Men talking about perpetrating non-partner sexual violence in South Sudan

Manuel Contreras-Urbina, Alexandra Blackwell, Julianne Stennes, Maureen Murphy, Mary Ellsberg
“NO SAFE PLACE:
A LIFETIME OF VIOLENCE FOR
CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN
AND GIRLS IN SOUTH SUDAN”
Objective

To examine the prevalence, circumstances and characteristics of non-partner sexual violence against women and girls from the male perspective in South Sudan
Methods

Population-based household survey:
2244 women
481 men

Qualitative research:
Participatory FGDs and In-depth Interviews with key stakeholders, survivors and community members.
Over 500 participants
Three Conflicts

- Civil War 1983-2005
- Crisis 2013 - 2017
- Intercommunal attacks
Defining non-partner sexual violence (NPSV)

- Rape and attempted rape.
- Touched sexually or something sexual that the person did not want to.
- Forced to undress or stripped off the clothing.
- Not included: sexual harassment and transactional sex.
Prevalence non-partner sexual violence ever in South Sudan by site and sex

- Juba: Male 9, Female 28
- Rumbek: Male 6, Female 33
Men victims of NPSV

- 1% raped (compared to 6% of women in Juba and 17% in Rumbek).
- 1 out of 3 men associated the abuse with conflict.
- Perpetrators armed actors (15%), family members (15%), members of other tribes (10%), friends (10%).
- 40% disclosed the situation. Male family member.
Perpetration of non-partner sexual violence

Sexual assault against women by non-partners

50% 11% 29%  

Total

Juba: n=477  
Rumbek: n=804
Rape 14% in Juba and 7% in Rumbek.

93% of cases the victim was a woman.

More than 40% perpetrated before 20 years old. 7% under 15 years old.

30% did it with someone.

60% more than once.
• In Juba: wanted to have sex (88%), for having fun (45%), being bored (23%).

• In Rumbek: because other men were doing it (83%), wanted to have sex (73%), because the victim was the enemy (67%), being bored (43%).

• In Rumbek, 55% said perpetration was associated by the inter-communal conflict.

• Almost half of total men blamed women for being raped.
The rape cases are common among the young men. The girls are raped by their boyfriends or even somebody they didn't know.

- Men in Juba County

It is not rape for me; it's an agreement because the woman could have screamed for help from the community.

– Young Men in Juba County

Women are also raped by men whenever the women induce them with their dresses.

- Men in Juba
During the crisis rape was too much. Women, girls, children and even old women were raped by men.

- Men in Juba

Women are sexually abused, killed, tortured and raped by young men in...inter-communal clashes among communities. It is difficult to control because those who did it were gun men.

– Male Key Informant in Rumbek
Increased risk of perpetration of NPSV if...

- Regular partner but not living together
  - OR 8.7 (3.4 - 22.5) ***

- Polygamy relationship
  - OR 5.1 (2.7 - 9.5) ***

- Victim NPSV
  - OR 3.1 (1.5 - 6.1) ***

- Seriously injured during conflict
  - OR 2.5 (1.0 – 6.4) **

- Attitude: “women should tolerate violence to keep family together”
  - OR 1.6 (0.9 - 2.8) *
Conclusions

• Men and boys are willing to report experiences of violence, both as victims and perpetrators.

• While rates of SVAMB are high, women and girls bear a much larger share of violence based on gender across South Sudan.

• Men involved in patriarchal norms and practices since early ages independently of their socio-economic background that result in NPSV.

• Reasons:
  • Masculinity identity: “natural/biological” need combined with the “right” to commit sexual acts against women.
  • War strategy.

• Need to address patriarchal norms that perpetuate violence against women and the consequences for men of experience conflict and NPSV.
Thank you!