Violence against adolescent girls in conflict-affected settings: Findings from the COMPASS baselines

Kathryn Falb, ScD
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Outline

Background of the state of adolescent girl research
Methods
Findings
Next Steps
Why focus on adolescent girls?

- Risk of sexual violence, exploitation, physical abuse, forced marriage
- Specific needs not fully addressed in humanitarian programming
- Currently only three studies outside of IRC have evaluated programming
  - All pre/post tests
  - Theory of change unclear

Noble, Ward, French, Falb, State of the Evidence, Under review
COMPASS Program Pillars
Methods

Safe Space, Ethiopia
DRC
14 conflict affected communities
South Kivu
Two arm wait-listed randomized control trial
Relative impact of the caregiver component in COMPASS
869 girls aged 10-14
764 parents/caregivers

Ethiopia
Refugee camps
Ethiopia/Sudan border
Two group wait-list cluster randomised controlled trial
Overall impact of COMPASS
919 girls aged 13-19

Pakistan
IDPs in camps / host communities
Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province
Pre-/post-test
Feasibility and acceptability of COMPASS
192 girls aged 15-19
Methods at baseline

- Computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) – DRC only
- Audio computer-assisted self interviewing
- Paper and pen surveys – Pakistan only
- Qualitative group activities with girls and caregivers

Falb, et al, ACASI Implementation, Conflict & Health, Revise & Resubmit
# Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3 Primary and secondary outcomes and hypothesized direction of change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesized direction of change</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Girl Primary Outcomes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Past-Year Sexual Violence</td>
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<td><strong>Girl Secondary Outcomes (Slight variations by country)</strong></td>
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<td>Past-Year Positive Interpersonal Relationships</td>
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<td>Past-Year Early Marriage</td>
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<td>Past-Year Physical Violence &amp; Emotional and Verbal Abuse</td>
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<td>Self-Esteem</td>
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<td>Gender Equitable Norms</td>
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<td>Hope and Future Orientation</td>
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<td>Accepting Attitudes towards domestic violence</td>
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<td><strong>Caregiver Outcomes (DRC Only)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parental Acceptance</td>
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<td>Accepting Attitudes of Negative Discipline</td>
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<td>Gender Equitable Norms</td>
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Findings

Sherkole Refugee Camp, Ethiopia
Attitudes

- Girls and caregivers were likely to hold gender inequitable attitudes
- This includes tolerance of violence towards women in the home
- Violence in the home has been normalized, with physical discipline seen as acceptable
- Girls and boys hold traditional gender roles in terms of their tasks in the home and community

*Girls do all household chores, but boys work out of the house and bring money. If a boy has no work, he spends all his time playing and wandering all over the road.*

*(Female Caregiver, FGD Ethiopia)*

*A girl will get married and goes to live in her in law’s family but the boy will stay at home; that is his place. That is why you will see that he is more favoured to study.*

*(Female Caregiver, FGD DRC)*
Past-Year Violence

- Physical Abuse: 42% (DRC), 44% (Ethiopia), 36% (Pakistan)
- Emotional Abuse: 30% (DRC), 36% (Ethiopia), 27% (Pakistan)
- Unwanted Sexual Touching: 24% (DRC), 24% (Ethiopia), 27% (Pakistan)
- Sexual Coercion: 23% (DRC), 30% (Ethiopia), 23% (Pakistan)
- Forced Sex: 21% (DRC), 18% (Ethiopia), 21% (Pakistan)
- Early Marriage: 25% (DRC), 36% (Ethiopia), 36% (Pakistan)

Stark, et al, Under Review
Perpetrators

Stark, et al, Under Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intimate partners</th>
<th>Parents/ caregivers</th>
<th>Friends/ neighbours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRC - Physical violence</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethiopia - Physical</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC - Emotional abuse</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia - Emotional</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC - Sexual violence</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia - Sexual</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Stark, et al, Under Review
Differences in methods yield different insights into violence
ACASI...intimate partners and caregivers versus groups and external perpetrators

Stark, et al, Under Review
Support networks

- Girls have strong support networks of friends, family and community
- <25% and <40% of girls in Ethiopia and DRC knew where to go if a girl experienced sexual violence
- Lack of communication with caregivers
Most of the girls keep quiet because of shame, they think that once they unveil [forced sex], they will be laughed at and may be run a risk of not getting married anymore (Female Caregiver, FGD DRC).

First we let her get medical service. Then the girl’s family meets with the boy’s family. They all discuss together with the local people about the problem. If a girl agrees, marriage will be arranged for her and the perpetrator (Male Caregiver, FGD, Ethiopia).

A girl in this village reported that she was raped by a father and people started calling her ‘the wife of an old man.’ She had no peace in the neighbourhood. (Female Caregiver, FGD DRC)
Girls had low expectations in terms of educational and life opportunities for girls.

In DRC, caregivers have higher aspirations for their daughters.
Summary & Next Steps

- Extremely high levels of experience of violence even amongst very young girls
- Perpetrators are intimate partners and caregivers, yet group discussions focused on violence in public spaces/strangers
- Full results expected **early 2017**
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Samir Souidi
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DRC</th>
<th>Ethiopia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females are responsible for avoiding pregnancy</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men should have the final word about decisions in his home</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females should tolerate violence to keep the family together</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A man can hit his wife if she will not have sex with him</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Males and females should share household chores</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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Mapping Findings for COMPASS

Perceived Safe Spaces
- Religious Places
- IRC Offices
- Homes

Regulated Spaces
- Schools
- Roads
- Sports Fields
- Playgrounds

Unregulated & Public Spaces
- Markets

Perceived Spaces of Risk
- Unregulated & Isolated Spaces
- Semi-regulated & Public Spaces

Semi-private Spaces
- Woods
- River
- Latrines

Female-dominated spaces

Male-dominated spaces

Note: Spaces delineated by dotted lines resembles areas in which perceived safety or risk shifted with the presence of men and boys. Overlapping spaces indicate their commonality by identified female or male dominance traversing these areas.
## Pakistan – Feelings of Safety

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(n)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe at home</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>94.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe at relative's house</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>80.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe at neighbor's house</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>65.63</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (N = 192)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel safe at school</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>86.71</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Have a safe place to spend time with other girls (N=191)</strong></td>
<td>118</td>
<td>61.78</td>
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