



Case Study, Urban Refugees

Directions: Please read the following case study. Underline **three** potential risk factors of gender-based violence (GBV). What **two** follow-up questions would you ask to determine if Gender-Based Violence was a concern?

Zario city hosts a highly diverse refugee population that is struggling to survive in a very difficult urban environment with limited assistance. Both recognized refugees and those seeking asylum who have registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are able to access a small education grant and subsidized health care. Limited financial assistance is available for the most destitute through UNHCR's implementing partners.

Both refugees and asylum seekers report great difficulty in meeting their basic needs and immense obstacles to obtaining employment. The government places restrictions on the right to work, pushing refugees into the informal sector. In addition, a lack of language skills and discrimination against foreigners results in additional barriers to work. For young women, this often means working in unregulated sectors, such as housekeeping and child care. Most young women are referred to domestic work opportunities through churches giving assistance. The process is informal and there is little due diligence done on families requesting domestic servants. Upon acceptance of a position, contracts or codes of conduct are generally not signed.

The Quorom family is newly arrived from Iraq. The mother, Rachida, who is 19, works as a domestic servant for a Zarian family. With this money she supports a husband, mother and two daughters, who live in a poor neighborhood. The neighborhood is characterized by high crime, poor lighting, and limited public transportation to connect to city services and markets. The wages are low and are often withheld for numerous reasons. However, domestic work is the only work she could find, despite the fact that she finished grade 10 in school and is good with computers. While the work is reliable, the salary is not sufficient to meet the family's household needs. They also rely on savings and remittances from family members in Europe. But remittances are irregular. Sometimes, the daughters are pulled out of school to work, usually cleaning laundry for money. The father stays at home to avoid harassment by police, who detain refugee men, but do not harass refugee women. He does continue to make decisions on household spending, but is frustrated that he cannot contribute more. A local NGO offered to enroll Rachida in tailoring classes, so that she could work from home, but she prefers to learn English with the hopes of resettling, and has therefore remained in her current position.