Sexual Violence and Conflict in the eastern DRC

Results from IMAGES

Henny Slegh and Gary Barker, Promundo

Tim Shand, Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa

www.promundo.org.br

Sonke Gender Justice Network

HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights

Context

- More than ***20 armed groups*** operating in Eastern DRC since 1994
- Research carried out in ***context of ongoing fighting*** between government and M-23, in which Tutsi communities suffered reprisals
- Interviews carried out by ***55 psychology students*** at Institute Superior de Lac-Goma
- ***Sample*** consisted of 708 men and 754 women ages 18-59 years in 4 sites:

- Goma town
- Mugungu 3, IDP camp
- Katoyi military base in Goma
- 2 rural villages (Kiroche and Bweremana) 40 Km south of Goma

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Part of the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)

Coordinated by Promundo and ICRW

- Multi-country study on men, gender equality, health and GBV, asking men and women about practices and attitudes
- To date, >**20,000 interviews in 9 countries** completed
- ***One of the most complete surveys of its kind*** *that includes men's and women's assessments and includes a range of gender issues*
- Brazil, India, Croatia, Chile, Mexico, Rwanda, Bosnia, DRC, Mali
- ***IMAGES-DRC was a partnership with Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa, and funded by SIDA***

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Precarious employment

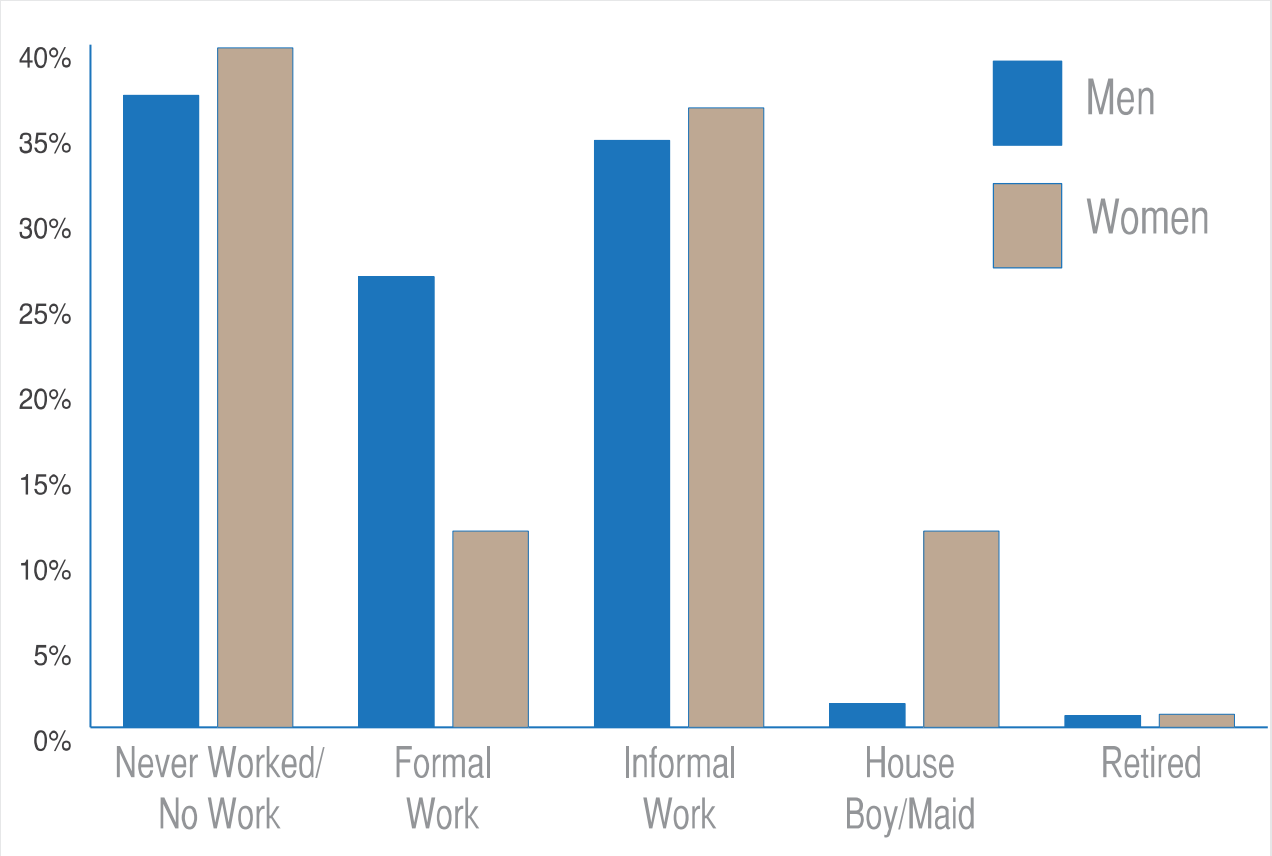

Figure 4: Employment

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Extreme poverty

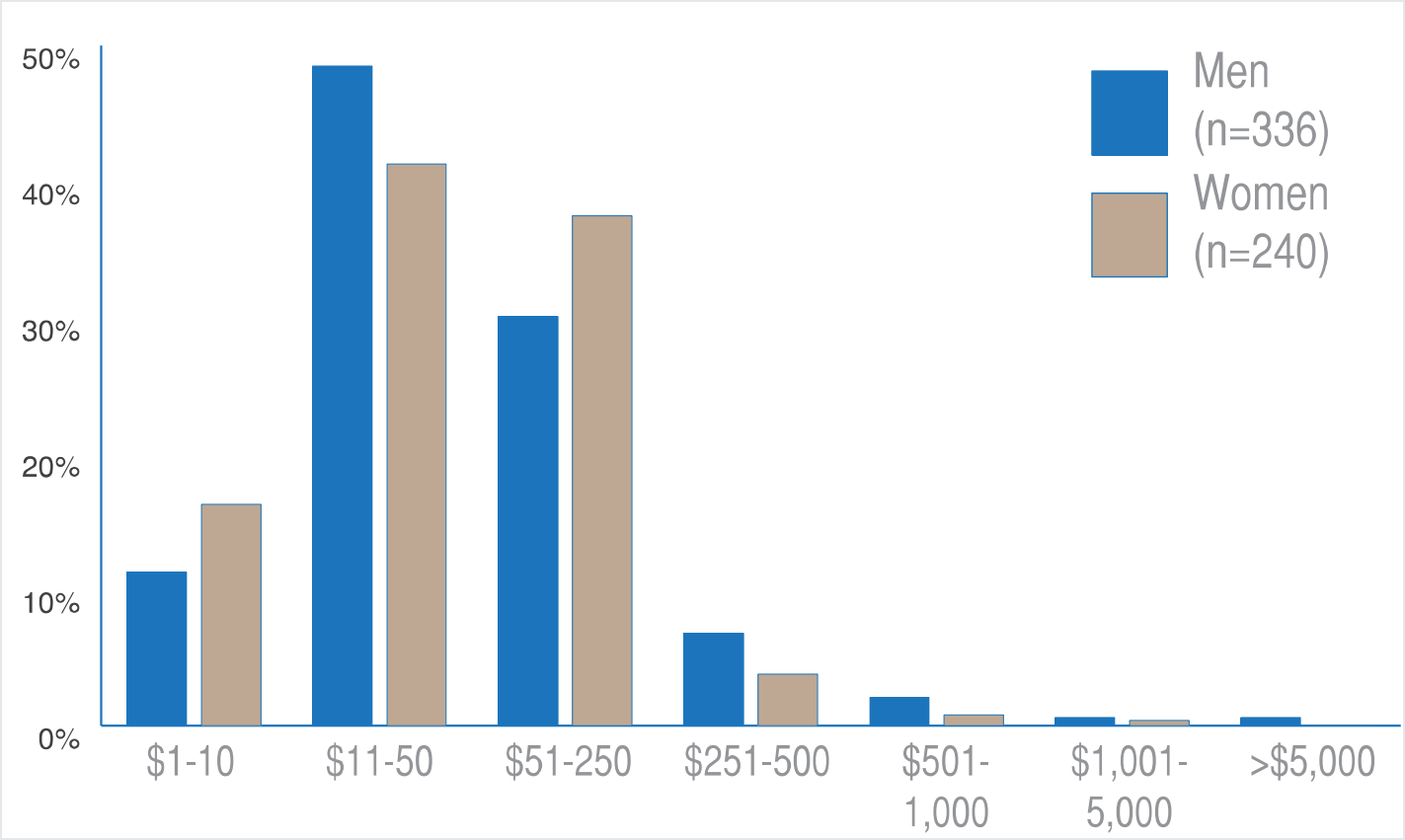

Figure 5: Monthly Income in USD[6]

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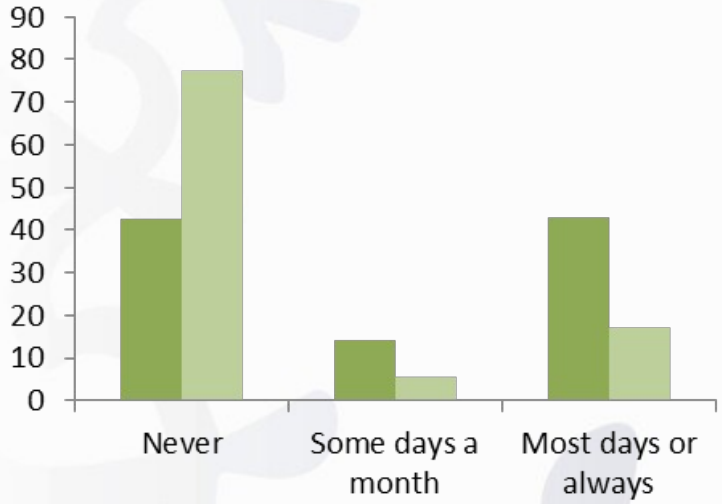
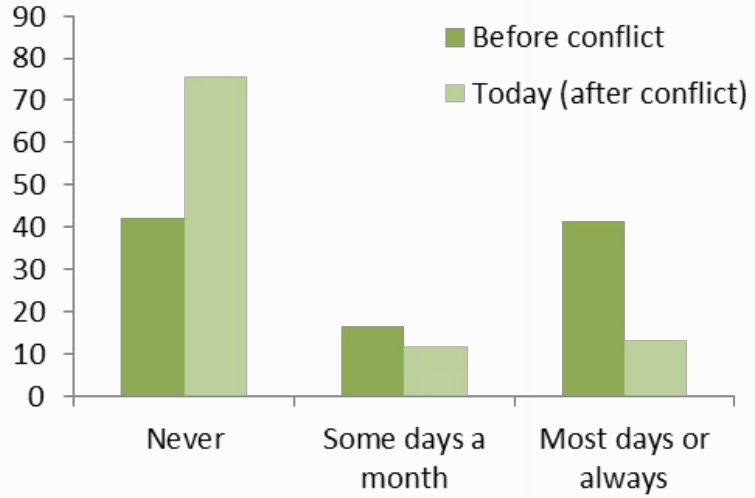
Twice as many men and women say they don't have enough to sustain families *after* the conflict
IMAGES – DRC (Promundo and Sonke)



Men



Women

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Loss of livelihoods, loss of manhood

Figure 6: Men's Reports of Economic Stress

- **72%** ashamed to face their families because out of work
- **75%** ashamed to face their families because they can't provide basic financial needs
- **74%** spend most of their time looking for work
- **53%** have considered leaving their families because of lack of income
- **46%** sometimes drink or stay away from home because they can't find work
- **78%** are frequently stressed or depressed because they do not have work
- **89%** of men reported at least one form of work-related stress

Photo by Henny Slegh

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Women and men reported men's loss of self as a result of conflict

"What kind of man am I, who is not able to sustain the family?" (Man, Goma)

"This is like losing being masculine." (Man, IDP camp)

"My husband lost all his properties and this made him mad. He liked to eat and be the boss, but he lost everything. Now he is an aggressive and nervous man."
(Woman, IDP camp)

A man in Goma explained how he feels frustrated when he comes home and his wife asks him for money for food: "When she is accusing me that I did not bring home anything, sometimes I feel I could kill her. What kind of a man am I being insulted by his own wife?"

Experiences	% Men (n=465)	% Women (n=629)
Family Member Injured	52.5	61.8
Family Member Killed	49.1	64.7
Personally Injured	25.3	25.4
Forced to Have Sex/Raped	9.0	21.6
Forced to Witness Rape	15.6	26.3
Lost Property	73.3	73.0
Lived in the Bush	61.5	58.4
Lost a Child	21.7	22.1
Lost a Partner	8.1	13.4

Figure 8: Traumatic Events Due to Conflict

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Men's Use of Sexual Violence: *34% of men report use of any sexual violence*

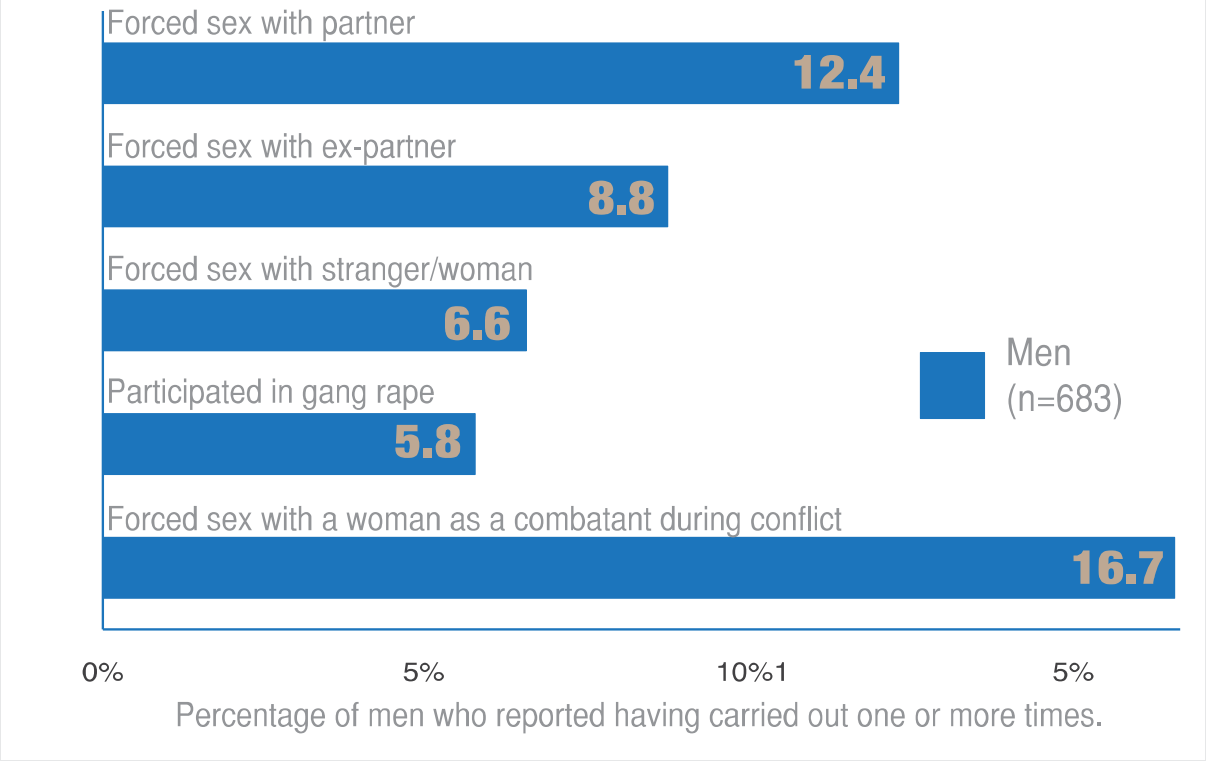

Figure 12a: Men's Reports of Having Used Sexual Violence

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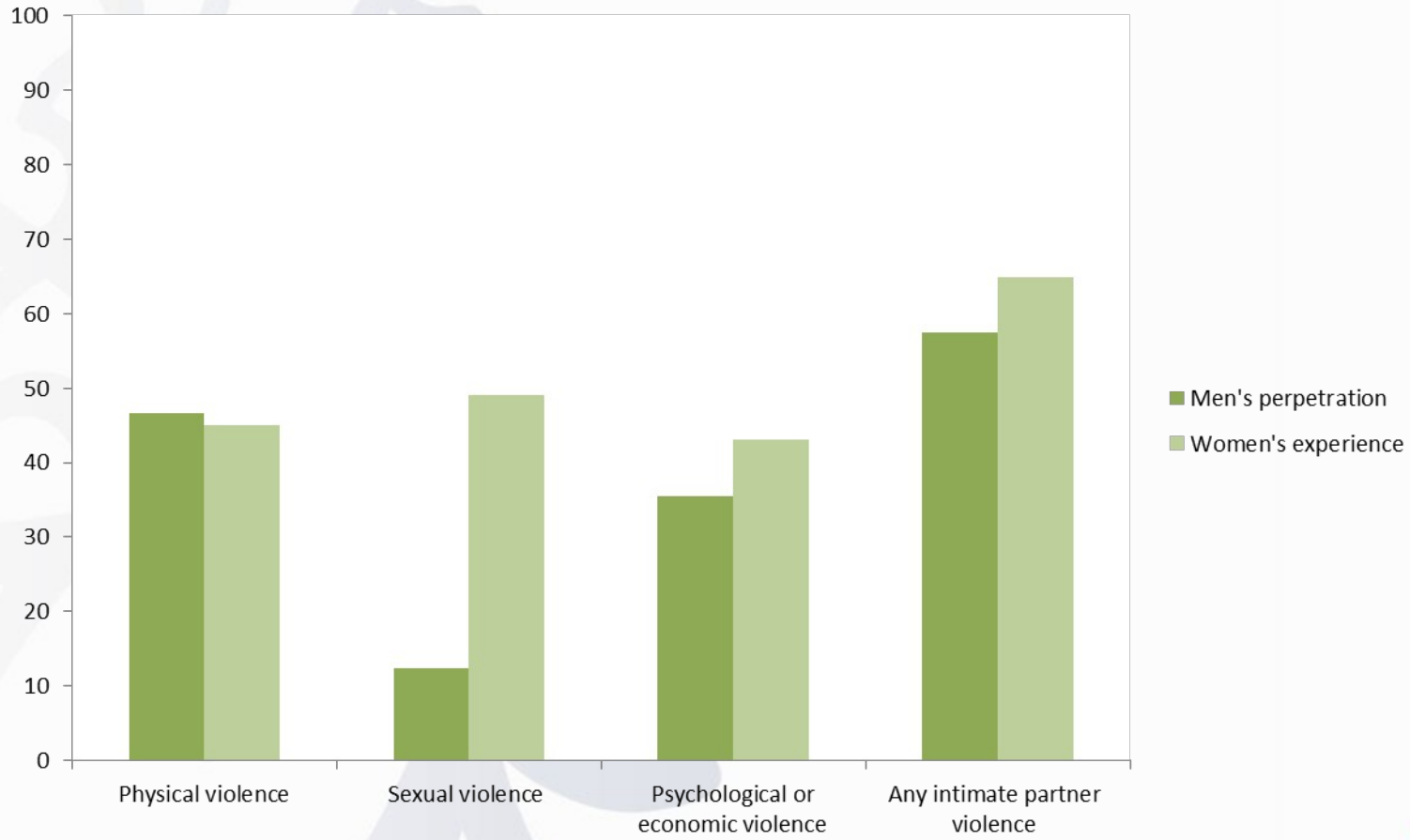
Intimate Partner Violence, *Ever*
Men's Perpetration, Women's Experiences



Attitudes about Rape and GBV

% Agree or Strongly Agree	Men	Women
When a woman is raped, she usually did something careless to put herself in that situation	35.0	6.4
When a man forces himself on a woman she might start enjoying it	29.9	6.5
If a woman doesn't physically fight back, you can't really say it was rape	45.9	26.5
A man should expel his wife if she has been raped by another man	43.4	37.4
A man who is raped by another man has lost his manhood	62.2	59.5
A man has a right to sex even if the woman refuses	48.0	62.2
There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten	61.9	47.6
A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together	65.0	77.5

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Which men use GBV and which women experience it?

- Men with ***higher education, better employment*** – perhaps resistance to women's empowerment?
- Women who reported ***economic stress*** in family reported more than twice the rates of experiencing IPV
- Men who reported ***economic stress***
- Men who ***witnessed IPV in home of origin***
- Men who ***support rape myths***
- Men who have ***more inequitable gender attitudes***
- Men who engage in ***binge drinking***
- Men who reported having ***experienced sexual violence***
- ***Women who lost property*** or family members during war more likely to experience sexual violence

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Childhood sexual abuse was prevelent, with higher rates among boys

Photo by Henny Slegh

Experiences	% Men	% Women
Being teased.	47.3	57.3
I was forced to have sex with someone I know (church, community, neighbors).	18.5	11.3
I was forced to have sex with other children or students.	16.9	7.5
I was forced to have sex with my teacher.	15.8	11.0
In school, I was physically punished by a teacher.	54.7	46.3

Figure 13b: Personal Exposure to Violence During Childhood (before age 18) at School and in Community

*Percentage of men and women that responded 'often' or 'sometimes." Percentages are based on the total nuber of responses, excluding cases of no response.

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Final Reflections

- ***While much focus in on SGBV in conflict, IPV prevalence and childhood exposure to violence are high*** – suggesting need for psychosocial support and secondary prevention for women and men
- ***Livelihood needs***: Urgent for women ***and*** men, particularly efforts that promote couple cooperation
- ***Long-term rebuilding must take into account men's and women's identity loss, their coping, and children's experiences of violence***

"The war has separated men and women, and it has reduced our love."
(Couple in IDP camp, Goma)

Photo by Henry Singh

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