Data Collection on Violence against Women Migrant Workers: Decision Tree
This decision tree helps organizations working on violence against women migrant workers decide when and how to best collect data on women migrant worker’s experiences of violence and their access and use of relevant services. These organizations include service providers, policymakers, national statistical offices, and development partner agencies.

This decision tree guides data collectors through the various considerations, viable options, and alternative data sources for obtaining information without jeopardizing participants’ safety or the data’s integrity.

The decision tree explores three types of data: Prevalence data, Administrative data and Qualitative data.

This decision tree is developed by the joint ILO-UN Women Safe and Fair Programme, as part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, in partnership with UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata and is adapted from the Decision Tree: Data collection on violence against women and COVID-19, by UN Women, UNFPA/kNOwVAWdata and WHO.

This decision tree was adapted by Robin Mauney with contributions from Juncal Plazaola Castano, Melissa Alvarado, Valentina Volpe and Younghwa Choi of UN Women, Deepa Bharathi and Rebecca Napier-Moore of ILO, Dr Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen, Jessica Gardner, Annette Sachs Robertson of UNFPA and designed by Younghwa Choi.
Administrative data **does not** capture prevalence. Administrative data **only** captures the number of reported cases. (most incidents of VAWG go unreported and undetected)

Severity

Administrative Data

Prevalence Survey Data

Source: Henrica (Henriette) Jansen. In: kNOwVAWdata: Sources of data
Prevalence Survey Data
Q: Should a survey be conducted to determine the prevalence of VAW with a representative sample of women migrant workers?

Always prioritize women’s safety over data collection!

START!

Questions that can be answered if women migrant workers are included in a Population Based Survey Data
- What is the prevalence of VAW for women migrant workers?
- What is the nature, forms or frequency and severity of violence?
- Where does violence occur, in which stage of migration?
- Who are the perpetrators?
- What are help-seeking patterns?

Can existing population-based violence surveys provide information on experiences of VAW for women migrant workers? Yes

Explore data from existing surveys! END

Can you ensure that women migrant workers are not put at risk (safety, deportation, job loss) if they take part in a population-based survey? Yes

Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support for women migrant workers being interviewed? Yes

Could I use service data to determine prevalence of VAW for women migrant workers? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)? No

No. Only a small fraction of women migrant workers subject to VAW use services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence of VAW.

Safe to conduct a survey with women migrant workers in a survey using a representative sample of women

Interviewers cannot safely visit homes and arrange private, safe and confidential interviews. DON'T collect data

COVID 19 or Other Emergencies: It is not recommended to undertake population-based surveys during emergencies or pandemics such as COVID 19; During these times rapid assessments are often conducted through phone/technology and the protection of privacy and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. For detailed guidance see the Decision Tree on VAW data collection and COVID19. Importantly the question should always be why are we collecting the data, what will it tell us and how can we use it.
**Administrative Data**

Q: Should I use/collect administrative data on violence against women migrant workers?

**START!**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DATA** (Services)
- What is the nature, forms, or severity of reported/violence against women migrant workers?
- Who accesses services, has access to services increased or decreased over time, how many referrals made?
- What is the outcome of the cases?
- Who are the alleged perpetrators?
- Repeat admin data analysis show changes in access to services over time

![Decision Tree Diagram](image)

**Always prioritize women's safety over data collection!**

- **Explore existing service data!**
  - Can existing service data be disaggregated to understand VAWMW?
    - Yes
    - No
  - Were informed consent procedures used to make women migrant workers aware of any mandatory reporting requirements before they disclosed information?
    - Yes
    - No
  - Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support/referrals for women migrant workers disclosing violence either through direct service provision or referrals to specialists?
    - Yes
    - No

**Safe to collect administrative service data on WMW**

- Service provider cannot ensure women migrant workers are safe if they disclose
  - **DON'T collect data**

- Should a non-VAW specialist service provider collect comprehensive data on women migrant workers subject to violence?
  - **No.** Only VAW specialists should collect VAW comprehensive data. Others should collect data based on their role (initial emotional support, service and referral) to document the disclosure and referrals to VAW specialist service providers

- Can we still use administrative service data even if multiple service providers record services provided to the same survivor?
  - **Yes.** ‘Double counting’ is not an issue because administrative data can track VAWG survivors who access essential services at different entry points

**Could I use administrative service data to determine prevalence? (e.g. police reports, calls to helplines, data from shelters)?**
- **No.** Only a small fraction of abused women uses services. It is not correct to interpret any change in service use data as a change in prevalence.
**Qualitative Data**

Q: Should I collect qualitative data to better understand violence against women migrant workers?

START!

**QUALITATIVE DATA**

Interviewing women migrant workers to learn about direct experiences of violence
- What are the in-depth experiences of specific or groups of women migrant workers subject to violence?
- What are changes in service accessibility and availability from a survivor-perspective?
- How can I better understand experiences of women migrant workers experiences identified in prevalence data? (often in cooperation with prevalence data)

Explore data from existing sources

Can existing data and research provide the information you want on VAWMW?

Yes

Can you ensure that women migrant workers are not put at risk (safety, privacy and confidentiality, deportation, and job loss)?

Yes

Can you ensure migrant workers understand how the information they disclose will be used and any risks or possible consequences of disclosure of their identity?

Yes

Can you ensure confidentiality, privacy and support for women migrant workers being interviewed?

Yes

Safe to collect qualitative data on women migrant workers subject to violence through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions

DON’T collect data

Researcher cannot ensure women migrant workers are safe from risks of disclosure

DON’T collect data

Interviewers cannot arrange private, safe and confidential interviews.
**“Do's and “Don’ts in data collection”**

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<tr>
<th>“Do's”</th>
<th>“Don'ts”</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Always prioritize the safety of women and the research team. Apply the principle of Do No Harm</td>
<td>▪ Do not collect data unless it serves a purpose to benefit VAW survivors</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Protect confidentiality and privacy of women migrant workers subject to VAW</td>
<td>▪ Do not conduct an interview if you cannot ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all women including and especially the women migrant workers subject to VAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Apply ethical data collection principles that include obtaining informed consent and voluntary participation</td>
<td>▪ Do not conduct the interview if there is a risk for safety, deportation, job loss or other negative consequences.</td>
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<td>▪ Train researcher team members specifically on ethical practices in VAW data collection including referral of women to available resources</td>
<td>▪ Do not add VAW questions to a larger survey unless all safety and ethical guidelines can be met</td>
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<td>▪ Interviewee should be able to stop the interview at any time</td>
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<td>▪ Identify and make available referral resources for women that want further support and refer based on their voluntary agreement</td>
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<td>▪ When using existing data sources, review the methodology to ensure informed consent for data use was applied. Only collect data that is actionable AND that you plan to use.</td>
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<td>▪ Ensure the women are the beneficiaries of the research</td>
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The Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities in the ASEAN Region Programme, is part of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls by 2030, a global, multi-year initiative between the European Union (EU) and United Nations (UN). Safe and Fair focuses on ASEAN countries and is implemented through a partnership between the ILO and UN Women, in collaboration with UNODC, and is delivered at both local and national levels through governments, trade unions, employer organizations, civil society organizations and women’s organizations, and at the regional level through ASEAN institutions.

The Spotlight Initiative is the world’s largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls. Launched with a seed funding commitment of €500 million from the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative represents an unprecedented global effort to invest in gender equality as a precondition and driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a demonstration fund for action on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Spotlight Initiative is demonstrating that a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality and ending violence can make a transformative difference in the lives of women and girls.

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