

“Putting women’s safety first”

Reflections from the field

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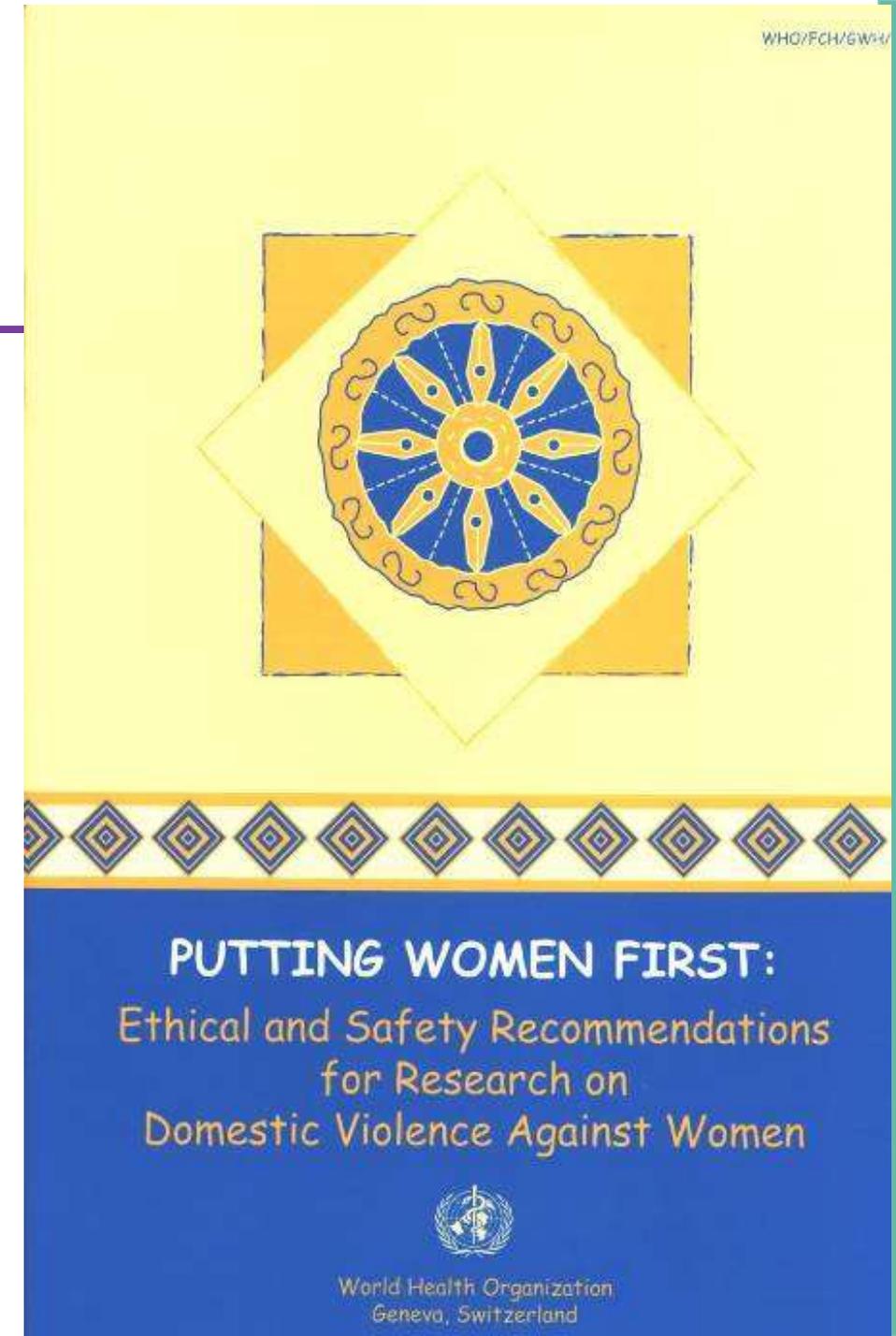
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women



WHO Safety Guidelines

Consideration of respondent and interviewer safety should guide all project decisions



Minimizing harm

To Respondent

- Physical harm (reprisals as a result of disclosure)
- psychological (re traumatization)
- Social harm (stigmatization)

To Researcher

- Physical harm (from abuser)
- Psychological (vicarious trauma)

Total privacy







MINIMIZING RISK TO THE INFORMANTS

- Total privacy
- One woman interviewed per household
- Men and women interviewed in different households/clusters
- Use of alternative questionnaires if interrupted
- Study is presented to household as a women's health survey
- Referrals for specialized care
- Educational information provided

Putting women's safety first



Take actions to reduce any possible distress to participants (referrals, information, counselling/ RH services).

Selection and training of Interviewers





3-4 weeks of
training,
including
gender

Support for respondents

“...When I heard stories about women being beaten and tied up, I would leave there feeling desperate... I would be a wreck, and my supervisor would tell me “get a hold of yourself, you cry for every little thing.” But how could I control myself, I couldn’t stand it?...I would try, but sometimes it was impossible, and I would burst into tears during the next interview.”

female interviewer, Nicaragua



Maximizing benefits:



Using research results for social change

Technical Advisory Groups



From Data to Action

Special considerations for researching violence against women in conflict and humanitarian settings

SOUTH SUDAN:

PREVALENCE, FORMS AND PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



WhatWorks
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
Violence Against Women and Girls
in Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis



A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a purple polo shirt, holding a young child. They are positioned under a blue tarp that serves as a makeshift shelter. The background shows more of the tarp and some hanging items. The overall scene suggests a temporary or outdoor living environment.

Privacy

Confidentiality

Referrals



Sampling and Methods

- Only sites with IRC presence
- Only sites with minimum security
- Increased sampling intervals in POC sites
- Only women in POC sites
- Only qualitative research in Bentiu



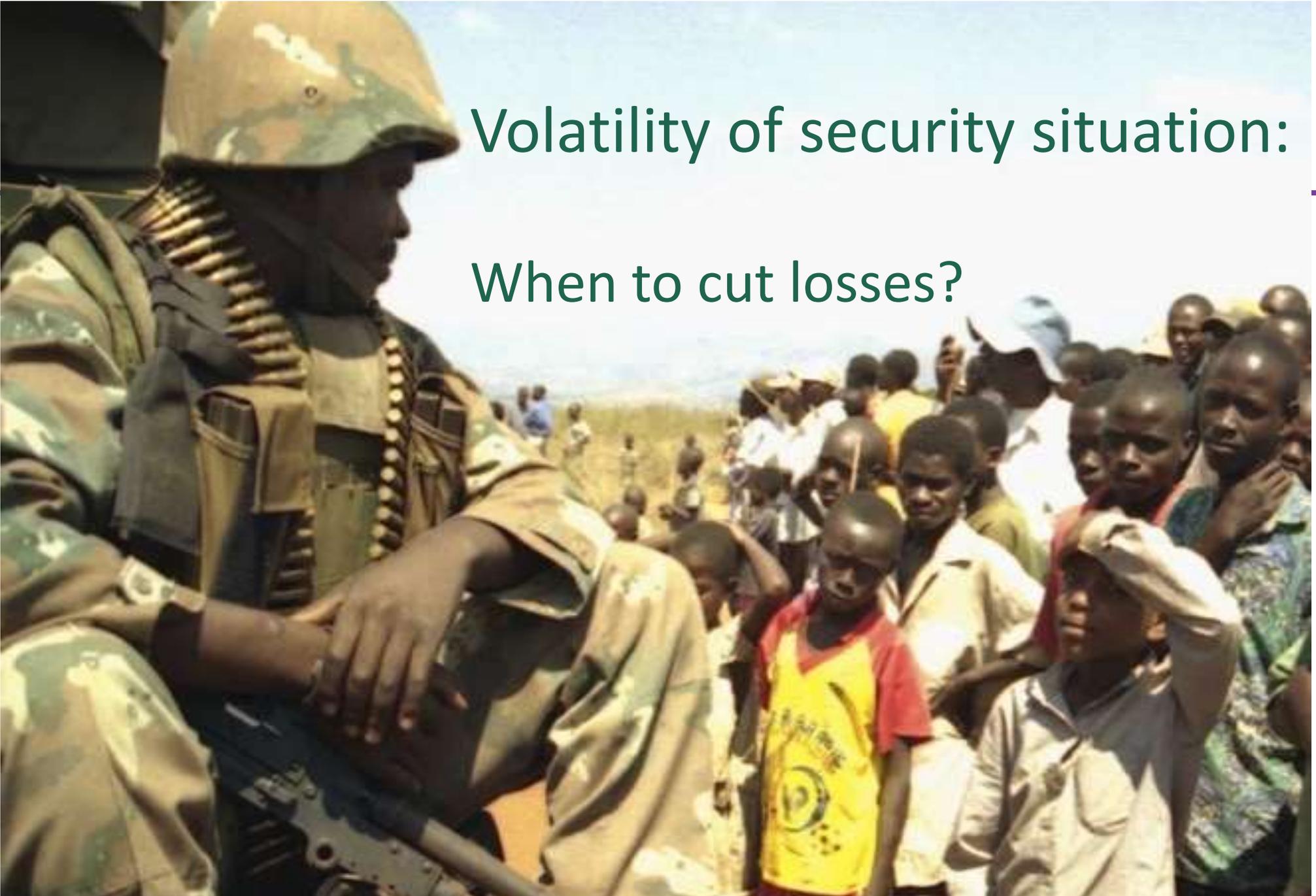
K RESCUE

Col-Hok

Tē nyic yin yan tēc, ku riääk puu tñ, ku yin agöör
ba jam tēnē raandēt? cɔl Diäär ku Nyiir na göör
kuony pan Aram-wēer, ke yin yöök kuony nē Nambaai ku

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Cotē ee thaa ca yöök, ku yin bi Kuony ke koor ke cin raande nyic en



Volatility of security situation:

When to cut losses?

Monitoring adverse events

- 1% respondents refused to participate for fear of violence
- No women dropped out during violence questions
- No increase in attention in services observed
- Responses of respondents:
 - 87% - 98% felt same or better
 - > 60% felt better in 4/5 groups
 - In one site 4.4% men felt worse (remorse)

Additional ethical guidelines are available for

- Perpetrators (SVRI)
- Violence against children (SVRI)
- Violence in emergency/conflict situations (WHO)
- Trafficking (WHO)
- Vicarious trauma among researchers
- Indigenous peoples (Australia)



Researching Violence Against Women



A PRACTICAL GUIDE
FOR RESEARCHERS AND ACTIVISTS



World Health
Organization



Available at www.path.org