



# Gender-related barriers to RMNCH: Grouping Barriers to Accessing Services and Supports tool for use with Women

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Estimate time: 1.0 hour

## Overview and Purpose of Tool

Grouping of similar items can facilitate identifying shared concepts, and help participants to explore deeper underlying relations between items. Grouping can be done where a facilitator either pre-suggests categories for the groupings, or where participants themselves group similar items and themselves identify the categories.

This activity seeks to deepen an understanding of different types of barriers that women may face in receiving maternal and child health services – and their root causes.

## Set-Up

Participants should assemble in one large group to start.

Facilitators need to be sure to have collected all the relevant previous flipcharts with barriers identified, and to display them in one place that all participants can see.

## Materials

- Previous flipcharts (with barriers identified) and related earlier visual outputs, displayed for all to see.
- Headers with key categories filled out
- Colored cards for participants
- Markers for participants

## Steps for Implementation and Instructions

### Step 1

Remind participants that they have been developing a shared picture of experiences of pregnancy and childbirth in their community – and especially the barriers and supports that women and families experience in seeking maternal and child health services.

Explain that in this activity, we want to focus in more depth on the barriers that women may face – and that to do so, we will revisit the barriers that participants have already identified through the previous exercises.

### Step 2

Refresh participants' memories of three key activities where they already identified barriers, showing the participants their earlier visual outputs as well as the flipcharts that list the barriers identified during discussion of their visuals.

Note that there are many common types of themes that participants have identified, as they have discussed the barriers women face in accessing RMNCH services in the community. Explain that based on their discussions – and also other analysis in other communities – that the barriers might be grouped into the following categories (have these pre-posted on the wall):

1. Knowledge *blue*
2. Gender and cultural norms *pink*
3. Access to resources *green*
4. Power, ability to control/ make decisions about resources *yellow*
5. Institutional/structural barriers *orange*
6. Laws or policies *red*
7. Others (if determined by the participants) *color tbd*

Review each of these categories, explaining what they mean and asking the participants if they can see examples of a barrier named for each category.

### Step 3

Divide participants into 4 groups. Give each group a stack of colored cards. Explain that they will have 20 minutes total for this activity. Ask them to walk around the room, and review their earlier drawings and flipcharts with the different types of barriers. Once they have toured the room, invite the groups to do the following:

For each category:

- List as specific barriers identified (from the previous exercises, or others that they see as they do this activity)
- Write one example per card
- Use the color card that matches the category

Ask the first group to post and read its cards for the first category (lack of knowledge). Ask the other groups if they have any additional barriers/cards to add for that category. Be sure to prompt for specifics of where these barriers happen (ie, in oneself, in the family, among the community, specific institutions, etc). Limit discussion to asking for any clarifications or additions to what is listed.

#### **Step 4**

Repeat the process for each subsequent category. Then ask if there were any barriers that did not fit into these categories – and discuss and decide if additional categories are needed.

#### **Step 5**

After all groups have presented, facilitate a final discussion:

- How was the process of doing this exercise?
- What strikes you most about the barriers, when arranged this way? Any surprises?

What does this tell us about the barriers that women face in accessing RMNCH services?

- What does this tell us about types of support/responses that are needed?

#### **Report**

The report must include:

- A list of barriers organized by color/category.
- Responses to discussion questions, including any conflicting ideas/perceptions and how they were resolved.