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 settlements & by implementing partners

• **Prior/ongoing work** by JHU to develop a GBV screening tool for female refugees/IDPs: the *Assessment Screen to Identify Survivors Toolkit for Gender Based Violence (ASIST-GBV)* in Ethiopia and Colombia
GBV 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 GBV 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 GBV and refer to appropriate services

- 1st GBV screening tool of its kind for male refugee/displaced populations
  - Systematic literature review- No screening tool exists.
- Increase access to services by GBV survivors in displaced settings

**Secondary:**
- Change norms related to discussing/disclosing GBV
- May assist with data collection to assess trends
Methods

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

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

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

– Kampala & Nakivale refugee settlement
  – 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 GBV
• Considerations for implementation
Formative Research: Results

- Participants revealed multiple and diverse types of GBV
  - Rape, other sexual violence, forced perpetration of sexual violence, detention, and psychological violence.

- **Locations** of GBV occurrence:
  - Town prior to displacement, during conflict, rural areas, new setting of displacement
  - Within home, in captivity, in settlement

- **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 GBV
• Items: GBV 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

### Participant ID: [ ] [ ] [ ]  

### Interviewer ID: [ ] [ ]

### Screening Questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.3 Have you been forced to participate in (perpetrate) acts of sexual violence by someone in your home or outside your home?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Yes, within past 12 months  
2. Yes, but prior to last 12 months  
3. No  
77. Do not know  
99. Refused to answer |

#### a. If yes, who does/did this? Select all that apply
- 1. Government soldier  
- 2. Rebel soldier  
- 3. Other armed person  
- 4. Police  
- 5. Someone in prison  
- 6. Wife/ex-wife or Partner/ex-partner  
- 7. Family member  
- 8. Community or religious leader  
- 9. UN/NGO worker  
- 10. Someone from your neighborhood/camp  
- 11. Someone outside your neighborhood/camp  
- 12. Other _______

#### b. If yes, where does/did this occur? Select all that apply
- 1. Home in your host country  
- 2. Your current neighborhood/camp  
- 3. Outside your current neighborhood/camp  
- 4. While in detention/ held as prisoner/ hostage in host country  
- 5. While in transit to current location  
- 6. While in another country of refuge/asylum  
- 7. Home in country of origin  
- 8. While in detention/ held as prisoner/ hostage in country of origin  

77. Do not know  
99. Refused to answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.4 Have you been touched in a sexual way when you did not want to?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Yes, within past 12 months  
2. Yes, but prior to last 12 months  
3. No  
77. Do not know  
99. Refused to answer |

#### a. If yes, who does/did this? Select all that apply
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- 4. Police  
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- 5. While in transit to current location  
- 6. While in another country of refuge/asylum  
- 7. Home in country of origin  
- 8. While in detention/ held as prisoner/ hostage in country of origin  

77. Do not know  
99. Refused to answer
Validation Phase

• Kampala & Nakivale, July 2013
  – Tested among 95 self-identified survivors of GBV 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>Age (median, range)</td>
<td>29 (19 – 59)</td>
<td>38 (18-65)</td>
<td>30 (18-65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yrs. in current settlement/city</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 GBV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASIST-GBV 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>Screened positive for GBV (reports at least one of last 5 items)</td>
<td>63 (25.3%)</td>
<td>17 (17.9%)</td>
<td>80 (23.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Percentage of sample (%)

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Forced perpetration
Unwanted touching
Forced sex
Other sexual violence
Forced exchange sex
> 1 GBV experience

<12mo 12mo >12mo
Validation Phase Results: Reporting and Service use

- Only 15 of those 80 men with recent GBV reported to authority/provider within a few days
- 18 reported within ≤ 1 year
- 100 of those who screening positive in study (recent & ever) referred for care
Validation Phase Results

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

- Related outcomes in screening (last 12 mo):
  - 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%

- Tool can confidentially *identify* and *offer referral* to those who had not previously reported GBV
  - More from general population screened positive for GBV, 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-GBV screening tool developed through and evidence-based approach
• ASIST-GBV 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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- **US Dept. of State**: Shanna Devoy, Nicole Gaertner
- Other Johns Hopkins and Refugee Law Project staff