting. You don't all have to agree, and in fact different perspectives will help to enrich your analysis as there usually are no absolutes when it comes to interpretation. It is crucial to allow all perspectives to be heard and included in your analysis.

For example, GBVIMS data may show that 90% of reported GBV incidents are by refugees from Countries A and B, and only 10% are reported by survivors are from Country C. One interpretation may be that citizens of Country C are less vulnerable to GBV. However, registration figures show that 60% of all refugees are from Country C and focus groups with service providers indicate that there are few service providers that speak the language of Country C. Thus, another interpretation may be that refugees from country C are less able to access services. This example once again highlights the need to compare GBVIMS data with other sources of information, as well as include different perspectives during interpretation.

Finally, remember that it is perfectly acceptable for you determine that you do not have all the information required to arrive at a definite conclusion about the data. For example, the fact that there are no rape incidents reported does not mean that rape is not occurring. Your group may agree that your next steps are to gather additional information about why rapes are not being reported- which is a decision in itself. ***It is better to be honest about your limitations than to make erroneous assumptions that could take your programmatic decision making in the wrong direction, or spread mistruths about the GBV situation.***

### Ask yourself...

What about the data is important and why?

Have all the key individuals/ stakeholders been invited to participate in the analysis?

What decisions can be taken based on what the data is saying? E.g. if the data shows that shelter services are unavailable, what is the most effective response?

What are the different perspectives with regards to the data, and how can we ensure they are adequately represented in our analysis?

Do I really have all the information I need in order to draw a definitive conclusion?

Have I been forthcoming with my audience about the limitations of the data? E.g. GBVIMS data is not prevalence data.

## Key Takeaway Message

BE INCLUSIVE- THE MORE PERSPECTIVES YOU HAVE, THE RICHER YOUR ANALYSIS, AND THE MORE LEGITIMATE YOUR DECISIONS!

## Last, but not Least: The Right Attitude

Adopting the right frame of mind is essential. Data analysis is simpler than most people realize, and as a GBVIMS user, you are probably already doing some form of analysis, so don't let the data overwhelm you! Before you start:

- **BE OPEN:** Do not assume you already have the right answers, or try to manipulate the data to push certain conclusions.
- **YOU HAVE MORE THAN YOU THINK:** Take the time to examine each data point and analyze its meaning, you'll soon see you actually have a lot of information. Also consider all the other information you have access to outside of the GBVIMS that can help in this process.
- **LESS IS MORE:** often times, you need less data than you think; start with what you have and come back what's missing later (more on this in Step 3);
- **THERE'S USUALLY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM:** Don't assume there is no more information out there! Relying only on GBVIMS data can lead to inaccuracies and cause harm. Reach out to colleagues from other sectors or organisations to see what information has already been produced.

## Conclusion

The above is not an exhaustive guide for how to do data analysis, however following these four steps should lend structure to your analysis sessions and prompt you to follow good practice. This guidance note should be used complementarily with our other resources on data analysis listed below, all available on the GBVIMS website: [www.gbvims.com](http://www.gbvims.com).

- [Data Analysis E-learning Tool](#)
- [How does GBVIMS Data Work with Other Types of GBV Data?](#)
- [Linking Analysis to Programming Series](#)
- [Linking Analysis to Programming in the DRC: Podcast](#)
- [The Steps of Data Analysis: Podcast](#)
- [Data Points to Analyze, Part I: Podcast](#)
- [How to Conduct a Data Analysis Session: Podcast](#)

If you would like additional support with your data analysis, we encourage you to reach out to the Technical Team: [gbvims@gmail.com](mailto:gbvims@gmail.com).

For access to additional GBVIMS tools, guidance and documents, visit the website at [www.gbvims.org](http://www.gbvims.org).