



JICA-RI Research Project

CONFLICT AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The role of aid in the help-seeking and recovery process for victims
Case study of South Sudanese Refugees

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is more likely to occur within violent conflict-affected areas due to the heightened vulnerability of the population and the culture of impunity. GBV not only harms the mind and body of affected individuals but also creates elevated psychological and social barriers to seeking help. The JICA Research Institute (JICA-RI) has conducted a research project looking at issues surrounding violent conflict and GBV and the challenges of supporting survivors.

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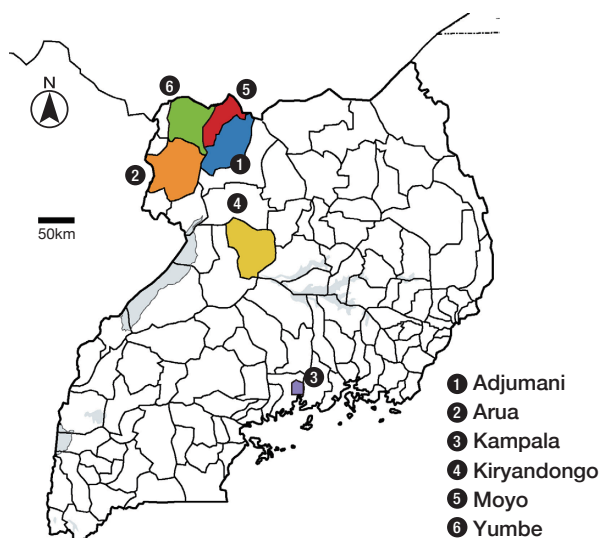
Research Summary

Interview with South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda

JICA-RI, in partnership with War Child Canada, a local NGO in Uganda, conducted field surveys (Interviews and focus group discussions) in conflict-affected refugee communities to determine (1) the refugee's recognition of GBV, (2) the help-seeking pathways and behaviors of victims, and (3) the forms of assistance offered by people around them and the aid community.

Survey Area

The six research sites are located in Kampala, the capital of Uganda and in parts of Northern Uganda, where a large number of refugees from South Sudan have settled.



Approach

Focus Group Discussions and Individual Interviews, including drawing map for help-seeking.



(Up-L/Low-R) Help-seeking Pathway diagrams (Up-R)
Focus Group Discussion (Low-L) Settlement Area

Participants

12 Focus Group Discussions



In 2018, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with a total of 153 participants and Interviews with 122 individuals were conducted in Uganda's South Sudanese Refugee Settlement Area. For the FGDs, we invite both female and male participants, separately.

Many refugees have fled their country due to the dangers that the conflict poses to their lives. They have continued to experience difficulties and are concerned about their futures. Most study participants have been living in the settlement area for more than 2 years while the most protracted period amounted to 29 years.

122 Individual Interviews

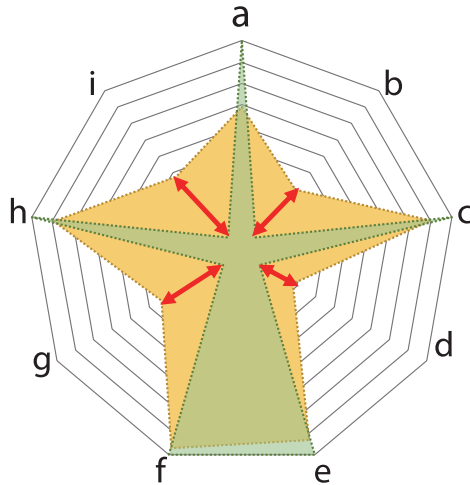


2 Survey Results

1 Refugees Recognition of GBV

Interviewees' recognition of violence and the right to seek help: Gap from the ideal responses

Participants indicated their agreement/disagreement on some statements about GBV and help-seeking.



Beliefs about violence and the right to seek help

- a) Sexual violence between partners is a crime: the perpetrator should be punished.
- b) Sexual violence between partners is not a crime: it is a relationship matter.
- c) Sexual violence from a non-family member is a crime and should be punished.
- d) GBV from a non-family member should be kept as secret: it is not other people's concern.
- e) GBV within the family should not be kept within the family: victims and other family members should tell someone and seek help.
- f) GBV from a non-family member should be reported: the victims have a right to report and to seek support services.
- g) GBV among family member should be kept within the family: it is not other people's concern.
- h) DV is a violation of human rights: If it happened to me, I would seek help or leave my family.
- i) DV is a family matter; all I can do is accept it.

- There are recognizable gaps between the ideal answers (in green) and participants' opinions (in yellow) for statements b, d, g and i.
- Although it is recognized that any form of violence must be punished, interviewees claim that domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV) including sexual violence, should be kept a secret within a family.

2 Common Examples of GBV among Refugees

Words associated with GBV during FGDs

sexual violence by strangers booking girls
 gangrape FORCED PREGNANCY rumor mongering/ gossip
 rape/defilement
domestic violence marital rape
 incest child abuse **GBV** robbery
 gender inequality sexual assault
Forced/ early marriages physical violence
economic violence rape RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE
 SEXUAL EXPLOITATION sexual violence emotional violence

According to some refugee participants, parents do not want to acknowledge that their daughters have been "used by a man" so they hide their experience from the community rather than seek external help (FGD).




Participants recounted experiences during that period, such as seeing their loved ones and neighbors being raped and killed (FGD).

- FGD participants primarily identified DV, forced marriage and rape as forms of GBV. Many cases of GBV reflect customs and practices such as forced marriage and early marriage.

3 GBV Experiences Recounted by Refugees


(a) Rape by armed groups during conflict



(30-49 y/o male
in Kampala)


In 2014, my family and I were staying with my sister and her children – 17 and 19 year-old girls. During the war, government forces were targeting people from high-class ranks. So, a friend told me not to sleep at home. I left Adjumani and only told my wife. Later, I was told that armed forces came to the house and banged on the door. Nobody opened it so they forced the gate open. They reached the house and threatened to shoot all those in the house if they did not open the door. **They were looking for me, and my family was ordered to hand me over to them [armed forces]. My nieces were afraid. The armed forces opened the door and started shouting telling them to lie down. My wife, together with my children, were hidden under the bed and saw the brutal act from the other room. She saw four men gang raping my nieces but could not do anything.** After the armed forces had left, my wife called me. In the morning, I arrived home and found my nieces in a sorry state. Since my life was at risk, my friends in the government told me that I had to leave Sudan. I called my sister -- the mother of the girls -- and told her what had happened. **I left some money with my wife to access medical help for them [my nieces] and told her to take them to our church for counselling.** And that's when I was helped to leave the country and came to Uganda.

They [armed men] came looking for me, but I was not there. They told my sisters that they would be tortured if they did not hand me over. I was working with the government, and they wanted me to do some (dubious) work in another state, but I refused. So, they tried to hunt me down, dead or alive. When they came to my home, I hid, and **my sisters denied I was in the house. They tortured and raped them while I was watching from my hiding place. They also tortured others in the neighborhood and burned others.**



(30-49 y/o male
in Kampala)


(b) DV and help-seeking in the refugee settlement



(30-49 y/o female
in Moyo)

I have a neighbor who was registered [in the settlement] separately from his wife because the wife arrived first. When the husband came, the wife became angry and began asking him why he had come to the settlement now but had refused to come earlier. The wife asked him to register and get his own plot; he could not stay with her since he had no ration card. So the man began the registration process for the family to be reunited through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). But because of the slow procedure, the man abandoned the process. When he went back to the wife, they began to quarrel and fight. The wife was beaten with bruises. **Neighbors intervened and advised them to stay together peacefully, yet it continued. The case was reported to the block leader, who then referred it to the police. She got the police forms and went to the health center for treatment.** There are many people who have had the same experience of domestic violence. Some men have even decided to go back to South Sudan because their wives are becoming the head of the family, and the men lack their attestation cards.

A man was always violent to his wife; and he would often beat her up. He sells off their [food products] so that he could get money to drink alcohol. **The RWCs have tried to solve the issue, but he has refused to [cooperate and] report so the GBV community workers got involved. Then later, the case was taken to OPM, after the man has beaten his wife badly and chopped off her hand with a panga. Then the OPM separated them.** She was given the ration card so she can be the one to claim food ration. After getting the food, she takes the ration for one person to her husband. The woman currently stays with her parents and her children. OPM has a plan to allocate a plot for her in a different location.

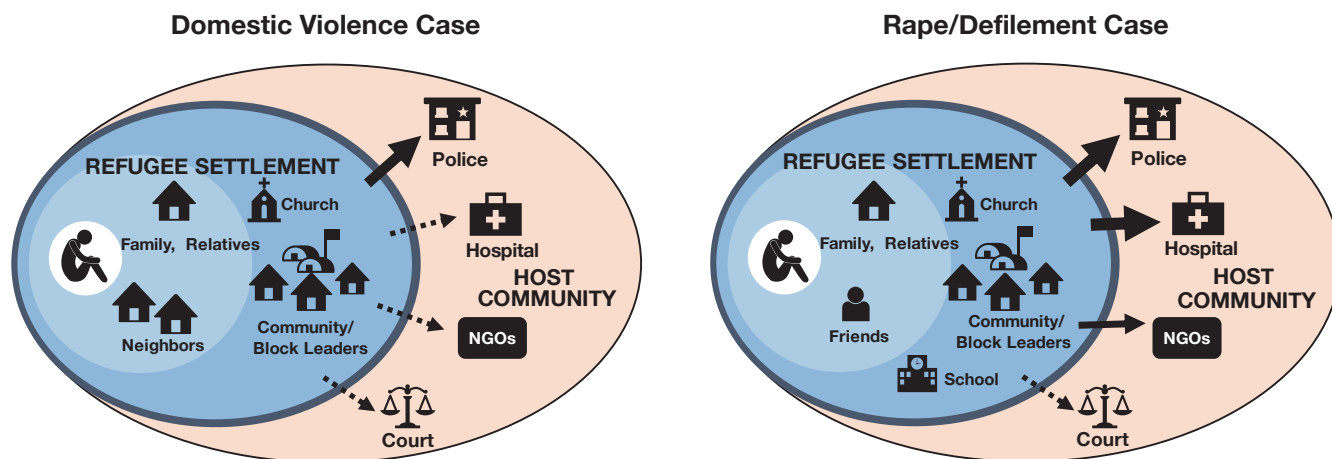


(18-20 y/o female
in Moyo)

※These quotes were accounts of direct and indirect experiences of GBV in conflict-affected areas, providing a glimpse of their help-seeking behavior.

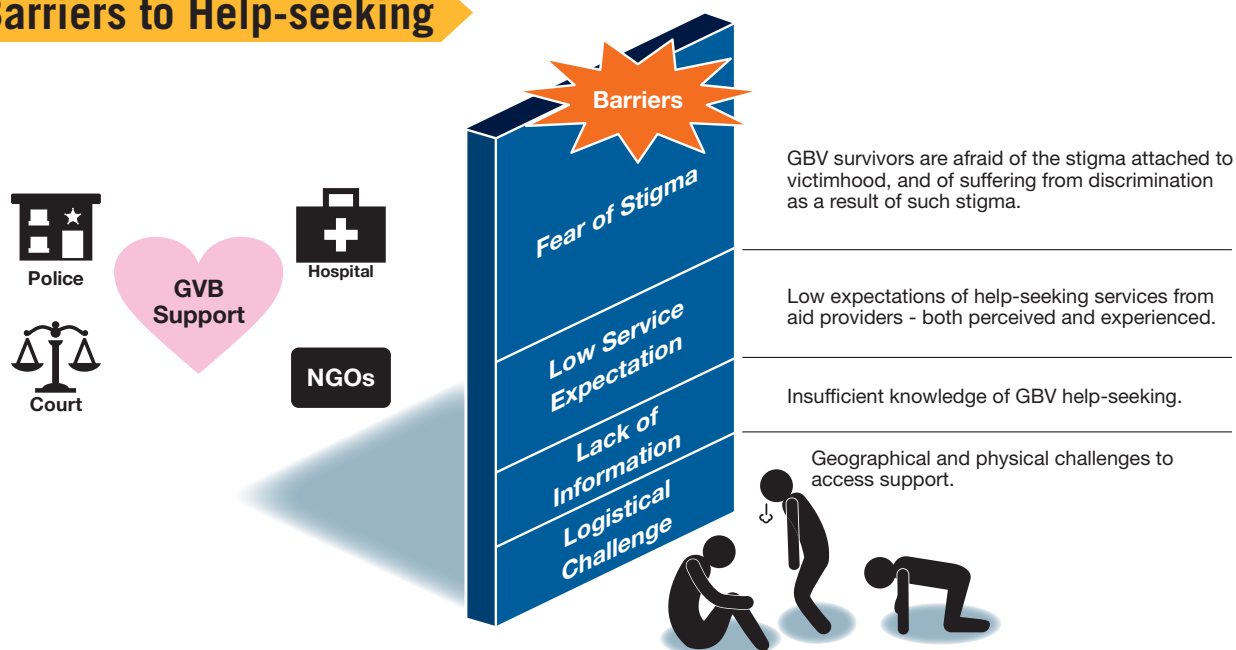
2 Result cont'd

4 Help-seeking Behaviors, Pathways



- Participants' responses showed the different help-seeking pathways according to the degree of harm and existing conditions.
- Among sources of help, members of the refugee's community and churches were referred to as the primary and most familiar institutions for those seeking help (see inner-circle).
- In cases involving serious injury or murder, there was a standard procedure for contacting the police, hospitals, NGOs, etc (outside of refugee's community) enacted through the refugee leader.

5 Barriers to Help-seeking



- Interview results revealed that the fear of social stigma, and the low expectations for receiving administrative help and judicial support discourages and hinders GBV victims from seeking help.
- The lack of information has been improved through awareness activities, while there are relatively few logistical challenges.

3 Additional Information

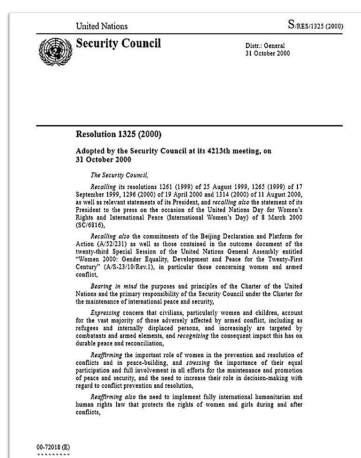
[Two International Norms]

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

Women Peace and Security (WPS)

Taking into consideration the significant harm of GBV under the conflict, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in 2000 for the protection of girls and women from any forms of violence including GBV. Currently, there is a need for special measures to protect not only women and girls but all civilians in danger of GBV during conflict.

Subsequently, seven related resolutions have been adopted. Resolution 1325 also calls on member states to formulate a national plan of action (NAP). At present, 77 member countries have already drafted their NAPs, including Japan, which adopted its NAP in 2015.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Realizing a society where “no one will be left behind”
even in conflict-affected areas**

The adoption of UN Resolution 1325 led to the increased participation of women in peace processes and improved victim protection and relief systems. However, there is still insufficient support provided to women and girls in conflict zones. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) incorporate the vision that “No one will be left behind”. SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” and SDG 16, “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all,” are closely related to GBV prevention and management in conflict-affected areas. We undertake this research on GBV in conflict-affected environments to contribute to the achievement of such SDGs principles.

We will release working papers and project reports on the JICA-RI website.

**JICA Research Institute “Conflict and Gender-Based Violence :
The role of aid in the help-seeking and recover process of victims”**

<https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/research/peace/20170417-20190831.html>

