

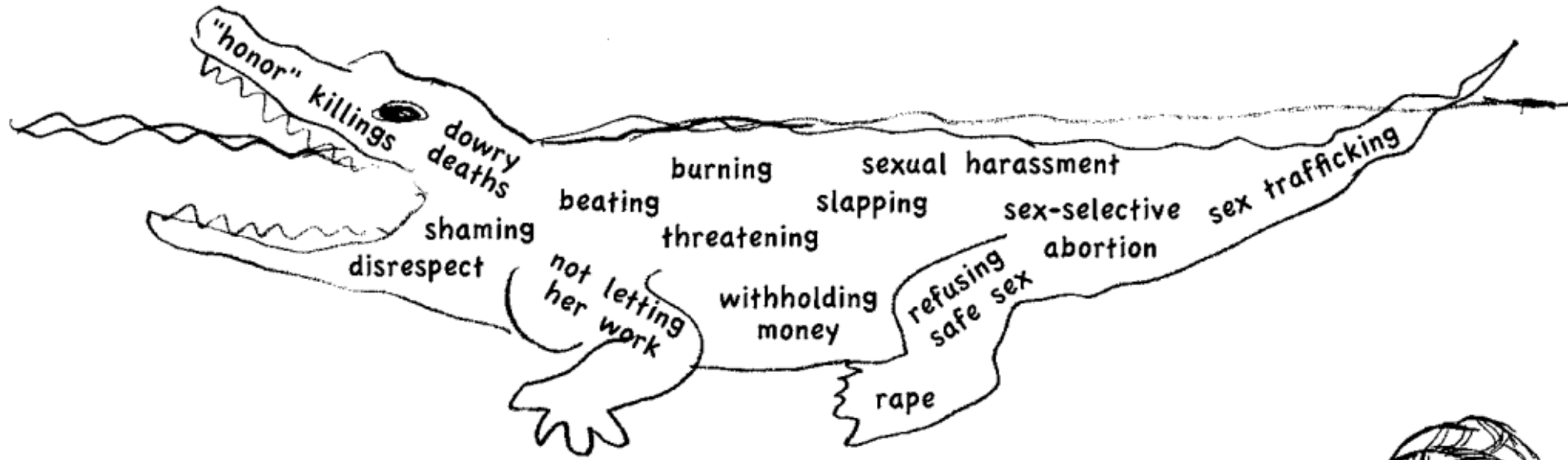
Causes of Gender-based Violence (GBV)

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What is Gender-based Violence (GBV)?

GBV is violence that is directed at individuals based on their biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to culturally-defined expectations of what it means to be a woman and man, girl and boy.

- GBV enforces gender roles, the lower status or cast, or even age of the individual



Gender-based violence is like a crocodile in the water: the danger is much bigger than what you can see at first.



Some forms of GBV

Sexual Violence

- Rape, assault, molestation, inappropriate touching

Psychological Violence

- Harassment, bullying, insults, controlling behavior, exploitation, or other actions which may cause fear, stress, or shame

Physical Violence

- Beating, burning, or abuse that may lead to injury or even death

Socio-cultural Violence

- Social ostracism, discrimination, political marginalization or social norms that have negative impacts

What are some of the common preconceptions about GBV?

1. Men are better than women at making important decisions.
2. Men are responsible for protecting their wives and children from harm during emergencies.
3. Women should always defer to the decisions of their husbands or other male relatives in matters regarding money.
4. Men should be the primary income earners of the family.
5. A man should always know what to do and should never show his weakness, even if he has experienced trauma.
6. GBV only affects females and not males.
7. I am older and more experienced than my daughter in law.

What are some causes of GBV?

- Misunderstanding about masculinity and femininity that lead to justifying the use of violence against women, men, children, or those with low status.
 - What is masculinity and femininity?
- The unequal status of men and women within home and community
 - This inequality includes beliefs that women should be economically dependent on men, and that women and children are a man's possessions and under his control.
- The unequal status of women within home: mother in law vs. daughter in law.

Causes vs Triggers

Triggers:

- Being upset
- Being under the influence
- Being jealous

These can be called "triggers" because they “set off” an individual in a certain situation. But they do not cause every individual in similar situations to use violence.

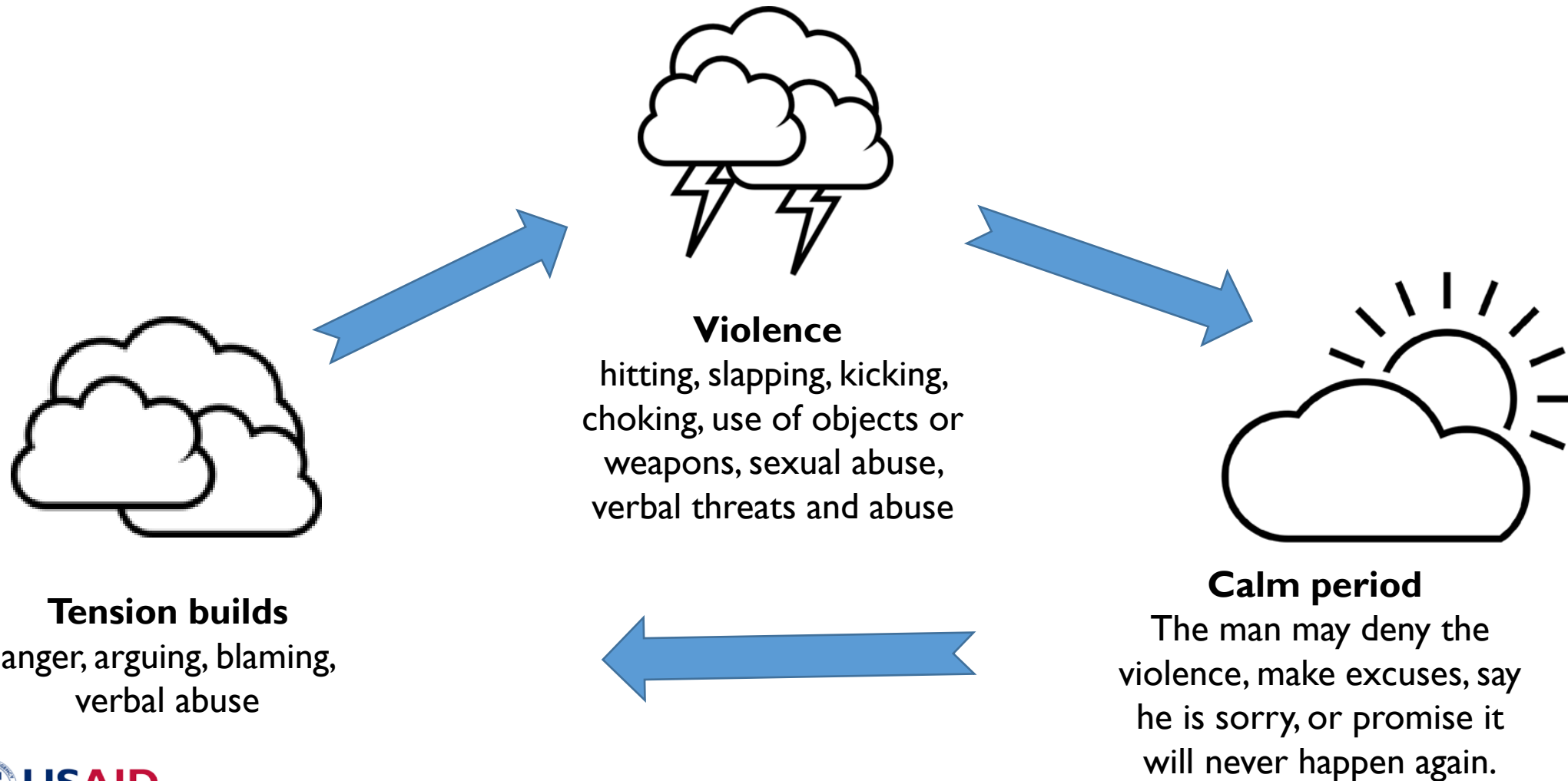
- *Male children are not born to be violent.* They learn to be violent if they are treated with violence or taught that violence is a proper way to use masculine power.

Discussion: Exploring Violence in Khatlon

What are triggers?

What are root causes?

Activity – The Cycle of Violence



Activity 2 – The Cycle of Violence

Why do women stay?

Women who are abused:

- may be constrained by culture or tradition
- may have no safe place to go.
- may have no way to provide for themselves and their children outside of the abusive relationship.
- may be too scared to take advantage of any support that might exist for them and their children.
- may be brainwashed by their abuser to feel they don't deserve help.

Activity 2 – The Cycle of Violence

Break into 3-4 groups

Play out each of the three scenarios

Questions to ask after role play

1. Discuss why you think the abuser lashed out.
2. Does the cause change based on who the abuser is? Or are the causes similar?

Literature used

- Smith, M., Shannon, S., and Vickery, K. 2015. Health Actions for Women: Practical Strategies to Mobilize for Change. 1st Edition. Berkley, CA: Hesperian Health Guides



Thank you.

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