A survivor-centered approach is the hallmark of quality gender-based violence (GBV) programming. This approach focuses on the empowerment of survivors by creating a supportive environment for healing. It is reflected through organizational policies and structures, as well as staff knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. **Safety**
   - Promote the safety of survivors, including preventing and mitigating further violence.

2. **Confidentiality**
   - Protect the confidentiality of survivors, including their right for information about them to be shared only with their informed consent and their right to choose whether and to whom to tell their experiences.

3. **Respect**
   - Demonstrate respect for survivors’ rights, needs, and wishes, including those that service providers may disagree with.

4. **Non-Discrimination**
   - Practice nondiscrimination, ensuring that survivors, in all their diversity, are able to access and receive appropriate services and meaningful support.

**STRATEGIES**

- Engage locally-led women’s rights organizations and other groups working on GBV and human rights.
- Assume program participants and organizational staff include survivors of GBV, whether or not they have self-identified as survivors.
- Develop and implement standard operating procedures, safeguarding policies, and ways of working.
- Map GBV programming and survivor resources and develop referral networks.
- Train and work with all staff to build their knowledge and ability to promote survivor-centered attitudes and practices.
- Strengthen multisectoral approaches to GBV.

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