

# ANNEX P: Assessment Questions to Use with Adolescents

This is a tool referenced in [Table 6](#) in Chapter 7: Data for Action. These questions, while not an exhaustive list, can be used and/or adapted for collecting information from adolescents via several assessments, such as situational analyses, focus discussion groups (FGDs), individual interviews, and knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) surveys. As a reminder, practitioners should adapt questions based on the context, as well as for different adolescent population groups. We have added **[specify all subgroups]** for questions we recommend adapting for different subgroups of adolescents, as well as examples of adapted questions for adolescents with disabilities (including cognitive impairments and physical disabilities) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) adolescents.

Sample Questions for Conducting Assessments with Adolescents	
<p><b>Introductory questions</b></p>	<p>A reminder to always start with introductory, softer questions when working with adolescents to create a trustful, friendly environment (see <a href="#">Five Principles for Creating a Trustful Atmosphere for Adolescent Counseling</a>).</p> <p>Sample questions to ask adolescent and respond to as facilitator to create dialogue and comfortable atmosphere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are you?</li> <li>• How is your family?</li> <li>• What do you like to do for fun?</li> <li>• Who do you spend your time with?</li> <li>• What do you like to do with your friends?</li> <li>• What educational grade are you in?</li> </ul>
<p><b>KAP questions on Puberty &amp; Menstruation</b></p>	<p><i>Puberty &amp; Menstruation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you noticed changes in your body recently? What do you think it means?</li> <li>• What is puberty? Note: If they do not know the term, explain the term. How does puberty affect boys? How does puberty affect girls?</li> <li>• What is menstruation? Note: If they do not know the term, explain the term. How does menstruation affect girls? Do girls go to school when they are menstruating? Are girls permitted to stay in their home? If not, where do girls stay and for how long?</li> <li>• What is a wet dream? Note: If they do not know the term, explain the term. How does a wet dream affect boys?</li> <li>• What is masturbation? Is it only for boys or for all genders? Note: If they do not know the term, explain the term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>KAP questions on Relationships &amp; Sexual Activity</b></p>	<p><i>Relationships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who do you like to spend time with? Do you like someone as more than a friend? Are you in a relationship with anyone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If adolescent answered “no” to being in a relationship: Do you have feelings for anyone? Have you talked to your friends about your feelings?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What does it mean to be in a relationship? What kind of relationships do you see (girls and boys, girls and girls, boys and boys)?</li> </ul>

**KAP questions on Relationships & Sexual Activity**

- What do people in relationships do with each other? Do they kiss? What else do they do?
    - If adolescent answered “yes” to being in a relationship: What do you like to do with your partner? Have you talked about sex?
    - If adolescent answered “no” to being in a relationship: Do you talk to your friends about sex?
    - Can substitute or add as a follow-up question: What do girls and girls OR boys and boys OR adolescents with disabilities do when they are in a relationship?
  - Who makes the decision in a relationship to have sex?
  - Would your partner reject you if you insisted on him wearing a condom?
  - Can a girl get pregnant after having sex once? Can a girl with disabilities get pregnant? Can a boy with disabilities impregnate a girl?
  - If a girl gets pregnant, who takes care of the baby?
  - At what age do girls get married? Whom do they marry?
  - At what age do boys get married? Whom do they marry?
  - Who makes the decision of whom a girl will marry? Who makes the decision of whom a boy will marry?
  - What are some of the influences (provide examples of influences: cultural, religious, family pressure, monetary, etc) that encourage girls to get married at a younger age?
  - What are some of the influences (provide examples of influences: personal goals, mentors, family values, etc) that prevent girls from getting married at a younger age?
- Sexual Activity*
- What different kinds of sexual activity are girls and boys having in the community? Are adolescents with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ adolescent populations involved in sexual activity?
  - Do you know of any adolescents having sex in the community? If yes, what do you think of it? At what age do boys start? At what age do girls start? Who are their partners? Are there boys who have sex with boys? Are there girls who have sex with girls? Are girls or boys with disabilities having sex and with whom are they having sex?
  - Have girls or boys [**specify all subgroups**] started having sex more, less, or about the same since the emergency began? Have their partners changed since the emergency began?
  - What are all the different reasons that adolescents have sex?
  - If your partner withdraws before ejaculating, can you get pregnant?
  - Can a girl get pregnant after having sex only one time?
  - What can happen after having sex?
  - What are ways to prevent becoming pregnant?
  - Are many girls becoming pregnant in the community? What are some reasons that girls in the community become pregnant? What are some of the influences (provide examples: personal goals, education, etc) that prevent girls from becoming pregnant?
  - Which kinds of sex are the most risky or dangerous? Why?

<p><b>KAP questions on Relationships &amp; Sexual Activity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you know any adolescents who have had sex for money, protection, or food? With whom do they have sex? What do you know and think about this kind of situation? Has this changed since the emergency began?</li> <li>• Have any of your friends had sex with someone who sells or exchanges sex for other goods or services? If yes, how many (a few, many, most, or all)?</li> <li>• Do you know of girls/boys [<b>specify all subgroups</b>] who were forced to have sex with others (soldiers, teachers, others in position of authority)? Has this changed for girls/boys since the emergency began?</li> </ul>
<p><b>KAP questions on SRH services</b></p>	<p><i>Availability &amp; Accessibility of SRH Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you seen (art, billboards, murals, pamphlets, etc) or heard (via radio and/or TV) any SRH information for adolescents specifically?</li> <li>• Have your teachers, parents, or healthcare provider approached you to discuss matters related to you growing up, specifically in relation to puberty and general sexual and reproductive health?</li> <li>• What type of community adolescent and youth activities are you involved in?</li> <li>• Do you have sufficient access to menstruation products and contraceptive methods? If yes, where?</li> <li>• Do you find that your local health facility is accessible? Are the facility and the providers welcoming? If yes, why? If not, why not? Additional prompts: Do you need to pay for health services? Do you find your local facility accessible to adolescents with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ adolescents? If yes, why? If not, why not?</li> <li>• If you had a question about sexual or reproductive health, what would you do? Would you talk to someone about it? If yes, whom do you feel most comfortable discussing it with? If not, why not?</li> <li>• Where do you prefer to get information about sexual or reproductive health?</li> <li>• If you had a sexual or reproductive health problem, what would you do? Would you go to see someone? If yes, who would it be? If not, why not?</li> </ul> <p><i>Quality of SRH Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you visited a health clinic to receive services in the last three months?</li> <li>• If yes, what types of services did you seek and/or receive? Where do you prefer to get health services? Why? How was your experience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was the receptionist nice to you?</li> <li>• Did you have to wait a long time for services?</li> <li>• How did the service provider treat you?</li> <li>• <i>Note: Look at additional Quality of Service questions from <b>Annex I: ASRH Health Facility Checklist</b>.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• If no, why have you not visited a health clinic?</li> </ul> <p><i>Contraceptive, Maternal &amp; Newborn Health Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do girls go to get supplies to prevent pregnancy? Are the services free? Is it difficult or easy to get the supplies?</li> <li>• Is emergency contraception available in your community? If yes, where can you get it?</li> <li>• What type of supplies can girls use for contraceptive methods? What contraceptive methods can boys use?</li> <li>• Are girls with disabilities forced into sterilization? Note: Explain term if adolescent is not familiar.</li> </ul>

**KAP questions on  
SRH services**

- If a girl has a baby, what health services are available? Where do they go?
- Are there programs or groups available to help girls with babies?
- Do girls understand the danger signs with their pregnancy and know when and where to seek care?

*Abortion*

- What do you think leads girls into having unwanted pregnancies during an emergency?
- Sometimes girls get pregnant when they do not want to. What do girls do when they are pregnant but do not want to be?
  - Are there traditional ways? What about other ways? Where do they access care?
  - How do community members feel about girls who want to end their pregnancy?
  - Does the local health facility or pharmacy provide abortion methods? If yes, do you know what methods they provide?
  - How do service providers feel about girls who want to end their pregnancy?
- Do girls in the community seek abortion services for unwanted pregnancies? Why or why not?
- Do girls in the community seek care for post-abortion complications? Why or why not?
- Are girls with disabilities in the community forced to get abortions?
- What role do you think boys or young men have in unwanted pregnancies and abortions?

*STI Services*

- What else can happen when you have sex with someone?
- Do you know of any infections one can get by having sexual intercourse?
- What kinds? Is there anything that a girl/boy can do to avoid getting these infections?
- If your partner withdraws before ejaculating, can you get a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)? Note: Other terms for HIV/AIDS may be used depending on the context, consult with local organizations and community members to use appropriate terminology.
- Do you think that girls and boys in the community are at risk of getting STIs? Why or why not?
- Have you heard about HIV/AIDS? Do you believe it exists? What can be done to prevent HIV/AIDS?
- Do you know what a condom is used for? What about a female condom?
- Have you been taught how to use a condom?
- Are condoms available for adolescents who are having sex [**specify all sub-groups**]? If so, from where? Are adolescents using them? Do girls use them? Do boys use them? If not, why not? *Note: If adolescent is in a relationship and answered “yes” to having sex, ask if they use a condom and why or why not.*

<p><b>KAP questions on SRH services</b></p>	<p><i>GBV Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What roles do girls have in your family and community? What roles do boys have? What roles do adolescents with disabilities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) adolescents have in your family and community? Note: Explain each of the terms if the adolescent is not familiar with any of the terms a part of LGBTQIA+. Do girls and boys both go to school?</li> <li>• What is violence? Are there different forms of violence? Has violence increased during the emergency or has it remained the same or decreased?</li> <li>• Who are perpetrators of violence in a relationship? And in the wider community/camp setting?</li> <li>• Can someone touch another person without asking? Would you feel obligated to say “yes”? Or are you comfortable saying “no”?</li> <li>• Can someone be forced to have sex? What is that called? Note: If they are not familiar with the term “rape”, explain the term.</li> <li>• If a girl or boy was raped here, would she/he/they tell anyone? If yes, who? If not, why not? Would s/he/they go to anyone for help? If yes, who? If not, why not?</li> <li>• If a girl or boy is hurt by someone else, where do they go? Whom do they talk to about it? Why or why not? Are there child safe spaces or female friendly spaces that children and girls can go to?</li> <li>• Are LGBTQIA+ adolescents and adolescents with disabilities in more danger of violence?</li> <li>• Have girls or boys been trafficked since the emergency? Note: If they are not familiar with the term “trafficked”, explain the term.</li> <li>• Whom do you talk to when you are sad, angry, or frustrated? Do you talk to health workers? Why or why not?</li> <li>• Do you ever use tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? If so, where did you use them? With whom did you use them? How did you use them? (Smoked, inhaled, took pills, injected, chewed)</li> </ul>
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Sources: Adapted from [ASRH Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings](#) (UNFPA, Save the Children, 2012); [Young Women and Abortion: Situation Assessment Guide](#) (Ipas, 2011); [Guidelines for Disability Situation Analyses](#) (UNICEF, 2013); and [Situational Analysis of the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women with Disabilities](#) (UNFPA, 2009).