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A Global Programme to Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls



Funded by from the British people

Conflict and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in South Sudan: Findings from a mixed-methods study



The Global
Women's Institute

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Research objectives



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- To examine the prevalence and characteristics of different types of VAWG over time during the different phases of conflict.
- To present accurate estimates of the causes and consequences of different types of VAWG in South Sudan and inform policy and practice in the newest country in the world.

Research components



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- **Formative research:**
Participatory FGDs
In-depth Interviews Stakeholders
- **Population-based household survey:**
Women and men ages 15-64.
- **Qualitative research:**
Survivors and community members.



Settings and Conflicts



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Settings:

Juba City (n=477)

Rumbek (n=804)

POC Juba (n=963)

POC Bentiu (just Qualitative)

Conflicts:

Civil War

Crisis 2013

Intercommunal attacks



Socio-economic characteristics



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- **Age:** Median 22 – 26
- **Ethnic group:** Juba –Equatorian, Rumbek – Dinka, POCs – Nuer
- **Education:** Very low
- **Occupation:** Home/domestic work
- **Primary source of income:** Husband or relatives
- **Marital status:** Currently or formerly partnered



Extreme discriminatory environment for women since early ages



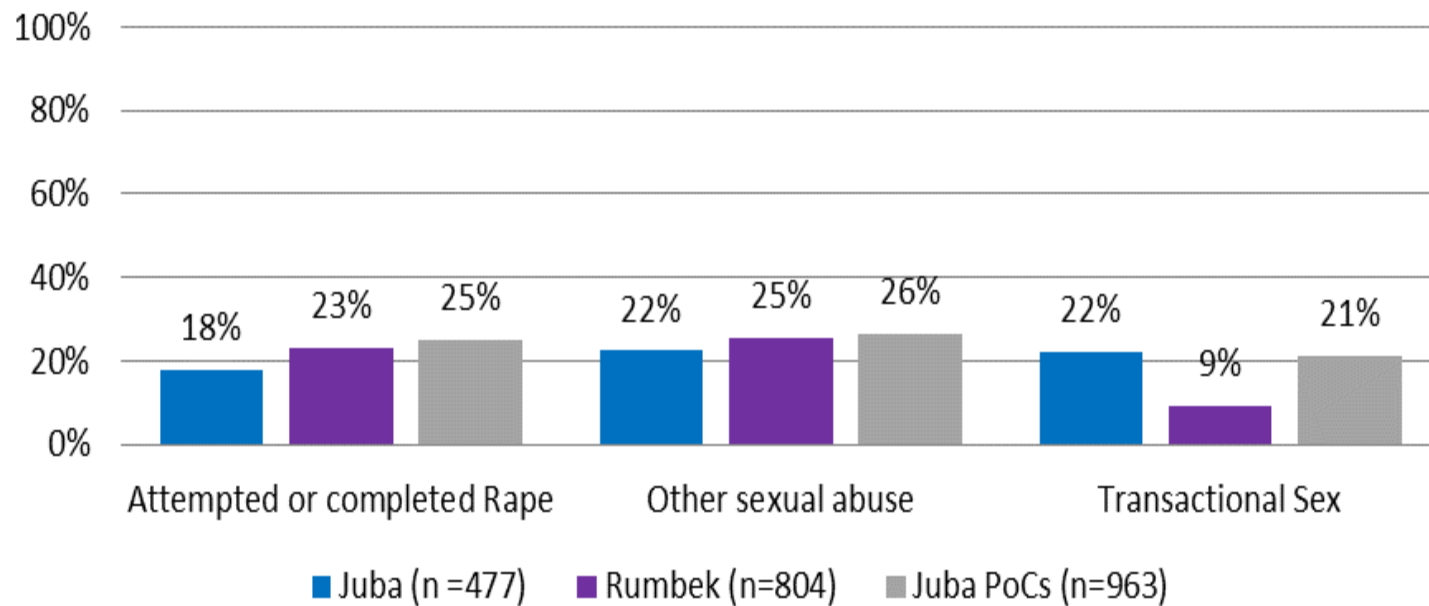
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- Dowry and marriage under 19 (higher than **80%** for Dinka and Nuer).
- Polygamous marriage: between **40-55%** of women.
- Gender inequitable attitudes (almost **90%** of women think that it is natural that men should be the head of the family).
- High justification of VAWG, especially in Rumbek.
- Physical and or sexual IPV ever: **60%** Juba, **73%** Rumbek, **54%** POCs.

Non-partner Sexual Violence



Prevalence of Non Partner Sexual Assault by Type



Non-partner Sexual Violence: Perpetrators

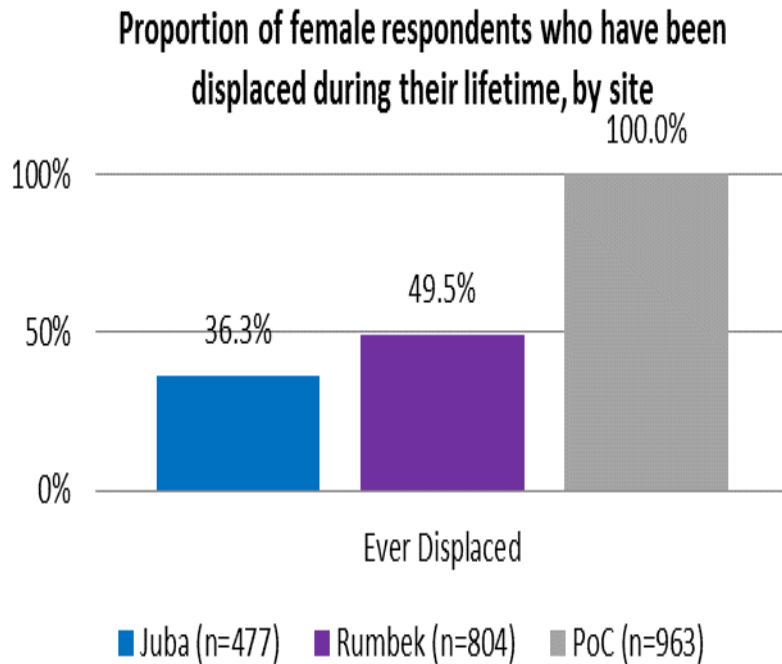


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	Juba n =169 (%)	Rumbek n=277(%)	Juba PoCs n=333 (%)
Perpetrators were...			
<i>Family members</i>	7	32	11
<i>Other known persons</i>	48	19	6
<i>Police Officers or armed actors</i>	6	10	29
<i>From another community</i>	10	25	23
<i>Humanitarian Aid Worker</i>	3	1	0.6
<i>Complete Stranger/Unknown</i>	28	31	3

- More than 40% has experienced non-partner SV more than once.
- 6 out of 10 under 19 years old.

The conflict: Displacement



- Juba (Civil War)
- Rumbek (Inter-communal conflict)
- POCs (Crisis 2013)

The conflict: Attack on villages



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	Juba n =477 (%)	Rumbek n=804 (%)	Juba PoCs n=963 (%)
Experienced an attack on village during:			
<i>2013 Crisis</i>	30	31	68
<i>Civil War</i>	33	28	26
<i>During an Intercommunal Raid</i>	28	66	44
Injuries			
<i>Was seriously injured</i>	4	18	16
<i>Was Physically Disfigured</i>	1	2	4
<i>Abducted</i>	2	2	4



The conflict: Sexual assault during attack or displacement

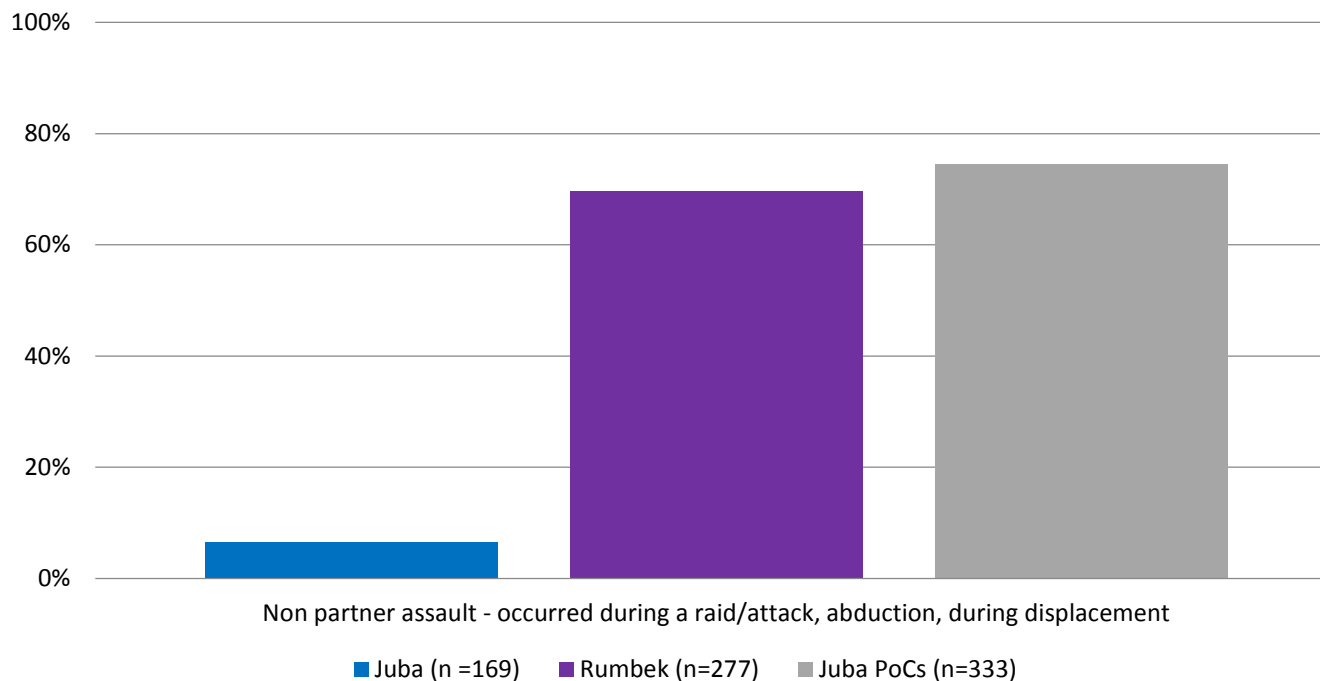


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Experience of Rape or Sexual Assault - during an raid/attack, abduction, or during displacement



In Juba City



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“Sexual harassment... since the comprehensive peace agreement was signed men started to touch ladies bodies”

Young Women in Juba

“Even within the house and family [after 2013 Crisis] there is no trust and no confidence”

Key Informant Juba

Key messages

- Even with some advances in knowledge, harmful attitudes and behaviors remain firmly entrenched for most of women.
- The 2013 Crisis has made the environment more risky due to lack of security and increased poverty.



In Rumbek



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“Girls are restricted from education simply because their parents think that if they are taken to school they will get spoilt and therefore will not bring the expected dowry to the family. Girls who grow up in cattle camps are expected to be married for a lot of cows.”

Male Key Informant in Rumbek

“The rape cases are rare here in Rumbek.”

Young Men in Rumbek

“Bush rape is high.”

Women in Rumbek

In Rumbek



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“Before people used to stick with the rules, everybody knew what the rules were. Once the cattle have been paid then it’s done. It’s finished. Now because of the lack of implementation of the formal justice system everything is worse...”

Female Key Informant in Rumbek

Key messages

- Extremely patriarchal environment in where women are exposed to different types of harmful discriminatory practices, especially concerning marriage.
- The 2013 Crisis has made the environment more risky because of lack of law and the proliferation of guns.
- Women are trapped between their own families and husbands (dowry) and the inter-communal conflict.

In a POC



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“Burning of people, such as women and children, is a kind of violence that is going on in the larger Nuer community right now. The act of burning and killings of children did not happen during the first and second [civil] wars but it’s currently happening in South Sudan.”

Men in Juba PoC site

“Before July, rape case is normal, but in July they increase more. Soldiers are used to rape the women.”

Women in Juba PoC, post-July 2016

“Before the crisis we were fighting; now they are removing our eyes, they are kicking us in the stomach.”

Women in Bentiu PoC site

“Some parents give away their daughters in marriage as a way of survival here in the camps...”

Youth in Juba PoC sites

In a POC



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Key messages:

- Harmful practices continue but have been adapted and/or exacerbated due to displacement.
- The 2013 Crisis is directly associated with an increased risk of attack and rape as a result of displacement. Police officers are among the main perpetrators.
- Most women in POCs have been directly exposed to all different types of conflicts.
- Crisis exacerbating different types of VAWG.

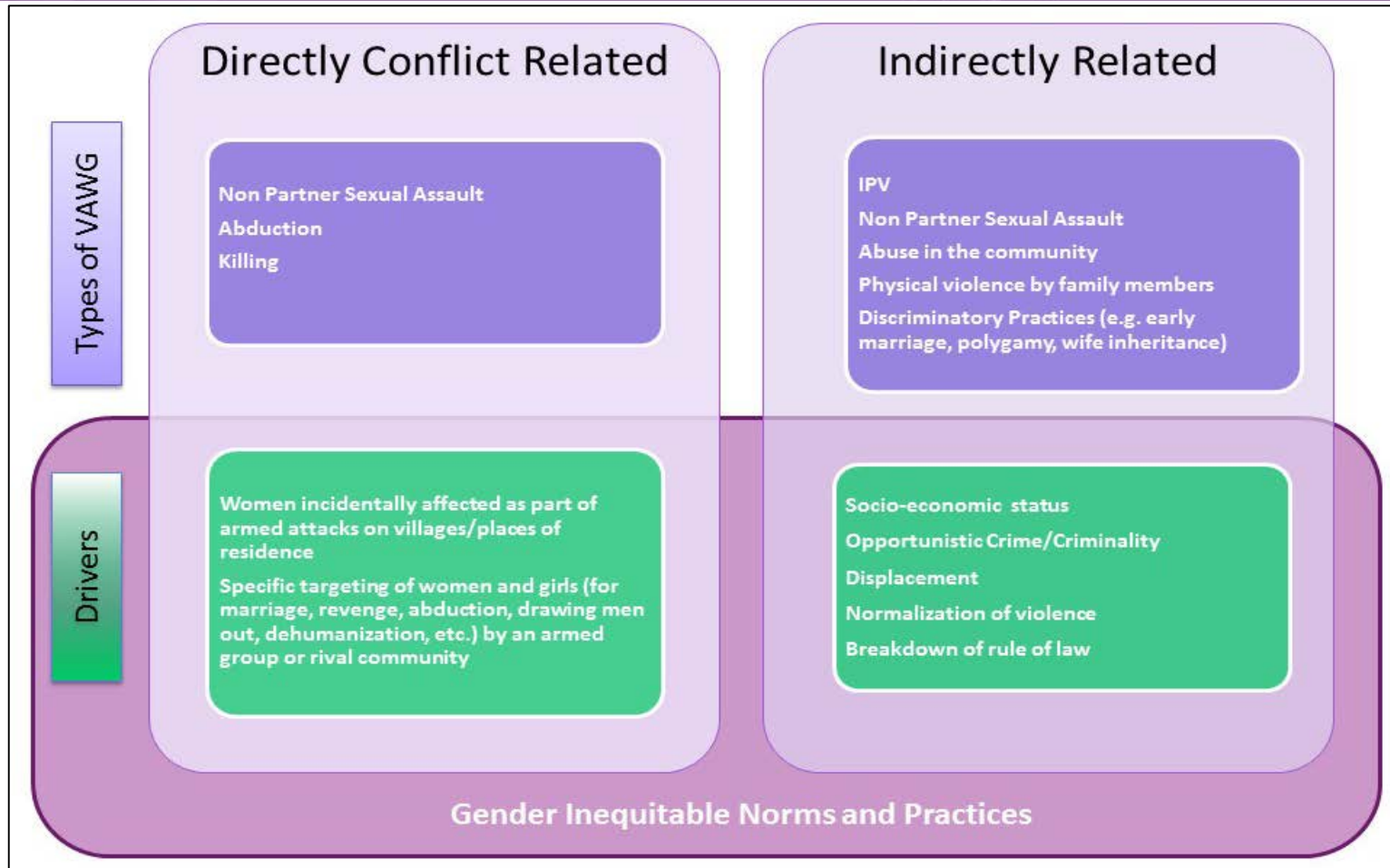
Effects of Conflict on VAWG



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Conclusions



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- **Women in South Sudan are affected by the current conflicts but living different realities depending where they live and their ethnic group. Women in Rumbek and POCs are in a desperate situation.**
- **The Crisis has directly and indirectly exacerbated all different types of violence.**
- **Pervasive gender inequitable norms and practices, as well as continual experiences of violence (both in the form of state and community conflict and personal experiences), shape women's lives in South Sudan.**



“What I witnessed in South Sudan is the worst I have seen in my almost 30 years in dealing with this issue. This is because of the combination of chronic insecurity, unimaginable living conditions, acute day-to-day protection concerns and rampant sexual violence”

Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, 2014

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict



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