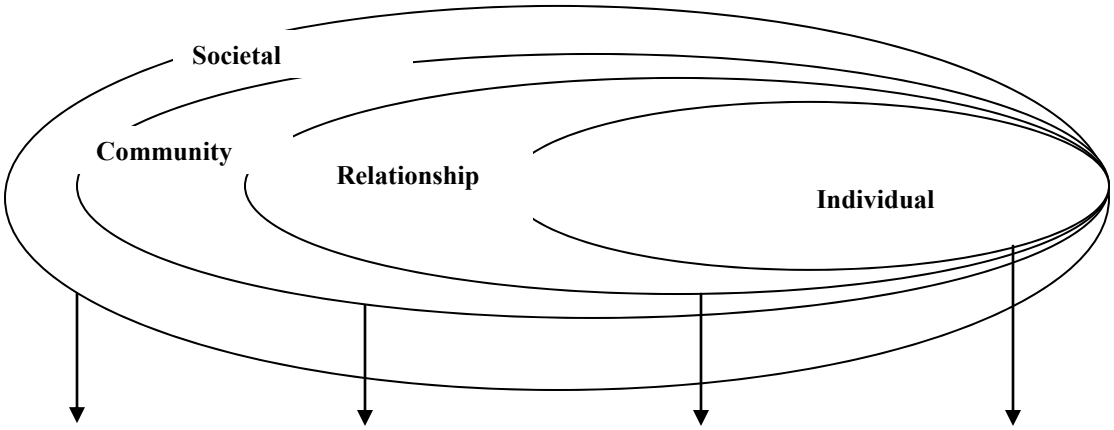
Gender-Based Violence: A Primer

Handout 4: Ecological Model



• Traditional gender norms that give men economic and decisionmaking power in the household • Social norms that justify violence against women • Women's lack of legal rights (including access to divorce) • Lack of criminal sanctions against perpetrators of GBV (impunity) • High levels of crime • Armed conflict	• Weak community sanctions against GBV • Lack of shelters or other forms of assistance/sanctuary • Poverty • Traditional gender roles for women in transition • Normative use of violence to settle all types of dispute • Social norms that restrict women's public visibility • The safety of public spaces	• Marital conflict • Family dysfunction • Male dominance in the family • Economic stress • Early age at marriage • Large number of children • Friction over women's empowerment • Family honor considered more important than the health and safety of the survivor	• A history of violence in the perpetrator's or victim's family of origin (including intimate partner violence and child abuse) • Male alcohol use • Male personality disorders (particularly in low prevalence settings) • Young age (both women and men)

Individual level: biological and personal history factors among both survivors and perpetrators
Relationship level: proximal social relationships, most importantly those between intimate partners and within families
Community level: the community context in which social relationships are embedded, including peer groups, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods
Societal level: larger societal factors that create an acceptable climate for violence and reduce inhibitions against violence