



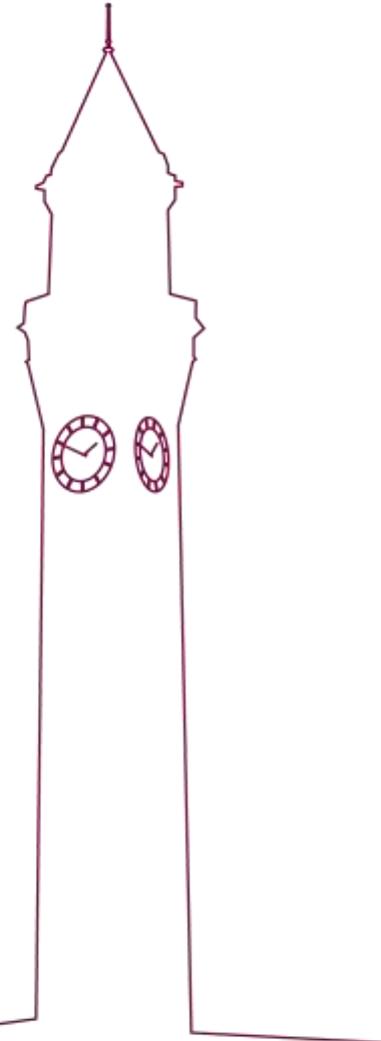
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Understanding Sexual Relations Between Local Community Members and United Nations Peacekeepers in Haiti

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CHIBOW

Children Born Of War



UN peacekeepers in Haiti ran child sex rings, raped women: AP investigation

By Paisley Dodd The Associated Press

Haitian mothers claim UN unresponsive over support for peacekeeper children

Lawyers trying to obtain financial assistance for 10 women who gave birth to children of departed peacekeepers say UN has ignored requests for information



UN Peacekeeping: Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse – a 20 year history of shame



By Elia Buchanan

March 7, 2016 14:22 GMT



2,000 Sexual Abuse Cases, Including Abuse of Children, by U.N. Peacekeepers – No Arrests

By S. Noble - April 12, 2017

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Investigative Report Highlights Systemic Nature of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in MINUSTAH

Study Objectives

- Describe vulnerabilities to SEA
- Understand lived experiences of affected women/girls and of children born as a result of interactions with peacekeepers ('peacebabies')

Methods

1. SenseMaker

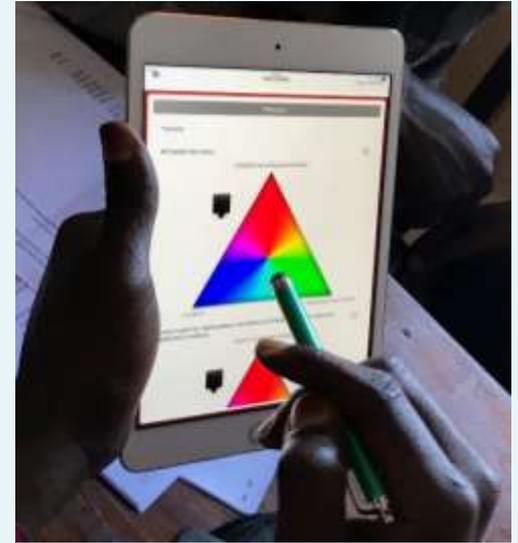
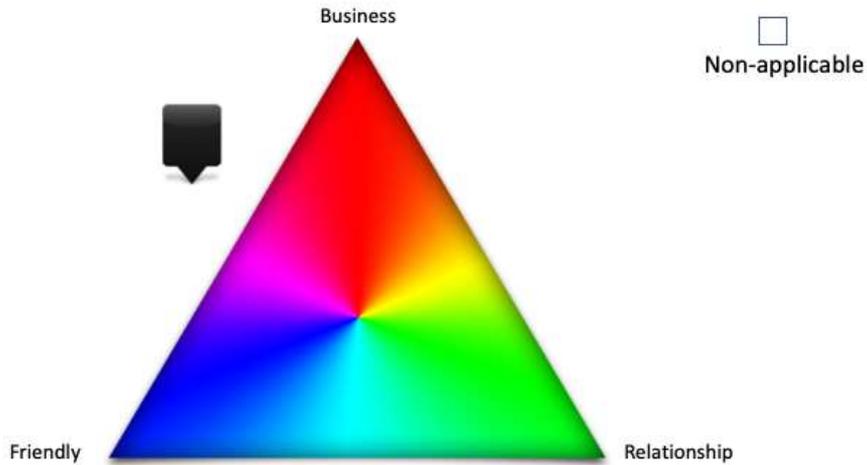
- Cross-sectional, mixed methods
- “Anecdotes” or stories audio recorded
- Participants interpret their own experiences



2. Follow-on qualitative interviews

Triad

Was the interaction in the story...



Dyad

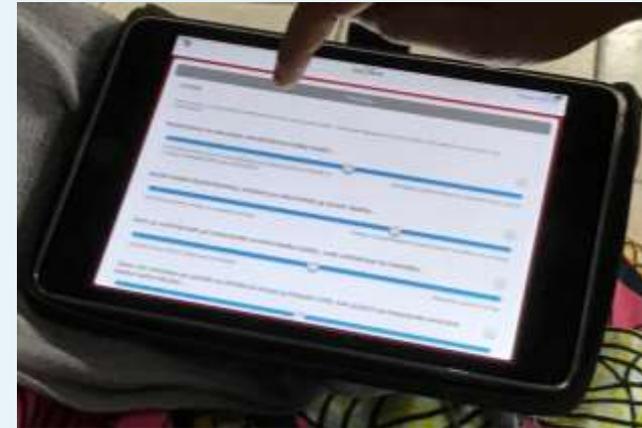
The interaction and relations you shared in the story were...

N/A



Entirely initiated by the foreign UN or MINUSTAH personnel

entirely initiated by the woman or girl



HAITI

Location	Number	%
 Hinche	21	7.9
 Leogane	23	8.7
 Saint Marc	36	13.6
 Port Salut	83	31.3
 Cap Haitien	23	8.7
 Fort Liberté	6	2.3
 Port au Prince	73	27.5
Total Petit MINUSTAH Stories	265	

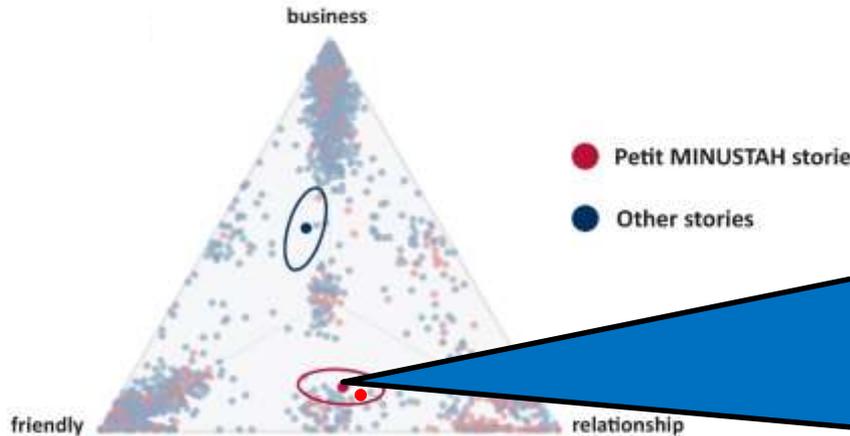
Port - au - Prince includes 3 UN bases
Tabarre / Cité Soleil / Log Base

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS / INTERVIEW SITE



2,541 self-interpreted stories from 2,191 unique participants

Was the interaction in the story...

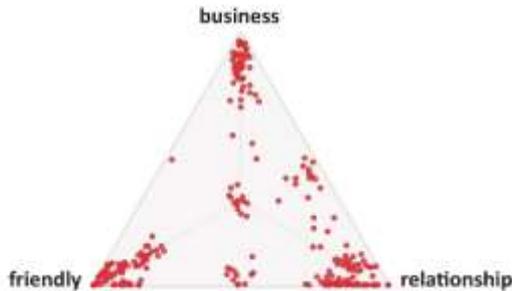


Geometric mean with 95% confidence ellipse for each group

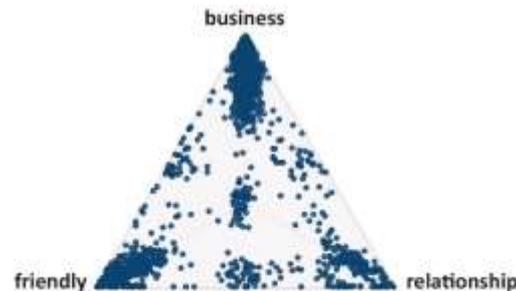
Story Title: Crime Against Me

“We became friends, afterwards he came to my home often, then the friendship went further, and after a lot of time we were in love... I became pregnant and then my parents found out.”

Single women aged 18 – 24, completed primary school

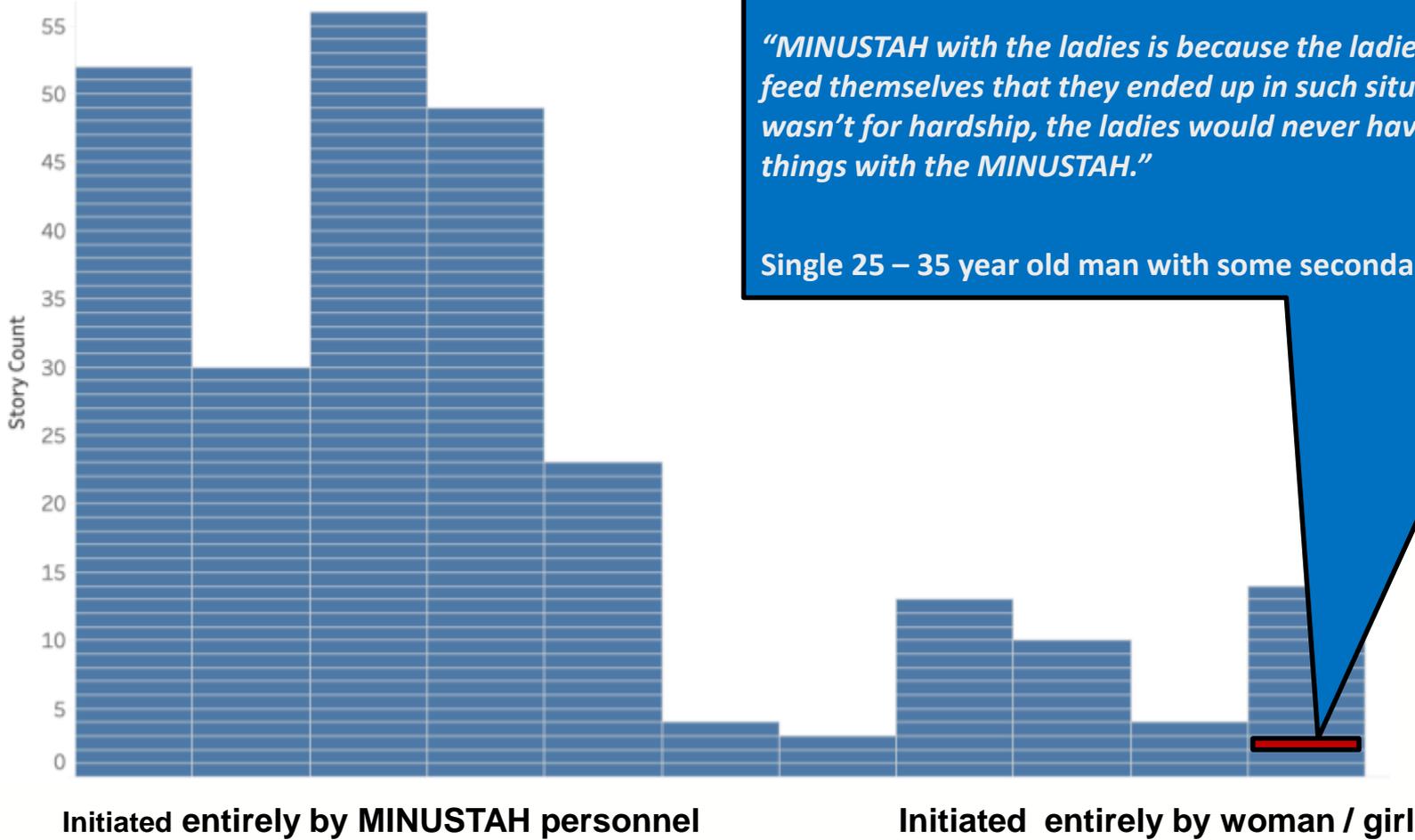


Petit MINUSTAH stories



Other stories

The interaction / relation described in your story was...



Story Title: Misery

"MINUSTAH with the ladies is because the ladies were trying to feed themselves that they ended up in such situation.... if it wasn't for hardship, the ladies would never have done these things with the MINUSTAH."

Single 25 – 35 year old man with some secondary education

SenseMaker Results

- Sexual relations ranged from consensual to abusive, with many being transactional in nature
- Well-established power differential between UN personnel and local women /girls
- Underage girls were engaging sexually with peacekeepers
- Power / control was often with the men but some women were seeking to have lighter-skinned children
- Almost all women / girls who became pregnant were abandoned after the soldiers' repatriation



Qualitative Results

Contextual factors and social forces:

- Family
- Economic hardship and poverty
- Proximity to UN base
- Vulnerability (natural disasters, conflict)

Nature of sexual interactions

- Abuse
- Transactional
- Long-term monogamous
- Perceived love

Operationalization of consent

- Expectations, promises and unwritten rules vs consequences

Resilience

- Child as source of strength and solace
- Faith in God

Key Insights

- **Poverty** was often the driving force of women's choices to engage sexually with peacekeepers
- Peacekeepers **leaving** (or being **moved**) when women became pregnant / gave birth caused significant **economic hardships** and deprived children of their fathers' support
- Affected populations are **conscious of unfulfilled expectations** of support for mother and child, by the peacekeepers themselves, the UN or, most frequently, the Haitian authorities

Recommendations

- Develop context-specific peacekeeper training that includes cultural awareness
- Mitigate the impact of SEA by halting the practice of repatriating implicated soldiers
- Create policies that allow the Victims' Rights Advocate to tackle structural barriers to justice and reparation for affected women/girls

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