Exploring Liberia’s Post-Conflict Efforts To Combat Sexual Gender-Based Violence

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Liberia

- Two nearly consecutive civil wars between 1989-2003
- Over 75% of women and girls experienced some form of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) during the wars
- Assertive and public actions to address SGBV
Study Overview

- Study objective
- Data collection
  - Individual interviews
  - Group Interviews
  - Review of documents/reports
  - Direct observations
- Participants
  - 9 key contributors
  - 32 group participants (3 group interviews)
- Thematic analysis
RQ 1: Have post-conflict SGBV initiatives in Liberia been successful in reducing SGBV since the end of the civil war? If so, how?

- Potential reasons for no reduction in SGBV
  - Inadequate implementation of programs, policies, and laws
  - Ineffective judicial system
  - Cultural and traditional norms
- Findings from documents and reports
  - Increase in SGBV from 2005 - 2013
RQ 2: Has Liberia been effective in providing support to survivors of conflict-related and post-conflict SGBV? If so, how?

- Important progress in providing support services for survivors
- Improvement needed to support survivors
  - Shortcomings of safe homes and One Stop centers
  - Lack of community support
  - Ineffective judicial system
- Findings from documents and reports
  - Half or more survivors receive medical care
  - Low arrest and conviction rate for perpetrators
**RQ 3: Have adequate preventative measures been established to reduce or eliminate future instances of SGBV? If so, how?**

- Suggestions to improve prevention efforts
  - Improved implementation of programs, policies, and laws to stop SGBV
  - Community awareness, education, and empowerment
  - Cultural shift
- Findings from documents and reports
Discussion of Findings

- SGBV reduction and prevention efforts
- Support for survivors
- Initiating change
- Liberia in the global context
- Significant progress
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