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

Bangkok, October 2013

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Funded by the US Government: US Dept. of State,

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

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

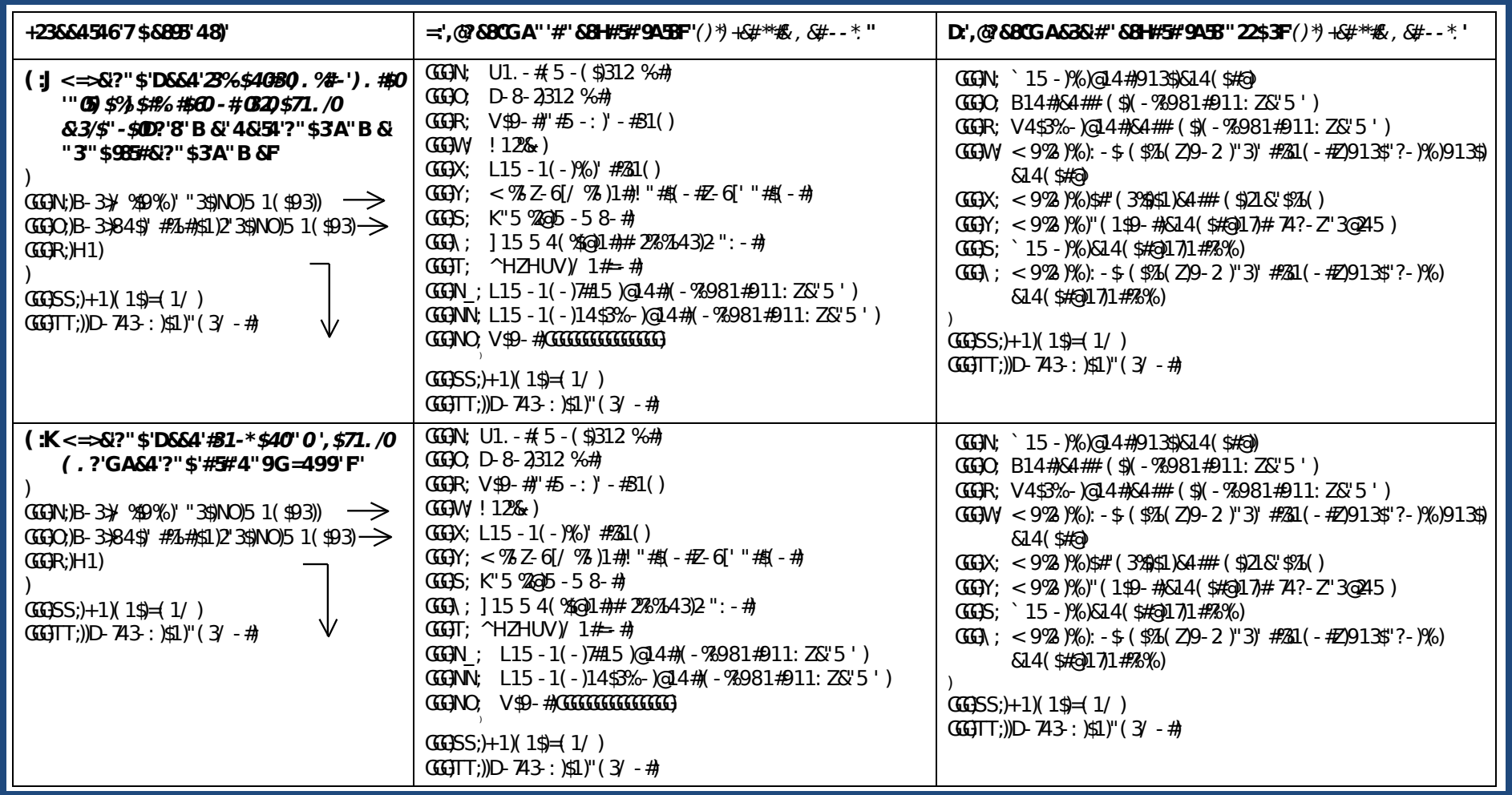
Formative Research: Results

- 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

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**
    7. Shame
    8. Pain
    9. Difficulty walking, sitting, going to the bathroom
- Perpetrator and locations
- Supplementary: History of reporting, service access, HIV testing/prevention

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

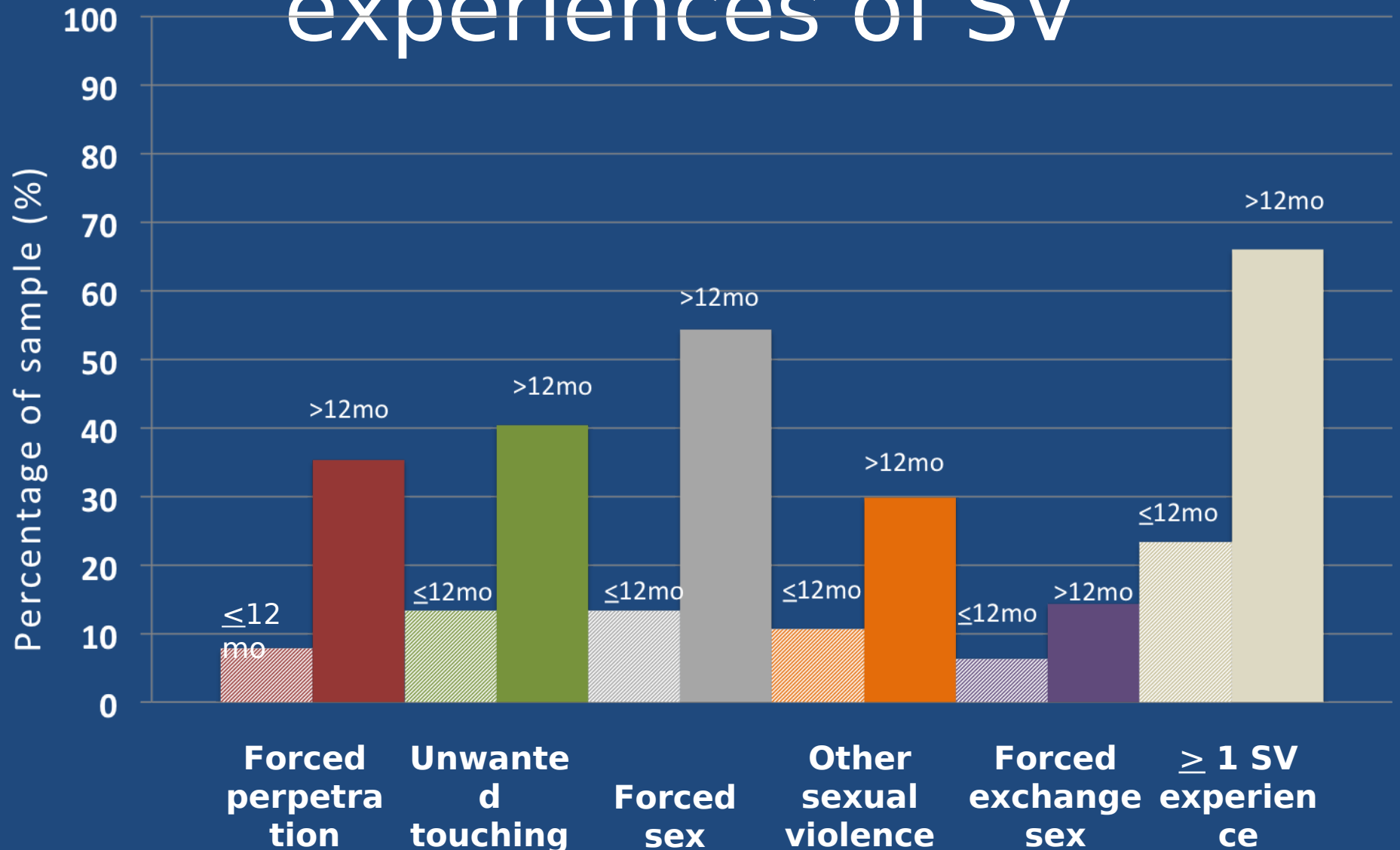
	Kampala (N=89)		Nakivale (N=262)		Total (N=351)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Age (median, range)	29	(19 – 59)	38	(18-65)	30	(18-65)
Yrs. in current camp/city	2	(0-15)	2	(0-30)	2	(0 - 30)
Country of Origin						
Burundi	1	1.2	166	66.1	167	49.6
DRC	82	95.3	56	22.3	138	40.9
Kenya	0	0	1	0.4	1	0.3
Rwanda	2	2.3	26	10.4	28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

Validation Phase: Experiences of SV

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

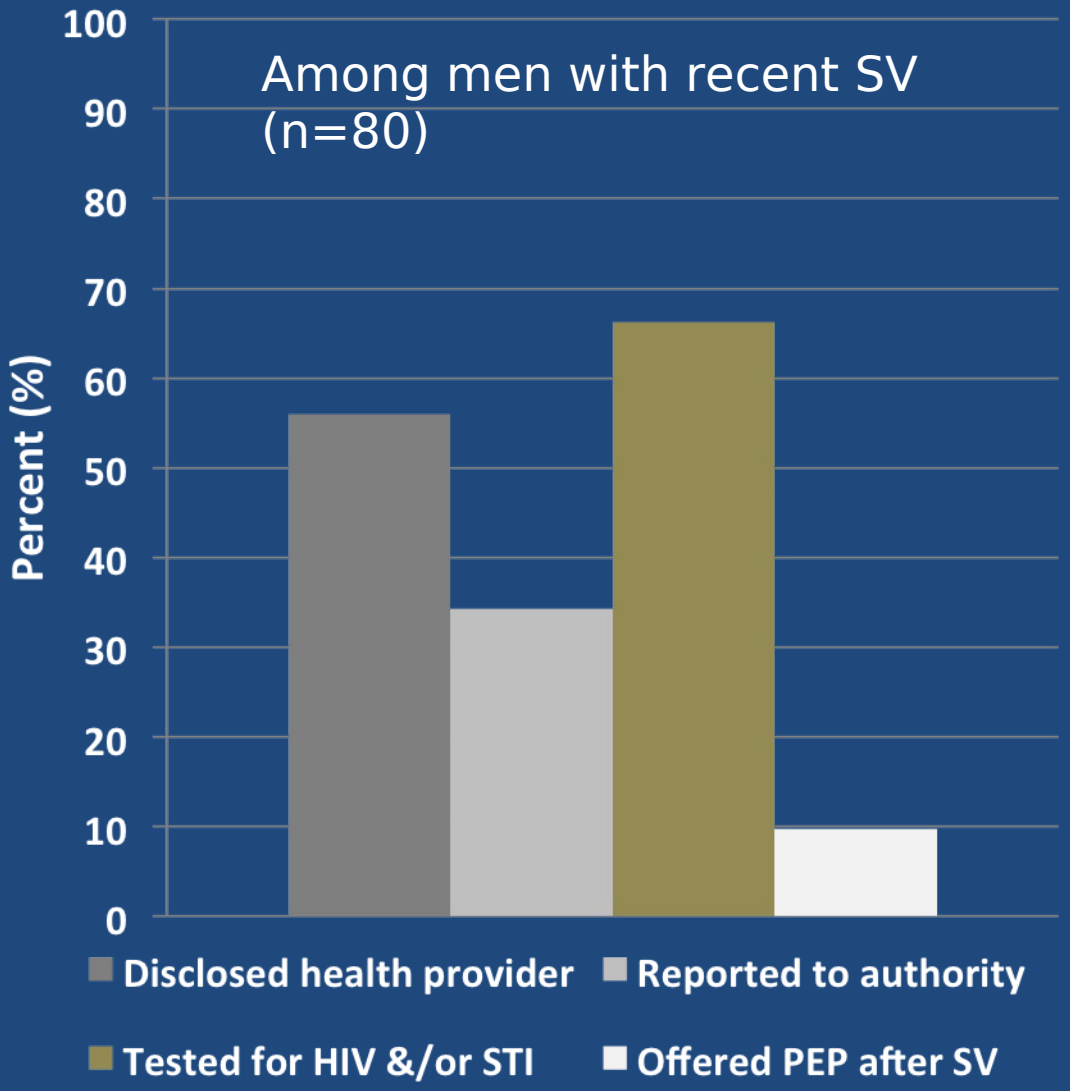
* Self-reported survivors were participants who were enrolled from partner organizations, were known to have experienced SV within lifetime

Validation phase results: recent & lifetime experiences of SV



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%

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 and evidence-based approach
- ASIST-SV is a toolkit- comprehensive training on confidentiality, minimum

Thank you

- **Refugee participantes** in Kampala, Nakivale, Rwamwanja
- **UNHCR Geneva**: Margriet Veenma, Matilda Svennson, Martina Pomeroy
- **UNHCR Kampala**: Elsa Bokhre, Keiko Odashiro
- **Financial support**: US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
- **US Dept. of State**: Shanna Devoy, Nicole