

Faith engagement as a factor in women's empowerment and intimate partner violence

Key findings from a quantitative household survey
Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

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Household survey, Ituri, DRC

Education: None: 35.8% women, 17.9% men
Incomplete primary education: 32.8% women, 35.0% men

Data set: 769 respondents
(369 male, 400 female)

WASH: 67.4% shared pit latrines, 33.3% unprotected water source
No electricity, few assets

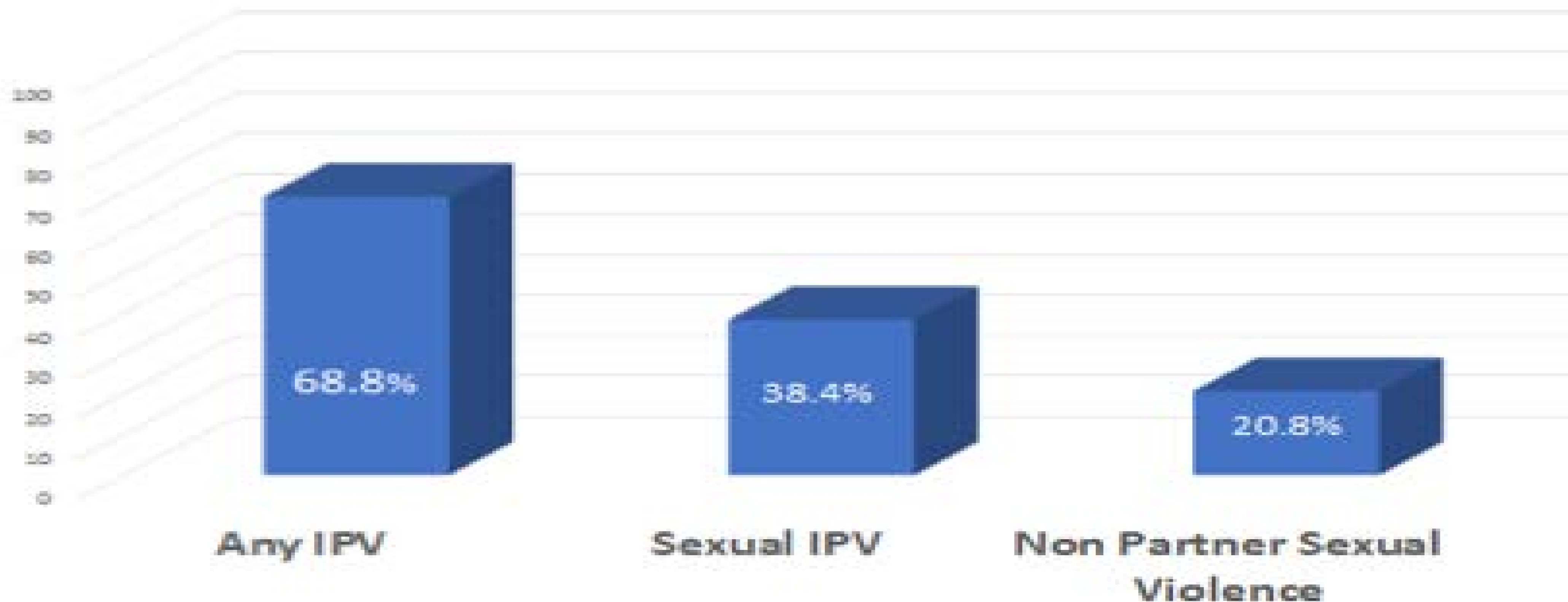


Sexual violence in conflict: IPV

- **68.8%** female **IPV experience** in past 12 months (**38.4%** for sexual IPV)
- 68.2% male IPV perpetration (any) in past 12 months
- 31.3% male perpetration **sexual IPV** in past 12 months

- **20.8%** female **NPSV experience** in past 12 months (DHS 2014: 16%)
- **86.6%** of perpetrators of NPSV were known, 6% were armed groups

Women's experiences of violence in the last 12 Months



Reach and influence of faith groups

95% of respondents identified with a religion (Christian 76.6%, Muslim 14.0%)

83.4% described their faith as '(very) important' in their lives

Most women (57.8%) and 42.2% of men did not belong to any other community group

Faith leaders were the only social referent* whose opinion people felt significantly motivated to comply with

[*social referents = *partner, friends, parents, family, community leaders, faith leaders*]

Only **5.4% of survivors** agreed their faith group was supportive



Gender attitudes

- **89.9% of men** and **81.7% of women** agreed with the statement that *'men are superior to women'*
- **71.0% of men** and **66.2% of women** agreed that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten



Links to faith texts:

76.1% of men and **67.2% of women** agreed *'a man is entitled to sex even when his partner doesn't feel like it'*

81.8% of men and **74.9% of women** agreed *'a married woman has no right or control of her body according to the Bible/ Qur'an'*

Factors associated with women's experience of physical or sexual IPV in past 12 months

	Odds ratio	95% confidence intervals		p value
<i>Household income contribution:</i> unemployed/no income	1.00			
less than half of income	0.42	0.10	1.78	0.237
about half	1.34	0.45	4.03	0.596
more than half of income	1.66	0.41	6.69	0.479
all/nearly all	0.38	0.15	0.96	0.04
<i>Partner's alcohol drinking:</i> never	1.00			
occasionally	0.88	0.37	2.09	0.765
more often	3.56	1.63	7.79	0.001
<i>Engagement in religion:</i> no religion/does not attend	1.00			
attends services only	0.36	0.14	0.91	0.032
participates actively or leads	0.32	0.15	0.73	0.006
Witnessed abuse of mother as a child	2.77	1.26	6.11	0.012
Married	0.25	0.12	0.51	<0.0001
Believes a woman can refuse sex when she doesn't want it	0.36	0.15	0.84	0.018



Factors associated with women agreeing with a woman's right to refuse sex

	Odds ratio	95% confidence intervals		p value
<i>Engagement in religion:</i> no religion/does not attend	1.00			
attends services only	1.86	0.77	4.49	0.167
participates actively or leads	4.46	2.24	8.87	<0.0001
<i>No. of daily meals:</i> one	1.00			
Two	0.47	0.22	1.03	0.059
Three	0.35	0.14	0.88	0.026
<i>Education:</i> none	1.00			
incomplete primary	0.74	0.37	1.48	0.394
completed primary	2.44	1.04	5.73	0.04
incomplete secondary	1.37	0.56	3.37	0.494
completed secondary	2.64	1.06	6.60	0.037
higher than secondary	5.61	1.06	29.76	0.043



Informing interventions



*“We had an awareness session last Friday at the mosque, and we used a Qur’an verse that is closely related to the one in Genesis that says God created us all equal. We spoke about that last Friday. And on Sunday, our theme was gender equality.” – **Iman.***

*“When I heard the teaching, I felt that it is a good teaching ...What touched me is that when you are a father in a family you must not let anger control you; and don’t have a habit of beating people physically. Well, I saw that it can be a good thing helping people to live in peace in marriage.”
– **Community member.***



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