Identifying sexual violence and access to HIV service among male refugees in Uganda

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Overview of presentation

– Rationale and objectives of the project
– Methods
– Qualitative & Validation Results
– Interpretation
– Future use and consideration of how the tool may integrated the existing referral systems in Uganda
– Questions/comments
Collaboration

• **Collaboration** between Johns Hopkins University, Refugee Law Project, and UNHCR to develop the tool for male refugees

• **Goal**: future global implementation in UNHCR refugee camps & by implementing partners

• **Prior/ongoing work** by JHU to develop a SV screening tool for female refugees/ IDPs: the Assessment Screen to Identify
Sexual violence among refugees/ IDPs

• “any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and female”
  – Increasing reports of SV against male refugees
  – Challenging definition for men and boys
  – May be perpetrated during conflict, post-conflict, within the family, community, or in transit
  – Associated with social disruption, insecurity
Objectives of the Tool

**Primary:** Routine use of screening method to confidentially identify unreported cases of SV and refer to appropriate services

- 1st SV screening tool of its kind for male refugee/displaced populations
  - Systematic literature review- No screening tool exists.

- Increase access to services by SV survivors in displaced settings

**Secondary:**

- Change norms related to discussing/disclosing SV
Methods

Formative Phase
Kampala & Nakivale refugee camp - February 2013
- Survivors
- Service providers

Validation Phase
Kampala & Nakivale refugee camp - July 2013
- Survivors
- General refugee population

Generalizability Phase
Kampala & Rwamwanja refugee camp - Aug - Oct 2013
- Screening during registration
Development – Formative Research

- Kampala & Nakivale refugee camp
- Qualitative interviews with 22 male survivors
- Qualitative interviews with 26 service providers

• To determine breadth of violence, types of questions to ask, appropriate wording, related health outcome
• Understand barriers to reporting
• Assess needs of service providers to identify SV
Formative Research: Results

- Participants revealed multiple and diverse types of SV
  - Rape, other sexual violence, forced perpetration of sexual violence, detention, and psychological violence.
- Locations of SV occurrence:
  - Town prior to displacement, during conflict, rural areas, new setting of displacement
  - Within home, in captivity, in camp
- Perpetrators:
  - armed actors, strangers, other trusted individuals (e.g. family members, neighbors)
- Barriers to reporting: stigma; low access to services; conflated with homosexuality → legal implications
Draft tool

- Developed from formative, qualitative research
- Brief set of direct questions about physical and sexual violence
- Items: violence experiences (last 12 mos, prior to last 12 mos), related outcomes for identification and response
  1. Threats of violence
  2. Physical violence
  3. Forced perpetration of violence
  4. Unwanted touching
  5. Rape / forced sex
  6. Forced exchange sex for survival/protection
- Perpetrator and locations
- Supplementary: History of reporting, service access, HIV testing/prevention
  7. Shame
  8. Pain
  9. Difficulty walking, sitting, going to the bathroom
Example of Draft Tool
Validation Phase

• Kampala & Nakivale, July 2013
  – Tested among 95 self-identified survivors of SV and 249 adult men general refugee populations

• Validity tests:
  – Compared to other violence and trauma screening tools used in non-conflict/displaced settings
  – Compared results of those previously self-reported to those who screened positive
## Validation Phase: Participant Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kampala (N=89)</th>
<th>Nakivale (N=262)</th>
<th>Total (N=351)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (median, range)</strong></td>
<td>29 (19 – 59)</td>
<td>38 (18-65)</td>
<td>30 (18-65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yrs. in current camp/city</strong></td>
<td>2 (0-15)</td>
<td>2 (0-30)</td>
<td>2 (0 - 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country of Origin</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>1  1.2</td>
<td>166  66.1</td>
<td>167  49.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>82  95.3</td>
<td>56   22.3</td>
<td>138  40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>0   0</td>
<td>1    0.4</td>
<td>1    0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>2   2.3</td>
<td>26   10.4</td>
<td>28   8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1   1.2</td>
<td>2    0.8</td>
<td>3    0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married/Living together</td>
<td>26  29.8</td>
<td>134  53.6</td>
<td>160  47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated/Divorced</td>
<td>19  21.8</td>
<td>19   7.6</td>
<td>38   11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>3   3.4</td>
<td>14   5.6</td>
<td>17   5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>39  44.8</td>
<td>83   33.2</td>
<td>122  36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of children (median, range)</strong></td>
<td>1 (0 - 16)</td>
<td>1 (0 - 10)</td>
<td>1 (0 - 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of children living with</strong></td>
<td>2 (0 - 11)</td>
<td>3 (0 - 9)</td>
<td>3 (0 - 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-identified Survivor</td>
<td>31  35.6</td>
<td>63   24.7</td>
<td>94   27.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Validation Phase: Experiences of SV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASIST-SV type (last 12 mo.)</th>
<th>General Refugee (N=249)</th>
<th>Self-reported Survivor* (N=95)</th>
<th>Total (N=344)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt unsafe</td>
<td>130 (54.9)</td>
<td>54 (57.4)</td>
<td>184 (55.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened w/ violence</td>
<td>75 (31.4%)</td>
<td>26 (28.3)</td>
<td>101 (30.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>56 (23.6%)</td>
<td>16 (17%)</td>
<td>72 (21.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced perpetration of sexual violence</td>
<td>17 (7.5%)</td>
<td>4 (9.5%)</td>
<td>21 (7.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwanted sexual touching</td>
<td>28 (12%)</td>
<td>16 (16.8%)</td>
<td>44 (13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced sex, rape</td>
<td>33 (13.9%)</td>
<td>11 (12.1%)</td>
<td>44 (13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sexual violence, sexual torture</td>
<td>24 (10.6%)</td>
<td>4 (10.3%)</td>
<td>28 (10.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced sex for protection, survival</td>
<td>19 (8.2%)</td>
<td>1 (1.2%)</td>
<td>20 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Screened positive for SV (reports at least one of last 5 items)</strong></td>
<td><strong>63 (25.3%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 (17.9%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>80 (23.3%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Self-reported survivors were participants who were enrolled from partner organizations, were known to have experienced SV within lifetime
Validation phase results: recent & lifetime experiences of SV

- Forced perpetration: ≤12mo
- Unwanted touching: ≤12mo
- Forced sex: ≤12mo
- Other sexual violence: ≤12mo
- Forced exchange sex: ≤12mo
- >12mo
- ≥1 SV experience: ≤12mo
- >12mo
Validation Phase Results: Reporting and Service use

- Only 15 of those 80 men with recent SV reported to authority/provider within a few days
- 18 reported within ≤ 1 year
- 100 of those who screening positive in study
Validation Results

- 23% of all screened positive for SV (last 12mo)
  - 66.7% experienced any SV (> 12 mo)
  - 80.1% experienced any violence (lifetime)

- Related outcomes in screening (last 12mo):
  - Difficulty walking, sitting, bathroom: 49.4% of total sample
  - Event-related pain prevents work/social: 57.4%
  - Event-related shame, avoid family/friends: 51.1%

More from general population screened positive for SV, compared to self-identified survivors.
Summary of research and development

• Final 3mo. implementation just completed last week – implemented during refugee registration (Kampala & Rwamwanja)

• Validated for male refugees in Uganda

• ASIST-SV screening tool developed through an evidence-based approach

• ASIST-SV is a toolkit- comprehensive training on confidentiality, minimum package of services needed for screening, referral process, and the developed screening tool
Thank you

- **Refugee participantes** in Kampala, Nakivale, Rwamwanja
- **UNHCR Geneva**: Margriet Veenma, Matilda Svennson, Martina Pomeroy
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