



VOICES FROM SUDAN 2020

A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN SUDAN



UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Our mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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"It is shameful to disclose our problems out of the village, as it looks bad for our men"

- Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

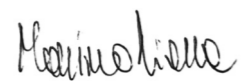
FORREWORD

As the transition in Sudan approaches its second year, the commitment of the transitional government to address gender-based violence is increasingly clear with accomplishments such as the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the criminalization of female genital mutilation or the adoption of the first-ever national Standard Operating Procedures on GBV as flagship achievements. UNFPA remains steadfast committed to supporting these efforts and working towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in Sudan, their inclusion and empowerment.

Voices from Sudan is proof of our joint commitment towards addressing gender-based violence in the country. This qualitative study is the first of its kind to be conducted nationwide, and thereby fills a critical gap in data. It will enable national and international organizations alike, from the Government, from the UN, and from civil society to better prioritize the needs of the people of Sudan.

The methodology for the study has been hailed as global best practice for in-depth analysis of gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts. It was developed by the Whole of Syria GBV Area of Responsibility. Sudan is the first country to adopt and adjust the methodology to the local context.

The study is based on the spoken words of the people of Sudan, their voices and stories. We would like to personally commend and thank the women, girls, men and boys who have courageously shared these testimonies, and who took personal risks to speak out on this subject. It is their voices that tell us the reality of their experiences and that will help direct efforts to address the complexity of GBV.



Massimo Diana
UNFPA Sudan Representative



Sulaima Ishaq Elkhalfi Sharif
CVAW Director,
Government of Sudan



“Last year’s political changes opened more space for discussion on GBV”

- Expert, Khartoum.

ACRONYMS

AoR	Area of Responsibility
CMR	Clinical Management of Rape
CVAW	Combating Violence Against Women Unit, Ministry of Social Development
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBV	SOPs Standard Operating Procedures for GBV response
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IDP	Internally Displaced People
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MSNA	Multi Sector Need Assessment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PiN	People in Need according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview
PWD	People with Disabilities
PSS	Psycho social support
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data on GBV is very scarce in Sudan. This study is the first nation-wide, qualitative assessment of GBV that has ever been done in the country, co-authored by UNFPA and the Government of Sudan's Combating Violence against Women Unit of the Ministry of Social Development. The report aims to complement existing methodologies for data gathering and analysis, by ensuring that the views, experiences and priorities of women and girls are understood and addressed.

The methodology for this assessment included 215 Focus Group Discussions with communities, 21 with GBV experts, and a documentary review of existing studies and assessments. The research was conducted in 60 localities and camps, across Sudan, between August and November 2020. Data was analyzed through a software for qualitative data analysis and a frequency analysis of answers was run. The methodological framework is based on that of *Voices from Syria* by the Whole of Syria GBV AoR. The analytical framework for analysis is based on the Sudan's Standard Operating Procedures for addressing GBV.

The study found that:

- **Domestic violence** is reported to be very common, especially physical violence by brothers against sisters, and by husbands against wives in the home.
- Women and girl's movement is severely restricted. They must seek permission from the household head any time they want to leave the house. Women with no guardian (at puberty, widowers, divorcees) are particularly restricted.
- Attitudes towards domestic violence do not consider it a severe violation of women's rights.
- **Sexual violence** is reported to be common. Women working in low pay informal jobs (tea sellers, women working in markets), women in camp setting (IDPs, refugees) who fetch water or firewood, domestic workers, people with disabilities especially mental, are reported to be particularly vulnerable to sexual violence.
- Qur'anic schools are reported to be places where sexual violence against girls and boys takes place.

- Survivors and their families are blamed for the violence. They are very vulnerable to repeated violence particularly forced marriage, sexual and verbal abuse.
- Sexual violence goes unreported unless it results in pregnancy.
- **Psychological violence.** Verbal and psychological pressure for compliance with existing gender norms and roles is widespread. Gossip is often cited as harmful.
- Verbal and psychological abuse against GBV survivors leads some to attempt or commit suicide.
- **Forced marriage** and particularly child marriage, is widespread. Most marriages are arranged by the family with members of the same tribe or relatives often without the girl's consent or knowledge.
- Key reasons cited as cause of child marriage are economic, such as the cost of maintaining a daughter, fear of pregnancy out of wedlock, and fear of un-marriageability later in life.
- **Economic violence.** Denial of education is common where most girls are taken out of school at puberty. This is tightly linked to child marriage.
- Women's access to resources is severely restricted, with financial resources being controlled by men (whether earned by men or women).
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** is widespread with tribal affiliation as a key determinant of prevalence. Regional variations in the practice are wide, but there is a shift from more severe types (Pharaonic or type III) to less severe types (Sunna or type I).
- Awareness about the harmful consequences, and illegality of the practice have trickled down to the community.
- The practice is taboo and rarely discussed openly. Older women are the main promoters.
- **Physical violence** is mainly reported in camp settings by refugees and IDPs, in connection to access to resources such as water.
- **Sexual violence** against men and boys is reported to be rare. The most reported is sexual violence against boys.
- Particularly vulnerable are boys in low-pay informal jobs, Qur'anic school students, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Last year's trends.** The deteriorating economic situation since 2020 increased violence, especially forced marriage. Harassment in queues for essential supplies (bread, fuel) was reported.
- COVID19 restrictions increased domestic violence, particularly physical violence in the home and restrictions in movement.
- There is an increased awareness around the harmfulness of certain practices such as FGM and child marriage, and increased space for discussing GBV.
- **Reporting and response.** Women and girls cope with violence by wearing conservative clothing and restricting their movement.
- Most violence goes unreported. Domestic violence and that by members of the community is often under-reported, violence by outsiders is more often reported.
- The first line of reporting is the family, followed by traditional justice, and as a last resort, the police.
- Informal and traditional mechanisms of dispute resolution (Joudia) are commonly used. They are reported to perpetrate injustice against women.
- The legal framework is reported to be ineffective in addressing GBV cases.
- **Specialized services** including health, psychosocial, legal and security exist only in some areas. They are reported to be low quality particularly due to the low capacity of personnel, the lack of basic utilities (water, electricity), and supplies (medicine, equipment).
- Key barriers to accessing services are the distance from communities, the cost of transportation, the awareness of services, and the stigma and confidentiality of services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing GBV in Sudan is a critical priority, especially in the current context where there are opportunities for significant gains in advancing women's rights. Recommendations include:

1. *Prioritize domestic violence in GBV prevention and response efforts, by targeting and challenging the social norms and gendered inequality behind this violence.*
2. *Target FGM and forced marriage for large-scale prevention interventions, including addressing the religious, social and economic factors that enable these practices.*
3. *Integrate GBV risk mitigation efforts into all service provision and humanitarian response interventions.*
4. *Ensure priority access for GBV survivors to essential services including healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and livelihood support.*
5. *Harmonise the national legal framework with recognised international best practice to ensure fairness and equity for women and girls who experience violence.*
6. *Ensure that at-risk groups are reached and incorporated in GBV prevention and response efforts, including women without male guardians (divorced women, widowers), young girls between the age of puberty and marriage, IDP and refugee women and people with disabilities.*

INTRODUCTION

Openly discussing GBV in Sudan has not been possible for the last three decades. GBV data is dramatically lacking, with no nation-wide assessment done for the past 30 years, and a general lack of availability of qualitative and quantitative data.

Following months of civil unrest, in April 2019 Omar al Bashir was removed from power, and a transitional Military Council was established. In August 2019, Abdalla Hamdok was appointed Prime Minister, leading the country through a 39 months transitional phase - until elections are held. The transitional government has demonstrated an increased openness in advancing women's rights and representation, and in addressing GBV, such as for example by criminalizing FGM, allowing GBV issues to be openly discussed and research to be carried out, as well as ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This report, representing the first time that a nation-wide qualitative GBV assessment is carried out in Sudan, comes at this time, when the increased space for discussing GBV allows for filling this critical data gap.

GBV takes a deep and damaging toll on the lives and well-being of women and girls in Sudan – and yet, despite this ongoing crisis, the experiences, views and priorities of women and girls remain under-represented in data gathering and analysis. In order to recognize and address this imbalance, Voices from Sudan explicitly adopts a feminist approach and methodology, meaning that the research was designed and carried out in a way that centers and highlights the experiences of women and girls, recognizes the systemic inequality and discrimination that underpins GBV, and seeks to advance gender equality.

The methodology for this assessment followed the model of the Whole of Syria GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR)¹ which has produced in-depth GBV analysis – called VOICES from Syria – within the context of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), for the past 5 years². The independent evaluation of the response to the Syria crisis assessed the study by the Syria GBV AoR as “highly robust evidence base to inform programming and advocacy efforts”³ and recommended the replication of the study in other countries.

¹An in-depth description of the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations is available at: UNFPA, Beyond Numbers. Improving the gathering of GBV data to inform Humanitarian Response, 2021, [link](#).
²The 2020 Voices from Syria is available online. UNFPA – GBV AoR, Voices from Syria, 2020, [link](#).
³UNFPA Evaluation office, Evaluation of the UNFPA response to the Syria crisis (2011-2018), 2019, [link](#).

The team for this assessment worked under overall leadership of the UNFPA Representative Massimo Diana, and CVAW Director Sulaima Ishaq Elkhalfifa Sharif. The team comprised of a team leader Giulia di Porcia e Brugnera, the head of the UNFPA GBV unit Dr. Abeer Salam, a programme analyst Dr. Dimetry Adel Mingaryous, a programme coordinator first performed by Ijlal Abuelhassen and subsequently by Dr. Reem Mahmoud Abdelbasit, and a GBV specialist Fatima Al-Wahaidy. The broader team included 13 field offices (UNFPA and CVAW), and 6 Implementing Partners. Ongoing support was provided by Jennifer Miquel and Fulvia Boniardi from the UNFPA Syria crisis Hub and Tamah Murfet from the GBV AoR.

The findings of this report are organized around three chapters. The first chapter provides an overview of the methodology, and of the analytical framework for analysis; the second chapter goes through findings by thematic areas; the third chapter discusses findings by state.

INTENDED USE OF THE REPORT

The aim of Voices from Sudan is to inform programming by Government, civil society, international organizations, and the donor community, that seeks to prevent and respond to GBV in Sudan. It also supports humanitarian interventions across other sectors/clusters - Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Early Recovery and Livelihoods, Education, Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Child Protection, Mine Action, Shelter and Non-Food Items, Agriculture and Food Security, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) - to better understand the risks of GBV that must be mitigated within their various responses.

Voices from Sudan does not represent prevalence data on GBV in Sudan. The report should be read and used with an understanding of the Sudanese context and crisis dynamics. Voices from Sudan is not intended to be used by journalists or other media professionals without further contextualization by GBV specialists. For more information on the use of the report please contact Giulia di Porcia e Brugnera (diporcia@unfpa.org).



If violence happens “the community blames the girl. They say because she went out, she deserves what happened to her”

- Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Data for this assessment included 236 Focus Group Discussions that surveyed 2,004 respondents. It was collected in 18 states, 60 localities and camps. The analytical framework is based on the Sudan GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)⁴, which includes the definitions, guiding principles and procedures for the prevention and response to GBV in Sudan (see Annex 2).

Figure 1 - methodological components



The methodology was based on three components.

1

215 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITIES.

215 FGDs with communities were conducted (of which 19 with IDP and refugees), with between 6 and 17 participants in each. In total, 1827 community members were consulted⁵. The FGDs were conducted in Arabic. In each locality, 4 FGDs were conducted, one each with women, men, girls and boys⁶.

All 18 states of Sudan were covered, and between 1 and 5 localities per state were selected, for a total of 49 communities. The sampling criteria were based on the number of People in Need (PiN) of the Humanitarian Needs Overview, with localities with higher numbers of PiN prioritized. Geographical areas were chosen so to be as representative of the country as a whole as possible. Given the influence that tribal affiliation has on social practices, sampling was adjusted to cover the main tribal groups, even where this meant selection of localities with fewer number of PiN. Sampling was also adjusted based on accessibility and COVID19 considerations (see section on limitations).

In addition, 19 FGDs with refugee and IDP populations were conducted. Sampling of states and localities was based on the number of IDP and refugee populations in the state, according to the Humanitarian Need Overview. Sampling

was adjusted to cover the main countries of origin, tribal group and social practices of refugee and displaced populations. When findings and quotes from refugees and IDPs are substantially different from findings from host communities, it is explicitly reported that the finding applies to refugees and IDPs only.

Survey tools were developed based on the model of the Amman Hub and Syria GBV AoR, and based on the indicators of the HNO (see Annex 3). Tools were shared for consultation and adapted based on input by members of the Protection cluster, of the GBV sub-sector coordination group, the CVAW Unit, and other actors on the ground, to ensure the questions covered the data gaps by as broad number of actors as possible.

Survey tools included a section on definitions of GBV, including which term indicates which practice, to avoid misinterpretation of the terms.

Facilitators were selected based on previous experience conducting research on GBV. They were of the same gender as participants, and included social workers from CVAW unit, and staff from UNFPA and partner NGOs including CAFA, Global Aid Hand, Sudanese Family Planning Association, and Sudanese Red Crescent. Facilitators for the FGDs with girls and boys came from UNFPA's Y-Peer network, and therefore of similar age of respondents. Facilitators and note-takers were trained by the UNFPA GBV team on the research tools as well as on confidentiality of discussion. Facilitators requested participants

not to disclose names or identifiable characteristics in their answers, to keep the discussion confidential, and informed participants of the use of their answers.

It was explicitly mentioned in each community FGD that

participants could request a private conversation, to discuss any issue or example that they did not feel comfortable sharing in group setting. No participant requested a separate discussion. Facilitators also informed participants of how to access GBV services and referrals through the GBV helpline.

Table 1 below provides an overview of the localities selected, and numbers of FGDs conducted.

	#FGDs communities	#FGDs experts	#FGDs IDPs and refugees	Total # FGDs
BLUE NILE	12	1	0	13
Localities/camps selected	El Kurnuk, Geissan, Bau			
CENTRAL DARFUR	12	1	0	13
Localities/camps selected	Nertiti, Wadi Salih, Zalingei			
EAST DARFUR	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Yassin, Bahr el Arab, Abu Jabra, Al Nimir refugee camp			
GADAREF	12	2	3	17
Localities/camps selected	El Butana, Elfaw, Elhawata, Alsalam, Elrahad, Omrakuba refugee camp, Village 8 refugee camp			
GEZIRA	8	1	0	9
Localities/camps selected	El Manageel, Sharg el Gezira			
KASSALA	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Rural Kassala, Telkok, Aroma, Wad Sherifey refugee camp			
KHARTOUM	16	3	1	20
Localities/camps selected	Jabal Aulia, Umm Bedda, Sharq al Nile, Omdurman, Nivasha refugee camp			
NORTH DARFUR	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Elfasher, Kabkabia, Um Kadada, Alsalam IDP camp			
NORTH KORDOFAN	12	1	0	13
Localities/camps selected	Shiekan, Um Rawaba, Rahad			
NORTHERN	4	1	0	5
Localities/camps selected	Shendi			
NORTH DARFUR	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Haya, El Qaneb, Jabiet Al Maadin			
RED SEA	12	1	0	13
Localities/camps selected	Haya, El Qaneb, Jabiet Al Maadin			
SENNAR	8	1	0	9
Localities/camps selected	Sennar, El Dindir			
SOUTH DARFUR	16	1	8	25
Localities/camps selected	Tullus, East Jebel Marra, Otash IDP camp, Bielel IDP camp, Alsalam IDP camp			
SOUTH KORDOFAN	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Kadugli, Rashad, Dilling, Kadugli IDP camp			
WEST DARFUR	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Geneina, Kereinik, Habila, Geneina IDP camp			
WEST KORDOFAN	8	1	1	9
Localities/camps selected	Abyei Muglad, El Nehoud, Abyei refugee camp			
WHITE NILE	12	1	1	14
Localities/camps selected	Eljabalein, El Salam, Tendalti, Um Sangour refugee camp			
TOTAL:	196	21	19	236

⁴ CVAW, National Standard Operating procedures for prevention of and response to GBV in Sudan, 2019, [link](#)

⁵ 501 women, 428 men, 488 girls, 410 boys.

⁶ In 2 instances, the 4 FGDs were in different localities (see section limitations)

2

**21 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS
WITH GBV EXPERTS AND
PROVIDERS OF GBV SERVICES.**

One FGD per state was conducted (18 in total), with between 5 and 16 participants. In total, 177 experts were consulted. Participants included a mix between service providers, and experts from governmental institutions (48%), I/NGOs and UN agencies (28%), activists (7%) and academia (3%). The selection aimed at maintaining a good balance between, national and international personnel, gender and diverse skillset. The selection included both technical experts and frontline respondents who are in regular contact with beneficiaries. FGDs were conducted in Arabic, then translated into English.

One FGD with 8 experts on disability was conducted, in light of the particular vulnerability of people with disabilities to GBV⁷. This included 7 participants from governmental and non-governmental organizations, and one participant from international NGOs.

One FGD with 11 experts from Gadaref was conducted, to produce Textbox at p. 44, with focus on the influx of refugees from Tigray, Ethiopia.

CVAW and UNFPA established a GBV helpline in April 2020, to provide remote services and referrals to GBV survivors. One FGD with 10 experts from the GBV helpline was conducted. These were social workers and lawyers trained on responding to the immediate and long terms needs of GBV survivors including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) and psycho social support (PSS).

Survey tools were developed based on the model of the Whole of Syria GBV AoR, and on the GBV indicators for the 2020 HNO (see Annex 3). Tools were shared for consultation and adapted based on input by members of the Protection Sector, the GBV sub-sector, the CVAW Unit, and other actors on the ground, to ensure the questions covered the data gaps by as broad of a number of actors as possible. Survey tool for experts and communities were aligned, to cover generally the same data-points.

FGDs with experts were used to triangulate findings of FGDs with communities, confirming trends or adding relevant context. Experts are quoted in the report only when additional to the data and information from FGDs with communities, with preference given to communities' quotes when available. Sections on availability of services on the other hand primarily relied on experts' assessment due to their better knowledge of the available services and gaps; communities FGDs were used to triangulate findings, and identify the key barriers to access.

In two instances, and due to COVID19 prevention and control measures, experts contributed to the FGD by answering the questions in writing.

3

**A DESK REVIEW OF
SECONDARY DATA SOURCES.**

A desk review of secondary data sources and available literature on GBV in Sudan was conducted. The desk review prioritized sources published since 2018, due to the profound changes that have occurred in Sudan since the revolution. Sources included among others: sector assessment reports from members of the GBV sub-sector, partners and UNFPA, national survey data including MICS and MSNA, UNICEF, OHCHR and UNHCR assessments, literature as accessed through google scholar, JSTOR and other research databases.

Sources including direct links to report downloads and webpages are referenced in footnotes.

ANALYSIS

Data gathered through the FGDs was analyzed through a software for qualitative research, MAXQDA Analytics Pro. Data entry and coding was performed by one consultant, to minimize the inconsistency coming from potentially different interpretation of the same code.

FGDs were coded, using a coding tree developed based on the research tool. The main codes of the tree were based on overarching themes such as "type of GBV"; the second layer of coding (sub-codes) included more detailed information or sub-categories under the overarching theme such as "domestic violence".

The analysis through MAXQDA and the coding tree allowed to identify if certain issues always emerge in a specific target population (only amongst women, or only amongst IDPs), therefore allowing trends and patterns to emerge.

Frequency Analysis

A frequency analysis of the answers to 1 question of the questionnaire was conducted. The frequency analysis consisted in calculating the percentage of respondents to the total that gave a certain answer.

The frequency analysis aimed at understanding how frequently certain issues are mentioned by respondents, and therefore weighting the data so to have a more nuanced understanding of how prominent or not certain issues are for the community. The frequency analysis is not in any way indicative of the prevalence of certain practices, and is only intended to indicate the community's perception, and the importance that the community assigns to different issues.

⁷ women and girls with disabilities may face up to 10 times more violence than women and girls without disabilities. UNFPA, Young persons with disabilities: Global study on ending Gender Based Violence and realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights, July 2018, [link](#)

**Question 1 –
can you tell me what incidents of
violence against women and girls are
most common in your community?**

During the introduction of the FGD, facilitators defined different types of GBV and which practices fall under which type as guided by the National Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Respondents were subsequently asked what type of GBV is most common. Answers were coded based on the type of GBV respondents cited as most common.

The percentage of respondents that cited physical violence as the most prominent GBV type were aggregated with those that reported domestic violence. This is due to the fact that even though respondents reported it as physical violence, the SOPs classify physical violence within the family as domestic violence, and a qualitative analysis of responses indicated that the majority referred to beating within the family.

LIMITATIONS

GBV is underreported, and rarely discussed openly. Many GBV issues in Sudan are normalized, such as FGM or marital rape, therefore FGDs that address GBV may not bring to light many cases or underlying issues. Reporting and tracking GBV has many challenges such as safety and protection upon disclosure, capacity to collect and analyse data, identify and account for bias in data sources etc. Findings in this report and of the frequency analysis must be read with this limitation in mind.

Distribution of FGDs covered all states, however, sampling had to be adjusted based on existing and emerging circumstances: some localities with high numbers of PiN remained inaccessible due to outbreaks of Dengue fever at time of data collection, armed conflict and inaccessibility of non-government controlled areas or physical inaccessibility due to the rainy season. In these cases, selected localities were replaced with other localities in the same state.

The capacity for conducting qualitative research is low in Sudan. As the research covered all states in Sudan, but UNFPA and CVAW jointly have a presence in only 13, the research was unmonitored in 5 out of 18 states, with only weekly remote check-ins with facilitators and coordinators in these states.

Restrictions of movement due to COVID19 delayed the roll out of FGDs, since online meetings are not possible with Sudan's current technology. The increased time for data collection reduced the overall timeframe for data cleaning and analysis, and therefore the overall data quality. For

example, some FGDs that were not high enough in quality had to be accepted due to lack of time for quality assurance, which reduced the overall data quality.

This is the first time that such an assessment is produced in Sudan. Therefore, different approaches were tested, with research being conducted by social workers, CVAW, NGO and UNFPA staff. In total, 74 facilitators were used for this assessment, and more than 50 note-takers. There is a high diversity in the quality of the data gathered, which lowers the overarching data quality.

**A rating of data quality is included in Annex
1. The criteria used to assess the quality of the
data are:**

1. whether respondents provided in-depth answers and examples vs. single word answers, skipped questions
2. whether participants' answers differed between each other vs. all answers were similar to each other (group thinking)
3. whether selection of FGD participants was in line to the criteria provided (including diverse background, education level, age etc) vs was different from provided criteria
4. number of FGD and selection of locality based on PiN aligned to initial selection vs number of FGD or localities adjusted based on emerging circumstances.

FEMINIST APPROACH

The research prioritized the use of qualitative methods in order to offer a detailed and nuanced understanding of the needs and priorities of women and girls. With this in mind, direct quotes from women and girls are prioritized throughout the report.

Standard, quantitative data collection processes often used in humanitarian needs assessment and analysis do not often recognize the full extent of GBV and its impacts on the lives of women and girls. The sensitivity of GBV-related issues, and the potential negative consequences of discussing these with those gathering data – among a variety of other concerns – tend to limit the breadth and quality of data regarding the experiences of women and girls. Qualitative, open-ended questions allow women and girls to describe their experiences of GBV and its impact on their lives in their own terms.

They also allow women and girls to manage and reduce the risk they face in describing personal experiences of GBV, for example by referring to others' (sometimes-hypothetical) experiences rather than their own.

The feminist approach adopted here recognizes that GBV is the result of a hierarchy of power and privilege that benefits men and masculinity over women, girls and anyone seen to be feminine or not conforming to expected gender roles. This approach is also based on an understanding that other forms of inequality and oppression – including those related to age, race, class, religion, sexuality, displacement status, and living with a disability – intersect with gendered discrimination and have a profound impact on the lives of women and girls in Sudan.

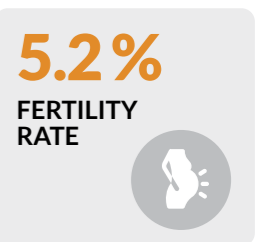
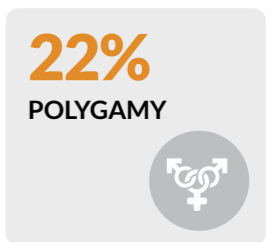
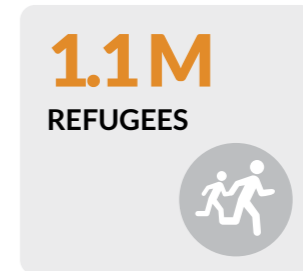
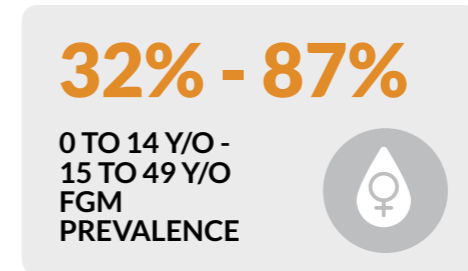
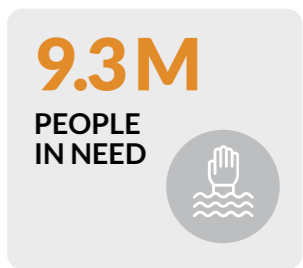
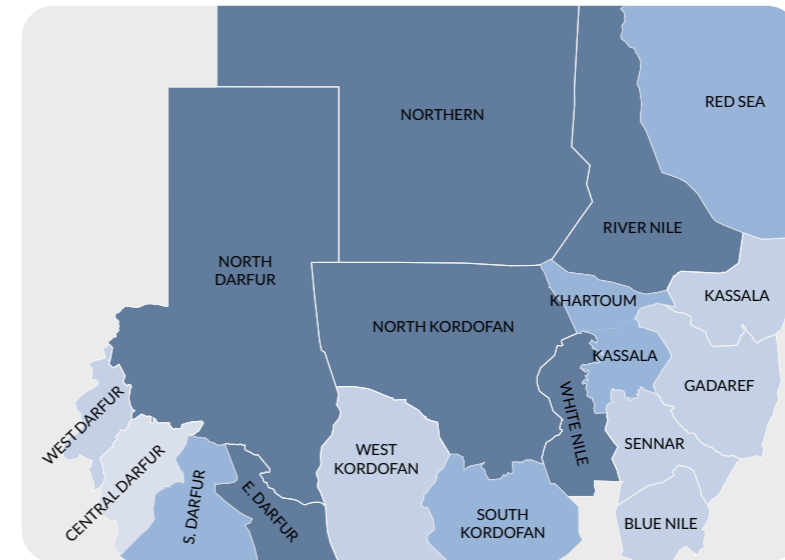
Recognizing the disproportionate impact of GBV on women and girls does not imply that men and boys do not experience violence; indeed, it is likely that the violence experienced by men and boys goes beyond that which is highlighted by respondents as part of this research, due to stigma and other limitations in reporting (as is also the case for violence against women and girls). However, the feminist approach underpinning this research emphasizes that context-specific systems of gender inequality, which existed long before current crisis dynamics but are informed and influenced by them, mean that women and girls are at higher risk of violence and at the same time have less access to resources, opportunities and networks to keep themselves safe and seek support.

“Women and girls with mental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse, but also the boys”

- PWD Expert, Khartoum.

CHAPTER 1 | FINDINGS BY TYPE OF GBV

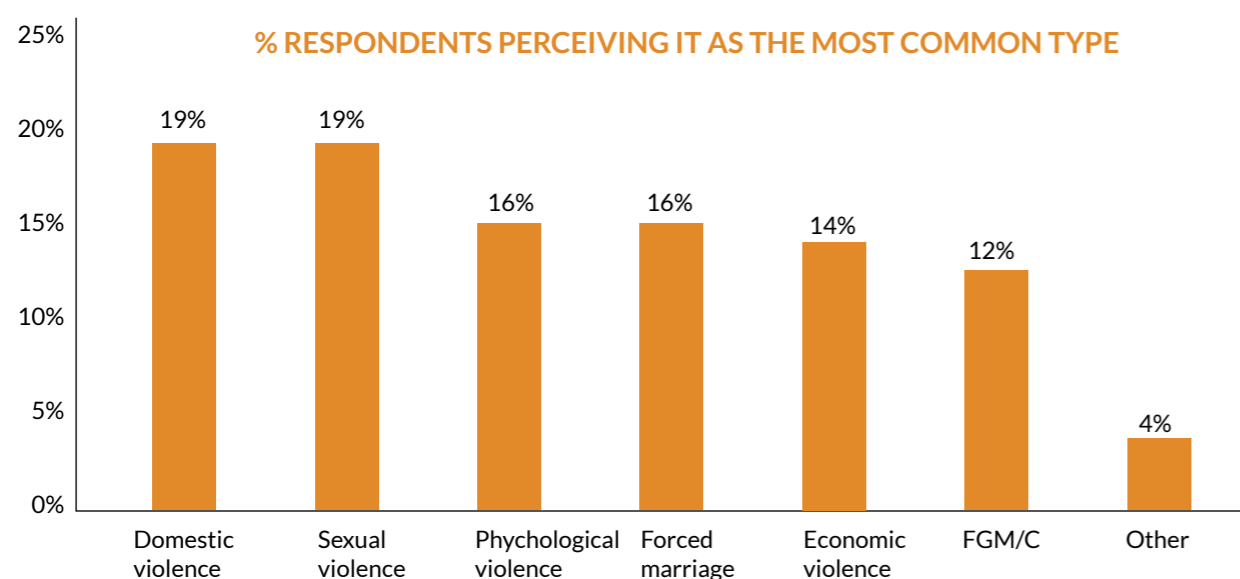
SUDAN



Sources: UN Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, MICS 2014, Census 2008

“The main cause of violence in the state is the social norms and customs and the male-dominant cultural heritage which treats women as property of men”.

- GBV expert, Blue Nile.

Figure 2 – Most common type of GBV according to respondents, based on frequency analysis

Quantitative data on the prevalence of different types of violence does not exist in Sudan. When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents answered: domestic violence (19%), sexual violence (19%), psychological violence (16%), forced marriage (16%), economic violence including denial of education (14%), and FGM (12%).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence was reported to be prominent in Sudan. Although prevalence data does not exist, 19% of respondents of this study perceived it as the most common GBV incident happening in their community. “There is a lot of beating, pulling hair, insult, rebuke” Boy, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. “Beating up girls is common” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “There is no house without beating and insulting” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur. “Violence is always in the house, between spouses or brothers” Boy, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

“There is nothing of importance to require women to go out of their homes”

- Man, El Qaneb, Red Sea.

Women’s movement is reported to be severely restricted. “There is nothing of importance to require women to go out of their homes” Man, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “Women are not allowed to move after 4pm in late afternoon” Boy, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. “My husband is in Saudi Arabia; I call him to get permission before leaving the house. I go out roughly 3 times per week” Woman, Rural Kassala, Kassala. “Women and girls go out in the company of their fathers and brothers only” Man, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “They do not allow us to go for medical care in the city” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. “Sometimes we do not even go out for funerals to avoid problems” Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Restrictions in movement particularly affect girls between the age of puberty and the time they get married. “When

a young girl’s body changes, the family gets worried about her so they lock her up and prevent her from going out for fear of men seducing her” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Unmarried girls and divorced women should not go out often” Girl, Haya, Red Sea.

Respondents in all states mentioned that infringing the movement restriction is a main prompter for physical abuse in the house. “Women and girls are beaten especially if they go out without permission” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “Sometimes women go out without telling their husbands and men get angry and they beat them” Man, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “Not getting permission ahead of going out is a big cause of domestic violence. This is a private issue you should resolve it at home.” Woman, Kassala, Kassala.

Domestic violence of brothers against sisters is often reported on. “Girls are hit by their brothers, and women by their husbands” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar. “Girls at home do all the work like washing, cooking etc. If the meal is delayed her brother or father may beat her” Girl, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Some brothers beat their sisters at home if they don’t serve them such as in washing clothes or getting water for bathing” Girl, Geissan, Blue Nile. “Brothers force their sisters to wash their clothes” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur.

“I complained to my brother that some guys harass me in the street, and he beat me up because I went out and he prevented me from going out again and attend afternoon classes”

- Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Attitudes towards domestic violence in the community do not consider it a severe violation of women’s rights “he is your husband, he can kill you” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar. “What happens to them is not violence but conservative upbringing. For her protection, she is punished so she would not go out and bring a bigger problem” Boy, El Dindir, Sennar. “Violence is not considered as such in rural areas” Man, Shiekkan, North Kordofan. “It is normal that men beat the woman when they return home and find nothing to eat or that women went out without permission. Sometimes men return home drunk or under drugs and beat women for no reason” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “Brothers are not held accountable because they are in their right” Woman, Telkok, Kassala.

“he is your husband, he can kill you”

- Woman, El Dindir, Sennar.

National survey data suggests that 34% of women believe that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the five situations: if she goes out without telling him, if she neglects the children, if she argues with him, if she refuses sex with him, and if she burns the food⁸.

Some respondents cited religious beliefs as a cause for discrimination in the home “the girl is unequal in the religion. She was created from a rib and she is inclined to wrongdoing” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira. “There is discrimination in the family, in roles and work” girl, Tullus, South Darfur. “At home women are treated like servants” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Sexual violence in the home is reported “the 5 years old neighbor was raped by her 31 years old cousin whilst the mother was at the market” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “A woman went out to get bread and came back to find her 9 years old daughter being raped by her uncle” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Intimate partner violence, or marital rape was reported by a few respondents. “Rape is common in marital relations. Women are created to be beaten” IDP girl, Bielel camp, South Darfur. Marital rape is not specifically criminalized, and not considered a form of violence by the community as the wife owes a duty of obedience to her husband. “Women cannot report on their husbands because of the blood ties” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. “If a woman was exposed to violence by her husband, she does not report in consideration of her children’s interest” Woman, Omdurman, Khartoum.

⁸ Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics, Sudan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014, [link](#).

⁹ Polygyny is the most common form of polygamy, entailing marriage of a man with several women.

¹⁰ Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics, Sudan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014, [link](#).

¹¹ El Nagar, Tonnesen, Community views on Child Marriage in Kassala: prospects for change, 2018, [link](#).

¹² Ibidem

Polygamy

Among married women in Sudan, 22% are in polygynous unions⁹. Polygynous unions are more common among women who live in rural areas (24% compared to 17% for urban) and older women (31% for women 45 to 49 compared to 8% for women 15 to 19) as well as women on lower income levels¹⁰.

Polygamy in Sudan is permitted by the Personal Status Law (see Table 2) and in Sharia’ law, as long as the husband is able to provide and treat all women equally. Polygamy is perceived as a form of violence, if men do not have enough financial resources to provide for their wives “polygamy [is a common type of GBV], without enough financial resources” Woman, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

“It is very common practice in our community to marry a very young girl to a married man, as a third or fourth wife; my niece was forced out of school to marry an old man whose daughters are older than her”¹¹.

Respondents reported that violence between different women in polygynous relationships is common “violence results from polygamy” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. This is true in unions where wives share the same house. “[A woman lived] in a house separated only by a short wall from that of the first wife. The first wife and her daughters could easily come and attack her. The son’s husband who was younger than her by 4 years was also beating her” GBV helpline service provider. The “young wife fights with the older wife” Woman Refugee, Um Sangour camp, White Nile.

In polygynous relationships, the husband should financially support wives and children equally. Anecdotal evidence exists of the use of polygamy to threaten women, as the financial resources of the family and inheritance of children will be reduced if the men marries an additional wife. “[a man] denied women work, and threatened polygamy if she insisted” Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Conditions for bridegroom can be added for continuation of education, or the purchase of a separate house. “My cousin accepted polygynous marriage but was able to convince her family to put a condition for bridegroom for her continuity in school”¹²; “You can add a condition that you want a separate house” Expert, Khartoum.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Rape and sexual assault are a concern amongst respondents. Although prevalence data does not exist, 19% of respondents for this study perceived sexual violence as the most common incident happening in their community. “A girl was raped and when they found out they asked her to keep silent and that it was her mistake because she went out of the house” Woman, Shendi, River Nile. “A girl used to clean the house of a single man. He raped her, broke her fingers and hanged her” Woman, Dongola, Northern Areas that are reported to be particularly at risk for sexual violence include: farming areas “girls working in agricultural schemes are vulnerable” Boy, Sennar, Sennar “cattle herders are exposed to rape and harassment” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan; water points “water places are far from residential areas, thus leading to cases of sexual violence and harassment”; military areas, “military areas are dangerous, especially after 2011 where women were raped” Boy, Bau, Blue Nile; areas where alcohol and drugs are sold and consumed “areas of consumption of drugs and alcohol are dangerous to women and girls” Boy, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum; public transportation “harassment happens in public transportation, where girls are pinched in their buttocks” Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum; “in hospitals” Boy, Dongola, Northern.

“A girl was raped and when they found out they asked her to keep silent and that it was her mistake because she went out of the house”

- Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

Sexual violence is reported to be common in Qur’anic schools, Khalwas, against both girls and boys, by Sheikhs and by older students. “Children in Qur’anic schools are exposed to violence” Woman, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “In Quranic school [...] young students are raped by older students” Girl, Elhawata, Gadaref. “Boys are mainly sexually abused by teachers especially in Qur’anic schools (Khalwas)” Expert, West Darfur.

People living in camp settings are reported to be particularly vulnerable to sexual violence “rape happens when collecting wood” Refugee Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile; “soldiers find women looking for firewood and rape them” IDP boy, Alsalam camp, North Darfur; “rape is common outside the camp, in places where women fetch firewood” IDP boy, Alsalam camp, South Darfur.

“rape happens when collecting wood”

- Refugee Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Tribal and racial dynamics increases vulnerability to sexual violence. “the most exposed groups to violence are the black people” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Arab groups enter

the homes and commit violence” IDP woman, Otash, South Darfur. “Some tribes view themselves as better than other tribes and they exploit this. [...] It can also be sexual attack because they consider this normal” GBV helpline service provider. “Same applies for migrants, where Ethiopian domestic workers are particularly at risk of attack” GBV helpline service provider. “A girl was raped by a member of a stronger tribe and the family did not want to report” Expert, West Kordofan.

People with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities, are at an increased risk of sexual violence (See Textbox below) “Women and girls with mental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse, but also the boys” Expert on PWD.

GBV and People with disabilities

Globally, women and girls with disabilities may face up to 10 times more violence than women and girls without disabilities. MSNA figures suggest that 27% of households include at least one member with a disability in Sudan; UN figures estimate that about 15% of people live with a disability. Experts agreed that People with Disabilities (PWD) in Sudan are exposed to similar forms of violence experienced by women without disabilities, but the intersection with disability puts them at increased risk of violence that is also less detectable.

Key GBV concerns - Women and girls with disabilities, especially intellectual, are at an increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse “Women and girls with mental disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and sexual abuse, but also the boys”. PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Respondents agreed that the family is mainly responsible for violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities “the family plays a major role”. “In Darfur, they marry girls with disabilities to older husbands in order to protect them and to give birth to children who will help and take care of their mothers”. PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Most respondents agreed that exclusion and isolation are a key concern experienced by women and girls with disabilities “you are not allowed to go outside your home in the community. Families prefer to send children without disabilities to school”. PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Experts reported that “verbal abuse is widespread”; “in the queue for bread they may tell them *why can't someone normal come and buy bread for the family*” PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Women and girls with disabilities often do not report if violence happens. In some cases, such as intellectual disability, they are unable to, in other cases “they are afraid of the stigma to add to the stigma of their disability”, PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Specialized services - Experts reported that some limited services exist “there is some PSS counselling”; “now the Ministry of Justice have an initiative on raising awareness on the legal support that people with disabilities can receive”. The barriers to accessing services are very high, in institutional and non-institutional settings alike “there are some children who do not go to school because they have problems of involuntary urination and defecation”; “if a person with disability was present in *Joudia*, they wouldn't be listened to”; “a girl with hearing disability was badly beaten. She couldn't tell the judge what happened because no sign language was provided”; “when I go to the doctor, they direct questions to my sister who is accompanying me as if I am not capable of expressing my pain”. PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Last year's trends. Over the last year, the situation deteriorated substantially. “Rampant inflation increased the cost of rehabilitating mental disability treatment, so people had to withdraw from treatment”; “because of the economic situation, more disabled girls go out to beg in the street or work as tea sellers which exposes them to more violations”. PWD Expert, Khartoum.

Women who work outside the home, especially in informal and low paying jobs are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence. “Tea sellers, waitresses, domestic workers, and women working in the market are the most exposed because the community thinks they are loose” Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum. “Girls working as domestic help are exposed to harassment and even rape” Boy, El Dindir, Sennar.

Most respondents agreed that sexual violence goes unreported, mainly because of “fear of stigma and shame especially in the case of sexual harassment and rape. Women who are exposed to violence may be rejected” Expert, Gadaref.

If violence happens, both the victim and her family are blamed “they all say that it is from her family's mistake, and that reduces the community's view of the family” Girl, Tendalti, White Nile. “The father blames the mother for letting the girl go out on her own and becoming a victim of sexual or physical violence” Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

Abortion is formally legal for rape survivors¹⁶, (although it is practically impossible for a survivor to access the service)¹⁷.

Moreover, the stigma against survivors leads to the use of other, often dangerous methods. “The mother try to make her abort using toxic substances” due to the shame, GBV helpline provider.

Survivors of sexual violence often become victims of forced marriage. “the girl was raped by the shopkeeper and told the mother. She did not tell anybody else but when it was found out that the girl was pregnant the settlement was to marry her to the offender” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “a girl was raped and when her family came to know they forced her to marry” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira.

Survivors of violence who report are particularly vulnerable to verbal, sexual and physical abuse “if she is raped once, then anyone can rape her” Woman, Shendi, River Nile. “The victim may be assaulted by people in the house because they think that she is morally loose” Girl, Shendi, River Nile. “If she is raped or got pregnant out of wedlock, she might be locked up at home or killed by her cousin” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

“if she is raped once, then anyone can rape her”

- Woman, Shendi, River Nile

Sexual violence often goes unreported unless there is a pregnancy. “In case of rape, when girls miss their period they will tell their mothers” Girl, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “She won't tell unless her pregnancy shows” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “in case of rape, girls don't report unless the impact is obvious [pregnancy]” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur. This finding is also reinforced by the fact that most respondents who cited cases of sexual violence, gave examples of cases that resulted in pregnancy.

“She won't tell unless her pregnancy shows”

- Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea.

Anecdotal evidence exists of rape being used as a weapon between families. “One of the most difficult cases was a 12 years old girl, who was raped as a revenge against the girl's family” GBV helpline provider.

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

Verbal and psychological violence are widespread. Although prevalence data does not exist, 16% of respondents of this study perceived psychological violence as the most common GBV incident in their community. Most respondents reported verbal and psychological pressure related to compliance with the existing gender norms and roles. “If a girl goes to school outside of her area it could give rise to a bad reputation” Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. “There are always rumors and scandals about women and girls” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. “There are many forms of violence, particularly against women and mostly because of gossip” Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

¹³ UNFPA. Young persons with disabilities: Global study on ending Gender Based Violence and realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights, July 2018. [link](#)

¹⁴ REACH. Sudan Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2021. [link](#).

¹⁵ Estimates from WHO and the health sector indicate a 15 percent prevalence for Sudan of which: mobility (18.1%), visual (31.5%), mental (24.2%), hearing (13.2%) and speech (4.0%).

¹⁶ UNDP. Sudan Gender, Justice and the Law, 2018. [link](#)

¹⁷ CMI. Women's right to Abortion after Rape in Sudan, April 2015. [link](#)

“Marriage is the ultimate goal; even if the girl continues education to university she is always judged if not married”

- Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Women and girls face constant monitoring of their movement by their family and the community at large “[women are victims of] psychological violence such as threats and constant monitoring” Woman, Zalingei, Central Darfur. “If I go out to have a coffee and our neighbors saw me, they would tell my family that their daughter is misbehaving” Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Adherence to gender norms, and the reputation and gossip around it, are crucial factors that affect women and girls. Research suggests for example that, especially in the northern part of the country, most cultural groups consider female virginity a matter of crucial importance to the extent that even rumors questioning a girl’s virginity are enough to damage the family’s honor and prevent her from getting married¹⁸.

Survivors of violence, particularly sexual, are vulnerable to stigma and isolation. “If a girl is raped, I will never go to her house and her sisters may face trouble too, to the extent that I would not marry one of them” Man, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “They totally hide their face under the niqab not to be recognized” Expert, Khartoum.

“If a girl is raped, I will never go to her house and her sisters may face trouble too, to the extent that I would not marry one of them”

- Man, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Psychological pressures, and lack of alternatives mean that survivors are ostracized, and in some cases pushed to commit suicide. “In many cases she commits suicide for fear of society’s view of her” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. “Girls may commit suicide”; “they move to cities” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan. “[The victim may be] kicked out to the streets and may commit suicide” Refugee woman, Al Nimir camp, East Darfur.

Verbal abuse against uncircumcised women and girls is reported “it is common to insult uncircumcised girls as undesirable as wives” Man, Tendalti, White Nile. “If a girl is not cut, she will be shamed and called ghalfa [derogatory term implying shame, exclusion and promiscuity]” Man, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Women who work are also particularly vulnerable to verbal abuse “when they see the girl working, they call her immoral” Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. A limited number of respondents reported of the psychological pressure and violence through sharing photos

¹⁸ Gruenbaum, The Movement against Clitoridectomy and Infibulation in Sudan: Public Health Policy and the Women’s movement, 1982.

on social media “When a guy is in a relationship with a girl, she exchanges photos with him and later he breaks up with her and blackmails her” Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “Impersonating another on social media and posting updates and photos”; “recording pornographic videos or photos and posting them on social media” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

FORCED MARRIAGE

Forced marriage is common in Sudan, with on average 38% of women married before age 18¹⁹. Amongst respondents of this study, 16% perceived it as the most common GBV incident in their community. “Nobody consults us when it comes to marriage. Father marries us off and nobody can object” Girl, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea. “She was in school, when she came back home, she found the family and neighbors in the house and she was met with congratulations and she was told she was married to a well off man” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Even though international definitions consider any marriage before age 18 as forced marriage, for the inability of a minor to agree to marriage, the community does not consider child marriage as forced marriage. “There are no forced marriages and girls are always consulted” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. “Child marriage is not considered a form of violence” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

“In our community the girl is married to her cousin or one of her relatives without her consent”

- Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Most marriages are arranged with relatives, cousins or members of the same tribe. “In our community the girl is married to her cousin or one of her relatives without her consent” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. “There is an agreement between families to exchange brides” Man, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. “Especially if an outsider proposes, the girl is quickly forced to marry a man from her tribe” Man, Rashad, South Kordofan. “Many men go to Khartoum or Madani to earn money, then they come back here to get married to their female cousin” Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

Most respondents cited economic reasons to justify the practice of forced marriage: a girl is a cost to the family of origin “poverty pushed families to marry off their children in order to improve the financial situation of the family” Woman, Habila, West Darfur. “There are economic reasons to reserving brides, because the cousin will support her until she is ready for marriage” Man, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea.

“There are economic reasons to reserving brides, because the cousin will support her until she is ready for marriage”

- Man, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea.

¹⁹ Thiam, M. Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage in Sudan, Are there any changes taking place? 2016, [link](#)

The reputational damage of a girl getting pregnant out of wedlock, and fear of un-marriageability later in life are also cited as reasons for child marriage. “A girl who reaches 19 years of age without marrying is called maiden” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. “There is fear of shame in case a girl is pregnant illegally” Man, Bahr el Arab. “There are cases of forced marriage to avoid scandal or reducing the cost of living and school fees” Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

The belief that marriage is a protection for women and girls is widespread “marriage is protection and security to women and girls” Man, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “Early marriage protects girls” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile.

Child marriage and suicide

Research suggests that suicide and self-harm are especially associated with child marriage²⁰, with marriage increasing females’ suicidal behavior as much as sixfold²¹. Respondents of this study reported that girl victims of child marriage have no alternative than to accept the marriage “a girl was married to a Gaali man. During the honeymoon, she drowned herself in the river” Man, Shendi, River Nile. “If they ask her for marriage, either she accepts or she commits suicide” Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. If girls reject the marriage “they are forced to return and stay with her husband” Girl, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur.

This increase is symptomatic of the negative feelings and depression associated with child marriage and related trauma. Respondents reported that, when violence happens women and girls are blamed for the violence, and exposed to trauma and isolation “they are insulted and isolated” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. “In many cases she commits suicide for fear of society’s view of her” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. “Sometimes the blame is expressed by beating them” Man, Elfaw, Gadaref. “Blame is often after knowing the type of violence and the causes. Sometimes it leads to suicide” Boy, Butana, Gadaref.

The violence, the impossibility to make the violence stop, and the lack of alternatives leads some girls to commit suicide “she came back to her family after 3 months, rejecting the marriage. Her father beat her and sent her back to her husband. One day after her husband left home she hanged herself committing suicide” Expert, Northern.

²⁰ Gage, Association of Child Marriage With Suicidal Thoughts and Attempts Among Adolescent Girls in Ethiopia, 2013, [link](#).

²¹ Vijayakumar, Suicide in women. Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 2015.

²² Thiam, M. Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage in Sudan, Are there any changes taking place? 2016, [link](#)

²³ Thiam, M. Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage in Sudan, Are there any changes taking place? 2016, [link](#)

²⁴ Virginity testing, Evidence Based Guiding note, 2019, [link](#)

Women in rural areas are at increased risk of forced marriage “women living in rural areas are most exposed to FGM and child marriage” Expert, Gezira. In 2014, amongst women 20 to 49, the percentage of women married before age 18 was 29% in urban areas versus 42% in rural areas²².

Child marriage is significantly associated with low levels of education and lower household wealth. “The educated girls marry mostly at 16-20, but the illiterate marry much earlier” Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur. MICS data shows that married adolescents are 2.5 times more likely to have received no formal education than those who did not marry²³. Child marriage is closely connected to interruption of education. “Girls are taken out of school to marry them off” Woman, Telkok, Kassala.

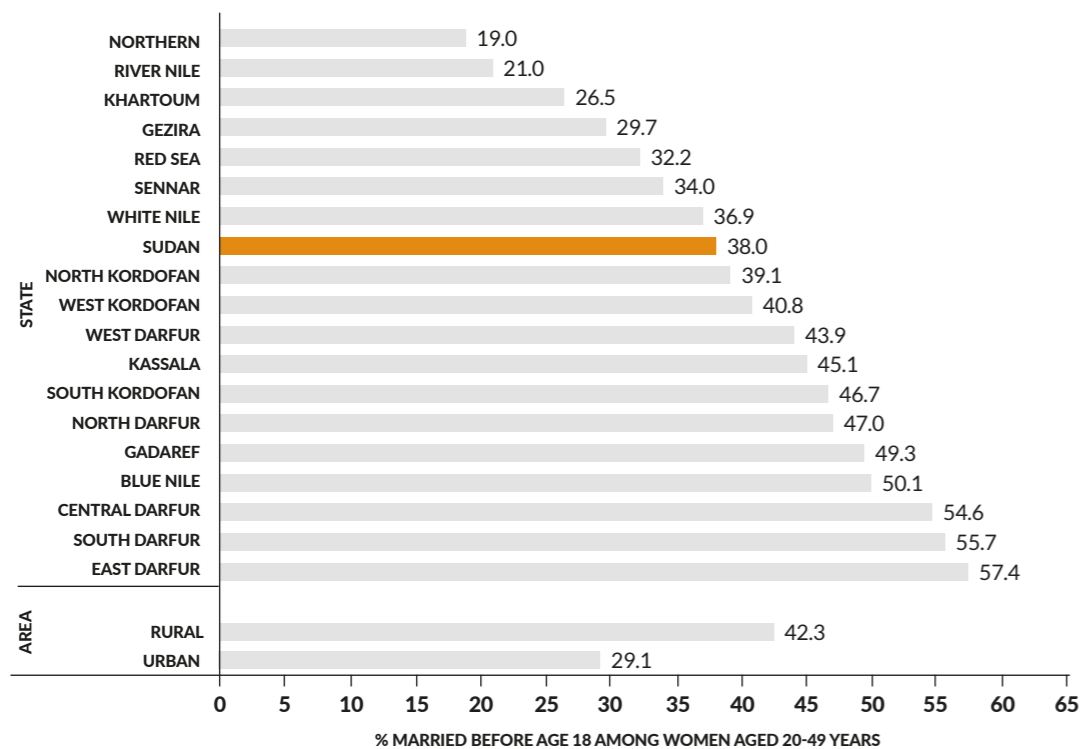
Being unagreeable or showing interest in the opposite sex may be a reason for marrying off girls sooner “if the girl is impolite or unagreeable, they marry her off earlier” Girl, Al Salam, White Nile. “Girls are immediately married off of they show some admiration of someone of the opposite sex” Man, El Dindir, Sennar.

“if the girl is impolite or unagreeable, they marry her off earlier”

- Girl, Al Salam, White Nile.

Requiring proof of virginity was reported by respondents in the Kordofan states, and constitutes a serious form of discrimination and violation of women’s rights²⁴. “Virginity evidence is taken on the first night of the wedding” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “The chastity test is performed” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “Showing of virginity proof on wedding night is common” Girl, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “A girl was killed in our village for the absence of wedding night blood” IDP woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. In the community there are a number of misconceptions about virginity “to earn a living the girl mounts a donkey which leads to removal of the hymen and thus not suitable for marriage” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Figure 3 – Prevalence of marriage below 18 years old



SOURCE: UNICEF - SECONDARY ANALYSIS OF SUDAN 2014 MICS DATA FEB 2016

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VIOLENCE

14% of respondents of this study perceived economic violence as the most common GBV incident in their community. Amongst its different manifestations, denial of education is the most commonly cited issue. "Girls leave school in 8th grade after they learn to read and write. At this age they are women" Man, Haya, Red Sea. "Some girls are not allowed to study beyond secondary education. They rarely get university education" Girl, Tendalti, White Nile. "Girls never go to school in this area" Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

"if a girl is harassed on her way to school, and her family gets to know, they will blame her and make her quit school"

- Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

The arguments brought by respondents for denying education to women and girls are the threat of harassment outside the home "if a girl is harassed on her way to school, and her family gets to know, they will blame her and make her quit school" Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. "Schools are far away from the village and families are worried about their safety" Boy, Al Salam, White Nile. And the break of her family's imposed movement restrictions "a girl should go directly from home to university and vice versa. If she is late trouble starts and they may deprive her from going to university" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Denial of education is tightly connected to forced marriage. "[removal from school] is to marry them off" Boy, Rashad,

South Kordofan. "if a girl fails at school, that will be a pretext to take her out of school and marry her away" Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur

Respondents reported that another form of economic violence is the denial of resources. "Usually husbands are the workers, and they don't give their wives enough money to support the needs of the family" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

It is also reported that the income earned by the woman is taken away by the husband, "some men take away money from women who works; others do not financially support their wives and children" Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur. "A woman was growing peanuts. At harvest the husband took the money and when she asked for money, he beat her" Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. "She may be working but he takes her money" GBV helpline service provider. This is reported to happen also amongst refugee population in camp setting "[men] take away women's earnings from farming" Refugee woman, Al Nimir camp, East Darfur.

"She may be working but he takes her money"

- GBV helpline service provider.

Acceptance of marrying within a polygynous relationship is connected to the economic advantage of the marriage (see Textbox p. 15). Conditions for a bridegroom can be added for continuation of education, or the purchase of a separate house. "My cousin accepted polygynous marriage but was able to convince her family to put a condition for bridegroom for her continuity in school"²⁵; "you can add a condition that you want a separate house" Expert, Khartoum.

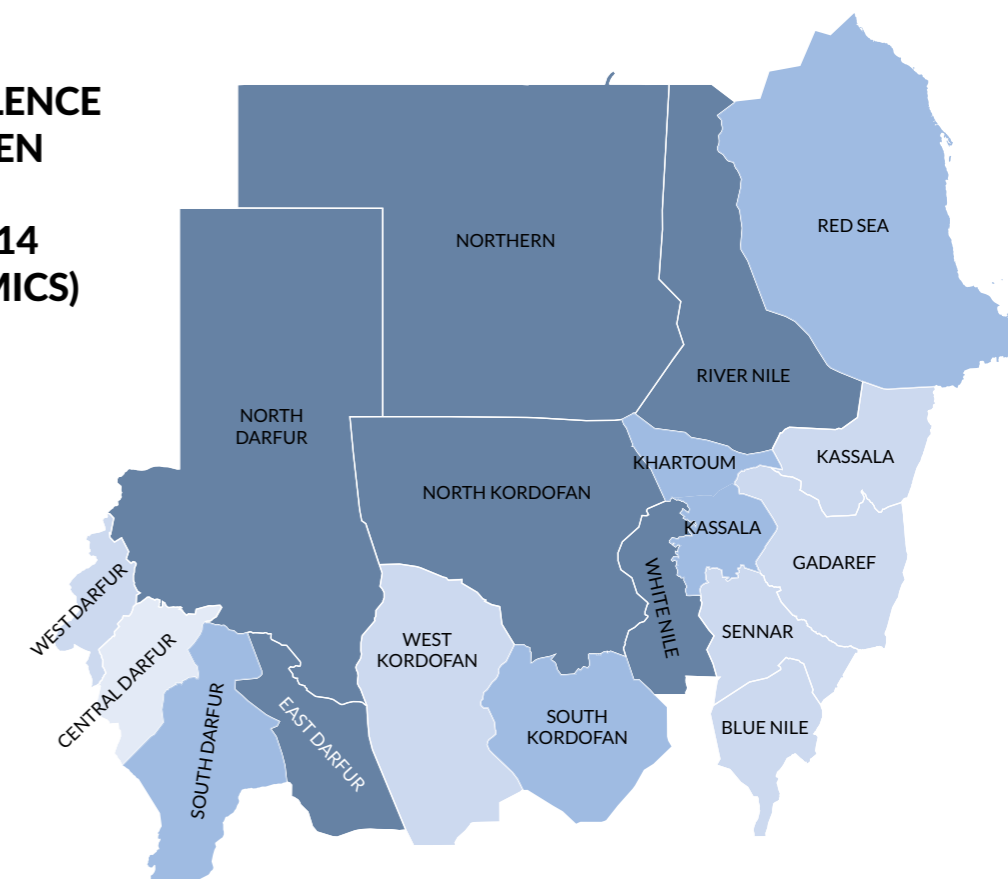
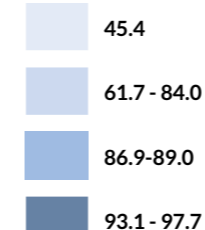
²⁵El Nagar, Tonnessen, Community views on Child Marriage in Kassala: prospects for change, 2018, [link](#).

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Figure 4 – FGM prevalence amongst women 15 to 49

FGM/C PREVALENCE AMONG WOMEN AGED 15-49 BY STATE IN 2014 (SUDAN 2014 MICS)

FGM/C PREVALENCE %



FGM is widespread in Sudan, with 87% incidence for women 15 to 49²⁶. Amongst respondents of this study, 12% perceived it as the most common GBV incident happening in their community. Significant differences exist between states. "FGM is widely spread in the community" Boy, Aroma, Kassala. "Only two families in the area do not practice it" Woman, El Manageel, Gezira. The difference in prevalence between urban and rural areas is insignificant (respectively 85% and 87%), the prevalence varies significantly between states from a minimum of 45% in Central Darfur, to a maximum of 97% in West Kordofan²⁷.

"many organizations came and told us that FGM is bad and now we do Sunna (type I)"

- Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea.

Respondents reported that there has been a shift away from more severe types of FGM "many organizations came and told us that FGM is bad and now we do Sunna (type I)" Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. The type of FGM performed varies widely between geographical areas. The most severe type (Type III or Pharaonic, where the genitalia

is sewn closed) a widely practiced in Gezira, West Kordofan, Sennar and Northern where it affects between 90 and 94% of women²⁸.

"female circumcision is spread because men refuse to marry uncircumcised girls"

- Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

The most cited reason for performing FGM has to do with reducing women's sexual drive. "Otherwise the girl sexual desire's will be high" Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur. It is also connected to marriageability "female circumcision is spread because men refuse to marry uncircumcised girls" Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Re-infibulation (Adal) was reported by respondents in Gadaref, North Kordofan and South Darfur²⁹. "Correction procedures (repeating FGM after childbirth) are common, where the woman goes through re-sewing after each childbirth. This practice is obligatory and requested by the husband before sexual intercourse" Girl, Elbutana, Gadaref. "Repair is common, which means modifying the vaginal opening after childbirth to make it smaller" Girl,

²⁶Thiam, M. Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage in Sudan, Are there any changes taking place? 2016, [link](#)²⁷Ibidem²⁸Ibidem²⁹The practice entails the re-suturing of the incised scar tissue resulting from infibulation after childbirth or other gynecological procedures

Shiekan, North Kordofan. In 2014, re-infibulation (Adal) was performed on one in four women who gave birth and it is concentrated in Eastern Sudan (Kassala, 62%, Gadaref 52% Sennar 46%)³⁰, although it is performed in other states too.

Respondents reported that advocacy efforts to communicate the damaging consequences of FGM as well as knowledge about the criminalization of the practice reached them. “The situation on FGM improved because of the increased awareness and fear of the law” Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. This has led to some travelling away to another state (often the state where their family is originally from) to perform FGM. “Some families take the girls out of Khartoum state for FGM” Man, Sharq al Nile. About half of women in Sudan (53%) think that FGM should be abandoned³¹.

Talking about FGM is “like talking about sex, it is a huge taboo and it is mostly seen as a women’s issue” Expert, Khartoum. “It is a women’s issue” Expert, Gezira. Older women and grandmothers are reported to be the main promoters of the practice, sometimes without the knowledge of husbands. “It is directed by grandmothers” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. “a man left to the market and when he returned home he found that his single daughter among so many sons was circumcised without his knowledge” Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. “A girl was circumcised but when the grandmother came, she repeated the FGM saying it should be Pharaonic (type III) rather than Sunna (type I)” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan.

Women who are not circumcised are verbally abused and insulted, and risk being refused in marriage “Uncircumcised girls are called ghalfa” Man, El Dindir, Sennar. “If not practiced girls are shamed and demonized” Man, Haya, Red Sea. “Some families do not practice FGM.

Because the girls spend a few days in bed “a common time for performing FGM is the school holidays” Man, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

FGM is not reported to be common practice amongst refugees from Tigray, and other specific tribes. With the integration of refugees with host communities, this practice was taken up. “Before the current crisis, Gadaref had a refugee population, they started practicing FGM. The same will happen for the newcomers, when they integrate they will for sure take up these harmful practices.” Expert, Gadaref.

Prevalence varies significantly between tribal groups, whereby certain tribes are known for performing more severe types and practice it consistently “certain tribes in the camp do it much more, they sew usually [type III], but other tribes are less conservative” IDP woman, White Nile. “The Aran nomads have high illiteracy rates and a prevalence of harmful traditions such as FGM and child marriage” Expert, Sennar.

³⁰Thiam, M. Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Child Marriage in Sudan, Are there any changes taking place? 2016, [link](#)
³¹Ibidem



When the girls get married and it is found that they are Saleema (uncut/intact), they are refused and they stay unmarried”

- Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Incidents of physical violence are reported by respondents in camp setting. “Beating [is common] among women at water sources” IDP girl, Otash camp, South Darfur. “When we go to collect water, we are assaulted with sticks by other refugees. There is a competition for resources.” Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref. “There is violence against women in wood collection areas” IDP woman, Otash, South Darfur.

“When we go to collect water, we are assaulted with sticks by other refugees. There is a competition for resources.”

- Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref.

Physical violence is common for accessing resources from humanitarian providers “when we try to get support (from aid distributions), we cannot compete enough with the men. We get physical violence.” Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref. “When you are in the line, you are stepped on there are torn clothes” Refugee woman, Village 8 camp, Gadaref.

Men and boys are victims of physical violence. As a proof of their masculinity, strength and courage they are required to resist and not complain to being whipped “whipping is a custom and tradition. It may not be considered as a standard type of GBV but in fact it is violence perpetrated against a man and to prove that he is a man he must be whipped” GBV helpline service provider.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN AND BOYS

Most respondents reported that violence against men and boys is rare. “Hey, you are kidding. No man is exposed to GBV” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Most reports are of sexual violence against children “we never hear of men experiencing violence, but children are subjected to harassment and rape” Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. Boys working in low-income informal jobs are particularly vulnerable “beggars”; and “shoe shining boys are targeted” Man, Dongola, Northern. IDPs and refugees are also particularly vulnerable. “A 52 years old man raped a 7 years old boy and was not held accountable” IDP Woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur.

“Sexual assault happens in Khalwas (Qur’anic school) by Sheiks”.

- Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref.

It happens in Qur’anic schools “violence against children happens in Khalwas, and is practiced by Sheikhs, sometimes rape” Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “Sexual assault happens in Khalwas (Qur’anic school) by Sheiks”. Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref.

“They are exposed to violence in Khalwas” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

“[violence happens] in cases of homosexuality”

- Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Violence is reported also against some particularly vulnerable groups “[men] with mental illness are exploited” Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur (see Textbox p.16). Limited respondents also mentioned members of the LGBTQ+ community, and particularly gay men, as particularly vulnerable. “Homosexuals are exposed to violence from other men” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “[violence happens] in cases of homosexuality” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Boys are also affected by forced marriage, “young boys are forced to marry a girl chosen by the family, if they refuse they will be rejected by the family” Expert, South Darfur. Violence against boys and men goes often unreported. “He does not tell anyone. It is shameful” IDP Woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “If it is a child, maybe he tells his family and they cover up” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira. It is only reported in case of a major incident or obvious injury “it is reported if there is an obvious injury” Woman, Elbutana, Gadaref.

“He does not tell anyone. It is shameful”

- IDP Woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur.

A key barrier to reporting is the belief of it being a sign of weakness and lack of masculinity. “It is a sign of stigma and lack of masculinity” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “He is afraid of being called a coward” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. “He does not tell anybody because he is a man” Girl, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Respondents indicated that the deteriorating economic situation increased forms of violence that are linked to the economic advantage of performing them, and in particular child marriage. “The economic situation and the school lockdown made families marry their daughters early and send their sons to work” Expert, Gezira. “Child marriage increased due to the economic crisis that families are going through” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan. “4 girls, less than 13 years old, got married during COVID19” Boy, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile.

Shortage of basic supplies such as bread and fuel led to more harassment in the street as women are spending more time outside of the home, in environments with mixed genders. “Physical harassment in bread and petrol lines has increased” Expert, Gezira. “Girls are now going out at night in search for bread in remote places” Man, Omdurman, Khartoum. “Standing in line for bread increased harassment” Woman, Sennar, Sennar.

whenever a girl complained about harassment, the police told them this is the civil rule you wanted”

- Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Violence outside the home increased since last year because of “the total absence of authorities” Boy, Umm Bedda, Khartoum; and “the political vacuum at the government level” Man, Bahr al Arab, East Darfur. Harassment and GBV are politicised, and connected to the current civil rule, as opposed to the previous authoritarian/military regime. “During the new year celebrations at the Green Square, whenever a girl complained about harassment, the police told them this is the civil rule you wanted” Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum. “Harassment increased due to freedom” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

“The situation improved on FGM because of awareness raising on its dangers”

- Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Respondents reported an increase in awareness around certain practices such as FGM and child marriage, and increased space for discussing GBV. “The situation improved on FGM because of awareness raising on its dangers” Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “The situation on FGM improved because of the increased awareness and fear of the law” Woman, Tullus, South Darfur. “Female circumcision and child marriage improved because of the awareness of families regarding harmful practices that can cause death” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref. “Last year’s political changes opened more space for discussion on GBV” Expert, Khartoum.

CHANGES AS A RESULT OF COVID19

Most respondents agreed that COVID19 restrictions were not followed “we are in our farms and did not hear of any order to stay at home” Man, Sennar, Sennar. “Most societies did not adhere to the directives of the ban and not go out” Boy, Butana, Gadaref.

COVID19 however led to closure of markets, with consequential loss of income and resorting to negative coping mechanisms. “It led to closure of markets so people with informal jobs are deeply affected like tea sellers losing their income” Woman, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. “Tea sellers were very vulnerable to the closures” Woman, Elfasher, North Darfur. “Lockdown caused unemployment and that led to economic violence in families” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. “The serious economic crisis forced many women heads of families who were unemployed to do whatever to feed their children exposing them to more violence” Expert, Central Darfur. IDPs were particularly affected. “The deterioration of the economic situation is affecting IDP women in particular, as they are heads of most households” Expert, West Darfur.

³² REACH, Sudan Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), Key findings Protection, 2021, [link](#).

COVID19 restrictions increased physical violence at home. “It decreased the violence in the streets and increased it at home” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “COVID19 produced an increase in domestic violence due to the presence of husbands in the house all day long” Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur. “Physical violence increased as brother and sisters and other family members are at home most of the time” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref. “Brothers beat their sisters more because they are in the house during Corona lockdown” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan.

“COVID19 produced an increase in domestic violence due to the presence of husbands in the house all day long”

- Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

COVID19 and stay at home measures also reduced women and girls’ freedom of movement. “My father and brothers before COVID19 were out till evening, so we could go out. During the lockdown I could not go out” Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile. Pressure on women’s domestic responsibilities increased substantially “women are besieged by demands of husbands and children at home” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

During the lockdown I could not go out”

- Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Respondents reported that the effect of COVID19 on FGM varied: whilst some respondents reported that it was used at a time to perform FGM, “the lockdown also increased the number of girls subjected to FGM” Expert, River Nile; others reported that it decreased the ability of women to secretly perform it on their daughters “husbands at home will not allow mothers and grandmothers to practice circumcision” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

COPING MECHANISMS

Women cope and try to protect themselves from violence by “wearing decent dress and avoiding suspicious places” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan; “going out in groups” IDP man, Bielel camp, South Darfur. And “by staying at home” IDP boy, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “I take my brother with me to guard me” Girl, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. 16% of respondents to MSNA survey reported that they avoided areas in their current location because they felt unsafe³².

“if the perpetrator is a family member he will not be reported”

- Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Most violence goes unreported. “They tell no one” Man, Yassin, East Darfur. Especially in the case the perpetrator is a family member “if the perpetrator is a family member he will not be reported” Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “In case of rape, girls don’t report unless the impact is obvious [pregnancy]” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur.

“We keep silent because it is shameful for the tribe” Girl, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. “It is shameful to disclose our problems out of the village, as it looks bad for our men” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Survivors often do not report, as they become vulnerable to more violence. “The victim is afraid that if she tells the family she would be punished or killed” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. “It turns counter-productive and she is blamed rather than treated as a survivor. She fears for her life” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “They do not report because if the police found out that you are raped, they rape you” Woman, Shendi, River Nile. There is a “submission and acceptance of violence so as not to be doubled” Boy, Dongola, Northern. “Women who are exposed to violence may be rejected” Expert, Gadaref. “Girls will not get married” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

“They do not report because if the police found out that you are raped, they rape you”

- Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

Family and justice institutions are reported to cover up incidents. This is because of “the stigma and fear, as the community criminalizes survivors; Joudia stops cases from reaching law enforcement” Expert, Sennar, Darfur “In case of rape, the family usually covers up for fear of scandal” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

REPORTING

In case of reporting, respondents said that “it is according to the type of violence” Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur. Whilst violence from outsiders to the community may be reported, violence by the family or by the community would go unreported “Reporting would happen if violence is committed by strangers” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “If violence from the family there will be a cover up, if the violence is from outside the family they go to court” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “When I was talking to the girl, the mother said I will never forgive you if you report about your brother” GBV helpline service provider.

“The police only if it is necessary and the problem is too big to be solved otherwise”

- Man, Telkok, Kassala.

If violence is reported, this will be to the family, to the sheikh or as a last resort to the police. “I would tell my mother” Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “The police only if it is necessary and the problem is too big to be solved otherwise” Man, Telkok, Kassala. If it is a big incident I will tell my relative, then the police and the Sheikh” Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Differently from the findings of this study, MSNA findings suggest that 88% of respondents would report to the police if they heard a case of violence against a woman or girl³³. More research is required to explore this discrepancy.

If reporting happens, this is often dealt with through traditional justice mechanisms (Joudia, mediation) “the elders of the village gather in the guest room and try to solve the problem” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Informal mechanisms of dispute resolution can perpetrate injustice against women. “Community and traditional leaders take men’s side, when a girl claims to be raped they say that she is the one who encouraged him” IDP girl, Geneina, West Darfur. “Sometimes the issue is settled with the family of the victim by giving them food or proposing the marriage of the victim which is added to the wives of the chief” Experts, East Darfur.

Institutional reporting mechanisms are rarely used because “there are lengthy procedures, and financial expenses” Expert, North Kordofan. “Courts take a long time to rule on cases” Man, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. “Most of the GBV cases are resolved outside the mechanism of the official justice” Expert, North Darfur.

“Some people seem to be above the law and there is no point resorting to the law”

- Boy, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum.

Justice mechanisms are reported to be corrupt. “Influential people and seniors are not held accountable” Boy, Shendi, River Nile. “Some people seem to be above the law and there is no point resorting to the law” Boy, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “[victims of sexual violence] went to report a case to the police, the case was registered but they were told that this case will not move ahead because the uncle is a lawyer and has immunity and nothing can be done against him.” GBV helpline service provider. “Sons of military or police personnel are not held accountable because of the status of their parents” Girl, Shendi, River Nile. Additionally, according to the current Sudanese law, Members of the Sudanese police, security forces or armed forces are granted conditional immunity against any prosecution for any acts committed in the course of their duty, including rape³⁴.

Some [types of GBV] have no legislation criminalizing them”

- Expert, Blue Nile.

The broad legal framework is also reported not to be effective in addressing GBV cases (see Table 2 for an overview of the legal framework). “There is no formal mechanism to prosecute and punish perpetrators of violence. Some [types of GBV] have no legislation criminalizing them” Expert, Blue Nile. “There is no effective law to protect the victims. The authorities are weak in enforcing the law” Man, Bielel camp, South Darfur. The prospect of facing a prosecution for adultery or wrongful accusation constitutes a strong deterrent for any rape victim who considers bringing a complaint³⁵.

“Community and traditional leaders take men’s side, when a girl claims to be raped they say that she is the one who encouraged him”

- IDP girl, Geneina, West Darfur.



³³ REACH, Sudan Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), Key findings Protection, 2021, [link](#).

³⁴ REDRESS, Reforming Sudan's Legislation on Rape and Sexual Violence, 2008, [link](#).

³⁵ Rape may need to be proved according to the rules of evidence applying to adultery which requires at least one of the following: 1) a confession; 2) four male witnesses who have witnessed the actual penetration; 3) pregnancy; 4) an oath by the spouse. REDRESS, Reforming Sudan's Legislation on Rape and Sexual Violence, 2008, [link](#).

Table 2 – Legal framework on protection from Gender Based Violence³⁶

Criminal laws			
<p>Domestic violence</p> <p>Sudan does not currently have domestic violence legislation. Work on the law is ongoing.</p>	<p>Marital rape</p> <p>Marital rape is not specifically criminalized. The wife owes a duty of obedience to her husband and is required to fulfil conjugal duties in the marriage.</p>	<p>Rape (other than from spouse)</p> <p>Rape is criminalized by Article 149 of the Criminal Act 1991. The death penalty applies in some circumstances.</p>	<p>Abortion for rape survivors</p> <p>Under Article 135 of the Criminal Act 1991, abortion is legal if the pregnancy is the result of a rape which occurred not more than 90 days before the pregnant woman has desired to have the abortion³⁷.</p>
<p>Sexual harassment</p> <p>Article 151 of the Criminal Act was amended in 2015 to criminalize acts of sexual harassment</p>	<p>Adultery</p> <p>Adultery is an offence under Articles 145 and 146 of the Criminal Act.</p>	<p>Female Genital Mutilation</p> <p>A proposed amendment to the Criminal Act to criminalize FGM/C was adopted in 2020.</p>	<p>Sex work and anti-prostitution</p> <p>Prostitution is prohibited by Articles 154–156 of the Criminal Act.</p>
<p>Human trafficking</p> <p>The Combating of Human Trafficking Act of 2014 provides comprehensive measures against trafficking.</p>			
Personal status law			
<p>Minimum age of marriage</p> <p>Article 15 of the Interim Constitution protects children from early marriage. The Personal Status Law is unclear regarding the age of legal marriage. Article 215 of the Personal Status Law states that the age of majority is 18. However, other articles allow underage marriages in some cases. Work on the law is ongoing.</p>	<p>Male guardianship over women</p> <p>A woman requires permission of a guardian to marry. The woman's consent is also required, but the guardian can conclude the marriage contract first and seek the woman's consent later</p>	<p>Marriage and divorce</p> <p>The Personal Status Law requires the husband to maintain the wife. The wife owes obedience to the husband. A husband can divorce by repudiation (talaq). A wife has the right to divorce on specified grounds. She can also apply for a khul'a divorce (initiated by the wife) without grounds if she forgoes financial rights.</p>	<p>Polygamy</p> <p>Polygamy is permitted by the Personal Status Law.</p>
<p>Guardianship of children</p> <p>The father is the guardian and is responsible for providing financial support.</p>	<p>Custody of children</p> <p>After divorce, a mother's custody of her children continues till boys reach seven years and girls reach nine years. A mother may lose custody if she remarries unless a court permits her to retain custody in the best interest of the child.</p>	<p>Inheritance</p> <p>The Personal Status Law defines the rules of inheritance for Muslims, which follow Sharia principles. Women have a right to inheritance, but in many cases receive less than men. Daughters receive half the share that sons receive.</p>	<p>Legal restriction on women's work</p> <p>Article 19 of the Labour Act prohibits women from working in occupations that are hazardous, arduous, or harmful to their health.</p>

³⁶ Table adapted and updated from: UNDP, Sudan Gender, Justice and the Law, 2018, [link](#)³⁷ Although there are a number of barriers that prevent survivors from accessing abortion services.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Over 90% of Sudan's localities lack specialized GBV services³⁸. Experts reported that where services exist, they are of low quality, and there are some critical gaps. "There is a difference between the availability and quality of services" Expert, Blue Nile.

Health centers are reported to lack access to basic utilities. "They lack electricity and running water and there is no equipment" Woman, Elfaw, Gadaref. "It lacks a water tank" Boy, Rural Kassala, Kassala.

"They lack electricity and running water and there is no equipment"

- Woman, Elfaw, Gadaref.

Experts also reported the low capacity and lack of training of service providers. "Staff is not trained to deal with victims" Expert, North Kordofan. "The number of staff is neither enough nor qualified" Expert, North Darfur. There is a "need [for] capacity building for providers of services (health, psychological, social and legal assistance)." Expert, South Darfur.

Experts reported that GBV services rely on inconsistent sources of funding. "It is also dangerous that such services depend on projects and temporary financing. And it should be continuous" Expert, Khartoum.

Another related issue is a "lack of [...] coordination and linkage between parties" Expert, Kassala. There is a "lack of coordination between the competent authorities in providing services"; and "no cooperation between them" Expert, Khartoum.

GBV helpline

In April 2020, as a response to COVID19, CVAW and UNFPA established the first GBV helpline in Sudan to refer GBV survivors to essential services, and provide remote support. Findings from an analysis of calls received suggest that physical violence (including in the home, categorized as domestic violence in this report) is the most common type of GBV, reported by 68% of callers. Other common types reported by callers include verbal violence (40%), Psychological abuse (23%)

and Economic violence (15%). For the vast majority of respondents, the perpetrator was a family member or intimate partner.

The findings are consistent with those of the present study, with most of the violence happening inside the home especially physical violence. Psychological, verbal, economic and sexual violence are also frequently reported on. FGM and child marriage are perceived as accepted social practices, and therefore less commonly reported on.

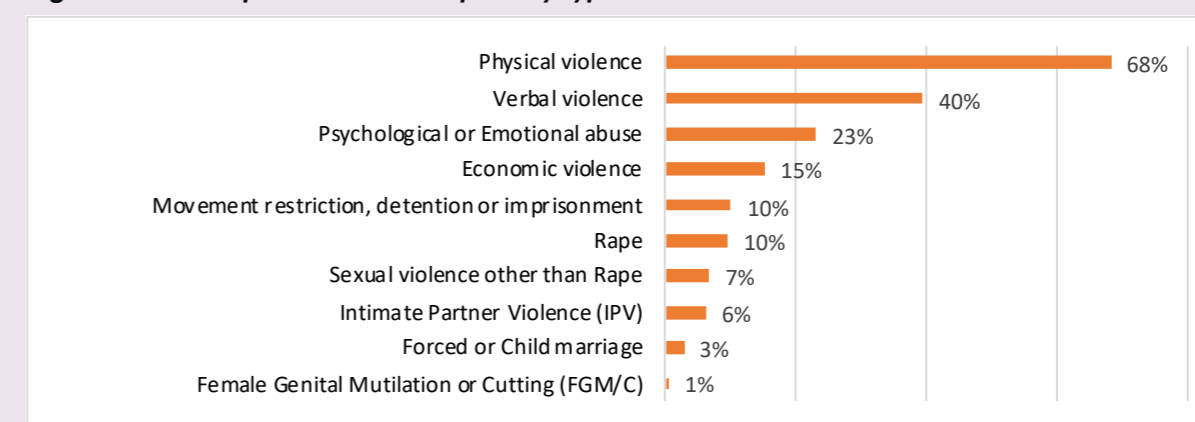
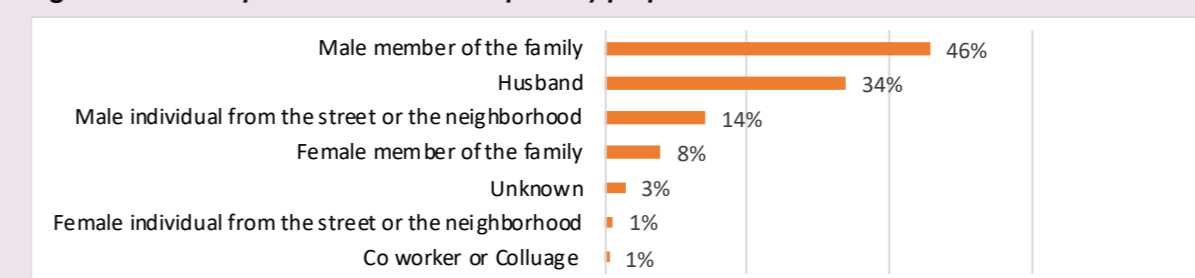
Figure 5 - cases reported to GBV helpline by type³⁹

Figure 6 - cases reported to the GBV helpline by perpetrator

³⁸ UN, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021, [link](#)³⁹ CVAW, Sudan GBV helpline Service 2020 Annual Summary Report, Dr Abdelbasit, R.M.

BARRIERS TO ACCESS

“We do not have an ambulance to reach facilities in case of emergencies”

- Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref.

GBV services were largely reported to be inaccessible outside of larger cities and towns which creates large gaps in services that especially affect rural communities. “Centralization of services in towns and the state capital, making it difficult for victims from remote areas to access them due to long distances, bad roads, and the financial cost of transportation” expert, Blue Nile. “Unsafe roads” and “closing roads during rainy season” impeded people’s access to services, experts, North and Central Darfur. Emergency referrals are mostly unavailable. “We do not have an ambulance to reach facilities in case of emergencies” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref.

Lack of financial support is another barrier often noted by experts and communities. “According to the case there are financial obstacles hindering access to services” Expert, Central Darfur. “We need transportation to reach services, it is too expensive” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

Community awareness was a commonly noted barrier to accessing services. “Services are accessible if there is awareness,” Expert, South Kordofan. However, there seems to be a “lack of awareness” around services, Expert, South Kordofan. Another expert noted, “awareness raising is important for outreaching and decreasing fear from the provided services, [and for] activating laws against perpetrators of violence” Expert, Gezira. “So many people experience it but they do not know it is violence” Boy, Omdurman, Khartoum. “I don’t know” what services are available, Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Respondents reported corruption and nepotism in service provision. “Often they are provided to relatives and acquaintances” Boy, Yassin, East Darfur. Services are accessible with money or with connections” Man, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “Access depends on who you know” Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

Social stigma and the fear of service providers not keeping the case confidential also hinders access to GBV services. “Social stigma hinders reporting of rape cases” Expert, West Kordofan. “People don’t access them for fear of stigma, shame or revenge” Expert, North Kordofan. Care providers are not trusted especially if they are from the same community, for fear of gossip. “Especially if they are from the same community” Expert, West Darfur. “They don’t trust them with confidential information and are afraid of the spread of their problems in the areas where they live” Expert, Gezira. “There is a lack of privacy in the centers” Expert, North Darfur.

A lack of safety and security for GBV survivors is causing them to not access services when they are available. “If they report they could be victims again to intimidation of the perpetrator and his family” Expert, East Darfur. There is a need for “finding secure ways for women to ask for support” Expert, Gezira.

Access to critical health care can be significantly obstructed by the belief of mandatory reporting. “The hospital will not treat you without Form 8” Woman, Shendi, River Nile. “Health centers and hospitals do not accept treating the case before you report to the police” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

“They don’t trust them with confidential information and are afraid of the spread of their problems in the areas where they live”

- Expert, Gezira.



⁴⁰The requirement to present a Police form (Form 8) for accessing emergency and SGBV health services was lifted in 2016, however, knowledge about the lifting of the requirement has not trickled down to the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GBV is widespread, and deeply affects the lives of women and girls in Sudan. Addressing GBV is a critical priority. The current context, including the opening of space for discussing GBV represents an **opportunity for significant gains** in advancing women's rights. If supported with adequate resources, the government's commitment to advance women's rights could mean an unprecedented shift away from harmful and violent practices for the women and girls of Sudan. The recommendations drawn from the expressed priorities of respondents in this research include:

1. Prioritize domestic violence in GBV prevention and response efforts, by targeting and challenging the social norms and gendered inequality that enable this violence.

Addressing **domestic violence is a priority**, especially challenging the social norms that consider women as men's property and violence in the home as a normalized practice, rather than the severe violation of women's rights that it is. This manifests in restrictions on women's and girls' freedom of movement, reduced access to education compared to their male peers, early and forced marriages, and physical and sexual violence within and outside the home. Domestic violence increased due to COVID19 pandemic and must be addressed.

2. Target FGM and forced marriage for large-scale prevention interventions, including addressing the religious, social and economic factors that enable these practices. FGM and forced marriage are widespread, they deeply affect women and girl's lives. They are not considered harmful by communities, and more should be done to raise awareness of the harmfulness of these practices, and their consequences for women's lives. The religious, social norms and economic factors behind it must be addressed together to effectively reduce FGM prevalence.

3. Integrate GBV risk mitigation efforts into all service provision and humanitarian

response interventions, particularly targeting IDP and refugee women, in areas where they fetch water and firewood as well as women working in low pay and informal jobs and domestic workers. Qur'anic schools, where girls and boys are at risk of sexual violence are priority.

4. Ensure priority access for GBV survivors to essential services including healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and livelihood support

to provide them with alternatives and allow them to leave violent and abusive environments. Services for addressing GBV must be strengthened. This includes strengthening the health, psychosocial and legal services that survivors must receive. Health facilities need to be staffed by skilled personnel, they must have access to basic utilities and equipment. Addressing the barriers for accessing services is a priority, particularly the distance between facilities and therefore the cost of transportation, but also raising the awareness of the existence of services, ensuring effective referral mechanisms, and making sure that survivors are treated in a confidential manner.

5. Harmonise the national legal framework with recognised international best practice to ensure fairness and equity for women and girls who experience violence.

Despite the improvements in laws and legislations addressing GBV, the official **legal framework**, and traditional mechanisms for dispute resolution are still partially inadequate in addressing GBV. They must be prioritized especially looking at their fairness and equity.

6. Ensure that marginalised and at-risk groups are incorporated in GBV prevention and response efforts, including women without male guardians such as widowers, divorcees, and young girls between the age of puberty and marriage; and people with disabilities, especially intellectual disabilities.

"In our community the girl is married to her cousin or one of her relatives without her consent"

- Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.



When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents perceived the most common issues as per table 3.

Table 3 - Frequency analysis of respondents answers to the question on the most common GBV incidents in their community

STATES	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE	FORCED MARRIAGE	PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	ECONOMIC VIOLENCE	FGM
Blue Nile	20%	20%	23%	13%	19%	5%
Central Darfur	23%	32%	8%	17%	17%	3%
East Darfur	36%	14%	14%	6%	23%	5%
Gadaref	12%	21%	16%	17%	12%	20%
Gezira	10%	7%	20%	12%	8%	24%
Kassala	15%	21%	19%	7%	15%	18%
Khartoum	24%	29%	8%	22%	9%	7%
North Darfur	23%	28%	3%	23%	12%	9%
North Kordofan	26%	16%	18%	15%	8%	13%
Northern	20%	22%	18%	20%	6%	14%
Red Sea	6%	2%	41%	9%	13%	26%
River Nile	25%	19%	14%	23%	11%	8%
Sennar	20%	22%	17%	19%	8%	6%
South Darfur	20%	22%	18%	10%	15%	10%
South Kordofan	23%	20%	16%	15%	16%	10%
West Darfur	17%	25%	10%	27%	13%	8%
West Kordofan	20%	25%	8%	19%	15%	9%
White Nile	11%	1%	18%	19%	26%	19%
Grand Total	19%	19%	16%	16%	14%	12%

BLUE NILE

1.05 M
POPULATION



0.27 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



32% - 87%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



80K
IDPS



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



50%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



39%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



28%
POLYGAMY



6.7%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: forced marriage (23%), domestic violence (20%), sexual violence (20%), economic violence including denial of education (19%), psychological violence (13%), FGM (5%).

Domestic violence was mentioned by 18% of respondents as common GBV incident. "The main cause of violence in the state is the social norms and customs and the male-dominant cultural heritage which treats women as property of men". GBV expert, Blue Nile. This manifests for example in restrictions of movement imposed on women. "They prevent women from attending social events" Woman, Geissan, Blue Nile. "women are not allowed to move after 4pm in late afternoon" Boy, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. It also manifests in the exclusion of women from decision-making "girls have no say and the power and decisions are with fathers and sons at home" Girl, Geissan, Blue Nile.

This is particularly true with widows "when husband die, women are kept inside homes until they remarry" Boy, Bau, Blue Nile.

Physical assault is reported often as a form of domestic violence, where fathers and brothers beat or whip wives and sisters. "husbands beating wives because of disobedience"

Girls, Bau, Blue Nile. "Some brothers beat their sisters at home if they don't serve them such as in washing clothes or getting water for bathing". Girl, Geissan, Blue Nile. Physical assault is also reported in weddings "the bride has to run away after setting the wedding date and the tribe has to chase her and beat her and bring her back" boy, Bau, Blue Nile.

Economic violence. Preventing women and girls from accessing education is a common practice "many families prevent girls from education because of the bad and deteriorating economic conditions" Boy, Geissan, Blue Nile.

Forced marriage is reported by 22% of respondents as being a common harmful practice; most respondents indicate 12-17 as age for marriage. "Girls were engaged at very early ages, and get married soon even if they are very young" Boy, Bau, Blue Nile. "The community is very religious with the belief that girls should marry at puberty and the father will be punished in hell for every menstrual cycle" Boy, Bau, Blue Nile. "Early marriage protects girls" Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. "the economic situation and fear of shame are the reasons behind early marriages" Woman, Bau, Blue Nile.

The community does not consider child marriage as forced marriage. "there are no forced marriages and girls are always consulted" Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. "in the past there was forced marriage, but now with education and awareness it decreased" Boy, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile.

Sexual violence including assault and harassment is often in connection with farming or the collection of water or wood. “on the road to bring water from Hafir, we were harassed” Woman, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. “when they go farming, or collecting wood or bringing water from hafirs or pumps” Girl, Geissan, Blue Nile. “Raped girls are married to the perpetrators and thus they shoulder the responsibility” Man, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile

Respondents mentioned that danger zones are those far away from the community, that women go to for farming or collecting water. “Water places far from residential areas, thus leading to cases of sexual violence and harassment” but also military areas, “military areas are dangerous, especially after 2011 where women were raped” Boy, Bau, Blue Nile, and festivals and places where alcohol is sold and consumed “in places where alcohol is sold and consumed women are exposed to violence” Woman, Geissan, Blue Nile.

Groups most at risk are thought by the community to be young girls, and IDPs “girls in their 12-20 are most exposed to violence, in addition to groups that moved after the war because of lack of security and shelter” Boy, Geissan, Blue Nile.

Female Genital Mutilation is practiced, especially amongst the Arab tribes in the state “girls and women from Arab tribes suffer from FGM” Expert, Blue Nile.

Psychological violence. Survivors are blamed for violence, which exposes them to further forms of violence “women are to blame if exposed to violence” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. “the blame was put on the girl which was expressed by forbidding her from going out from the home or continuing school or participating in social events” Boy, Geissan, Blue Nile. “beating is the first expression of blaming” Woman, Geissan, Blue Nile.

Participants reported that **men and boys** are not exposed to sexual violence, however as for violence against women and girls, violence against men and boys often goes significantly under-reported.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

COVID19 restrictions did not significantly affect people's ability to move “the situation is normal and not affected by COVID19” Girl, Geissan, Blue Nile.

Respondents indicated that COVID19 increased forms of violence that are linked to the economic advantage of performing them, including child marriage, and FGM. “COVID19 affected the communities, by increasing violence against girls because of the economic situation” Boy, Bau, Blue Nile. “With the closing of schools and universities [due to COVID19] the rate of forced marriage greatly increased because of the deteriorating economic situation and the political situation.” Woman, Geissan, Blue Nile. “4 girls, less than 13 years old, got married during COVID19” Boy, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. FGM also increased during school closure “there was no increase in violence except with regard to FGM” Man, Bau, Blue Nile.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Women and girls cope with the risk of violence and blame by avoiding certain places, moving in groups, staying or returning home early. “women were told not to go to certain areas” Boy, Bau, Blue Nile.

Reporting is rare. The main barriers to reporting are “fear of social stigma and criminalization of the victim herself and blaming her for what happened because of her dress or behavior, ignorance of existing specialized services, distrust of the legal procedures or inaccessibility of services due to the bad roads or the cost of transportation”. Expert, Blue Nile. “Fear of the perpetrator” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. “The response of the victim depends on the place, form of violence and social status” Expert, Blue Nile. Respondents mostly agreed that reporting violence is first to their families or friends, and in second instance to the sheikh or the police. Domestic violence is mostly unreported “if women are exposed to violence they ask for the protection of their families” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile. “Women cannot report on their husbands because of the blood ties” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile.

Response to GBV is done at community level, with governmental **justice mechanisms** being used as a last resort “There is no formal mechanism to prosecute and punish perpetrators of violence. Some [types of GBV] have no legislation criminalizing them” Expert, Blue Nile. “all issues are solved by sheikhs and community leaders. In case they failed, they refer them to legal institutions (such as the police)” Woman, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile.

Informal mechanisms of dispute resolution perpetrate injustice against women. “at the level of the village, people resort to informal mechanisms (such as Joudia) which in most cases covers up the crime and could even involve killing or marrying off the victim to any person or to the perpetrator of the crime in case of sexual violence”. Expert, Blue Nile. “Some women are strong and don't recognize the authority of guardians or neighbors. In this case we go to the sheikhs.” Men, Geissan, Blue Nile. Whilst men respondents believe that informal mechanisms are preferable “popular ways are better than law” Man, Geissan, Blue Nile “courts take a long time to rule on cases” man, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. Women reported that they are unjust. “in most cases perpetrators are not apprehended because of the interventions by joudia and sheikhs” Woman, Bau, Blue Nile.

Specialized services exist to a limited extent. “Only health support is available” Woman, El Kurnuk, Blue Nile. “Available services are not enough to meet the needs of all communities in the state” Expert, Blue Nile.

Services are mostly centralized in cities and unavailable in rural areas. “Centralization of services [are] in towns and the state capital, making it difficult for victims from remote areas to access them due to long distances, bad roads, and the financial cost of transportation” expert, Blue Nile. “There is a difference between the availability and quality of services” Expert, Blue Nile.

CENTRAL DARFUR

1.91 M

POPULATION



0.88 M

PEOPLE
IN NEED



14% - 45%

0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



360 K

IDPS



AVERAGE
DATA QUALITY



55%

CHILD
MARRIAGE



63%

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



45%

POLYGAMY



5.7%

FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what types of GBV are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (32%), domestic violence (23%), economic violence including denial of education (17%), psychological violence (17%), forced marriage (8%), FGM (3%).

Domestic violence, especially beating, is reported by most respondents as a common practice. “husbands beat their wives in front of the children” Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “there is a lot of beating, pulling hair, insult, rebuke” Boy, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. The community does not perceive domestic violence as a serious GBV practice “there is a say, hitting a donkey, a hob or a woman is the same” Man, Zalingei, Central Darfur. “family members are not held responsible because of the blood ties” Woman, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “and for fear of the collapse of social relations” Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Movement restriction is very high, where women are not allowed to move without consent. “preventing women from going out without husband's consent” Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “Forbidding girls from going to far away universities” Boy, Zalingei, Central Darfur. “[a man] denied women work, and threatened polygamy if she insisted” Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Inside the house women are forced to “work hard in farming and bricklaying and wood collection” Girl, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur, and “women can be divorced if they refuse to work.” Boy, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

FGM is not reported by respondents as a key concern, with only few respondents mentioning it amongst the common harmful practices. “there is female circumcision in homes” Man, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Forced marriage is reported as a common practice in Central Darfur. “The age is 14 to 16, often to relatives and this is due to the customs and norms” Woman, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “there are very rare cases of marriage of girls of 10 years old” Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur. “the main reasons are economic because the husband pays the girl's parents a lot of money” Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur. “forced marriage is because of fear of shame of being unmarried” Man, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Forced marriage is common to cover up pregnancies outside of wedlock “marriage always happens when there are cases of girls pregnant outside of wedlock” Man, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. “there is forced marriage to older men because of incident of bearing children out of wedlock in your family or amongst the neighbors' family so to cover up” Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

"there is a say, hitting a donkey, a hob or a woman is the same

" Man, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Sexual violence, and sexual harassment is responded by most respondents as a concern. "sexual assault from male relatives who live in the same household is the most common violence. We found a father who raped his daughter in Zalingei" Expert, Central Darfur.

"perpetrators of sexual violence are most common amongst the military" Expert, Central Darfur. "militias practice violence and they go unaccounted for" Girl, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. "the Janjaweed are not tried in courts because of their power which protects them against accountability" Boy, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Tribal and racial motivations increase the risk of sexual violence "black women from various tribes are most exposed" Boy, Zalingei, Central Darfur. Women working as domestic workers are particularly vulnerable "women and girls who work in houses are at risk" Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Exploitation and abuse of women working informal jobs outside the home is common. There is "sexual exploitation of women working in construction" Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Economic violence. "In some Arab tribes, women shoulder the financial responsibilities of the family" Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur. "there is exploitation in labor and employment" Man, Zalingei, Central Darfur. Usually the proceedings of women's work are taken away by men in the house. Women are prevented from accessing financial resources and are completely dependent on men for money "[men] are not allowing women to have financial resources" Woman, Zalingei, Central Darfur. Polygamy is perceived as a form of violence, if men do not have enough financial resources to provide for their wives "polygamy, without enough financial resources" Woman, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

Women are denied their right to inheritance "one form of violence is to deny women their inheritance rights" Man, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

Psychological violence. Respondents reported that women are also abused psychologically and verbally. "Psychological violence such as threats and constant monitoring of women are common" Woman, Zalingei, Central Darfur. "this weakens women's self-confidence, [...] and reduces their abilities and capabilities" Boy, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

IDPs are very vulnerable to all types of violence including GBV. "IDPs are most exposed to violence because they are considered outlaws" Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur. "Armed conflicts in Darfur make IDPs and refugees more vulnerable to violence" Woman, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

Sexual violence against **men and boys** is rare but reported. It happens in Qur'anic schools "violence against children happens in *Khalwas*, and is practiced by Sheikhs, sometimes rape" Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur. "Men are threatened of rape and murder in security forces offices" Girl, Wadi Salih,

Central Darfur. Respondents agreed that in case of violence against men and boys, it would go unreported.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

Most respondents mentioned an increase in economic violence "the serious economic crisis forced many women heads of families who were unemployed to do whatever to feed their children exposing them to more violence. If we compare 2019 with 2020 it is clear that the situation worsened" Expert, Central Darfur. "Violence increased because of the unavailability of employment"; "the economic violence increased due to the high cost of living and the failure to control the prices of goods" Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur.

Sexual violence by armed forces decreased "Janjaweed were the perpetrators of most violence. They were regularized and sent to the war in Yemen and elsewhere and that led to a decrease in incidents of violence" Expert, Central Darfur. "the situation regarding sexual violence improved because of the political changes, but there is still a lot of violence like what happened in Masterei" Woman, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

Some respondents also reported that the risks of some forms of GBV are increasingly known to the community "the situation improved on FGM because of awareness raising on its dangers" Boy, Nertiti, Central Darfur. "there is community awareness on violence" Man, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

"COVID19 produced an increased in domestic violence due to the presence of husbands in the house all day long" Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur. "like the expression of their dominance in the house in negative ways which led to beatings, insults, divorces" Boy, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur. Economic violence also increased as a result of COVID19 because "it led to closure of markets so people with informal jobs are deeply affected like tea sellers losing their income" Woman, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Reporting is rare, especially if the perpetrator is a family member "no if the perpetrator is a family member he will not be reported" Girl, Nertiti, Central Darfur. Women are blamed for violence "they fear their brothers and husbands, and being accused of adultery" Woman, Nertiti, Central Darfur.

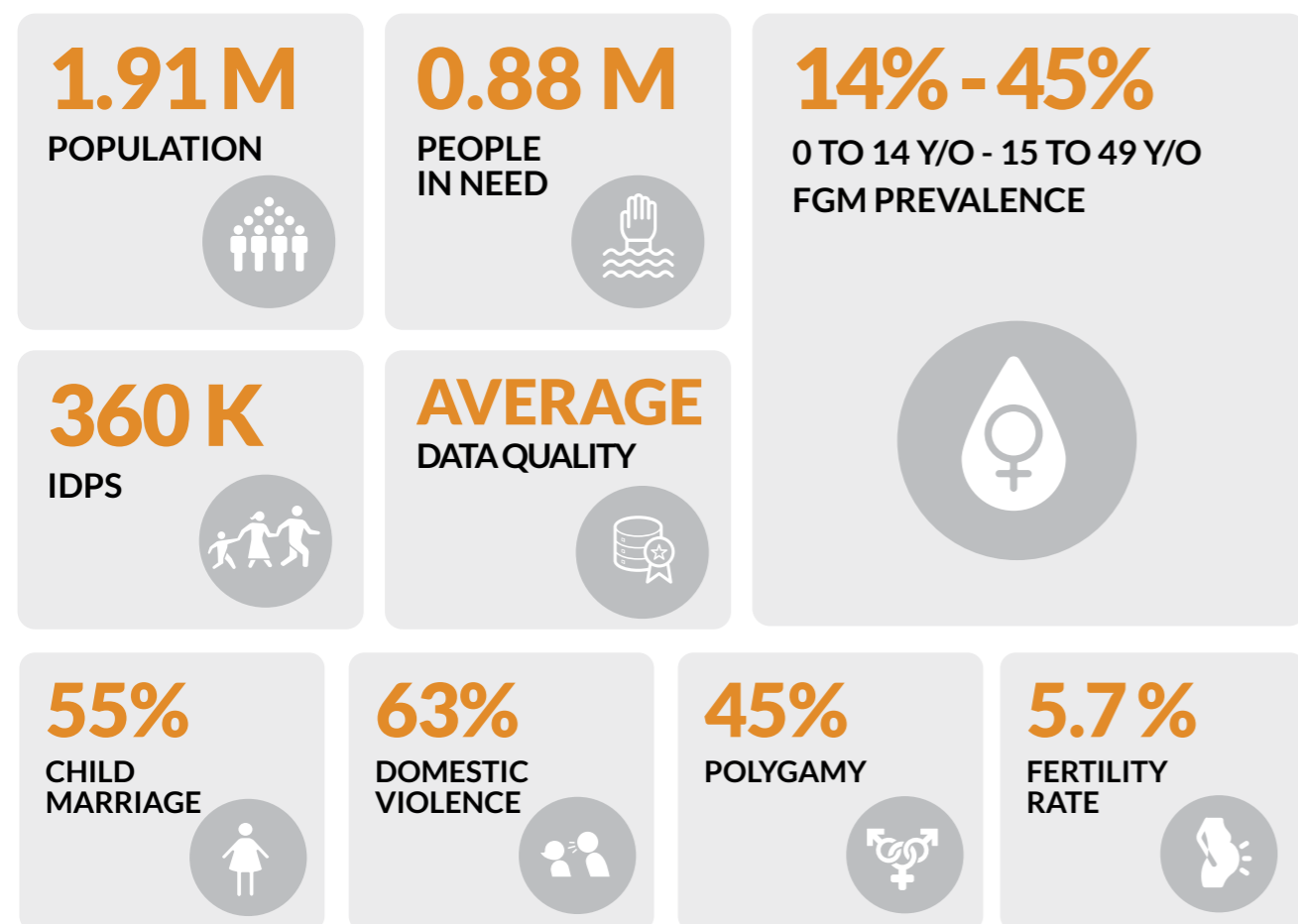
The key barriers to reporting include fear of the perpetrator, shame and defamation "nobody is informed for fear of shame and reputation" Boy, Zalingei, Central Darfur. "No, for fear of defamation" Girl, Zalingei, Central Darfur. "[survivors receive] threats from perpetrator to repeat what happened" Man, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

If reporting violence, most respondents agreed that it would be first to the family, then to the community leaders and sheikhs, and the police. "they would inform the family, who

in turn informs the Sheikhs and he notifies the police” Boy, Wadi Salih, Central Darfur.

Specialized services including health, legal, security and psychosocial services exist, however, they are poor quality, and only available in state capitals. “They are limited to the states’ capitals” Expert, Central Darfur. “Services are available but low quality, and they are different between different places and localities” Expert, Central Darfur.

EAST DARFUR



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: domestic violence (36%), economic violence including denial of education (23%), sexual violence (14%), forced marriage (14%), psychological violence (6%), and FGM (5%).

Economic violence. Respondents reported that it is common for men to deny women resources, even if they were earned by the woman herself. This is reported to happen both in refugee camp “[men] take away women’s earnings from farming” Refugee woman, Al Nimir camp, East Darfur; and host communities “women’s income earned from

Barriers to access include distance, inaccessibility during the rainy season, and financial cost of services and transportation. “No because of the distance from service provision centers” Woman, Zalingei, Central Darfur; and “closing roads during rainy season” Expert, Central Darfur. “According to the case there are financial obstacles hindering access to services” Expert, Central Darfur.

farming are taken away” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. Widows are identified as a particularly vulnerable group “widows are victims of violence regarding inheritance” Man, Abu Jabra, East Darfur.

Forced marriage is common “it is practiced on both male and females” Boy, Yassin, East Darfur. Marriage amongst relatives is common due to the tribal set up of society “marriage among relatives is a common harmful practice”. “There is an agreement between families to exchange brides” Man, Abu Jabra, East Darfur.

Most respondents agreed that fear of shame is a key contributor to early marriage “there is fear of shame in case a girl is pregnant illegally” Man, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur.

FGM is common in the community. “female circumcision is prevalent” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur.

Domestic violence in the form of beating is common “especially in the early stage of marriage” Boy, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. Domestic violence goes mostly unreported “I keep silent. I respect my husband because he protects me” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur.

Women and girls’ movement is restricted “women should stay home” Man, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. Their access to education is limited “girls are deprived from education” Girl, Yassin, East Darfur.

Psychological violence. Survivors of GBV are very vulnerable to repeated violence. The vast majority of respondents agreed that when violence happens, women and girls are blamed for the violence “they are insulted and isolated” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. “They are forced to return and stay with her husband” Girl, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. Girls are “forced to marry an old man” Boy, Abu Jabra, East Darfur; or “kicked out to the streets and may commit suicide” Refugee woman, Al Nimir camp, East Darfur.

Sexual violence. “there are rapes killing and tribal problems in IDP camps” Boy, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. Perpetrators of violence are “security forces, family members, socially or financially powerful men, and youth resistance committee members, nomads, employers (particularly to the refugees and displaced)”. Expert, East Darfur. Most respondents agreed that there are danger zones in the community. These are particularly due to the fact that there are tribal conflicts and a lack of state security forces “there is no police or government organ to punish them” Man, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur.

Men and boys - Men and boys are not reported to be subject to gender based violence, except for child marriage. Violence against men and boys is “not reported, for fear of others viewing him as a coward” Man, Yassin, East Darfur.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Over the last year, most respondents reported a deterioration of the situation. The majority of respondents explain it with the economic situation “because of lower incomes which leads to beatings and divorce” Boy, Yassin, East Darfur. But also because of the “the political vacuum at the government level” Man, Bahr al Arab, East Darfur.

COVID19 was reported to increase GBV particularly domestic violence due to the closure of markets and the increase in the time that families spent together at home “physical violence by men increased because they are at home unemployed” Refugee woman, Al Nimir Camp, East Darfur.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Women have limited ways of making violence stop. “I surrender to violence because there is no way for me to protect myself. Nobody protects me.” Woman, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. Women and girls cope with the violence by asking their children or relatives to accompany them when leaving the house, or going to faraway places. Dressing conservatively is also considered a protection mechanism. “I take my brother with me to guard me” Girl, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur.

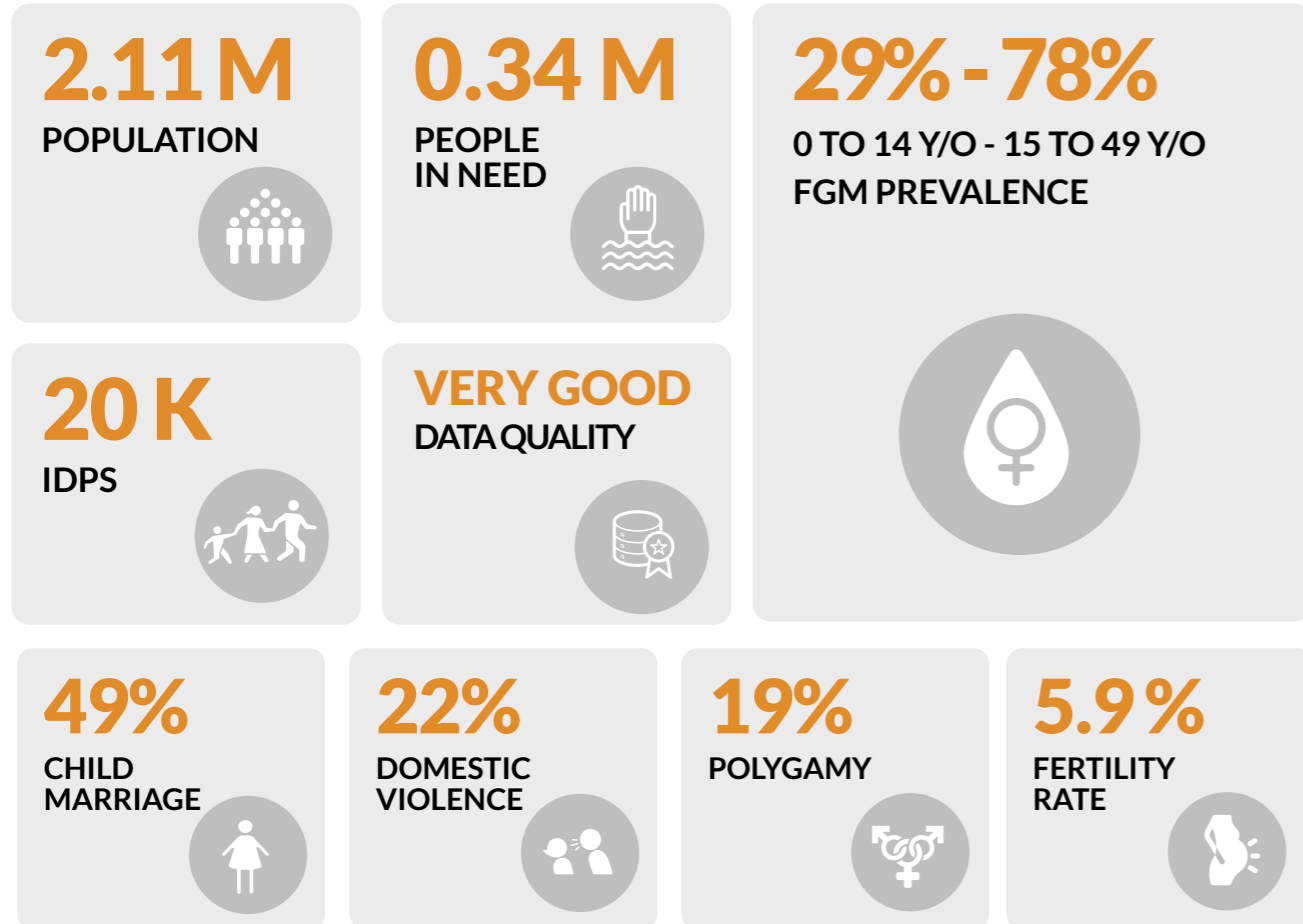
When violence occurs, it mostly goes unreported. Most respondents indicated that they would not report because of fear of the repercussions “They tell no one” Man, Yassin, East Darfur. “the fear is expulsion, marriage to an old man” Girl, Yassin, East Darfur. “Killing, shame” Girl, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. “It will be considered a weakness from part of the men in the family” Woman, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur. “There is an understanding between the two tribes to solve the issue” Man, Abu Jabra, East Darfur. Family, the police, and health units are the first respondents in case of violence.

Respondents reported that formal justice mechanisms are not trusted, while informal mechanisms are unfair. “There is lack of trust between the citizens and authorities such as the police to encourage reporting” Boy, Yassin, East Darfur. “There are no formal ways to settle the issue. [...] Sometimes the issue is settled with the family of the victim by giving them food or proposing the marriage of the victim which is added to the wives of the chief” Experts, East Darfur.

Respondents agreed that specialized services related to health, psychosocial support are available, however “people are not aware of them, and often they are provided to relatives and acquaintances” Boy, Yassin, East Darfur. “There are tribal discriminations” Man, Bahr el Arab, East Darfur.

Most respondents agreed that the key barriers to accessing health services is accessibility and cost of the service and of transportation. Respondents also raised improved security as a critical gap, as well as psychosocial and legal services. “Support to victims, particularly income generating services are a critical gap” Expert, East Darfur. “Safety and security particularly for the victims and her family” because there is a fear that “if they report they could be victims again to intimidation of the perpetrator and his family” Expert, East Darfur

GADAREF



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (21%), FGM (20%), psychological violence (17%), forced marriage (16%), domestic violence (12%), and economic violence including denial of education (12%).

FGM is very prominent in Gadaref state. Most respondents cited FGM as a prominent issue “female circumcision is a priority for every mother and father” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. “It is practiced at early age (5 years old) by traditional midwives. [...] all this takes place in secret.” Girl, Elfaw, Gadaref. Repeating FGM (type III) is also common “correction procedures (repeating FGM after childbirth) are common, where the woman goes through re-sewing after each childbirth. This practice is obligatory and requested by the husband before sexual intercourse” Girl, Elbutana, Gadaref. Women can be divorced or the engagement terminated if a man finds out that the fiancé or wife is not circumcised “he may leave his fiancé because of her refraining from circumcision” Girl, Elrahad, Gadaref.

Forced marriage is very common. Marriage often happens between members of the same family. “The father forced the

girl to marry because her cousin wants to marry her” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. Respondents indicated that the reasons for child marriage are economic: “she gets married because of the family’s weak economic factor to improve their income” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. But also to the “family’s lack of interest in the necessity of education and fear of shame if girls stay unmarried or get pregnant out of wedlock” Girl, Elrahad, Gadaref.

Sexual violence is mentioned particularly in Qur’anic schools (Khalwas) both by older students and by Sheikhs. “Sexual assault of children even in Khalwas, by Sheikhs” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref. “In Quranic school [...] young students are raped by older students” Girl, Elhawata, Gadaref. This is reported to be “due to the absence of supervision on them” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref.

Danger zones for sexual violence are reported to be connected to places where alcohol and drugs are sold and consumed “all areas where large numbers of drug and school users are present are dangerous” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. “Agricultural areas where there are shepherds are dangerous” Man, Elfaw, Gadaref.

Economic violence. Denial of education is an issue in

Gadaref state. “there is gender discrimination and girls fail to complete their education” Woman, Elbutana, Gadaref. “Education is not important in this area, and the society considers a woman as of low status” Girl, Elhawata, Gadaref. Some men force women to work, and take away their salary “women are forced by the husband to work instead of looking after their children” Woman, Elbutana, Gadaref. Psychological violence is reported in the state. “Verbal violence in the form of threats is common. Some youth threaten girls to do something against her will or blackmail her” Girl, Elbutana, Gadaref.

Women and girls are blamed for the violence. “yes, and blame is often after knowing the type of violence and the causes. Sometimes it leads to suicide” Boy, Butana, Gadaref. “Sometimes the blame is expressed by beating them” Man, Elfaw, Gadaref.

Sexual violence against **men and boys** is reported. “there are many cases of rape and assault against boys, almost daily. Most assaults are around areas where alcohol and drugs are made and consumed. Sexual assault happens in Khalwas (Qur’anic school) by Sheikhs”. Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref. Most violence goes unreported, “he is afraid of being called a coward” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. It is only reported in case of a major incident or obvious injury “it is reported if there is an obvious injury” Woman, Elbutana, Gadaref.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Most respondents reported that the situation improved regarding FGM and child marriage “female circumcision and child marriage improved because of the awareness of families regarding harmful practices that can cause death” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref; on the other hand, economic violence, domestic violence and sexual violence worsened. “Physical violence such as assault, economic violence and harassment worsened due to the political and economic challenges” Woman, Elrahad, Gadaref.

COVID19 did not have a significant impact, because most people did not respect the stay-at-home regulations “did not affect because most societies did not adhere to the directives of the ban and not go out” Boy, Butana, Gadaref. Some respondents reported that domestic violence increased because of families spending more time at home together “physical violence increased as brothers and sisters and other family members due to the presence of men at home most of the times” Boy, Alsalam, Gadaref.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Most respondents agreed that incidents go unreported, mainly because of “fear of stigma and shame especially in the case of sexual harassment and rape. Women who are exposed to violence may be rejected” Expert, Gadaref. Some respondents reported that violence goes unreported because of the lack of available services.

There is no prosecution for the perpetrators. “Those with influence and power in the society are often not held accountable because of their high status, herders and nomads are not held accountable due to the lack of knowledge of the perpetrator and their constant movement” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref.

The majority of respondents reported that in case violence is reported, support would be sought from members of the family, however “the choice depends on the type of violence” Woman, Elbutana, Gadaref. A limited number of respondents would seek the support of community leaders.

Most respondents agreed that some healthcare and psychosocial support services exist in the state, however, they are limited and poor quality. Services that are consistently reported to need strengthening are health services and legal. “Healthcare and psychosocial support services need to be strengthened” Woman, Elrahad, Gadaref. Healthcare services lack basic supplies “they lack electricity and running water and there is no equipment” Woman, Elfaw, Gadaref.

The key barriers to access are distance and unavailability of services outside state capitals “the distance is high from the health facility” Boy, Butana, Gadaref. There are “limited health services outside the cities” Expert, Gadaref. “We do not have an ambulance to reach facilities in case of emergencies” Boy, Elfaw, Gadaref. There is an “inherent fear and reluctance to access services” Expert, Gadaref.

The situation of newly arrived Ethiopian Tigreian refugees in Eastern Sudan

Sexual violence

Refugees reported that sexual violence is not a big concern in both Omrakuba and Village 8 camps. "I did not hear anything about sexual violence" Refugee woman, Village 8 camp, Gadaref. "We live in peace here" Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref.

The perception of lack of prevalence is most likely due to underreporting and the stigma associated with GBV. "The girl was out for the whole day that is why the mother suspected something had happened. Otherwise she would not have reported"; "In the camp, I heard of two cases of rape. One was the case of a boy who tried to give the girl money after raping her." Experts reported that rape incidents happen, but lack of documentation prevents survivors from reporting. "Violence is underreported. Due to their status, most of them do not have documentation or ID so they are afraid to go to COR or police" Expert, Gadaref.

Human trafficking, and forced labor

"There is a network for human trafficking on the other side [of the border], from the time they are caught, they go through different locations and there they are exposed to violence. There are a lot of people in need of PSS services" Expert, Gadaref.

Issues of forced labor and harassment are common, especially with unaccompanied refugee women working in the host community⁴¹. "Unaccompanied ladies are in the community, and they are being exploited for labor [...] There are many issues of harassment. This is from host community towards refugees". Expert, Gadaref.

Physical violence

Competition for aid assistance is acute in the camp, and this escalates in violence especially against women. "When we try to get support (from aid distributions), we cannot compete enough with the men. We get physical violence." "When we go to collect water, we are assaulted with sticks by other refugees. There is a competition for resources." "Support to the camps

need to prioritize women, there are so many women who are pregnant, it must be taken into consideration". Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref.

Survival sex

As a result of the lack of livelihoods, it is common that especially young unmarried girls are forced into survival sex. "In village 8 it is also a big problem, as in Omrakuba" Expert, Gadaref. "Some women work as sex workers due to lack of economic resources. There are many prostitutes in the camp. Young and unmarried would be the typical sex worker. They choose this profession for lack of alternatives. Now it became normalized." Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref. "Here they may not be able to feed themselves, so they start practicing it. There are some in the camp. If the economic status deteriorates, they will be pushed to it." Refugee woman, Village 8 camp, Gadaref.

Reporting GBV incidents

Most respondents identify police as first institution for reporting. "I would talk to my mother and report it to the police". Refugee woman, Omrakuba camp, Gadaref. "I would report it to the police" Refugee woman, Village 8 camp, Gadaref. "There is a real problem in dealing with survivors or cases of GBV. For example, when the cases are referred to police, there is a hostile environment towards survivors." Expert, Gadaref.

Child marriage, forced marriage and FGM

Forced marriage and FGM are not reported to be common practice amongst refugees. "maybe in some areas in Ethiopia they do it, but in Tigray [forced marriage] is not common"; "Genital mutilation, what is it? Ah...no it is not practiced amongst Tigreians" Refugee woman, Village 8 camp, Gadaref.

With the integration of refugees with host communities, it is likely that these practices may be taken up. "Before the current crisis, Gadaref had a refugee population, they started practicing FGM. The same will happen for the newcomers, when they integrate they will for sure take up these harmful practices." Expert, Gadaref.

GEZIRA

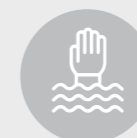
1.05 M

POPULATION



0.27 M

PEOPLE
IN NEED



32% - 87%

0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



80K

IDPS



GOOD

DATA QUALITY



50%

CHILD
MARRIAGE



39%

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



28%

POLYGAMY



6.7%

FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: FGM (24%), forced marriage (20%), psychological violence (12%), domestic violence (10%), and economic violence including denial of education (8%) and sexual violence (7%).

Respondents reported cases of sexual violence "a girl was raped and when her family came to know they forced her to marry" Woman, El Manageel, Gezira. Women from black tribes are particularly vulnerable "they are at risk because they work in the fields and they are considered slaves" Girl, Sharg el Gezira.

FGM is a concern in Gezira. "Only two families in the area do not practice it" Woman, El Manageel, Gezira. "The grandmother insists that the girl should be circumcised to avoid shame" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. "It is now practiced secretly" Man, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. FGM is often repeated after childbirth "when she returned home after childbirth my sister's husband insisted that she was re-circumcised. When my mother objected, her husband quarreled with her and threatened to divorce her" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. "Women living in rural areas are most exposed to FGM and child marriage" Expert, Gezira.

Forced marriage is common "in our community the girl is married to her cousin or one of her relatives without her consent" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. "A girl who reaches 19 years of age without marrying is called maiden" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. "Our neighbor's daughters were married at 11 because their father said he could not take care of them, so he married them out to be able to look after his other children" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. "One of our relatives was forced to marry, she ran away one day before the wedding. She was brought back and the wedding was done. After marrying she escaped, and her husband threatened to divorce her she was beaten. Finally she returned home because she was threatened to be killed" Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

Domestic violence is common, especially between siblings. "Beating from the elder brother as the responsible for family honor. Even younger brother can beat you because at the end of the day he is a man" Girl, Sharg el Gezira. "The family interferes in case the woman is beaten by the husband" Man, El Manageel, Gezira. "The mother in law at home is a perpetrator of violence, she makes the wife do everything cooking, washing, etc. and if the girl does not she will be beaten" Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Widows and divorcees are particularly at risk "widows they

⁴¹ This refers to women from the previous "wave" of refugees

are deprived and men threaten to divorce women” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira.

Psychological violence and particularly verbal abuse is common “women and girls are insulted without any reason” Boy, El Manageel, Gezira.

Harassment in the street is also common “I complained to my brother that some guys harass me in the street, and he beat me up because I went out and he prevented me from going out again and attend afternoon classes” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Women and girls are blamed for violence that happens “the woman is blamed so as to not repeat the mistake” Man, El Manageel, Gezira. “They stand by the boy and tell the girl that she lured him” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

Respondents reported that economic violence is common in the state. The most reported case is denial of education.

Most respondents agreed that sexual violence against men and boys is not common. “Hey, you are kidding. No man is exposed to GBV” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. If violence happens, this would be mostly against children “if it is a child, maybe he tells his family and they cover up” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira. If violence happens it goes unreported “a man is strong and is not supposed to complain” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

Over the last year, the poor economic situation led to some increases in some types of GBV including forced marriage and harassment. “The economic situation and the school lockdown made families marry their daughters early and send their sons to work” Expert, Gezira. “Physical harassment in bread and petrol lines has increased” Expert, Gezira. The political changes also increased harassment and verbal abuse outside the home “there are many cases of harassment, youth are not aware of the meaning of freedom, peace and justice” Expert, Gezira. “Harassment increased due to freedom” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira. Most respondents agreed that the overall GBV situation has deteriorated.

Although lockdown restrictions were not followed “we only hear about the bans on TV, no one was banned” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. COVID19 had a negative effect on GBV as it increased the time that men were spending at home. “Beating of women increased because of the presence of men at home all day” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira. “Humiliation and beating by relatives, brothers and husbands increased very much” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. Some respondents reported that FGM decreased because with father’s presence at home, women were not allowed to practice FGM “husbands at home will not allow mothers and grandmothers to practice circumcision” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Women and girls cope with violence by applying “decency and no perfumes, listening to the directives of the family and keeping away from deserted places” Girl, El Manageel, Gezira.

Reporting. If violence happens, it mostly goes unreported. “She keeps silent, because if she talks the news will spread and more gossip will happen”; “at the end she will not get a solution so it is better to keep silent” Woman, El Manageel, Gezira.

“In the village we do not have any entity to protect us or preserve our rights. They only care about men’s problem which is referred to the village committee to deal with” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

If women and girls report, they would report to their family and friends. “The issue should not develop beyond the family” Boy, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. With the belief that reporting to authorities should be avoided at all costs. “Don’t let matters escalate to reach the level of reporting to law authorities” Expert, Gezira.

If reporting happens, this is dealt with through traditional justice mechanisms “the elders of the village gather in the guest room and try to solve the problem” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. “it is shameful to disclose our problems out of the village, as it looks bad for our men” Woman, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira.

Respondents overwhelmingly reported that specialized services are not available “there isn’t any” Girl, Sharg el Gezira, Gezira. “Services are not available in the state and need rehabilitation” Expert, Gezira. “Even psychosocial support, health, social workers are not available” Expert, Gezira.

Barriers to accessing services are reported to be the lack of awareness of the services and the fear of spread of rumors, particularly if the provider of services is from the same community as the survivor. “Awareness raising is important for outreaching and decreasing fear from the provided services, [and for] activating laws against perpetrators of violence” Expert, Gezira. “They don’t trust them with confidential information and are afraid of the spread of their problems in the areas where they live” Expert, Gezira. There is a need for “Finding secure ways for women to ask for support” Expert, Gezira.

KASSALA

2.36 M

POPULATION



0.56M

PEOPLE
IN NEED



47% - 79%

0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



110K

REFUGEES



AVERAGE
DATA QUALITY



45%

CHILD
MARRIAGE



14%

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



11%

POLYGAMY



4.8%

FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (21%), forced marriage (19%), FGM (18%), domestic violence (15%), economic violence including denial of education (15%) and psychological violence (7%).

Forced marriage is reported to be a key concern amongst respondents. “They marry girls off at a young age” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. “Girls are taken out of school to marry them off” Woman, Telkok, Kassala. Respondents reported that marriage is not consumed until puberty “early marriage is not consummated until girls are older, but usually 12 years” Boy, Rural Kassala, Kassala. Respondents agreed that child marriage is due to “the fear of reputation, the economic situation of families, and the high number of children born to the same family” Man, Aroma, Kassala.

Social norms around child marriage are changing “[girls are] married early but they don’t move from their family home for fear of people gossiping” Girl, Rural Kassala, Kassala. “18 years, this is how it should be” Woman, Aroma, Kassala.

FGM. “FGM is widely spread in the community” Boy, Aroma, Kassala However, it is reported to be decreasing “We have FGM but less and less due to awareness and guidance from organizations” Man, Telkok, Kassala. And the community is shifting to less severe amputations (type I) “they now only do the Sunna” Man, Telkok, Kassala.

Domestic violence is a key concern. “It is common that beating happens, for trivial reasons” Girl, Rural Kassala, Kassala. This is also a concern between siblings. “The older brother beats his sister” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. “Brothers are not held accountable because they are in their right” Woman, Telkok, Kassala. “Not getting permission ahead of going out is a big cause of domestic violence. This is a private issue you should resolve it at home. My husband is in Saudi Arabia; I call him to get permission before leaving the house. I go out roughly 3 times per week” Woman, Kassala, Kassala.

Restriction in movement is a key concern, where women are supposed to stay indoors and not leave the house, particularly if they are unaccompanied “they do not allow us to go for medical care in the city” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

Economic violence is also reported to be a concern. “Women are restricted in the heritance they can get” Expert, Kassala. They are also deprived of education “girls do not complete their education” Man, Telkok, Kassala. **Sexual violence.** Respondents overwhelmingly reported that there are no danger zones in the community. “No, no. We have no such zone” Man, Telkok, Kassala. The community copes with violence by restricting women’s movement, and confining them at home “we keep girls at home after they grow up” Man, Telkok, Kassala. “We don’t have women who go out of their homes alone” Boy, Rural Kassala, Kassala.

Refugees reported cases of GBV when fetching water. “When fetching water we are harassed and there are some cases of sexual violence” Refugee woman, Wad Sherifey camp, Kassala.

Women are reported to carry knives and other weapon to protect themselves from violence. “Women carry knives and axes” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

Psychological violence. Women and girls are stigmatized for not getting married “not getting married causes stigma and shame for the girls” Woman, Rural Kassala, Kassala.

Harassment and verbal violence is reported by refugees. “We are insulted and harassed outside the camp” Refugee woman, Wad Sherifey camp, Kassala.

Unaccompanied women are particularly vulnerable “Women who are married and are at home are safe because their family and cousin are around” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. Particularly vulnerable groups are “divorcees” Expert, Kassala and also “domestic workers, tea sellers, kiswa makers and vendors in the market” Boy, Aroma, Kassala.

Most respondents agreed that sexual violence against men and boys is not common. They also agreed that if violence were to happen, it would not be reported. “People would laugh at him” Boy, Telkok, Kassala.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Most respondents agreed that COVID19 did not affect people’s lives “there is no Corona, this did not affect us and life was normal” Woman, Telkok, Kassala. Some respondents suggested that COVID19 and restrictions meant that “arguments increased because of being confined at home” Girl, Rural Kassala, Kassala. And that “because there is no recreation for boys as all coffee shops are closed they stay in the streets and harass girls” Woman, Rural Kassala, Kassala.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Violence is under-reported “there is cover up for fear of scandal. The community will not learn of what happened” Boy, Aroma, Kassala. And the social stigma is very high “girls are stigmatized if violence occurs. This can lead to suicide” Girl, Aroma, Kassala. “Unmarried girls do not talk about this or report. If you tell the community, they will not leave you in peace” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

Attitudes of the community does not consider this violence. “These actions are not considered violence” Boy, Aroma, Kassala. “Women exposed to violence do not report, and if she told her family [about domestic violence incident] they will return her to her husband” Boy, Aroma, Kassala.

Reporting does not happen because of the fear of reputational damage, the lack of services available and the repercussions “they are afraid of what people in the village say” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. “girls will not get married” Girl, Telkok, Kassala.

If violence is reported, this will be to the family, to the sheikh or as a last resort to the police. “The police only if it is necessary and the problem is too big to be solved otherwise” Man, Telkok, Kassala.

Most respondents said that specialized services for GBV survivors are not available “we do not have any services” Man, Telkok, Kassala. Some respondents suggested that some health and psychosocial support are available. Critical gaps include “lack of training of medical personnel and lack of access to rural areas” Expert, Kassala; and lack of basic supplies “it lacks a water tank” Boy, Rural Kassala, Kassala. Experts also reported that services are not coordinated, are referrals must be strengthened “lack of training and coordination and linkage between parties” Expert, Kassala.

Transportation was identified as a gap. “We need transportation to reach services, it is too expensive” Girl, Telkok, Kassala. The dominance of certain tribes was also reported “tribal chiefs keep services to themselves” Woman, Aroma, Kassala.

KHARTOUM

7.58 M
POPULATION



0.95M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



30% - 87%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



410K
REFUGEES



VERY GOOD
DATA QUALITY



26%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



19%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



14%
POLYGAMY



4.7%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (29%), domestic violence (24%), psychological violence (22%), economic violence including denial of education (9%), forced marriage (8%) and FGM (7%).

Domestic violence is common “men beat women and boys beat their sisters” Refugee, Nivasha, Khartoum. “It is normal that men beat the woman when they return home and find nothing to eat or that women went out without permission. Sometimes men return home drunk or under drugs and beat women for no reason” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. Sexual violence happens. “A woman went out to get bread and came back to find her 9 years old daughter being raped by her uncle” Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. “There is violence against students in the Qur’anic schools by the Sheikhs against students” Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “My daughter was raped at the market by a group of black people/gang” Woman, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum. “If a girl is raped, I will never go to her house and her sisters may face trouble too, to the extent that I would not marry one of them” Man, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Sexual assault is common in public transportation, and in places of consumption of drugs and alcohol. “Harassment happens in public transportation, where girls are pinched in their buttocks” Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “Areas of consumption of drugs and alcohol are dangerous to women and girls” Boy, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

Domestic violence. “They think that the girl should stay at home and should not go out” Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “Women have no freedom, their freedom is denied at home by their family and on the workplace as they are told that they cannot do certain jobs” Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum “a girl should go directly from home to university and vice versa. If she is late trouble starts and they may deprive her from going to university” Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

FGM is common “midwives are the offender and the grandmothers also push for FGM” Man, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum. “It is because of norms and traditions. Now it is less because people are aware of FGM risks. Some families take the girls out of Khartoum state for FGM” Man, Sharq al Nile. “They take the girl to another state to get circumcised” Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. “A common time for performing FGM is school holidays” Man, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum. “FGM is practices despite families being aware of its risks.

They think it lessens sexual desire and stops girls from making mistakes. This is despite the law criminalizes FGM and usually behind the men's backs" Woman, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

The community reported that forced marriage decreased as there is more awareness "**forced marriage** decreased. Thank god we are progressing" Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. But it still happens. It is mostly linked to poorer economic situation of the girl's family. "Girls are not allowed to continue schooling beyond secondary level and are married while they could have achieved many things" Boy, Sharq Al Nile, Khartoum. "Marriage is done between cousins, so the girl will not marry from another tribe" Man, Omdurman, Khartoum. "When the marriage officer learned the girl's age, he stopped the marriage, but the man insisted and went to another area to get the marriage certificate" Woman, Omdurman, Khartoum. "there are cases of forced marriage to avoid scandal or reducing the cost of living and school fees" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "It depends on the family's situation, if they are poor they tend to marry their daughters at early age" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Refugees reported that early marriage happens, but that women and girls choose their husband. "girls are married young but they choose their own husbands" Refugee woman, Nivasha camp, Khartoum.

Tribal and racial dynamics increases vulnerability to GBV. "Our area is diverse with various tribal groups" Boy, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum. Racism "There is racial discrimination between tribes, which stands in the way of girls choosing their husbands" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum; "There is institutional racism at all levels" Man, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

Economic violence. "Girls are deprived from education, they are not allowed to graduate" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.

Women's economic resources are restricted "Usually husbands are the workers, and they don't give their wives enough money to support the needs of the family" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Working women are particularly vulnerable to violence "any girl looking for employment should make concessions, such as secretaries, worker in health centres and in the market or tea ladies" Boy, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "Tea sellers, waitresses, domestic workers, and women working in the market are the most exposed because the community thinks they are loose" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Respondents reported **psychological violence**, and especially Verbal violence "when they see the girl working, they call her shamasiya and immoral" Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. "If a girl is not cut, she will be shamed and called ghalfa" Man, Omdurman, Khartoum. "Verbal harassment against tea sellers is common" Man, Omdurman, Khartoum.

Social pressure is high on women who are not married.

"Marriage is the ultimate goal; even if the girl continues education to university she is always judged if not married" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

There was limited reporting of online sexual harassment in Khartoum state. "When a guy is in a relationship with a girl, she exchanges photos with him and later he breaks up with her and blackmails her. This is common amongst students" Man, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum

Psychological violence. Survivors of GBV and their families, particularly mothers, are blamed if violence happens "the woman is blamed. If it is a girl, her mother will be blamed for not raising her properly" Woman, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. "The community blames the girl. They say because she went out, she deserves what happened to her" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "You shamed the family" Man, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

The majority of respondents agreed that men and boys too can be victims of sexual violence, this is particularly towards children and youth. "youth and children may be exposed to violence" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "We never hear of men experiencing violence, but children are subjected to harassment and rape" Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. "A child was raped by a youth in the neighbourhood. When the case was reported, the youth was not punished, so the family moved out of the area" Woman, Omdurman, Khartoum. Some respondents mentioned in particular sexual violence happening in Khalwas. "In Qur'anic schools, Khalwas" Boy, Omdurman, Khartoum. "Homosexuals are exposed to violence from other men" Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. Respondents agreed that whilst younger men may report violence, older men would not as it would be against their masculinity and shameful.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Violence goes unreported, especially in the case of domestic violence. "If a woman was exposed to violence by her husband, she does not report in consideration of her children's interest" Woman, Omdurman, Khartoum. "When violence comes from fathers and brothers, you cannot complain and report or you will be considered without manners. If you complain to your uncle, your father will come back and beat you" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum. "If violence from the family there will be a cover up, if the violence is from outside the family they go to court" Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "when I was talking to the girl, the mother said I will never forgive you if you report about your brother" GBV helpline service provider.

Reporting to official institutions is avoided as it involves lengthy, and corrupted procedures. "People stopped reporting to avoid lengthy procedures. If you have a relative in the police or in the army, they will not let you resort to the law" Boy, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. "When a person goes to law enforcement, there is a protracted process with no results" Boy, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "Some people seem to be above the law and there is no point resorting to the law" Boy,

Jabal Aulia, Khartoum. "We do not go to the police because they just take your money. You need to bribe the police to take your report seriously" Boy, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

If survivors report violence, they would use different mechanisms depending on the type of violence and the seriousness of the incident. "Reporting would happen if violence is committed by strangers" Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. Most respondents mentioned the family as first line of reporting "I would tell my mother" Girl, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. "I usually do not talk, but if something serious happens, I would tell my mother who is the person closest to me" Girl, Sharq al Nile, Khartoum.

Specialized services including health, psychosocial and legal are available, but they are poor in quality. "Service providers have very poor capacity" Expert, Khartoum. "There is a need to add health and psychosocial cadre in hospitals, and protect hospitals from theft" Boy, Omdurman, Khartoum. Services also lack coordination, and referral "there should be a coordination body for all service providers" Expert, Khartoum. "It is also dangerous that these services depend on projects, and temporary financing" Expert, Khartoum.

Key barriers include access, cost and awareness. "They are ineffective due to the difficulty accessing them" Expert, Khartoum. "There is a high cost that people cannot afford" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum. Services are accessible with money or with connections" Man, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. There is a lack of awareness "so many people experience it but they do not know it is violence" Boy, Omdurman, Khartoum.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

Violence increased since last year because of "the total absence of authorities" Boy, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. Harassment and GBV are politicised, and connected to a conservative/military versus civil rule "during the new year celebrations at the Green Square, whenever a girl complained about harassment, the police told them this is the *civil rule you wanted*" Girl, Omdurman, Khartoum.

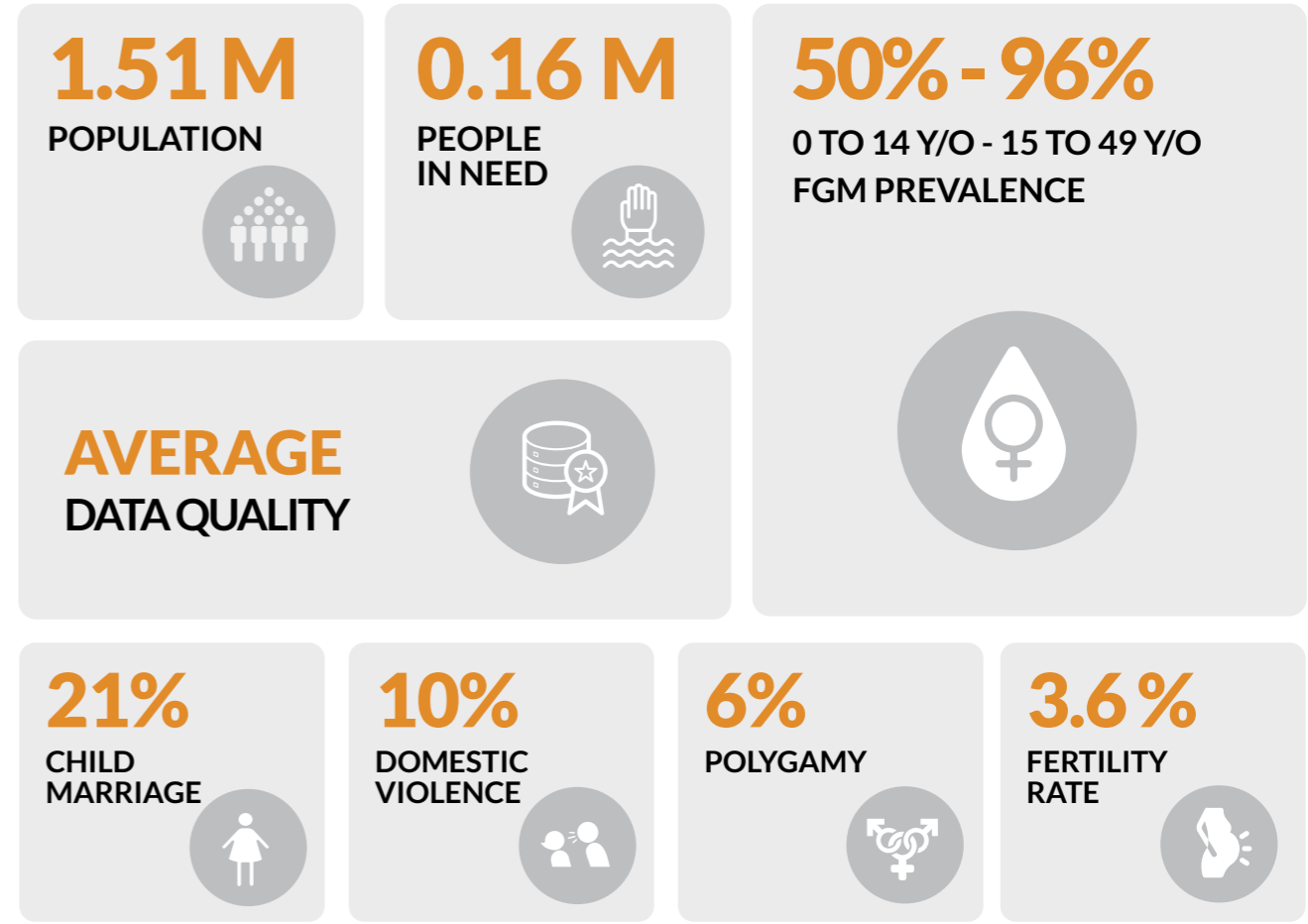
"In Khartoum state, last year's political changes opened more space for discussion on GBV. There have been many cases of bullying against activists in the area of GBV because the society is still not prepared for such openness" Expert, Khartoum.

Respondents also talked about the worsened economic situation as a cause of increase in GBV prevalence, as women are mostly dependent on men for financial resources: "economic violence gotten much worse due to the bad economic situation" Woman, Umm Bedda, Khartoum. Shortages also impacted GBV: "girls are now going out at night in search for bread in remote places" Man, Omdurman, Khartoum.

COVID19 worsened GBV in the state "confinement resulted in domestic violence and plenty of FGM and children marriage" Boy, Umm Bedda, Khartoum.



RIVER NILE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: domestic violence (25%), psychological violence (23%), sexual violence (19%), forced marriage (14%), economic violence including denial of education (11%), FGM (8%).

Most respondents agreed that **FGM** is widespread in River Nile. "A woman circumcised her daughter, without telling the husband. Then she refused to let them go to school and married them off early" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "A friend who is a doctor practiced FGM on her daughters" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "Some families do not practice FGM. When the girls get married and it is found that they are Saleema (literally intact, or uncut), they refuse and they stay unmarried" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

"A girl came to hospital to redo FGM. I asked why and she told me she was raped by her former fiancé who refused to marry her. She must redo FGM otherwise she would be perceived badly" Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

Sexual violence happens. "a girl was raped and when they found out they asked her to keep silent and that it was her

mistake because she went out of the house" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. There are some danger zones "those where there is alcohol and prostitution. Girls can be raped and if that happens they are blamed for going there" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

Survivors who report are particularly vulnerable to repeated violence "if she is raped once, then anyone can rape her" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "The victim may be assaulted by people in the house because they think that she is morally loose" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence "persons with psychological problems" Man, Shendi, River Nile.

Forced marriage is a concern in River Nile state. "A girl from our neighborhood was forced to marry at 12 years of age" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "Child marriage happens especially during school break" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. "It is common to compensate husbands for dead wives with their sisters" Man, Shendi, River Nile. Forced marriage may result in girl's suicide "a girl was married to a Gaali man. During the honeymoon, she drowned herself in the river" Man, Shendi, River Nile. Most respondents agree that the main reason for child marriage is "linked to economic factors to improve the family's finances and to protect the wealth" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

"when they see the girl working, they call her shamasiya and immoral"

- Girl, Jabal Aulia, Khartoum.

Domestic violence. Women and girl's movement is restricted "women should not go out after sunset" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. And physical violence in the family is reported. "There is violence, especially beating between siblings. Between husband and wife no because usually the wife's family will not allow it. It depends on how prominent the tribe is" Man, Shendi, River Nile.

Economic violence. Denial of education is common "depriving women of education is common, which is a right" Boy, Shendi, River Nile. "People say that there is no point in girl's education" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

Psychological violence. Verbal violence and harassment is common. "Physical violence happens, but verbal violence is more prevalent" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. "In most areas women and girls are harassed and they cannot tell because it is a source of shame" Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

If violence happens, women and girls are blamed. "they should punish the offenders, but the community blames them if they are victims of violence" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. Other reasons for blaming include "because they went out late"; "the way she dressed or wears make up" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. Survivors of violence are complete outcast of society "they become social pariah" Boy, Shendi, River Nile.

Vulnerable groups include refugees and migrants, women in rural areas and those working on low income jobs. "Refugees and migrants are not fully protected by the law, particularly irregular migrants" Expert, River Nile. "Women in cities are safer" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. "Those in marginal jobs and with low income are very vulnerable" Man, Shendi, River Nile.

Respondents agreed that sexual violence against **men and boys** happens. Mostly, this is against children. "mostly in school by teachers and adults against children" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. If violence happens, it would go unreported "no they don't tell because they take revenge" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

Most respondents agreed that the situation of violence outside the home deteriorated over last year "violence increased because of the political situation, including physical, verbal and sexual violence" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

COVID19 increased domestic violence and FGM. "Domestic violence and divorce increases noticeably" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "The presence of men in the house all day increased violence against women and children"; "the lockdown also increased the number of girls subjected to FGM" Expert, River Nile. "The effect is evident because people are at home all the time. Problems increased by brothers beating sisters" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

⁴² See footnote 40

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Violence goes unreported "they do not tell anybody" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. "For fear of social stigma" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "It is shameful if a woman reports to the Police seeking justice" Man, Shendi, River Nile.

Justice mechanisms are corrupt. "Influential people and seniors are not held accountable" Boy, Shendi, River Nile. "There was a gynecologist known in Shendi to assault any woman who gets to the clinic. Nobody is reporting him because he is a doctor" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "Sons of military or police personnel are not held accountable because of the status of their parents" Girl, Shendi, River Nile.

"I was helping a woman who was escaping from her husband who was threatening to kill her. The police told her to go back and me to leave the woman and the husband to do what they want" Woman, Shendi, River Nile. "they do not report because if the police found out that you are raped, they rape you" Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

If violence is reported, it is dealt with informal resolution mechanisms "men are not held accountable formally but through Joudia (mediation)" Expert, River Nile.

Some **specialized services** are available but "they are not complete, and effective and only partially useful" Expert, River Nile. "Psychosocial and health services exist but only in the cities" Expert, River Nile.

There are wide barriers to access "cannot access them due to long distances and lack of transportation" Expert, River Nile. "Access depends on who you know" Girl, Shendi, River Nile. "The hospital will not treat you without Form 8⁴²" Woman, Shendi, River Nile.

NORTH DARFUR

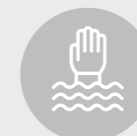
2.07 M

POPULATION



0.97 M

PEOPLE
IN NEED



27% - 98%

0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



420 K
IDPS

20 K
REFUGEES



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



47%

CHILD
MARRIAGE



62%

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



35%

POLYGAMY



6.8%

FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (28%), domestic violence (23%), psychological violence (23%), economic violence including denial of education (12%), FGM (9%) and forced marriage (3%).

Sexual violence is a concern in North Darfur. "It takes place in farms, in markets and in the streets" Girl, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Respondents from IDP camps reported that incidents of sexual violence are especially common. "Soldiers find women looking for firewood and rape them" IDP boy, Alsalam camp, North Darfur.

Intersectionality with racial and tribal dynamics increases the risk of violence. "The most exposed groups to violence are the black people" Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. "Because the Arabs treat the black person as slave" Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. "People with acquaintances to RSF or the police are or government are safer, and most of them are Arabs" Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Domestic violence is reported as a key concern. "There is no house without beating and insulting" Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur. "At home women are treated like servants"

Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur. This happens both between spouses, and between brothers and sisters "girls at home do all the work like washing, cooking etc. If the meal is delayed her brother or father may beat her" Girl, Kabkabia, North Darfur. "Drunk men beat their wives and take their money; if the wife complains to the Sheikh or the guardian they do not listen" Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. "If there is a quarrel between spouses, the neighbors will interfere and help solve the problem" Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Women's movement is restricted "they prevent us from leaving the house" Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. "If a girl goes to school outside of her area it could give rise to a bad reputation" Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. "If it's not necessary, don't go out" Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. She "should not go out of the house unless accompanied by one of her brothers" Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Restriction of movement is acute between the time girls reach puberty and marriage "when a young girl's body changes, the family gets worried about her so they lock her up and prevent her from going out for fear of men seducing her" Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

FGM is a common practice "it is practiced within the locality abnormally because they say if she is not circumcised that will facilitate outrageous acts by the girl" Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur. "It is practiced discretely, and in rural areas"

Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur. Knowledge of the new law banning FGM reached the community: “for fear of the government” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur. One of the main reasons cited by respondents is that “otherwise the girl’s sexual desire will be high” Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Forced marriage. Child marriage is reported to be common in the community. “Marriage of young girls is common, sometimes without their knowledge. They could be beaten to accept” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Forced marriage is more common amongst women with lower levels of education. “The educated girls marry mostly at 16-20, but the illiterate marry much earlier” Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur. “If a girl is caught with a boy or impregnated before marriage, she will be married out immediately” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Fathers treat daughters like their property” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Economic violence. In North Darfur it is reported that it is common that “women work while men stay at home” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. This does not come with control over resources, as “men take away money from women who work; others do not financially support their wives and children” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Denial of education is common in the community “they are denied education especially in far away villages” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “girls are denied university education” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “if a girl fails at school, that will be a pretext to take her out of school and marry her away” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “if a girl is harassed on her way to school, and her family gets to know, they will blame her and make her quit school” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Physical violence. Women working in informal jobs are particularly vulnerable. “Tea sellers are particularly at risk. A man may want to chat to her and if she does not respond positively he may beat her” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Psychological violence. In the community there are a number of misconceptions about virginity, which in turn affect the reputation of women and girls and their status in the community and access to marriage “to earn a living the girl mounts a donkey which leads to removal of the hymen and thus not suitable for marriage” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

GBV survivors are blamed and particularly vulnerable to violence. “The girl is always blamed in case of violence, because if she had gone out with the boy (brother), no harassment would have happened” Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. “If she goes out without permission and she is exposed to violence, she will not go out anymore” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “One should take permission before going out, so if anything happens the blame will not be harsh” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Men and boys are rarely reported to be survivors of GBV. In cases that it happens this is towards particular vulnerable groups “[men] with mental illness are exploited” Girl, Elfasher, North Darfur. Or people isolated from family

structure. “A young man rented a house claiming he lives with his family. Some people came to know that he lives alone and came and raped him” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Violence happens “in cases of homosexuality, ad harassment in the locality” Man, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

Sexual violence against men and boys in unreported “if it is physical violence you may tell, but if it is sexual violence it is a scandal and you don’t talk” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

The “situation of GBV improved over the last year, with the improved security, but the economic violence increased due to the increased prices” IDP, Alsalam camp, North Darfur.

IDPs reported the increased danger due to the withdrawal of UNAMID. “Before, patrols of the African Union used to protect women. Now the Sudanese soldiers are the source of danger” IDP Alsalam camp, North Darfur. “The armed forces enjoy immunity from prosecution” Expert, North Darfur.

COVID19 worsened the situation, especially of economic and domestic violence. “The lockdown of the market left citizens without money, upset and unable to feed their children” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Tea sellers were very vulnerable to the closures” Woman, Elfasher, North Darfur. “Men curse their wives because they are upset due to the closure of the market and their lack of resources; and the wives talk too much” Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Conservative dress and limitation of movement are used by the community to prevent violence from happening. Women wear “long and wide clothes” as a mechanism to prevent violence, Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “She protects herself by not using make up; if she does the community will consider her inappropriate and will not help her” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur. “Women should not go out unaccompanied after dark, and should not go to parties” Man, Elfasher, North Darfur.

Most violence goes unreported “as caregivers, we hear about many undeclared cases” Expert, North Darfur. “Most of the GBV cases are resolved outside the mechanism of the official justice” Expert, North Darfur. Institutional mechanisms are ineffective. “You may report the case to the police but they will procrastinate the case until you give up” Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur. One of the barriers to reporting is corruption “a criminal will be seen roaming in the streets after two days of his capture because he may have an acquaintance or paid a bribe” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

In case of reporting, most respondents said that “it is according to the type of violence. If it is a big incident I will tell my relative, then the police and the Sheikh” Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur. Traditional resolution mechanisms may be used. “If she recognizes the person who has attacked

her and speaks out, her family complains to the perpetrator’s tribe’s Sheikh” Man, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Sexual violence is only reported in case of pregnancy “if she is raped or got pregnant out of wedlock, she might be locked up at home or killed by her cousin” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. Survivors are exposed to increased level of violence. “If she is raped and becomes pregnant and delivers, she will be locked up and they will try to marry her out with the least dowry and without her knowledge” Woman, Kabkabia, North Darfur.

Specialized services, particularly health, and psychosocial exist however “the number of staff is neither enough or

qualified” Expert, North Darfur.

Respondents reported that key barriers include awareness of available services “we never heard of these services and do not know where they are” Boy, Kabkabia, North Darfur. And the concentration in state capitals. “Services are concentrated in the state capital, they are not here” Girl, Um Kadada, North Darfur. Additional barriers are related to inaccessibility is due to “unsafe roads” Expert, North Darfur; and to the cost of services “if you can afford financial compensation” Woman, Um Kadada, North Darfur. Respondents also reported “a lack of privacy in the centers” Expert, North Darfur.

NORTH KORDOFAN

2.72 M
POPULATION



0.36 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



49% - 98%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



10 K
REFUGEES



POOR
DATA QUALITY



39%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



29%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



14%
POLYGAMY



4.8%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: domestic violence (26%), forced marriage (18%), sexual violence (16%), psychological violence (15%), economic violence including denial of education (12%) and FGM (8%).

FGM is a key concern in North Kordofan. Type III is common, and it is common for FGM to be performed again after childbirth “repair is common, which means modifying the

vaginal opening after childbirth to make it smaller” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Forced marriage. Child marriage is a key concern in North Kordofan. “The community must insist that the girl should be 18 to marry but no one listens and immediately make the marriage” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

The main reasons cited for child marriage are traditions, fear of un-marriageability, and expensive living costs. “They fear they will not be able to marry” Woman, Rahad, North

Kordofan. “The deteriorating living conditions push families to marry their children at early age to reduce costs of living” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Many girls are married to their cousins “fathers force them to marry their cousins” Girl, Rahad, North Kordofan. In some cases, the husband is brought by girls “they bring their husband and the family agrees” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan. “14 to 18 is a suitable age for marriage” Man, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Domestic violence is widespread. “The family is responsible, and they are not held accountable because the problem is kept at home” Girl, Rahad, North Kordofan. Attitudes by the community are accepting of domestic violence. “Violence is not considered as such in rural areas” Man, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Sexual violence is reported particularly in Qur’anic schools. “Children in Qur’anic schools are exposed to violence” Woman, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Particularly vulnerable to violence are “those mentally sick and those with disabilities” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Economic violence is common. “Women are deprived from their inheritance, especially land” Woman, Rahad, North Kordofan. “The economic violence is widespread that manifests in men overburdening her with work, and taking away the returns from her” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Denial of education is widespread “girls never go to school in this area” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan. “Lack of education means that there is no awareness and that increases all types of violence” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Psychological violence. Verbal abuse is common “people say that the stick must be used on three things: Women, donkeys and the poor”. Harassment is common “at the market girls are exposed to harassment” Woman, Rahad, North Kordofan.

Proofs of virginity are common in North Kordofan. “Showing of virginity proof on wedding night is common” Girl, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Survivors of GBV are blamed, stigmatized, and subjected to more violence. “Yes they blame her and consider her as the reason for what happened and rebuke her more” Woman, Rahad, North Kordofan. “She will be stigmatized in the community” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan. “The girl may commit suicide” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan. “They are blamed and their mothers also because they failed to bring them up properly” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan. “This is negligence on their family” Girl, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “Women and girls are blamed through beating them and confining them at home” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Most respondents agreed that men and boys are mostly not

GBV survivors. There are cases that they are exposed to sexual violence particularly “in peripheral workplaces such as in farms and herding” Man, Shiekan, North Kordofan. Or in Qur’anic schools “they are exposed to violence in Khalwas” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan. If violence happens, respondents agreed that it would go unreported: “it is a sign of stigma and lack of masculinity” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Respondents’ answers are not conclusive over whether the situation improved or not over the last year.

Most respondents agreed that COVID19 worsened violence, particularly domestic violence as a result of the economic situation. “It has a negative impact on the spread of violence as a result of the economic conditions and the stay at home measures” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan. This was particularly true for “women working in daily income jobs” Expert, North Kordofan. Some respondents also reported an increase in FGM and child marriage as a result of school closure “it increased the number of minor marriages” Girl, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Conservative dress and limitation in movement are used to avoid violence. “Women protect themselves from violence by not going to suspicious places” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “By not going out at night or alone” Boy, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan. “They should abide by the dress code dictated by the Sharia” Man, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan.

Respondents agreed that women and girls do not report. “Because of social judgment and stigma” Expert, North Kordofan. If women and girls report, that is to their family and friends “the closest person is her mother or other women such as her friends” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Institutional reporting mechanisms are not used because “there are lengthy procedures, and financial expenses” Expert, North Kordofan. There are some traditional resolution mechanisms for addressing violence “they are held accountable with unofficial means by the Sheikh” Man, Shiekan, North Kordofan.

Respondents reported that specialized services including health, psychosocial and security services exist. However, “they are not high quality”; “staff is not trained to deal with victims” and “they are not in the outskirts and in remote localities” Expert, North Kordofan.

Key barriers include the “distance between communities and concerned government institutions” Man, Um Rawaba, North Kordofan; unawareness “I don’t know” Woman, Shiekan, North Kordofan. And stigma “people don’t access them for fear of stigma, shame or revenge” expert, North Kordofan

NORTHERN

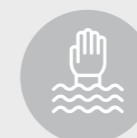
0.94 M

POPULATION



0.9 M

PEOPLE
IN NEED



43% - 97%

0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



19%

CHILD
MARRIAGE



26%

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



6%

POLYGAMY



3.8%

FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (22%), domestic violence (20%), psychological violence (20%), forced marriage (18%), FGM (14%), and economic violence including denial of education (6%).

FGM is a key concern in Northern state. “It is a cultural issue to lessen the girl’s sexual desire” Woman, Dongola, Northern.

Forced marriage is common in Northern state. “A girl was married before being physically ready. She was pregnant and had complications leading to her death” Girl, Dongola, Northern. Girls victims of child marriage have no other alternative than to accept the marriage, otherwise resorting to suicide “she came back to her family after 3 months, rejecting the marriage. Her father beat her and sent her back to her husband. One day after her husband left home she hanged herself committing suicide” Expert, Northern. Marriages are sometimes performed in the girl’s absence

“she was in school, when she came back home, she found the family and neighbors in the house and she was met with congratulations and she was told she was married to a well off man” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Main reason cited for child marriage is “fear of scandal” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “Poverty and financial reasons”; “getting rid of the girls to better look after the boys” Boy, Dongola, Northern.

Economic violence. Denial of education is a concern “not allowing girl’s education” Boy, Dongola, Northern. “Education is limited to certain groups” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Domestic violence is a concern in Northern state. “beating up girls is common” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Respondents reported that in some cases of rape from family members, survivors are married to perpetrators. “A girl of 15 was raped by her uncle [...] she became pregnant and had a baby. She was married to her uncle” Man, Dongola, Northern.

Divorced women are a particularly vulnerable category “she was divorced and tried to go home from hospitals and there were problems that led her to kill herself”; “in case of divorce, women are always blamed” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “After months of marital problems she divorced, and now she is a pariah in the family. [...] the community looks down on her” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “She is locked up at home and not allowed to go out” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Sexual violence happens. Domestic workers are a particularly vulnerable category. “a girl used to clean the house of a single man. He raped her, broke her fingers and hanged her” Woman, Dongola, Northern.

Violence happens in “markets, workplace, and transport” Girl, Dongola, Northern. “In hospitals” Boy, Dongola, Northern. “A girl was looking for a job in an office. The director offered to pay her in exchange for sex” Boy, Dongola, Northern.

Psychological violence. If violence happens, women and girls are blamed. “The girl is beaten and insulted if anything happens to her” Boy, Dongola, Northern. “If she was respectable, they would not approach her” Man, Dongola, Northern. “The community looks at the woman as a source of shame and does not accept her going out” Girl, Dongola, Northern. GBV survivors are very vulnerable. “There is complete social isolation”; “to avoid bullying and bad treatment” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Most respondents agreed that sexual violence against **men and boys** is rare but exists. Survivors of violence are particularly young boys and people with disabilities. “No, except in case of mental disorders” Girl, Dongola, Northern. Boys working in low-income informal jobs are particularly vulnerable “beggars”; and “shoe shining boys are targeted” Man, Dongola, Northern.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

Most respondents agreed that violence increased over the last year, due to the political change, that led to “misuse of freedom”, and also due to the poor economic situation in the country “loss of income affected the head of the family; poverty makes girls subjected to exploitation” Man, Dongola, Northern.

COVID19 led to an increase in domestic violence. “It decreased the violence in the streets and increased it at home” Girl, Dongola, Northern. Pressure on women’s domestic responsibilities increased substantially “women are besieged by demands of husbands and children at home” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Institutional and community mechanisms are ineffective in preventing and responding to GBV. Mostly, there is a “submission and acceptance of violence so as not to be doubled” Boy, Dongola, Northern. Women and girls need to defend themselves. Women and girls protect themselves from violence by “avoid dress that may be controversial” Woman, Dongola, Northern. “by moving in groups” Man, Dongola, Northern.

Perpetrators are not held accountable “the key barriers are the long court proceedings and bribery if the offender is influential” Girl, Dongola, Northern.

Most respondents agreed that if violence happens, it goes unreported because “it turns counter-productive and she is blamed rather than treated as a survivor. She fears for her life” Girl, Dongola, Northern. If it is reported, the first line of reporting depends on the type of violence. Mostly, “she tells her family” Man, Dongola, Northern.

Specialized services exist to a limited extent. A key gap is the lack of psychosocial support “there is no specialized service for psychological support” Expert, Northern. “We need a strong referral system” Expert, Northern.

Key barriers to access include “difficulty of access, fear of stigma, and limited resources” Man, Dongola, Northern.

RED SEA

1.76 M
POPULATION



0.34 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



56% - 89%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



10 K
REFUGEES



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



32%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



10%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



6%
POLYGAMY



3.2%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: forced marriage (41%), FGM (26%), economic violence including denial of education (13%), psychological violence (9%), domestic violence (6%), and sexual violence (2%).

Forced marriage is common. “Nobody consults us when it comes to marriage. Father marries us off and nobody can object” Girl, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea. “There is a tradition of exchanging a girl from one family in exchange of one from another” Man, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea.

Forced marriage is usually with members of the same family or tribe. “There are economic reasons to reserving brides, because the cousin will support her until she is ready for marriage” Man, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea. “Engagement is only to cousins and relatives” Man, Haya, Red Sea.

FGM is a concern. “To get married girls have to have FGM” Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. “If not practiced girls are

shamed and demonized” Man, Haya, Red Sea.

There is a shift from a more severe type of FGM, to a less severe (type I). There is a belief that Sunna does not constitute FGM. “FGM is practiced less and people practice Sunna” Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. “Many organizations came and told us that FGM is bad and now we do Sunna” Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. Domestic violence. Women and girls’ movement is severely restricted “women and girls are not to go out of the house on their own” Man, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. “Women and girls go out in the company of their fathers and brothers only” Man, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “There is nothing of importance to require women to go out of their homes” Man, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “Unmarried girls and divorced women should not go out often” Girl, Haya, Red Sea.

Domestic violence is common “particularly verbal violence and insults, even to mothers” Boy, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. Economic violence is a key concern. “Mainly economic violence because women and girls do not have any source of income” Expert, Red Sea. “Working women are vulnerable to a lot of violence” Expert, Red Sea.

Denial education is common “girls leave school in 8th grade after they learn to read and write. At this age they are women” Man, Haya, Red Sea.

Sexual violence is present in Red Sea, it goes unreported unless there is a pregnancy. “In case of rape, when girls miss their period they will tell their mothers” Girl, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “She won’t tell unless her pregnancy shows” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea.

Most respondents reported that there is no danger zone in the community.

Psychological violence. Women, girls, and their families are blamed if violence happens. “Girls are blamed for bringing shame to the tribe” Woman, Haya, Red Sea. “The family is blamed and if the woman is married, the husband is to blame because he is responsible for protection” Man, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. “Inside the home they blame women, and at the council they blame men” Boy, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “Sometimes the whole family moves away from the area” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea.

Most respondents agreed that men and boys are not subjected to GBV. If violence happens, it would go unreported “he does not tell anybody because he is a man” Girl, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

“The difficult economic situation led to have more women in the workplace and that led to more harassment” Expert, Red Sea.

COVID19 restrictions had an impact on people in formal employment. “People with salaries stayed home, but day laborers continued to work” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “lockdown at home made men short tempered with their families” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea. “their presence at home was a source of increased domestic violence” Expert, Red Sea.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Most respondents agreed that if violence happens, the survivor would not report. “We keep silent because it is shameful for the tribe” Girl, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea. If violence is reported, this would be to the family. “Girls tell their mothers” Woman, El Qaneb, Red Sea.

Respondents cited mostly traditional mechanisms for resolution “the Omda is the one who holds offenders accountable” Woman, Jabiet Al Maadin, Red Sea.

Specialized services “are only individual initiatives, there are no institutionalized services”; “there is a centralization in services”; and “there is no trained and specialized staff in the facilities” Expert, Red Sea.



“Nobody consults us when it comes to marriage. Father marries us off and nobody can object”

- Girl, Jabiet al Maadin, Red Sea.

SENNAR

1.67 M
POPULATION



0.18 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



27% - 84%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



10 K
REFUGEES



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



34%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



40%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



18%
POLYGAMY



5.3%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (22%), domestic violence (20%), psychological violence (19%), forced marriage (17%), economic violence including denial of education (8%), FGM (6%).

Domestic violence is reported as a concern by most respondents. “Girls are hit by their brothers, and women by their husbands” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar. “If a girl makes a mistake, she would be punished by whipping”, Boy, El Dindir, Sennar. “He is your husband, he can kill you” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar.

Women and girls are discriminated in the home. “Women and girls do not eat meals before men, and do not eat with them at the same table” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar.

Restriction in movement is a concern in Sennar “girls are not allowed to leave the house” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar. “They do not go out until after marriage” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar. “What happens to them is not violence but conservative upbringing.

For her protection, she is punished so she would not go out and bring a bigger problem” Boy, El Dindir, Sennar.

Forced marriage is common. “Most marriages take place against the will of the girl” Man, El Dindir, Sennar. “Girls marry after puberty. One of the customs is for girls to reach puberty in the house of the husband” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar. “Marriage is inside the tribe” Boy, El Dindir, Sennar. “If an outsider proposes, the family consults the cousins first [to check if they are interested in marrying the girl]” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar. “Girls are immediately married off of they show some admiration of someone of the opposite sex” Man, El Dindir, Sennar.

FGM is a concern, and uncircumcised girls are insulted and ostracized. “Uncircumcised girls are called ghalfa” Man, El Dindir, Sennar.

Certain nomadic populations have particularly severe forms of GBV. “The Aran nomads have high illiteracy rates and a prevalence of harmful traditions such as FGM and child marriage” Expert, Sennar.

Psychological violence. “Women and girls are insulted

and degraded” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar. Verbal violence takes the form of gossiping and rumors on women and girl’s adherence to social norms “there are always rumors and scandals about women and girls” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. Online harassment is reported as a concern in Sennar. “Impersonating another on social media and posting updates and photos”; “recording pornographic videos or photos and posting them on social media” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar. Harassment in public transport is common. “Harassment in public transport and disrespect by older men” Girl, Sennar, Sennar.

Sexual violence happens in the community. It is mostly reported to be from outsiders, coming from non-Arab tribes. “The niggers took her and raped her” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar.

Women working as domestic workers and farming are particularly vulnerable to physical and sexual violence “Girls working as domestic help are exposed to harassment and even rape” Boy, El Dindir, Sennar. “Girls working in agricultural schemes are vulnerable” Boy, Sennar, Sennar.

Women and girls, as well as their family, are blamed if violence happens “this would not happen unless the girl invited it” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. “The head of the family is the one blamed” Man, El Dindir, Sennar. As a result, “people avoid the family and the girl is isolated” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. “if anything happens to her with a man and she did not talk and her family found out she could be killed” Man, El Dindir, Sennar. “Avoid dangerous places. If you go to the Northern neighborhood, you deserve what happens to you” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

Most respondents agreed that men and boys are rarely victims of GBV. If violence happens, this is most often sexual violence against boys. “Rape of children in markets by adults” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. Most respondents agreed that violence would go unreported. Some mentioned that the victim will tell a friend and seek revenge “he would tell a friend so they can avenge him” Woman, Sennar, Sennar.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Since last year, most respondents agreed that the situation slightly improved due to more awareness of these issues “change is not noticeable but things are better than before because of increased awareness” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar. Some factors contributed to a worsening of some GBV concerns particularly harassment “standing in line for bread increased harassment” Woman, Sennar, Sennar. “Freedom and political changes increased harassment. They tell you this is the civilian rule you wanted!” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

Most respondents agreed that COVID19 restrictions were not followed “we are in our farms and did not hear of any order to stay at home” Man, Sennar, Sennar. However, the closure of markets and job loss meant that people were spending increasingly time at home which worsened

domestic violence “closing down of markets increased unemployment, many girls lost their income” Boy, Sennar, Sennar.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Women and girls protect themselves from violence by “going out in groups”; “being accompanied by a brother or a man” Man, Sennar, Sennar. “Wearing lbaya even at events and weddings” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. And “avoiding going to dangerous places” Man, Sennar, Sennar.

Survivors do not report, as they become vulnerable to additional violence. “The victim is afraid that if she tells the family she would be punished or killed” Girl, Sennar, Sennar. “If a girl is raped and reports, other men would harass her” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

If the victim reports, that would be to the family in the first instance and only if the perpetrator is an outsider. They would report to the police or official authorities only as a last resort “you may tell the Police if the incident is serious” Woman, El Dindir, Sennar.

There exist traditional justice mechanisms “there is Joudia and mediation between people” Man, Sennar, Sennar. “The accountability is made by village Sheikhs or an elder” Woman, Sennar, Sennar.

Family and justice institutions are reported to cover up incidents. This is because of “the stigma and fear, as the community criminalizes survivors; Joudia stops cases from reaching law enforcement” Expert, Sennar. “Adults cover up the incident for fear of shame” Man, Sennar, Sennar.

Respondents reported that health, and legal services are available in Sennar state, whilst psychosocial support is lacking. Services are concentrated in state capitals.

Key barriers include the bad “economic conditions”; and the belief that a police report (Form 8) and ID are required to accessing services. “ID document especially for accessing legal and health services” Expert, Sennar. Health centers and hospitals do not accept treating the case before you report to the police” Girl, El Dindir, Sennar.

SOUTH DARFUR

4.17 M
POPULATION



1.23 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



21% - 88%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



530 K
IDPs
50 K
REFUGEES



AVERAGE
DATA QUALITY



56%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



65%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



41%
POLYGAMY



6.9%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (22%), domestic violence (20%), economic violence including denial of education (18%), forced marriage (15%), FGM (10%), and psychological violence (10%).

Domestic violence is reported as a key GBV concern in South Darfur. Most common incidents against women concern “family violence, especially physical violence such as beating” Expert, South Darfur. Women are discriminated against “there is discrimination in the family, in roles and work” girl, Tullus, South Darfur. This is also between siblings “men dominate, for example brothers force their sisters to wash their clothes” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur.

Women are limited in their rights and movement, and denied education “denying women their rights by keeping them at home without education” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur. “Women have no voice in decision-making” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur.

Rape is also a concern within the family “rape is common in marital relations. Women are created to be beaten” IDP girl, Bielel camp, South Darfur.

Polygamy is common in South Darfur. Respondents suggested that the bad economic situation increased the number of polygynous relationships “polygamy [increased] to improve the economic status by making wives work in agriculture and other hard work” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur.

Economic violence. Women often carry most of the domestic and farming work in rural communities, and the money is given to the men “women and girls carry the burden of the hard work” Man, Tullus, South Darfur. “They are carrying sand and building material” IDP boy, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “Women work in markets and give the money to the men, and if she asks for something he beats her up” IDP boy, Alsalam camp, South Darfur.

FGM is identified as a key GBV concern and it is reported to be secretly practiced “FGM is common, and it is secretly practiced” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur. Type III FGM is practiced, and women are sewn back after giving birth.

“Sowing women’s genital after giving birth to a child”
Woman, Tullus, South Darfur

Forced marriage. Child marriage and virginity is reported to be a key harmful practice against girls “tying the knot, or promising the girl in marriage when she was born” Girl, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. “Honour as a sign of virginity” IDP girl, Bielel camp, South Darfur.

Rape and **sexual violence** is reported as a key concern particularly amongst IDPs “rape is common outside the camp, in places where women fetch firewood” IDP boy, Alsalam camp, South Darfur. “Arab groups enter the homes and commit violence” IDP woman, Otash camp, South Darfur. “Girls are assaulted at night, in the Khor valley” IDP Woman, Otash camp, South Darfur. “A man of 54 years assaulted and raped a girl of 12 years of age in her house” IDP woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “After pregnancy resulting from rape, the baby is abandoned or killed” IDP Girl, Alsalam camp, South Darfur.

Most respondents agreed that areas far away from the community are dangerous to women. “violence happens to girls in remote areas, far from their homes” Woman, Otash camp, South Darfur. “The presence of herders increases rape cases” IDP boy, Alsalam camp, South Darfur. “areas where firewood is fetched, due to the remoteness. Rape and beating takes place there” Girl, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. “UNAMID used to guard women when they go collect firewood” IDP man, Alsalam camp, South Darfur.

Sexual violence is also a concern amongst the host population. “One of the most difficult cases was a 12 years old girl, who was raped as a revenge against the girl’s family. [...] The mother try to make her abort using toxic substances” due to the shame, GBV helpline provider.

Displaced population are considered to be the most at risk to violence. Within displaced population “Old IDPs are most secure than the new ones because they have seniority” IDP girl, Otash camp, South Darfur. Some ethnic groups are also particularly vulnerable due to the distance from urban areas “ethnic groups including the Zagawa, Masalat and Gimir are vulnerable because of the distance from the capital and services, and the lack of security” Expert, South Darfur.

Physical violence. Incidents of physical violence are particularly acute against women in IDP camps “beating [is common] among women at water sources” IDP girl, Otash camp, South Darfur. “There is violence against women in wood collection areas” IDP woman, Otash camp, South Darfur.

Psychological violence. Harassment is also reported to be a concern “boys harass girls in markets and streets” Girl, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. Popular games⁴³ are reported to be harmful, where respondents stated that they can lead to harassment “popular games as some lead to harassment” IDP Man, Bielel camp, South Darfur.

If violence happens, women and girls are blamed “yes, women are blamed” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur. “Women are blamed for choosing a bad company”; “for the way they dress” IDP girl, Otash camp, South Darfur. “For going to unsecure areas” IDP man, Alsalam camp, South Darfur. “Why are you late? Coming back early would avoid such things” Boy, Otash camp, South Darfur. GBV survivors are completely ostracized “[the victim] can turn into a prostitute, join a gang or a drug dealer, or could commit suicide” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur.

In the IDP camps, gender based violence is reported to happen against men and boys. This is mostly sexual violence “a 52 years old man raped a 7 years old boy and was not held accountable” IDP Woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “It takes place in farms and the camp” IDP Girl, Alsalam camp, South Darfur. Violence against men and boys goes unreported “he does not tell anyone. It is shameful” IDP Woman, Bielel camp, South Darfur. Boys are also victims of forced marriage, “young boys are forced to marry a girl chosen by the family, if they refuse they will be rejected by the family” Expert, South Darfur.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

The political situation, and the absence of law enforcement are reported to be connected with an increase in violence “violence increased because there is neither police nor punishment” IDP Woman, Otash camp, South Darfur.

The increased awareness by the community on FGM and fear of law enforcement is connected to a reduction in this practice “the situation on FGM improved because of the increased awareness and fear of the law” Woman, Tullus, South Darfur.

In South Darfur COVID19 restrictions affected the community: markets were closed, the deteriorating economic situation worsened gender based violence “lockdown caused unemployment and that led to economic violence in families” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. Physical and domestic violence, divorces and child marriage increased “keeping men at home without work led to increase in domestic problems” Woman, Tullus, South Darfur.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Girls protect themselves by “going out in groups, especially girls” IDP man, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “By staying at home” IDP boy, Bielel camp, South Darfur

Reporting is rare. “In case of rape, girls don’t report unless the impact is obvious [pregnancy]” Boy, Tullus, South Darfur. “Older women do not report, or very seldom do that” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur.

Divorced women are reported to be a particularly vulnerable group “if a divorced woman goes to the law, she

will be thrown in fire” Boy, East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. The majority of respondents cited fear of shame as the main reason for lack of reporting. “fear of shame [is the main reason] and sometimes fear of threats” East Jebel Marra, South Darfur. They also mentioned that “there is no effective law to protect the victims. The authorities are weak in enforcing the law” Man, Bielel camp, South Darfur. “Girls are afraid that if they report, they might not be married” East Jebel Marra, South Darfur.

Respondents indicated as lines of reporting the family, sheikhs and community leaders, resistance committees, health staff, other women and the police.

Specialized services exist, particularly health services however, respondents reported on the need of “strengthening the capacity of health personnel, supporting the legal services, and the provision of security and safety”. Experts, South Darfur.

Respondents reported the poor conditions and lack of accessibility of health facilities, especially in emergency cases “we do not have an ambulance, and the center does not have running water” IDP woman, Alsalam camp, South Darfur.

SOUTH KORDOFAN

1.31 M
POPULATION



0.50 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



27% - 89%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



170 K
IDPs



40 K
REFUGEES

VERY GOOD
DATA QUALITY



47%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



58%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



25%
POLYGAMY



5.8%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: domestic violence (23%), sexual violence (20%), forced marriage (16%), economic violence including denial of education (16%), psychological violence (15%), and FGM (10%).

Domestic violence is reported as a key concern in South

Kordofan “it is very common that brothers beat their sisters” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan. “Sometimes women go out without telling their husbands and men get angry and they beat them” Man, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “In cases of domestic violence when the man assaults the wife, they can report it to their brothers and elders; the wife goes back to her family of origin until the husband pledges not to hit her again” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan.

Domestic violence can take the form of rape by a family

⁴³ Respondents mentioned Derti, Dango, Nuggara and Rengo as harmful games.

member “the 5 years old neighbor was raped by her 31 years old cousin whilst the mother was at the market” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

Sexual violence happens, and survivors are married to the rapist. “The girl was raped by the shopkeeper and told the mother. She did not tell anybody else but when it was found out that the girl was pregnant the settlement was to marry her to the offender” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “In cases of sexual violence the girl is married to the rapist. This avoids the scandal” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. Danger zones for sexual violence and harassment include “water sources near military camps” Boy, Rashad, South Kordofan. “In the market and in places where drugs are sold” Man, Rashad, South Kordofan. Agricultural areas are also dangerous “agriculture areas due to the presence of armed farmers” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan.

The intersectionality with racial and tribal dynamics increases vulnerability. “Women with darker skin are most vulnerable to violence” Boy, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

FGM is widespread “a woman was subjected to FGM. During childbirth, she bled to death” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan. Older women and grandmothers are reported to be the first promoters of perpetuating FGM “a girl was circumcised but when the grandmother came, she repeated the FGM saying it should be Pharaonic (type III) rather than Sunna (type I)” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan. “Uncircumcised girls are made fun of” Boy, Rashad, South Kordofan.

Forced marriage is common “she was married to her cousin when she was 10” IDP Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “This is due to the economic difficulties of families and the aim of freeing themselves from the responsibility of supporting girls” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan. “This is for protection of the girls” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “Especially if an outsider proposes, the girl is quickly forced to marry a man from her tribe” Man, Rashad, South Kordofan.

Economic violence. Deprivation of education is common, where girls stop going to school at puberty “she is old enough and should stop going to school” Boy, Dilling, South Kordofan. “This is to marry them off” Boy, Rashad, South Kordofan.

Working women in low paying and informal jobs are vulnerable to harassment and abuse. “Women in domestic work such as construction, cooking and delivering food items are harassed” Man, Dilling, South Kordofan. “Women who work in household coming from poor families in rural areas are most vulnerable” Boy, Dilling, South Kordofan. It is reported that women’s income is taken away from husbands, amongst host and displaced population alike. “He forces her to work and bring him money” IDP woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “A woman was growing peanuts. At harvest the husband took the money and when she asked for money, he beat her” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. Women are discriminated against in institutional settings.

“Women are not represented in political senior posts, or to a very limited extent” Experts, South Kordofan. Although there were some improvements with “participation of women for the first time in the lists that were presented to the authorities after the break-up of the sit-in” Experts, South Kordofan.

Psychological violence and especially racially based verbal violence, is common “you are not an Arab and you are a nobody” Man, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “women are blamed for violence through insults” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

The tradition of checking the bride’s virginity exists, and can result in killing of the woman “a girl was killed in our village for the absence of wedding night blood” IDP woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “The chastity test is performed” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

If violence happens, women and girls are blamed. “Women and girls are blamed particularly in cases of domestic violence as they are accused to be the source of provocation” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan. “Mothers are blamed for negligence” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “In case of violence, rumors are a lot” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan. “They can even be banished from their home” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan.

Most respondents agreed that men and boys are rarely victims of GBV. If they were victims of GBV, they would report to family or authorities to achieve justice “he reports to the police or to traditional leaders to achieve justice” Man, Rashad, South Kordofan.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Over the last year, most respondents agreed that the situation deteriorated, particularly due to the poor economic situation of the country. “Child marriage increased due to the economic crisis that families are going through” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan. “Husbands beat their wives due to the inability to meet their demands due to the poor economic situation” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan. The political situation in South Kordofan also resulted in “increased displacement and therefore increased harassment of displaced populations” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan.

Domestic violence also increased as a result of COVID19 restrictions “it worsened because brothers beat their sisters more because they are in the house during Corona lockdown” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Women cope and try to protect themselves from violence by “wearing decent dress and avoiding suspicious places” Girl, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

Reporting is rare. Most respondents agreed that this would be to family members or friends “they do not tell anyone apart from relatives but not official bodies” Girl, Dilling, South Kordofan. “If the problem is domestic they would tell their friends” Woman, Rashad, South Kordofan.

If violence is reported, the first line of reporting would be through traditional mechanisms “the law is rarely involved as the problem is settled informally between families through Joudia (mediation)” Woman, Dilling, South Kordofan.

The reason for lack of reporting is identified as “lack of awareness and fear of shame” IDP woman, Kadugli, South

Kordofan. “The complicated legal procedures such as the belief of Form 8 requirement⁴⁴” Expert, South Kordofan. “The inability to meet the costs of hiring a lawyer if the case goes to court” Woman, Kadugli, South Kordofan.

Respondents reported that specialized services exist, particularly psychosocial and health, but they are poor in quality “they are poor” Man, Kadugli, South Kordofan. Key barriers include distance, and lack of financial resources “access to services is not possible because of financial reasons, social norms and stigma and the high distance of the localities” Expert, South Kordofan.

WEST DARFUR

1.56 M
POPULATION



0.40 M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



12% - 61%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



180 K
IDPs



AVERAGE
DATA QUALITY



44%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



57%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



53%
POLYGAMY



6.7%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (25%), domestic violence (17%), psychological violence (27%), economic violence including denial of education (13%), FGM (8%), and forced marriage (10%).

Respondent reported cases of **sexual violence**, particularly affecting IDPs. “Physical and sexual violence are common, especially in areas affected by insecurity and political

tensions” Expert, West Darfur. “Incidents have been reported next to IDP camps while survivors were collecting firewood or on their way to farming” Expert, West Darfur.

FGM is a concern in the state. “It is performed in secret” Man, Geneina, West Darfur. “The customs and traditions look at the uncircumcised woman as incomplete and a disgrace” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. Uncut girls are insulted and ostracised. “name calling of uncircumcised girls is common, or not eating with her” Girl, Geneina, West Darfur.

⁴⁴ See footnote 40

Child marriage is a concern in the state “at 10 or 11 years old, especially in nomadic communities” Expert, West Darfur. “Poverty pushes families to marry off their children in order to improve the financial situation of the family” Woman, Habila, West Darfur. “The purpose is chastity, earning money and ensuring virginity of the girl” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. “They believe that older girls are not respectable because they may have engaged in sex” Boy, Kereinik, West Darfur.

Psychological violence. Verbal abuse is reported as a concern in the state both within and outside the home. “The use of obscene language is common, such as “donkey” and the like” Girl, Geneina, West Darfur. “Insulting women and girls in agricultural areas by loose groups of people and inside the houses by men” Girl, Habila, West Darfur.

Victims of violence are blamed and ostracized “why does she go out at night?” Girl, Kereinik, West Darfur. “In many cases she commits suicide for fear of society’s view of her” Girl, Habila, West Darfur.

Domestic violence. Women’s movement is under the full control of their husbands, and beating is common if movement restrictions are not abided by. “Why did you go to this place? You have to get permission from your husband! You are useless. You brought shame and scandal.” Woman, Habila, West Darfur. “If she does not obey her husband, he should beat her even kill her” Boy, Kereinik, West Darfur.

Unaccompanied women are particularly vulnerable to violence “in the event of a divorce, the husband’s family practices violence by taking her out of the house” Man, Kereinik, West Darfur.

GBV survivors are rejected by the family. “When a rape case happens, the man is forced to reject or divorce her” Expert, West Darfur.

Economic violence. Employment is connected to physical abuse “employers exploit women workers, in case of harassment or rape she is unable to tell anyone because she needs to work and earn money” Girl, Geneina, West Darfur. “Women are exploited in farms and when they work as domestic workers” Woman, Habila, West Darfur.

It is common for girls to be discriminated in their access to education, with boys accessing better quality education. “Boys would be registered in private schools whilst girls in public schools” Man, Geneina, West Darfur. “When a woman is ambitious and wants to study, she is prevented from it and married off at early age” Boy, Geneina, West Darfur.

Most respondents agreed that violence is also against men and boys. This manifests particularly as sexual violence against boys. Violence is reported in Qur’anic schools. “Boys are mainly sexually abused by teachers especially in Qur’anic schools (Khalwas)” Expert, West Darfur. “Especially in Qur’anic schools and when they go for firewood and water” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. Violence against men and boys

goes unreported. “Because reporting reduces the power and dignity of men as they are always regarded as strong” Woman, Kereinik, West Darfur.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Most respondents agreed that the situation deteriorated over the last year, due to the tribal conflict. “there is an environment of retaliation between different tribes” Expert, West Darfur. “Due to the political changes sexual and economic violence increased” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. “The deterioration of the economic situation is affecting IDP women in particular, as they are heads of most households” Expert, West Darfur.

Most respondents agreed that the major impact of COVID19 was economic, and it increased economic violence.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Most respondents agreed that violence goes unreported. This is because of “fear and lack of trust in care providers” IDP girl, Geneina, West Darfur. Care providers are not trusted especially if they are from the same community, for fear of gossip. “Especially if they are from the same community” Expert, West Darfur. Most respondents agreed that perpetrators are not held accountable.

If a survivor reports, it would be first to a family member, then to protection networks, and then to the traditional administration or the local authorities.

Traditional systems are preferred to resolve GBV cases, especially amongst IDPs. “Most IDP communities prefer traditional mechanisms to avoid prolonged legal procedures and financial implications” Expert, West Darfur. But, they are reported to be unjust “community and traditional leader take men side, when a girl claims to be raped they say that she is the one who encouraged him” IDP girl, Geneina, West Darfur.

Available services include health, psychosocial and to a limited extent legal. “the capacity of service providers need to be increased” Expert, West Darfur. Services are concentrated in state capitals “professional PSS is only available in El Geneina, whilst most of the GBV cases happen in rural areas” Expert, West Darfur.

Barriers to accessing services include transportation costs, and blame. “Because of the lack of services or transport to reach them” Girl, Habila, West Darfur. Survivors also fear “being attached again if she reports and [...] stigma” Boy, Kereinik, West Darfur.

Respondents also mentioned confidentiality of services as a barrier “sometimes they prefer to speak to the midwife for confidentiality” Expert, West Darfur. “There is a need to increase the privacy of the victim” Woman, El Geneina, West Darfur. “Social stigma hinders some survivors access to services” Expert, West Darfur.

WEST KORDOFAN

1.94 M
POPULATION



0.37M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



26% - 81%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



10K
IDPs



60K
REFUGEES

VERY GOOD
DATA QUALITY



41%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



50%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



33%
POLYGAMY



5.8%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: sexual violence (25%), domestic violence (20%), psychological violence (19%), economic violence including denial of education (15%), FGM (9%), and forced marriage (8%).

Sexual violence is reported as a concern especially amongst cattle herders “cattle herders are exposed to rape and harassment” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan. Sexual violence is also a concern in “areas where armed forces camps are found” Man, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. Particularly vulnerable are “refugees and the homeless” Expert, West Kordofan.

Women and girls protect themselves by not going out unaccompanied “girls go to water sources with their brothers” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan.

FGM is widespread in the community “there are FGM cases according to the social norms” Expert, West Kordofan. The practice of demonstrating the girl’s virginity is also common

“virginity evidence is taken on the first night of the wedding” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

Forced marriage is a significant concern in West Kordofan “girls get engaged at an early age, mostly to cousins” Boy, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan. Most respondents did not mention child marriage as a harmful practice, however, when asked they indicated 14-15 as usual age of marriage, indicating an attitude of acceptance towards the practice. The belief that marriage is a protection for women and girls is widespread “marriage is protection and security to women and girls” Man, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. Child marriage is also due to “improve the family’s economic situation” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan; and due to “fear of not getting married” Boy, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan.

Domestic violence is reported as a significant concern “Women and girls are beaten especially if they go out without permission” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “Women and girls are beat with sticks” Boy, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan.

Sexual assault and harassment exists “in transportation,

university, markets and work places” Girl, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “Harassment cases are widespread in the community. This leads to tribal conflicts and killings” Girl, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan. “harassment takes place at parties, where many tribes meet” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan.

Economic violence. Denial of education is widespread “there is a deep discrimination in education between male and female” Expert, West Kordofan.

Particularly vulnerable categories are “women and children working in markets and as tea sellers”; and “divorced women” Man, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan and “the homeless” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. People with disabilities are recognized as vulnerable to GBV “the mentally unstable” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

Psychological violence. If violence happens, women and girls are blamed. “If she is dressed indecently”; “if she goes to suspicious places” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan. Most respondents agreed that men and boys are rarely victims of GBV. If violence occurs “they do not talk because otherwise they are not men” Girl, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. Some respondents mentioned that if violence happens, they “take things in their own hands” and seek revenge Girl, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan.

LAST YEAR’S TRENDS

Most respondents agreed that the situation deteriorated over the last year. “there is an increase in violence because of the political changes”; “there is no one in charge of law enforcement” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan. “bribing the police has increased silence about rape cases” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan. The bad economic situation is reported as a cause of the increase in violence “lashing and blame increased; unemployment helped in all that” Girl, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

COVID19 restrictions were not followed. Most respondents agreed that the deteriorating economic situation was the key result of COVID19 restrictions “restrictions and lockdown led to economic violence and led to increased rates of divorce” Expert, West Kordofan.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Most violence goes unreported. “In case of rape, the family usually covers up for fear of scandal” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. Most respondents agreed that if victims report, it would be to their family and friends, then to traditional justice mechanisms, or in the last instance to the police. The reasons for not reporting have to do with “fear of shame”; “intimidation from members of different tribes”; and the “belief of compulsory reporting and complicated procedures at the hospital (form8)⁴⁵” Expert, West Kordofan. Violence goes unreported also due to power

dynamics between tribes “a girl was raped by a member of a stronger tribe and the family did not want to report” Expert, West Kordofan.

If violence is reported, the issue is addressed through traditional justice systems “most of the time Omdas and Sharati intervene to find solutions” Girl, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “The problem is solved through native customs, Joudia, for fear of problems” Boy, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan. “Usually the community pays financial compensation to the victim or her family” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

Survivors are often subjected to more violence. Often girls are “locked up at home” Man, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan. In some cases, there is forced marriage, especially “if the girl got pregnant and gave birth to a child” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. GBV survivors are complete outcast “girls may commit suicide”; “they move to cities” Woman, Abyei, West Kordofan.

Most respondents agreed that specialized services exist but are inadequate and there are barriers to access. “No psychological support is provided, there is no protection against violence” Boy, El Nehoud, West Kordofan.

Key barriers include accessibility, and social stigma “You need to travel long distances to access services” Girl, Abyei Muglad, West Kordofan. “There is a lack of transportation” Expert, West Kordofan. “Services are not sustained” Woman, El Nehoud, West Kordofan. “Social stigma hinders reporting of rape cases” Expert, West Kordofan.

WHITE NILE

2.76 M
POPULATION



0.71M
PEOPLE
IN NEED



44% - 94%
0 TO 14 Y/O - 15 TO 49 Y/O
FGM PREVALENCE



270K
REFUGEES



GOOD
DATA QUALITY



37%
CHILD
MARRIAGE



35%
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



12%
POLYGAMY



9.1%
FERTILITY
RATE



KEY GBV CONCERNS

When asked about what are the types of GBV that are most common in their community, respondents mentioned: economic violence including denial of education (26%), psychological violence (19%), FGM (19%), forced marriage (18%), domestic violence (11%), and sexual violence (1%).

FGM is reported as a key concern amongst respondents. “Female circumcision is spread because men refuse to marry uncircumcised girls” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. “It is directed by grandmothers” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. “A man left to the market and when he returned home he found that his single daughter among so many sons was circumcised without his knowledge” Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. “The female circumcision rates decreased, and the Sunna appeared” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Forced marriage is a key concern in White Nile. “It is a common practice in all villages except a few” Girl, El Salam, White Nile. “Child marriage is not considered a form of violence” Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. “Marriage is from 13-14, even if you don’t agree” Girl, El Salam, White Nile

“child marriage is mostly to cousins” Boy, El Salam, White Nile. “If they ask her for marriage, either she accepts or she commits suicide” Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. “The person performing the marriage (Sheikh/Mazoon) is the only person who must check the age of the girl and make a decision” Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. Sometimes brides are reserved for marriage before the day of the ceremony “they make the marriage contract and reserve her” Girl, Al Salam, White Nile.

Respondents reported that marriage is sometimes used to getting rid of daughters with difficult character or who want to marry somebody external to the community “If the girl is impolite or unagreeable, they marry her off earlier” Girl, Al Salam, White Nile. “If she brings a stranger they refuse and marry her to her cousin” Girl, Tendalti, White Nile. “Many men go to Khartoum or Madani to earn money, then they come back here to get married to their female cousin” Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

Economic violence. Denial of education is widespread in the community “Some girls are not allowed to study beyond secondary education. They rarely get university education”

⁴⁵ See footnote 29

Girl, Tendalti, White Nile. "Schools are far away from the village and families are worried about their safety"; "they do not agree to them being in boarding schools" Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

"Women in the village are under severe pressure, they fetch water and wood, and they take care of the house when a father or brother is disabled, whilst men are resting at home. All the pressure is on them" Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

Psychological violence. Verbal violence is reported as a key concern in the community. "There has been a spread of verbal violence" Expert, White Nile. "There is verbal violence and gossip, but nothing visible" Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. "There are many forms of violence, particularly against women and mostly because of gossip" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile. "it is common to insult uncircumcised girls as undesirable as wives" Man, Tendalti, White Nile. "If I go out to have a coffee and our neighbors saw me, they would tell my family that their daughter is misbehaving" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Harassment is common in public transportation "in public transport there is harassment" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

If violence happens, both the woman and her family is blamed "they all say that it is from her family's mistake, and that reduces the community's view of the family" Girl, Tendalti, White Nile. "the father blames the mother for letting the girl go out on her own and becoming a victim of sexual or physical violence" Boy, Al Salam, White Nile.

Domestic violence is very common. "if somebody follows you from the market till home harassing you, and your brother sees him, he gets angry and he may beat you" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile. "They do not let girls finish their education and force her to marry; and she is exposed to violence by the husband" Woman, Al Salam, White Nile. "If a girl is found talking on the phone by her elder brother he may beat her" Girl, Al Salam, White Nile. "The most spread type is sexual violence, all of it happens within the domestic sphere" GBV helpline service provider.

Women's movement is severely restricted, and they must seek permission from their guardian to leave the house. "Sometimes we do not even go out for funerals to avoid problems" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile. "I talk to my brother if I am going out, to avoid trouble" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Divorce is used as a threat, as divorcee women are complete outcast of society "they look down on divorcees" Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

The legal framework allows men to marry multiple wives, and Islam allows men to marry 4 wives; "men divorce for insignificant reason" Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile. Some respondents mentioned the violence between wives in polygynous relationships "young wife fights with the older wife" Woman Refugee, Um Sangour camp,

White Nile. "Violence results from polygamy" Woman, Eljabalein, White Nile.

Sexual violence happens. "It happened in a village nearby, where a girl was raped and she killed herself due to the blame" Boy, Al Salam, White Nile. In camp setting, it is mostly said that sexual violence is committed by Arab groups "if raped in the forest, then the Arabs are to blame" Woman Refugee, Um Sangour camp, White Nile. "Rape happens when collecting wood. It is sometimes 3 or 4 men. Perpetrators are from outside the camp, that's why we try to limit the times that we leave the camp. When the girl came back to the camp, the community knows what happened. She reported but COR denied it and the authorities denied it, they said that maybe she was beaten but not raped" Woman Refugee, Eljabalein, White Nile.

"The most vulnerable to GBV are children with disability" Expert, White Nile.

Most respondents agreed that there is no gender based violence against men and boys. If it takes place "they will not tell anyone" Boy, Tendalti, White Nile.

LAST YEAR'S TRENDS

COVID19 and stay at home measures increased domestic violence as it reduced women and girls' freedom of movement "father and brothers before COVID19 were out till evening, so we could go out. During the lockdown I could not go out" Girl, Eljabalein, White Nile.

REPORTING AND RESPONSE

Most respondents agreed that in case of reporting, the first line of reporting would be to the family. For Refugees, most respondents agreed that they would report to the police.

Most respondents agreed that there is a lack of availability in services. "We don't have any service except the mosque and the school"; "our life depends on social solidarity" Man, Eljabalein, White Nile. Some health and PSS services exist but of low quality "the use of these services is 5% because the health center is good but without medical cadre or treatments" Boy, Eljabalein, White Nile. Refugees reported that the main barrier to services is the host community "the barriers are the hosting villages" Woman Refugee, Um Sangour camp, White Nile.



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ANNEX I

DATA QUALITY

Table below provides a breakdown of the quality of the data included in this report. The criteria included in table below include: 1) respondents provided in-depth answers and examples vs. single word answers, skipped questions 2) participants' answers differ, and group thinking is limited vs. all answers are similar to each other 3) selection of FGD participants was aligned to the criteria provided (including diverse background, education level, age etc) vs was different from provided criteria 4) number of FGD and selection of locality based on PiN aligned to initial selection vs number of FGD or localities adjusted based on emerging circumstances. Rating is on a 5 points scale, with 1= very poor; 2=poor; 3=average; 4=good; 5=very good.

STATE	1 DEPTH OF ANSWERS PROVIDED	2 VARIANCE BETWEEN ANSWERS	3 ACCURATE SELECTION OF RESPONDENTS	4 FGDS ROLLED OUT IN LINE WITH PLAN	AVERAGE RATING
Blue Nile	3	4	5	5	4.25
Central Darfur	3	4	4	4	3.75
East Darfur	2	5	5	5	4.25
Gadaref	3	5	5	5	4.5
Gezira	3	5	3	5	4
Kassala	2	2	5	5	3.5
Khartoum	4	5	5	5	4.75
North Darfur	2	3	5	5	3.75
North Kordofan	2	4	5	4	3.75
Northern	1	2	4	4	2.75
Red Sea	2	5	4	5	4
River Nile	2	4	5	5	4
Sennar	2	4	5	5	4
South Darfur	2	4	5	2	3.25
South Kordofan	3	5	5	5	4.5
West Darfur	2	3	5	4	3.5
West Kordofan	3	5	5	5	4.5
White Nile	3	5	4	4	4

ANNEX II

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The analytical framework used for this study is based on the Sudan GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)⁴⁶, which includes the definitions, guiding principles and procedures for the prevention and response to GBV in Sudan.

The SOPs were adopted by the Sudan Ministry of Social Development in February 2020⁴⁷, and endorsed by UNFPA, as well as most providers of GBV services - including government institutions, UN agencies, national and international NGOs in Sudan. The national SOPs were developed by a consultative process which included service providers for medical, PSS, security and justice service providers, and they are based on national and international best practices.

Table 4 - Definitions of GBV and analytical framework used by this study

GBV TYPE	DEFINITION
Sexual Violence	Rape: Non-consensual penetration (however slight) of the vagina, anus or mouth with a penis or other body part. Also includes penetration of the vagina or anus with an object. Sexual assault: any form of non-consensual sexual contact that does not result in or include penetration. Examples include: attempted rape; unwanted kissing; fondling, or touching of genitalia and buttocks. This incident does not include rape, i.e. where penetration has occurred.
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or another injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM/C is considered one of the violent acts that affect the genitals and is thus defined as sexual violence. This harmful practice is classified by the SOPs under sexual assault, but is treated separately by this study.
Domestic violence	Domestic violence is defined by the relationship between perpetrator and survivor. It is any type of violence that occurs in the household or family, including intimate partner (spouse) violence and violence committed by a family member. Domestic violence may include multiple forms of violence (rape, sexual assault, physical assault, and psychological/emotional abuse). There is no definition for domestic violence in Sudan, and the GBV information management system (GBV IMS) does not define this kind of violence as one of the core types of GBV.
Forced marriage	Forced marriage: The marriage of an individual against his/her will. This also includes child marriage which is any marriage under the age of 18.
Physical violence	Physical assault: An act of physical violence that is not sexual in nature. Example include: beating, slapping, strangling, cutting, pushing or burning in all its forms, including using acids, shooting or use of any weapons, or any other act that results in pain, discomfort or injury. This incident type does not include FGM/C.
Economic violence	Denial of resources, opportunities, or services: Denial of rightful access to economic resources/assets or livelihood opportunities, education, health or other social services. Examples include a woman prevented from receiving an inheritance, earnings forcibly taken by an intimate partner/spouse or family member, denying girls educational opportunities, a woman prevented from using contraceptives, a girls prevented from attending school, etc. Reports of general poverty should not be recorded.
Psychological violence	Psychological/emotional abuse: Infliction of mental or emotional pain or injury. Examples include: threats of use of physical or sexual violence, intimidation, humiliation, forced isolation, chasing, stalking, harassment, unwanted attention, remarks, gestures or written words of a sexual and/or menacing nature, destruction of cherished things, etc.

⁴⁶ CVAW, National Standard Operating procedures for prevention of and response to GBV in Sudan, 2019, [link](#)

⁴⁷ Formerly Ministry of Labor and Social Development

ANNEX III

RESEARCH TOOLS

VOICES OF SUDAN 2020 - COMMUNITY FGD TOOL

FACILITATOR NAME:	
NOTE TAKER NAME:	
STATE, LOCALITY, AREA' CAMP:	
DATE START/END TIME:	
TRANSLATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):	IF YES, THE TRANSLATION WAS FROM -----(LANGUAGE) TO ----- (LANGUAGE)
FGD CODE	
FGD TYPE WOMEN/ MEN/BOYS/GIRLS REFUGEES/IDPS	
AGE GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN: 14-18 YEARS:----- 19-24 YEARS:----- 25-40 YEARS:-----OVER 40 YEARS:-----

Introduction – For facilitator only (do not read to participants)

The report will highlight the key GBV concerns in each of Sudan's 18 states, and will identify gaps in service provision. The data will provide a baseline for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021 as well as for future GBV programmes in Sudan. The assessment will also be an advocacy tool for donors, a mechanism to identify gaps in the prevention and response, as well as a tool to raise awareness. Please do ask questions in as much as an open way as possible, without imposing your views on respondents.

Informed consent – To be read to the informant

Hello, my name is _____ and this is my colleague _____, we are conducting an interview for UNFPA. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions. I am just interested in your opinion, based on your direct experience in your own community. Your responses are voluntary. If we come to a question you do not wish to answer, please tell me and we will move on. Your answers will help to shed light on current conditions in your community, so please answer as truthfully as you can.

The questionnaire will ask you about gender based violence. This refers to violence that affects people in your

community because of their gender, it mostly affects women and girls. This includes physical violence (such as coercion or assault), sexual violence (such as sexual acts without a person's consent, rape within or outside marriage, FGM/C), forced marriage, psychological violence (such as harassment, defamation, insult), economic violence/deprivation from resources and opportunities (such as restricting someone's access to money, education or work). When giving examples, do not share names of survivors, perpetrators, affected families etc. or other identifying information about cases/incidents.

We will be taking notes. The final report may quote directly some of the conversations that we will be having today, however, no one's identity will be mentioned. The purpose of the notes is to ensure that the information collected is precise. If you do not wish to be quoted, please inform us. These are sensitive topics. If you would like to share some information, but do not feel comfortable sharing it in a group setting you can speak to me after the meeting or phone me (facilitator to write their number on blackboard, or to share it with participants in individual pieces of paper). Support Services for survivors of GBV are available in Sudan. To access these services please call the 24/7 national GBV helpline.

Do not share details of the discussion after the FGD, whether with people who are present today or not. If someone asks, explain that you were speaking about the health problems of women and girls.

QUESTION 1:

- 1.1 Without mentioning any names or indicating anyone, can you tell me what incidents of violence against women and girls are most common in your community?

Each participant to state one or two items that are most common in their community with examples:

- 1.2 Write all comments by participants:

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

- 1.3 What kinds of cultural practices exist that you think might be harmful to women and girls in the community?
- 1.4 In your community, are there danger zones, where women and girls are at increased risk of violence? Why, what makes these areas dangerous?
- 1.5 What do women and girls do to protect themselves from violence? What does the community do to protect them?
- 1.6 Is it common for people in the community to blame women or girls for the violence when this happens? How do people show that they are to blame? What are the consequences for women and girls?
- 1.7 At what age do women usually marry in the community? Are there cases of forced marriage? What factors make parents/families marry their child early?
- 1.8 Which groups of the population (i.e. women, certain ethnic groups/ migrants and refugees) are most exposed to violence? Why? Which group(s) are most secure? Why?
- 1.9 Who are the perpetrators of these acts of violence against women and girls? What happens to the actors of these acts of violence, do they get punished? If yes, how? Describe any barriers.

QUESTION 2:

- 2.1 In your opinion, has the problem of violence gotten worse, better, or stayed the same in the last year? What particular types of violence have gotten worse, better, or stayed the same? What has caused it (for example political unrest, economic challenges, the floods)??

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

- 2.2 How has the COVID-19 and the restrictions in movement affected the prevalence of violence in your community?

QUESTION 3:

- 3.1 If a person suffers from violence is s/he likely to tell anyone about it? Who is s/he likely to talk to (family members, other women, health workers, community leaders, women centers, community-based protection networks, police/security or other authorities or anyone else)?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

- 3.2 If the answer to the previous question is No, in your opinion, why do survivors of violence hesitate to seek support? What might be some of the reasons hindering survivors from reporting GBV incidents? (facilitator to explain the difference between disclosure and reporting)
- 3.3 What kind of assistance and support could she/he receive? (like health, psychosocial support, GBV case management, safety and security, legal)?
- 3.4 Are services accessible by all members of the community, regardless of income, status, whether they are accompanied or not? If not, what are the barriers?
- 3.5 What are the gaps? What services/areas need to be strengthened?

QUESTION 4:

- 4.1 What about men and boys, are there specific types of violence that they experience? What examples can you provide? Where does it happen?
- 4.2 If violence is perpetrated against a boy or a man, would he tell anyone? Why or why not?

CLOSING: (TO READ TO PARTICIPANTS)

Before we finish, I would like to invite you to speak up if there is anything about GBV that you want to mention and we have missed and you would like to discuss, but please do not discuss experiences by other people that might jeopardize their privacy. If anyone wishes to speak in private, respond that you will be available after the meeting.

We thank you for your time and your contributions. You have all helped to provide a good understanding of the situation here and the needs and concerns of women and girls.

Please make sure that this conversation remains confidential, and not to share details with anyone in the community.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or think of additional information that should be shared, you can contact us through the contacts provided.

VOICES OF SUDAN 2020 - EXPERTS FGD TOOL

	PARTICIPANT NAME + LAST NAME	ORGANISATION NAME OF ORGANISATION + CATEGORY (GOS/NGO/IO)	QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFY WHY THIS IS AN EXPERT: NUMBER OF YEARS WORKED IN THE STATE/IN WHICH CAPACITY
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

INTRODUCTION – FOR FACILITATOR ONLY

The report will highlight the key GBV concerns in each of Sudan's 18 states, and will identify gaps in service provision. The data will provide a baseline for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021 as well as for future GBV programmes in Sudan. The assessment will also be an advocacy tool for donors, a mechanism to identify gaps in the prevention and response, as well as a tool to raise awareness.

INFORMED CONSENT – TO READ TO INFORMANT

Hello, my name is _____
_ and I am conducting an interview for UNFPA. There is no right or wrong answers to the questions. I am just interested in your opinion. The answers you will provide will be in strict confidence. Your responses are voluntary. If we come to a question you do not wish to answer, please tell me and we will move on. However, your answers can be beneficial by providing information which may help to shed light on current conditions in your community, so please answer as truthfully as you can.

QUESTION 1⁴⁸:

Which types of GBV are most prevalent in your state?
Each expert to state three items:

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

Are there any populations (i.e. gender, ethnic groups/camp settings/migrants and refugees) particularly at risk of GBV? Why?

Who are the most common perpetrators?

QUESTION 2:

Are there any specific trends that emerged over the last year as a result of the transitional government/political change in Sudan? If yes, what are these trends?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

How has the COVID19 affected the prevalence of GBV?

QUESTION 3:

In case of GBV incident, where do survivors seek help?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

What are the main entry points for survivors to report GBV incidents?

In your opinion, what might be some of the reasons hindering survivors from reporting GBV incidents?

QUESTION 4⁴⁹:

Availability of specialized services for GBV survivors
What GBV specialized services (like health, psychosocial support, GBV case management, safety and security, legal) are available for survivors?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

Do services work? And how do you evaluate the services quality?

Are services accessible by all members of the community, regardless of income, status, whether they are accompanied or not? If not, what are the barriers?

What are the gaps? What services/areas need to be strengthened?

GAPS: mean non-existing services and the aspects that need development in the available services.

EACH EXPERT TO STATE THREE AREAS:

QUESTION 5:

How does GBV affect men and boys? Are they victims/perpetrators of GBV? (examples)

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

Who do men and boys go to for help if they experience GBV?
Do programs need to address GBV against men and boys in the same way as women and girls?



⁴⁸ (Indicator: % of respondents reporting any of the GBV type as a problem in the community (Rape, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, FGM, Early/ child marriage, economic abuse, psychological violence, etc.)

⁴⁹ (Indicator: % of assessed communities where specialized services for GBV survivors are available)



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