



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

Intimate Partner Violence in Displaced Populations:

Drivers and Recommendations for the Humanitarian Community

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PRIVATE VIOLENCE, PUBLIC CONCERN



Research Questions

- What are the **drivers and nature** of intimate partner violence among displaced women?
- How do women **experience and cope** with IPV?
- What are the main **challenges** for humanitarian organizations?

Methodology (April – July 2014)

Field Sites:

- Domiz refugee camp, Iraq
- Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya
- Ajuong Thok, S. Sudan

Participants:

- 39 interviews with survivors
- 23 community focus groups
- 14 focus groups with community and NGO representatives

Challenges

- Renewed violence in South Sudan
- Restrictions of international staff movements in Kenya
- Government relations in Iraq
- Community Advisory Groups

Learning

- Contingency Planning
- Strong relationships
- Early and clear decision-making

Unique Drivers of IPV among Displaced Women

- Poverty, lack of employment, and general stress of living in a camp
- Rapidly changing gender norms and roles triggered by displacement

“It is like women have taken the responsibility of men, becoming the breadwinners, getting out of the hut...”
– Focus group, Dadaab camp, Kenya

- Separation from parents and extended family
- Forced and early marriage
- Male substance use

Nature of Intimate Partner Violence



Physical violence, sexual violence, verbal and emotional abuse, financial/ material neglect, and child abuse/ mistreatment

Coping with IPV in Displaced Settings



- Informal support is preferred
- Limited social support and networks
- Formal service providers or separation are a last resort
- Staying with children of utmost concern

Challenges for Humanitarian Organizations

- Stigma and low reporting to organizations
- Low social cohesion for prevention programming

Recommendations

CONSIDER family-level intervention models that integrate intimate partner violence and child maltreatment interventions.

PROVIDE safety options for women and girls and their dependents.

COMBINE economic and social programs to mitigate the risk of intimate partner violence.

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Background Slides



Intimate partner violence in humanitarian settings is an urgent concern driven by a complex set of factors including pre-existing gender inequalities and changing gender roles.

Decision-Making for Women

- Severity and length of violence
- Fears and concerns of consequences for taking action
- Available and accessible material and financial resources
- Safety and security of children
- Stigma associated with disclosure or separation
- Knowledge of and about services

“We don’t want people to know about our problems [...] because it [leads to] shame. When I have a problem I don’t want anyone to know about that because when I want to go out I want to be proud and happy [for] all to respect me”

– Woman survivor, Domiz camp, Iraq