



# **Cohesion, Contagion and Conflict**

How War Experiences and Social Cohesion  
Are Associated with GBV

Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum

October 22, 2019

# Project Team

- Principal Investigators for this evaluation are Jocelyn Kelly, Sarah Khan, and Maarten Voors with Morgan Holmes and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago
- Special acknowledgement to Jean-Paul Zibika, team lead in DRC
- The research protocol for this study was approved by the NORC Institutional Review Board (IRB00000967), Project Number 7554.059.01, IRB Protocol Number 18.08.13 on 09/10/2018.



# Background

- Survey part of a randomized impact evaluation (IE) of the *Tushinde Ujeuri* program coordinated by IMA World Health and implemented by several partners including Panzi Hospital, Heal Africa, ABA Rule of Law Initiative and Search for Common Ground, funded by USAID
- Holistic services to strengthen community-based prevention of gender-based violence (GBV)

# Methods

- Fall 2018 in North and South Kivu provinces, eastern DRC
- Household and community-level survey
- 20 households per village across 192 villages.
- One randomly chosen adult per household
- The community survey was conducted with village chief in each village



# Methods

- Staff highly trained in participant engagement and recognizing and managing participant distress
- Referral services mapped for each survey site and provided to participants
- One person per household interviewed to promote privacy
- Followed WHO guidelines for ethical research in humanitarian settings
- Used DHS standardized methodology for measuring sexual violence and intimate partner violence (IPV)

# Results

- 2,103 men surveyed, 2,114 women surveyed (4,223 total)
- 53% of women report having experienced physical or sexual IPV in their lives
- 14.5% men reported ever having perpetrated non-partner sexual violence
- 29% reported ever having perpetrated IPV

# Finding 1

- Women who had **witnessed war-related abuses**, and women who had **experienced war abuses** were 6% more likely to experience **IPV victimization\***

# Finding 2

- Men who had **witnessed war-related abuses** were 9% more likely to report **IPV perpetration\*\*\***
- Men who reported **inter-village relations were bad** were 6% more likely to **perpetrate IPV\*\*\***

# Finding 3

- At first analysis, we did *not* see an association between non-partner sexual violence (SV) and war-related experiences
- **Men who experienced sexual violence** by an armed actor were **2.4 times more likely to perpetrate** non-partner SV compared to no-war experiences\*\*
- Being exposed to *non-sexual* war-related experiences was not associated with perpetration of non-partner SV

# Finding 4

- Men who reported **inter-village relations were bad** were 8% more likely to **perpetrate IPV\*\*\***

# Conclusions

- Men who witnessed **war-related events** were more likely to report **perpetration of IPV and sexual violence**.

BUT

... some war-related experiences (specifically **sexual violence against men**) seem to be **driving the perpetration** of non-partner sexual violence

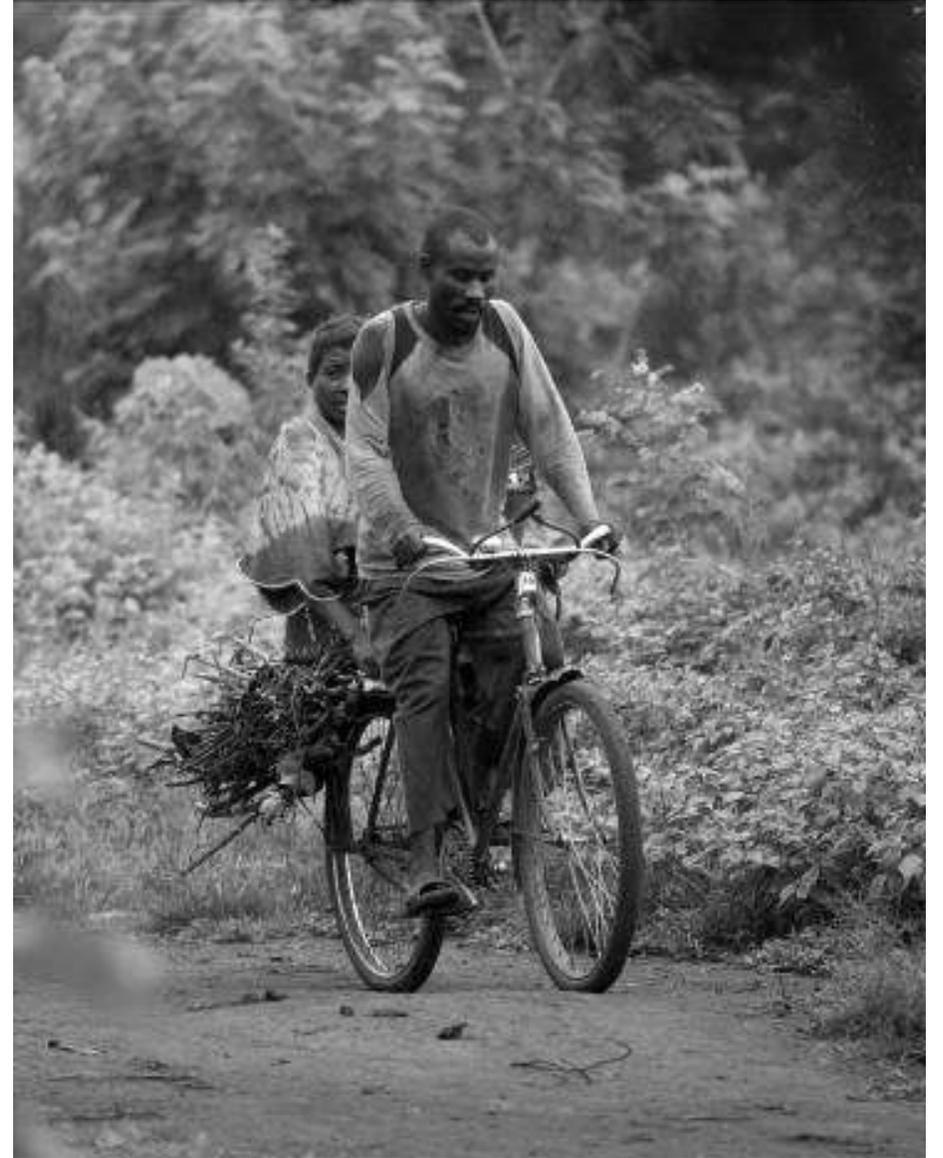
# Conclusions

- Men who reported more **mistrust and resentment of neighboring communities** also had **higher odds of perpetrating IPV** and sexual violence against non-partners
- **War-related experiences** are highly and significantly associated with higher odds of women reporting **IPV victimization**

# Implications

Addressing the underlying trauma of conflict and trying to rebuild trust and social cohesion may provide an avenue to addressing violent behaviors in highly war-affected areas.

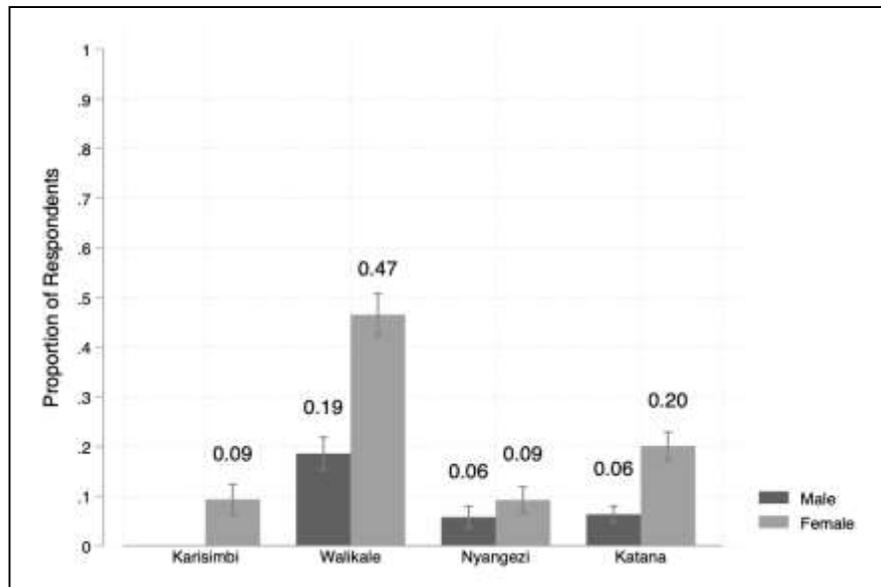
Stay tuned...



# Additional Slides

Table 2: Gender Breakdown of Household Survey Sample

	Percentage	N
Male	49.9	2,108
Female	50.1	2,114
Other	0.02	1
Total	100	4,223



		aOR	P-value	95% Confidence interval	
				Low CI	High CI
Type of war-related experience	No experiences (ref)	--	--	--	--
	Any non-sexual war experience	1.30	0.16	0.90	1.89
	Sexual violence by armed actor	2.41	0.01	1.30	4.48
Currently displaced		0.74	0.29	0.42	1.29
Considers intra-village relationships are bad		0.91	0.68	0.60	1.39
Considers inter-village relationships are bad		1.59	0.02	1.09	2.30
Believes own village is worse off than neighboring villages		1.37	0.00	1.12	1.68
Age		1.01	0.05	1.00	1.02
Currently employed		1.03	0.88	0.72	1.47
Religion	Catholic (ref)	--	--	--	--
	Protestant	1.20	0.33	0.83	1.74
	Muslim	2.14	0.16	0.74	6.20
	Other	1.12	0.69	0.65	1.90
Exposure to violence in childhood		2.54	0.00	1.50	4.30
Expresses at least one gender inequitable attitude		1.60	0.01	1.13	2.28
Reports at least one personal conflict in past year		1.51	0.02	1.06	2.15
Reports at least one instance of perpetrating intimate partner violence		2.66	0.00	1.89	3.76
Reports having hit, kicked or beaten a non-partner at least once in lifetime		7.50	0.00	5.20	10.82