From Incidents to Incidence: Measuring Sexual Violence Amidst War and Displacement

CPC-CPWG Learning into Action
Geneva
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Objective

• To analyze the findings from four case studies using the Neighborhood Method, and to examine the programmatic and policy implications based on these findings
Methodological Lessons Learned from the Literature on Measuring Rape

- Information collected has traditionally depended on self-disclosure.
- Disclosure biggest problem in measuring sexual violence (more so than definitional issues, fabrication, etc.).
- These issues have led to widely varying estimates of rape and sexual violence.

Any data collection effort that purports to measure rape and sexual violence must include methods to overcome the compelling forces that favor nondisclosure.
Key Measurement Decisions

- face-to-face administration
- extensive pre-testing
- careful interview selection and training
- matching interviewers and respondents
- ensuring privacy and confidentiality
- recall and telescoping
- constructing questions to engender trust
- formulating behaviorally- and relationship-specific questions
- requiring interviewers to probe
- long interview schedule
- making rape the exclusive focus of the study
Neighborhood Method
Case Studies
The Neighborhood Method

• Draws on the lessons learned in other settings

• Incorporates a novel element of secondary reporting

• Is based on the principle that an informant can validly and reliably report on the experiences of others in close proximity – her ‘neighborhood’

• Allows collection of info on many from one interview.
# Methodological Features of Four Case Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Populations of Interest</th>
<th>Outcome Categories</th>
<th>Recall Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>&gt;Internally displaced persons (IDP) camps</td>
<td>&gt;Adult women (self report) &gt;Sisters &gt;Adult female neighbors</td>
<td>&gt;IPV &gt;Marital rape &gt;Rape by someone other than an intimate partner</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>&gt;Resettled communities in an urban county</td>
<td>&gt;Adult women (self report) &gt;All females in respondents’ household &gt;Adult female neighbor &gt;All of the females in the neighbor’s household</td>
<td>&gt;Household violence &gt;Rape</td>
<td>18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia/Somalia</td>
<td>&gt;Refugee camps &gt;Host community</td>
<td>&gt;Adult women (self report) &gt;All females in respondents’ household &gt;Adult female neighbor &gt;All of the females in the neighbor’s household</td>
<td>&gt;Physical violence &gt;Rape</td>
<td>18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>&gt;Villages &gt;Resettled villages &gt;IDP camps</td>
<td>&gt;Female age 16 or older (self report) &gt;All children in respondents’ household &gt;Adult female neighbor &gt;All of the children in the neighbor’s household</td>
<td>&gt;Physical violence &gt;Rape</td>
<td>18 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Four-Country Findings

- Women and children in humanitarian settings are facing alarming levels of violence.
- In the three settings in Africa, more than one out of every two women is indicated to have experienced violence during the recall period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Liberia</th>
<th>Ethiopia</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Montserrado County (n=6849)</td>
<td>Nimba County (n=6281)</td>
<td>Aw Barre Camp* (n=297)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Under 18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 18 and older</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Under 18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 18 and older</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In all settings, a woman was much more likely to be raped or beaten in her own home by someone she knew than she was to be raped by a stranger.
Findings (Cont.)

- Only a small percentage of cases are currently being reported to formal mechanisms such as the police and hospitals.

**Physical Violence, Ethiopia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aw Barre Camp</th>
<th>Aw Barre Town</th>
<th>Kebribeyah Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Member</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend/Neighbor</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>70.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRA</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Implications

- Relying on formal records results in a skewed understanding of GBV events which affects programming and policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Audience</th>
<th>Montserrado</th>
<th>Nimba</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Household Violence</td>
<td>Marital Rape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Member</td>
<td>70.1%</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend or Neighbor</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Leader</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police/Court</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Leader</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital/Clinic</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effects of GBV may have long-term consequences on children

- Exposure to such violence can lead to psychological, emotional, and cognitive deficits in children.
- Children who witness domestic violence are 4-5 times more likely to have poor outcomes in adulthood than are children who have not been exposed to such violence.
- These children are also more likely to repeat such patterns in their own adult lives, either by becoming abusers or victims.
GBV against girls is reported more often than GVB against adult women

- In Liberia, 34.7 percent of rape committed against girls was reported to the police/court, while only 4.4 percent of rape committed against adult females was reported to police (p < .001)
Implications (cont.)

Findings on the vulnerability of displaced populations is inconclusive

Ethiopia

- *Camp-dwelling women* had RR of 1.8 for experiencing physical violence compared to those *in flight* from Somalia to Ethiopia.

- *Camp-dwelling women* had a RR of 1.3 for experiencing rape in the camp setting as compared to those *in flight* from Somalia to Ethiopia.

Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Type</th>
<th>Risk of Violence in Households with Men Compared with Households without Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Sample</td>
<td>1.95 (CI: 1.19 - 3.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP/Resettled Sample</td>
<td>2.53 (CI: 1.32 - 4.87)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You