Introduction to GBV

Jonathan B Ndzi
HRU, UNFPA Dakar, SENEGAL
Regional Emergency RH Coordinator

ndzi@unfpa.org

Postgraduate Training in Reproductive Health Research
Faculty of Medicine, University of Yaoundé 2007
SEX vs. GENDER

SEX:
Refers to physiological attributes that identify a person as male or female:
- Genital organs
- Type of predominant hormones
- Ability to produce sperm or ova
- Ability to give birth and breastfeed

GENDER:
Refers to widely shared ideas and expectations (norms) concerning men and women:
Includes ideas about “typically” feminine/female and masculine/male characteristics, abilities, and behaviors.
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will (WITHOUT CONSENT), and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between male and females’
Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

**Definition:**

“Violence involving men and women in which the female is usually the victim and which is derived from unequal power relationships between men and women.”

UNFPA
Root causes of GBV

- Society’s attitudes towards and practices of gender discrimination – the role responsibilities; limitation, privileges and opportunities afforded to an individual according to gender

1. Abuse of Power
2. Gender inequality
3. Lack of belief in equality of human rights for all
GBV contributing factors

- Alcohol / drug abuse
- Poverty
- **Conflict**
- Availability of food; fuel; wood; income generation
- Collapse of traditional society and family support systems
- Lack of police protection
- Impunity
- Loss of male power/role in the family and community; seeking to assert power
- Retaliation
- Tool / Strategy of war
GBV Tree

EXAMPLES OF GBV
- Domestic violence
- Verbal emotional abuse
- FGM
- Rape

Types of GBV

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Conflict

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS
- Alcohol / drug abuse
- Lack of police protection

DISRESPECT FOR HR

ABUSE OF POWER

GENDER INEQUALITY

SEXUAL
- Physical
- Emotional / Mental
- Economic
- HTP

ROOT CAUSES
Gender-based violence (GBV)

- **Power** (social, economic, political, physical, gender-based, age-related)
- **Use of Force (coercion)/ violence** (physical, emotional, physical, social, economical) includes intimidation, threats, persecution, psychological or social pressure.
- **Consent (informed)** - informed when equal power- consent for GBV could be under duress
- **Human Rights**.
Human rights

- Not acquired
- Gotten from birth
- Universal, inalienable (indisputable), indivisible, interconnected and interdependent.
- No distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
GBV and human rights

- the right to life, liberty and security of person
- the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment
- the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to education, to social security and to personal development
Global problem and that it happens in poor countries, rich countries, countries that are not affected by war, countries that are...

- Over 90 million African women and girls have been victims of FGM
- An estimated over 60 million to be female have been eliminated through sex selective abortions in Asia
- Over 20,000 women were raped in the Bosnian war of the 90’s
- Between 250-500,000 women were raped in Rwanda during the 1994 events
Examples of SGBV

• Domestic violence: battering, abusive language
• Rape
• Sodomy
• Sexual abuse/exploitation
• Harmful traditional practices
• Incest
• Sexual harassment
• Forced prostitution
• Crossing a checkpoint, with male authority
Who are the Perpetrators

• Worldwide, women are much more vulnerable to violence within intimate and familial relationships, whereas men are more likely to be attacked by a stranger or acquaintance.

• Studies indicate that on average over 90 percent of perpetrators of sexual violence against women are men, and in the case of male victims, between 63 and 86 percent of the perpetrators are men.

• In Canada, women are three times more likely than men to be injured as a result of abuse by a spouse or boyfriend, five times more likely to require medical attention or hospitalization, and five times more likely to report fearing for their lives.
Sexual Exploitation is any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Exchanging money, shelter, food or other goods for sex or sexual favours from someone in a vulnerable position is sexual exploitation.

Sexual Abuse is the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Threatening or forcing someone to have sex or provide sexual favours under unequal or forced conditions is sexual abuse.
Health Consequences of Rape

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social

Health sector
After-effects and outcomes of GBV

**HEALTH:**

- With all types of gender-based violence, there are serious and potentially life threatening health outcomes.

**Fatal Outcomes**

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Maternal mortality
- Infant mortality
- AIDS-related

**Non-Fatal Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acute Physical</th>
<th>Chronic Physical</th>
<th>Reproductive</th>
<th>Mental Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injury</td>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>Miscarriage</td>
<td>Post traumatic stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock</td>
<td>Somatic complaints</td>
<td>Unwanted Pregnancy</td>
<td>Depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease</td>
<td>Chronic Infections</td>
<td>Unsafe abortion</td>
<td>Mental disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Chronic Pain</td>
<td>STIs including HIV/AIDS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
<td>Menstrual disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Pregnancy complications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sleep Disorders</td>
<td>Gynecological disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol/ Drug abuse</td>
<td>Sexual disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After-effects and outcomes of GBV

- **EMOTIONAL – PSYCHOLOGICAL - SOCIAL**
  - With all types of gender-based violence, there are serious and potentially life-threatening mental and psychosocial outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emotional &amp; Psychological After – Effects</th>
<th>Social Consequences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post traumatic stress</td>
<td>Blaming the victim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Loss of role functions in society (e.g., earn income, care for children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety, Fear</td>
<td>Social stigma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>Social rejection and isolation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shame, insecurity, self-hate, self-blame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicidal thoughts, behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most societies tend to blame the victim, and the social rejection results in further emotional damage including shame, self-hate, and depression.
Increase Risks during Crisis HIV/AIDS and GBV
The link

Women and girls face increased risk of acquiring STIs and HIV by:

GBV:

• Direct Transmission through rape
• ‘Survival sex’ – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
• Increased levels of overall violence including intimate partner violence, which in turns, makes it difficult to negotiate safe sex in their relationships.
• Deliberate infection
• Increase presence of military
GBV and HIV/AIDS

Partner Abuse
Sexual Assault
Child Sexual Abuse

Emotional/Behavioural Change
- Excessive drug and alcohol use
- Depression
- Low self esteem
- Post traumatic stress

High Risk Sex
- Multiple Partners
- Unprotected intercourse
- Prostitution

STI’s and HIV

Possible Direct and Indirect pathways to STI’s and HIV