

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS POPULATION
FUND STRATEGIES IN RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN GOMA,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

by

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APPROVAL

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DECLARATION

AN ANALYSIS OF EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
STRATEGIES IN RESPONSE TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN GOMA,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CNDP	Congres Nationale pour la Defense du Peuple
DU-ERB	Daystar University Ethical and Review Board
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
EU	European Union
FARDC	Forces Armees de la Republique Democratique du Congo
FDLR	Force Democratic de Liberation du Rwanda
FNL	Force Nationales de Liberation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICC	International Criminal Court
LGBT	Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgenders
M23	Movement of 23 rd of March
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Funds
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

ABSTRACT

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a widespread global problem affecting all gender and in particular women from all sectors and backgrounds. Various approaches in response to GBV, have been employed; however, the problem persists. Without evaluation of these approaches, the problem is bound to continue. The purpose of this study was to analyze the effectiveness of the strategies used by the United Nations Population Funds in response to gender-based violence in Goma. The study was based on three objectives, namely, to determine the nature of GBV experienced and reported by women and girls in Goma, assessing the strategies used by the United Nations population funds (UNFPA), raising awareness of GBV and analyze the effectiveness of the strategies employed by UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma, DRC. It employed a combination of descriptive and explanatory study designs, employing qualitative methods. The study sampled 48 respondents, the data was analyzed qualitatively guided by the research objectives and presented in narrative form. The findings show that many of the women experienced all sorts of violence such as physical violence and psychological abuse. The findings strategies used by UNFPA to raise awareness were psychological and therapy healing, women empowerment, socio-economic autonomy, and reinforcement of laws and media campaigns. The study also found that although strategies used by UNFPA were successful to some extent, they failed to address traumas for all, health issues, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, rejection and divorce, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and death. This study recommends that war survivors should be counselled before being assimilated within the community. Future study should be done on effects of sexual violence on men and boys in the DRC.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family, my siblings and my friends.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Introduction

The UN declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), views Gender Based Violence (GBV) as worldwide catastrophe (Puechguirbal, 2003). GBV refers to any hurtful deed committed against one's will that is motivated by socially imposed gender disparities. It encompasses acts that cause physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, as well as threats of these kind of acts, intimidation, and the deprivation of freedom. Article two of the declaration asserts that such acts within the family or community, are perpetrated or condoned by the state, in contravention of the provisions (Ali, 2018). They include spousal battery, sexual abuse, including female genital mutilation and other harmful practices, non-spousal violence, sexual violence related to exploitation, harassment and intimidations at work, in school and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution (Ali, 2018).

According to Puechguirbal (2003), the most common form of human rights violations in the world is related to violence against women and girls. “Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime. It undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, trauma, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and even death” (Puechguirbal, 2003 p. 1271).

GBV may vary depending on socially prescribed gender differences, whether it is sexual physical or psychological. Both conflict and displacement are commonly recognized as catalysts of GBV, but it also occurs during peaceful times, in marriage, intra-family or

community, and is supported by practices and beliefs such as forced marriage, inequality at schools and work, and domestic abuse among others, which are yet to be acknowledged as GBV (Puechguirbal, 2003).

This study focused on international organizations responses to GBV, using a case study of UNFPA in Goma, DRC, to understand the strategies used to prevent the GBV from happening. This chapter provided the introduction, background, statement of the problem, purpose, the study's objectives, research questions, justification of the study, assumptions, scope of the study, limitations and delimitations, definition of terms and chapter summary.

Background to the Study

GBV is a widespread global concern affecting, both men and women; however, women from all sectors and backgrounds have been affected the most. Today, although we can acknowledge violence against women as a societal problem and a severe women's rights violation, by international and European convention, we still find high prevalence rates in every country. In Europe, domestic violence has proven the most frequent form of GBV and remains a high priority for the European Union. Since the 1970s, women's anti-violence movement has made important contributions to the recognition of violence against women as a violation of human rights. The movement is also an important aspect for the prevention of violence against women as well as creating awareness and raising pertinent issues (Puechguirbal, 2003).

In Africa, many women and children flee from their homes to escape the rampant violence and domestic abuse meted out on them and instead seek refuge in places they consider to be safer. While many people flee conflict areas and places with incidences of extreme

human rights violation, others flee more intimate types of violence such as sexual and domestic assault. The women are also vulnerable to GBV as they travel and in their new destination. According to Freedman (2016), most women interviewed along various migratory routes reported sexual assault during the voyage, and many use birth control to avoid pregnancy from rape, while others who cannot afford contraceptives are left with the burdens of bringing up illegitimate children born out of rape hence exacerbating their vulnerabilities. The acts of violence and aggression against women are also augmented by the closure of borders, and the inadequate accommodation in refugee camps, which further exposes the women to further abuse.

The changing nature of conflict is also associated with the increase in cases of GBV. For instance, in the past, interstate conflicts had defined battlegrounds; however, intrastate conflicts are waged against innocent civilians which exposes them to different forms of abuse. “Rape has become a military strategy to disrupt communities and instill fear, and in ethnic conflicts as a tool for both “cleansing” and social control. Ethnic differences, socioeconomic discrimination, and group rivalries can also exacerbate these risks of GBV” (Ali, 2018, p.11). Increased violence in households is also linked with the limited economic opportunities, making men the primary providers.

Freedman (2011) asserted that “an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, according to UNHCR in 2001. As a result, the women were exposed to high incidences of sexual violence and abuse. However, one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in her lifetime, with spousal violence remaining the most common form of violence against women globally” (p.172).

In the DRC, over 30,000 survivors of GBV are assisted by humanitarian actors annually. Some of the commonly reported cases include sexual exploitation and abuse, violence instigated by spouses, human trafficking and forced marriages. Notably, the vulnerability of women is exacerbated by the gender inequalities and the patriarchal nature of society, which exposes them to the violence. “On average 40 women are raped daily in South Kivu, East DRC, as rape and sexual violence has become a regular occurrence in the ongoing conflict in the region. Increasingly, violence is occurring in the province of Maniema, west of Kivu, where attacks are often very brutal, and leave victims with physical and psychological scars, that lead to individuals being ostracized by their partners, their families, and their communities” (Goff, 2010 p. 34).

DRC is still affected by food insecurity, violent conflicts, and the outbreak of epidemics such as the Ebola epidemic in 2018. As a result, thousands of people are forced to flee their homes to seek protection, security, food and to protect themselves from the rapidly spreading diseases in their country such as Ebola. However, women and children are more vulnerable to incidences of GBV as they seek refuge in other countries. Sexual violence is common, however, due to the fear of stigma and the reprisal from the perpetrators, most of these cases are underreported.

The government of DRC, as well as several foreign organizations, have built accountability structures to combat GBV, including national standards for case management and event databases. “It also has a comprehensive strategy, and a call to action for protection from GBV, risk mitigation, and also lifesaving activities such as clinical management of rape, psychosocial support as well as punishing the perpetrators of the crimes without any discrimination” (Aldworth, 2011, p. 132).

This study used a case study of the UNFPA which was previously known as the United Nations Funds for Population Activities but later changed to the United Nations Population Funds. The reason why the study focuses on UNFPA is because of its aim of the elimination of violence against women and girls, also because it has been in service in Congo for over four decades, and has other operations globally, which means it has deeply understood the issues of GBV. Other than working under the gender-based violence department, UNFPA reached to more than 5000 women with reproductive health information and has provided support to women to ensure safe deliveries.

Statement of the Problem

Women in the DRC have suffered from GBV for a long time. This is particularly the case in the east, in Goma, which is prone to attacks from rebels such as Movement of the 23rd of March (M23). During such attacks, women are raped, maimed, exposed to untold psychological suffering like witnessing killings of their husbands or children and in extreme cases killed. In many instances, rape has also been used as a weapon of war. Away from the conflict, women are victims in their own homes and at work, they face forced marriages, denial of opportunities and domestic violence.

There have been plenty of interventions from the international community, including state and non-state actors, responding to GBV in Goma. Some of the actors involved include hospitals, humanitarian organizations and International Non-Governmental organizations, such as United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA). These organizations have employed various approaches in response to GBV, however the problem remains persistent. This calls

for an urgent need to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies employed in the management of GBV in Goma.

The researcher chose the UNFPA intervention as a target for the study because it is affiliation to United Nations, and its long-lasting experiences stretching for more than four decades, not only in DRC, but also in other places globally. The organisation has a lot of information on this topic at their disposal, as well as have developed a trusting relationship with both the community and the government of Goma.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to analyze the effectiveness of the strategies used by the United Nations Population Funds in response to gender-based violence in Goma.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of the strategies used by the UNFPA in response to GBV in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The specific objectives were as follows:

1. To analyze the nature of GBV experienced and reported by women and girls in Goma
2. To examine the strategies used by the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) to raise awareness of GBV.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies employed by the UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma, DRC.

Research Questions

The main question of this study was, what is the effectiveness of the strategies used by the UNFPA in responses to GBV in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The specific questions were:

1. What is the nature of GBV reported and experienced by women and girls?
2. What are the strategies used by the UNFPA to raise awareness of GBV?
3. To what extent are the strategies employed by the UNFPA effective in dealing with GBV in Goma?

Justification for the Study

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially in Goma, many women, as well as young girls, have been victims and have suffered from physical and psychological effects. Although they undertake to counter the trauma, the damage remains as most of them lose their families and their places in the community.

However, the political justification was that, if the study is not done, people may continue abusing women and girls due to the lack of education. Therefore, through strategic intervention by the UNFPA, people will be educated and well informed about the issue. This was also helpful to the others international organizations that deal with GBV. The academic justification was that researchers benefited from these studies, especially the ones who were dealing with the same issue of GBV.

Significance of the Study

The government of Congo benefited from this study in the sense that the strategies used by the UNFPA in response to GBV and the recommendations provided what needed to be done to ensure that gender-based violence do not happen again.

The people of Congo, especially the ones in Goma who benefited from the study as it highlighted the funding's, conclusions and educated them on the measures to take in case women and girls are exposed to GBV again.

Other NGOs and humanitarian Aid agencies and policy makers also benefited from this study and the NGOs that exist with wrong purposes to use the victims of GBV to gain visibility and for their own interest rather than helping them recover.

Assumptions of the Study

The study assumed that the information required by the study was confidential and that the public had much of the information required for the study. The study further assumed that the data collected from the public was enough to provide all that the study aims to cover. This means that the respondents provided accurate and sufficient information on GBV, therefore they know how to be safe and avoid it from happening again but also, they know how to assist the others.

Also, international organizations like the UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and the government of Congo availed resource needed to this study in relation to other studies made. They were willing to participate in this study by sharing their knowledge about GBV and its effects.

Scope of the Study

The study was carried out in the city of Goma, which is a big town with population of 670000, located in eastern DRC. Goma is situated on the north Lake Kivu, close to Gisenyi city of Rwanda. Its economic activities include manufacturing of products such as local beer, textiles, foods, mattresses and chemical. Goma has an area of 75.72km² (29.24 sq. mi) and a population of 1 million according to a census of 2012 (Aldworth, 2011).

The study focused on gender-based violence, specifically its nature and the effectiveness of the strategies used by the UNFPA to respond to gender-based violence in Goma.

Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

1. The first limitation was language barrier. This because most of the Congolese people speak French and this limitation will be delimitated by getting a translator,
2. The second limitation was that the members of the UNFPA did not have enough time to respond to many questions, therefore the delimitation will be the use of interview that have specific questions related to the objective of the study
3. The third limitation was poor infrastructures due to road damages therefore the delimitation was the use of most available ways of reaching the respondents such as the telephones interviews, email interviews.

Definition of Terms

Gender based violence: Refers to “any harmful act that is perpetrated against one person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life” (Ali, 2018, p. 32). GVB is used to denote incidences of aggression against both men and women caused by the opposite gender.

Gender equality: It is “the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender” (Dagne, 2011). In this study, gender equality is used to refer to the provision of equal opportunities to everyone regardless of their gender.

Gender: “This means two sexes, either male or female, especially when considered with references to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones” (Ali, 2018). For this study, it means men and women in the DRC especially in Goma, who experience different types of violence. Some are victims and others are perpetrators.

Violence: It is “the behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something” (Dagne, 2011, p. 27). In this study, violence includes sexual assault, molestation, sex crimes during ongoing conflict, and retrogressive traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, underage marriage, modern slavery, forced prostitution, as well as human rights violations in armed confrontation

(particularly, murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy), and forced sterilization in the Democratic Republic of Congo, especially in Goma.

Summary

This chapter covered the following sections such as the introduction and a general background of gender-based violence. It examines the causes and the effects that it has on the population of Goma in particular. This chapter also briefly describes the purpose of the study, problem statement, and objectives of the study, questions of the study, justification of the study, significances of the study, assumption of the study, scope of the study, limitation and delimitation of the study as well as the definitions of terms.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

This chapter discusses the theories used by the study to understand the effectiveness of the strategies used by the United Nations Population Fund in response to Gender Based Violence in Goma. Therefore, this chapter examines the literature review as well as the theoretical framework.

Theoretical Framework

Feminism Theory

After the First World War, the field was dominated by theories such as realism, liberalism, and structuralism. However, most of these theories could not necessarily explain the notion behind the Cold War hence there was the rise of other theories such as critical theory, post-modernism, the green theory, and feminism. Therefore, according to Zalewski (2017) it means that feminism became integrated into international relations in the 80's.

Traditionally, most international theories examined state relations with emphasis on core International Relations concepts such as power play, security of the state and economics. Feminism, however, came about in the era when focus was put on issues concerning human security; therefore, its lens is informed by gender and equality with regards to politics and security (Tickner & Sjoberg, 2013). The battle of the sexes in political, social, and economic platforms has been an issue in the international political system. This saw the rise of feminism, a belief in social, economic, and political equality of the different genders (Burkett & Brunell, 2020).

The Domestic Violence Action Centre (2001) defined feminism as a group of movements oriented at defining, achieving, and protecting equal political, economic, and civil equality and opportunities for women. Its ideas are like those of women's rights. It is primarily concerned with women's issues, but because feminism promotes gender equality, some feminists claim that men's freedom is a fundamental component of feminism, and that sexism and gender roles damage men as well. Therefore, they believe in full social, economic and equality.

Feminism can be traced back to two intellectuals, Mary Wollstonecraft, and John Stuart Mill, who sought to draw attention to and eradicate legal barriers to women's full involvement in the public sphere by advocating for their human rights. "The idea of women's human rights seeks that woman are entitled to equal rights as men, because of the sexes' shared status as human beings. Mary Wollstonecraft first and John Stuart Mill after she were the primary philosophical architects of this view. Wollstonecraft developed a rational theological justification for the idea that women held equal rights alongside men, while Mill built a secular liberal utilitarian foundation for the same argument which eventually watershed contributions to theories of women's human rights. Looking backward, this dialogue moved significantly beyond past traditions of thought concerning the rights of persons, which had been biased toward, and even exclusively focused upon, men" (Botting, 2016, p. 75).

The history of feminism, according to Humm and Walker (2014), can be examined in three waves. The first wave mostly refers to the 19th and the 20th century women's right to vote. Additionally, beliefs and actions linked with the women's liberation movement beginning in the 1960s are referred to as the second wave. The third wave began in the 1990s as a

development of and reaction to the perceived shortcomings of second-wave feminism (Botting, 2016).

Gender bias in traditional, social, and political institutions was investigated by the first feminist philosophers. They demonstrated how generally unspoken practices of gender-based exclusion and discrimination supported men's interests by raising the question "Who benefits?" Much of their analysis focused on sexual and family relationships, which were deemed to be private or personal issues that could not or should not be addressed through legislative means (Botting, 2016).

The central argument is that the intent of feminism is to bring out the fact that traditionally women and their recognition have been rendered absent and irrelevant in the realm of international politics and security as brought out clearly by the contemporary feminism theories. For scholars to gain fresh insights into the dynamics of world order, they need to consider gendered social processes and marginalized subjects like involvement of women and not just adding them to power. This will help to add a new dimension to our understanding of the world economy, since women are the first casualties in times of economic hardships (Botting, 2016).

Feminists assumes that gender may be a factor in how human beings represent reality, meaning that men and women will construct different types of structures about the self and consequently their thought processes may diverge in content and form.

Feminism and gender-based violence

Women may experience personal prejudice because of their gender, racial features or disability. According to Botting (2016), “discrimination can be passive, where women may be ignored in meetings, it can be overtly, expressed through verbal attacks that are often sexualized. This is reflected by men towards women who may be crossing cultural boundaries and defying traditional expectations as well as towards those who depart from normative expectations of gender and sexuality” (p. 7).

In instances where there is women representation in government, it does not automatically result to visibility of gender equality. Women may still find it difficult to address issues, such as domestic violence and female health needs, because of the inexistence of such gender issues in government policy. Rather than challenging the status quo, they may choose to take up more mainstream positions or following their party line for the sake of their careers. In order to end GBV, the feminists’ perspective helps to focus on inequality and root causes that result to oppression of women and girls in societies. (Botting, 2016).

Feminism counter’s traditional philosophy with new ways of addressing issues affecting humanity, calling for the replacement of the presiding patriarchal order with a system that emphasizes equal rights, justice, and fairness. However, radical feminist theory is premised on the understanding of social relationships in terms of gender oppression. Radical feminists do not deny the importance of liberal reforms in improving the status of women, particularly efforts directed to protecting the rights of victims such as rape shield laws or, in the international context, the re-understanding of rape as torture. Rather, they argued that the reformist program is far too limited. Liberal reforms are premised on the

protection of liberty and rights, of both victim and accused. To the extent that such even-handed protection of rights presumes a background of equality, radical critics argued, it both reflects and perpetuates gender domination in society. Far more sweeping reforms are needed instead.

Because women must live and survive in conditions of oppression silence or passivity cannot be taken as consent. Instead, the law must insist upon the woman's active consent and on her having the space within which to give such consent. They reject suggestions that woman should be regarded as complicit in their own rapes for behavior such as wearing seductive clothing, going to bars, or accepting rides, because such judgments impose burdens on women that are not imposed on men.

Liberalism/ Idealism

Liberalism theory was developed after the First World War. The main reason for developing this theory was the search to explain the causes of the war, and the hope of creating a mechanism to evade similar wars in future. Liberalism is therefore a theory based on hope that international cooperation can be guided by “application of reason and universal ethics hence a more orderly, just and cooperative world, and international anarchy was to be policed by institutional reforms that empower international organizations and laws” (Moravcsik, 1992, p. 45). Therefore, the principle of this theory is that Liberalism is a political and moral philosophy based on liberty, consent of the governed and equality before the law. The principles generally support free market, free trade individual rights including civils rights and human rights, democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of press, racial equality and freedom of religion (Moravcsik, 1992) .

Key proponents of this theory are Alfred Zimmerman, Norman Angell, James T. Shotwell and Woodrow Wilson, who drew their philosophy from idealist thinkers such as Jean Jacque Rousseau and Emmanuel Kant, in his book *Perpetual Peace* of 1795 (Moravcsik, 1992)

Liberalists believe that security can be achieved by cooperation, mutual gaining, applying moral or ethical principles. In addition, they also believe in the concept of disarmament for self-security through cooperation. For them, the international system is community based (Moravcsik, 1992).

Liberalists argue that States are not the only actors but also non-states actors like individuals, IOs, MNCs and they also play important roles. However, the individual liberty is seen as the most important ideal in classical liberalism. This is done to enhance individual liberty while limiting the government's use of force and coercion. It prioritizes ethical ideals over the quest of power. Classical liberalism includes social, economic, and political dimensions in determining the structure and role of government. It insists on developing institutions instead of using force in shaping interstate relations. For liberals, "human nature is essentially good and therefore human beings are capable of mutual aid and collaboration through reason and ethically inspired education. Examples of classical liberals are Adam Smith and William Gladstone" (Ryan, 2017, p. 27).

Another argument is that "sinful action and violence is not a product of flawed people but of institutions that encourage people to act selfishly and harm others. War and international anarchy are not inevitable and thus wars frequency can be reduced by strengthening the institutional arrangement that encourage its disappearance. Moreover, war is a global

problem requiring collective or multilateral rather than national efforts to control” (Moravcsik, 1992, p. 32).

The liberalists assume that reforms must be inspired by compassionate ethical concern for the welfare of security, hence inclusion of morality in statecraft is important. States must reform their politics to allow democracy and the protection of human rights. They propose creation of an international institutions to replace the anarchical balance of power in the global system that would lead to collective security, where any aggression by one state was to be interpreted as aggression against all states, meaning all states were to deal with offender state (Ryan, 2017).

They advocated for the protection of individual dignity and promote human rights, as well as replacing secret diplomacy with the open covenants, since secret diplomacy was blamed for the First World War. The liberalists also advocated for self-determination for nationalist to independent states, in order to sustain global peace and security, however quality education was of importance to arouse public opinion against warfare (Ryan, 2017).

This theory is criticized for various reasons, for example the fact that it is Considered as myths because it doesn't work for all countries especially in Africa, also Liberalists place too much reliance on government, however the government reply on aid which make the countries dependent and have the lack of initiative (Ryan, 2017) .

Liberalism and Gender Based Violence

Liberal feminism conceives of freedom as personal independence, living a life of one's own choosing and political independence. Liberal feminists hold that the exercise of personal autonomy depends on certain enabling conditions that are insufficiently present in women's lives, or that social arrangements often fail to respect women's personal autonomy and other elements of women's flourishing. They hold also that women's needs and interests are insufficiently reflected in the basic conditions under which they live, and that those conditions lack legitimacy because women are inadequately represented in the processes of democratic self-determination (Ryan, 2017).

Liberal feminists hold that autonomy deficits like these are due to the “gender system” (Okin, 1989), or the masculine nature of inherited traditions and institutions, and that the women's movement should work to identify and remedy them. As the protection and promotion of citizens' autonomy is the appropriate role of the state on the liberal view, liberal feminists hold that the state can and should be the women's movement's supporter in promoting women's autonomy (Ryan, 2017).

Like the Liberals, Liberal feminists see humans as intelligent, independent, and self-interested beings. From the commencement of classical liberalism, a focus has been placed on the rights of both men and women, with the goal of achieving gender equality through political and legal reformation within the framework of liberal democracy. “Liberal feminists believe that equal rights should not be abridged because of sex, therefore laws should uphold equal rights and equal opportunities for women in all areas including schools and workplaces. They also believe that positive rights such as the right to education,

healthcare and affordable childcare are necessary for equal opportunity and should be crafted with the women's situation in mind" (Ryan, 2017, p. 45).

General Literature Review

Nature of GBV

In America, women have been the victims of GBV at home, at their workplace and in their neighborhood. However, many do not feel safe enough to report these cases. In 2006, a movement called "me too" by the America social activist, Tarana Burke, was created to advocate against sexual harassment and sexual assault, that saw many women use social media to share their experience under the hashtag "me too." Burke began to use the phrase "me too" online to highlight the occurrence of sexual harassment, particularly as its targeted women of color in America. She argued that the movement works to empower women through empathy and solidarity (Kearl, 2018).

This movement gained traction in late 2007, when a number of high-profile actresses opened up about their experiences with sexual harassment in the film business." Since then, the movement has served as a form of support for women who have faced sexual harassment, most often at the hands of a male coworker. The movement's supporters hope that by sharing their experiences, they would demonstrate how prevalent sexual harassment is and how casually it is regarded (Kearl, 2018). Once people are aware, GBV decreases and therefore support for victims.

For instance, everyone is equal before the law in South Africa, and everyone has the right to equal protection and benefit from the law. According to the constitution, neither the state nor a person may unfairly discriminate against anybody or more on any basis, directly or indirectly. Although gender equality is well stated in the constitution, GBV still exists in

the society, hence human right violation. This may be in form of domestic violence, “where one person in a marital or intimate relationship tries to control the other. The perpetrator may use fear and intimidation and threaten or use physical violence. The victim of domestic violence may be a man or a woman” (Naidu & Mkhize, 2005, p. 23).

On the other hand, in Kenya, GBV is a personal, social and political issue. In the article *GBV in a Kenya slum*, Kenyan men are superior in terms of power, government, finance and law, and in domestic situation, they are the head of households, making key decisions. Women have a hard time getting opportunities to lead in Kenya, for example, it is so hard for a Kenyan woman to run for a political office. In 2007 election, 269 women were nominated to run for political offices, but many of them were harassed and threatened during their campaigns. Out of the 269 women, only 15 were elected (Naidu & Mkhize, 2005).

In Kibera slums, experts estimate that 2.5 million people live there, “representing 60% of Nairobi population and occupying just 6% of the land. Kibera is therefore the biggest slum in Africa and one of the biggest in the world, yet very little is known about GBV” (Naidu & Mkhize, 2005, p. 25). In Kibera, most families live in a single room, with no secure or consistent access to water, toilets, electricity, or privacy. Overcrowding and poverty are major contributors to Kibera's high rates of violence and crime. Unfortunately, the area lacks a dependable police force, and GBV is rarely taken seriously. (Botting, 2016)

In 2007, a Kibera adolescent study found significant rates of violence among married and cohabiting teens. One in every six married women reported being beaten, mostly for speaking angrily to their husbands, disrespecting them, or failing to do household

responsibilities satisfactorily. About 40% of girls reported being unable to deny sex from their husbands, and despite the high occurrence of infidelity, only 37% of girls were able to insist on the use of condoms during sex. They reported being afraid of assault if they demanded a condom or refused sex. As a result, it is critical to separate the context of GBV in Kibera from that of the broader population by understanding the nature of violence in the area (Botting, 2016).

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, that continues to affect the world, there has been a rise of GBV worldwide, and in Kenya particularly. The nationwide curfew has seen increase in domestic violence and sexual offences. Like many countries, Kenya has been focusing on medical emergency challenges to counter the spread of coronavirus, but domestically these abuses have been happening behind closed doors. Between January and March, women and girls have been victimized, with 1195 women reported being either physically or sexually violated within this duration, while 9 men reported the same (Njunge, 2020).

In the article, War, Women and Power in Rwanda, Berry (2018) explained that genocide was not caused by hatred between the Hutus and the Tutsis as believed by many. “In 1897, Rwanda became a German colony, but the German pursued a policy of indirect rule and oversaw a light administrative implantation. Their presence was limited and short lived as the League of Nations mandate transferred her possession to Belgium in 1919. The Belgian authorities consolidated local power in the hands of Tutsi over Hutu with regard to land rights, education, socioeconomic opportunities and access to power” (Berry, 2018, p. 28).

Additionally, during the precolonial period, Rwandan women did not have a voice in public affairs or the administration of the colony. Over the years, there was a rise of discrimination

against the Tutsi minority even after the independence in 1962. Later, “in 1959, the violence of independence era resulted in mass displacement and exile of Tutsi. An estimated 10000 Tutsi were killed in 1963. The violence of this period, though devastating, was not on the scale of 1994. Another difference between the violence of this period and that of the genocide was the targeting of women during the latter” (Berry, 2018 p.29).

Tutsi women were victimized just for being Tutsi, and many were executed, typically after being subjected to sexual assault and torture. Women who were educated and elite were targeted, regardless of ethnicity. Hutu women were subjected to violence in retaliation for Hutu men's violence. Christopher Taylor also considers the targeting of women as a feature that differentiates 1994 from the aggression of 1959 to 1964 or 1973. Despite the fact that women were underrepresented in decision-making positions in the 1980s and early 1990s, some Rwandan women recognized that greater autonomy resulted in a social backlash and an escalation of violence against women. Later, as the fear of civil conflict grew in the 1990s, Hutu extremists sought to strictly limit women's participation (Berry, 2018).

The Hutu extremists targeted women and through propaganda. They had the Hutu 10 Commandments, which was calculated widely and read aloud at public meetings. Three of the commands addressed gender relations, with the first one stating that each Hutu man must know that the Tutsi woman worked in solidarity with her Tutsi ethnicity. Any Hutu man is regarded a traitor if he marries a Tutsi woman, makes her his concubine, befriends her or makes her his secretary or protégé. The second commandment stated that every Hutu man must acknowledge that Hutu girls were more dignified and more conscientious in their roles as woman, wife and mother. The third commandment related to gender states that

Hutu women should be vigilant and bring their husbands, brothers and sons back to reason (Berry, 2018).

However, in 1994, some women were accused of participating in the genocide alongside their male counterparts. They murdered, tortured, colluded, and aided in communication with and between the “Interahamwe” who committed genocide. Women are not blameless as a group, but they did not get as involved as the men did. In fact, women account for only 2.3% of all genocide suspects. Only a handful were perpetrators, but many were victims, targeted not only because of their ethnicity but also because of their gender, and were subjected to sexual abuse and torment, including rape, forced incest, and breast oblation (Berry, 2018).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo on the other hand, Dagne, studies the visit of Hilary Clinton in her 11 days of travel across Africa, by explaining how she saw humanity at its worst and at its best, but in Goma, DRC she saw both. In the Mugunga Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Goma, “18,000 people seeking refuge from a violent conflict that has left 5.4 million dead since 1998. Women and girls have been victimized on an unimaginable scale, as sexual and gender-based violence has become a tactic of war and has reached epidemic proportions. Some 1,100 rapes are reported each month, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day” (Clark, 2003, p. 11).

While in Goma, Miss. Clinton paid a visit to a clinic run by the nonprofit Heal Africa, where she met a woman who testified that she was eight months pregnant when she was attacked. A group of men broke into their home and killed her husband and two children. They assaulted and gang-raped her, leaving her for death. She managed to survive until her neighbors discovered her and transported her to a hospital 85 kilometers away. Clinton

made it plain that the United States condemns these atrocities and that all those who perpetrate or aid them are committing crimes against humanity (Goff, 2010).

Miss. Clinton also met doctors and counsellors who worked with victims of rape, who had experienced brutal forms of violence that would affect their ability to bear children, to walk or even go to work. The visiting chief diplomat added that the United States would stand with such brave people and added more than \$17 million in new funding to prevent and respond to gender and sexual violence in the DRC, \$3 million of which was used to recruit and train police officers to dealing with GBV (Goff, 2010).

Article 1 of the universal declaration of Human rights declares that every human being is born to be free and equal in dignity and rights. This means that no one should feel insecure and unsafe in their own countries; everyone should be respected and treated the way they deserve. “GBV violates universal and fundamental human rights such as the right to life, the right to personal security, right to equal protection under international law, right to freedom from torture and other cruel inhumane or degrading treatment among others” (Goff, 2010, p. 13).

“The causes of GBV can best be visualized as four concentric circles. The innermost circle represents the biological and personal history that affects an individual’s behavior in his/her relationships. The second circle represents the immediate context in which GBV takes place, frequently the family or other intimate or acquaintance relationship. The third circle represents the institutions and social structures, both formal and informal, in which relationships are embedded, including neighborhood, workplace, social networks, and peer

groups. The fourth and outermost circle, is the economic and social environment, including cultural norms” (Freedman, 2011, p. 170).

GBV can be experienced at a personal level; for instance, child abuse or experiencing marital violence and irresponsible parents with frequent incidences of drug abuse. Cross-cultural studies have identified male dominating income and decision-making within the family, as well as marital conflict, as important predictors of abuse at the family and relationship levels. Gender stereotypes are frequently used in communities to legitimize violence against women, which can develop a culture of abuse such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation. As a result, women's isolation and lack of social support, combined with male peer groups that tolerate and normalize men's violence, contribute to greater GBV rates (Freedman, 2011).

“At the societal level, studies around the world have found that violence against women is most common where gender roles are rigidly defined and enforced, and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness and male honor. The family code requires women to obey their husbands, obtain their permission to work and engage in any legal transactions. Other cultural norms associated with abuse include tolerance of physical punishment of women and children, acceptance of violence as a means to settle interpersonal disputes, and the perception that men have “ownership” of women” (Freedman, 2011, p. 20).

Strategies used to Raise Awareness of GBV

According to the article called gender-based violence: *the lesbians and gays*, in heterosexual marriages, just as in homosexual marriages, no one deserves to be abused

physically, emotionally or psychologically. Furthermore, lesbians and gays often experience a lack of understanding in the seriousness of the abuse when reporting incidences of violence. The society denies the legitimacy of lesbian and gay relations, and the existence of abuse in such relationships. Therefore in these relationships, “there may be the additional fear of losing the relationship through exposing one’s sexual orientation, fear of not being believed regarding the abuse, and fear of losing friends and support within the lesbian and gay communities” (Naidoo & Mkhize, 2005, p. 15).

In South Africa, one in every four lesbian or homosexual people is subjected to domestic violence in their relationships, but only one in every two hundred will disclose it due to various concerns, including more abuse and mockery, especially from those with legal responsibilities to intervene. “The domestic violence act (DVA) is a progressive piece of legislation that has been welcomed by gender activists, because it broadens the definition of domestic violence to include physical, economic, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, harassment, stalking, intimidation, damage to property and entry into a spouse’s residence without their consent” (Naidoo & Mkhize, 2005 p.17).

The DVA has received extensive support for a variety of reasons, including its acceptance of a variety of living arrangements other than married couples, as well as the fact that people who have experienced GBV can seek court protection, and that people can seek the order on behalf of the victim with their permission. It also provides for the safety of partners in same-sex relationships. There is a need to educate and enlighten communities on the legal rights that are accessible to them, as well as how service providers may support them in enforcing these rights. (Naidoo & Mkhize, 2005).

Not many people see the gay and lesbian violence as domestic violence because it involves two people of the same sex; therefore, the power imbalances between the two are not recognized. These individuals also experience family violence from family members based on their sexual orientation. Some individuals have been beaten and expelled from the family home, with the hope that they will change their minds. In other instances, a member of the opposite sex is organized to sleep with an individual to correct their sexual orientation or they are prayed for to get rid of the demons (Naidu & Mkhize, 2005).

The community is also involved in acts of aggression against the homosexuals. Some men have been beaten to make them “more of a man”. “Many women and girls are raped to convert their sexual orientation. Women who appear to be masculine or adopt a dominant role in the same sex relationship find themselves at huge risk of hate crime. In conclusion, individuals in same sex relationships are an integral part of our society whose rights to dignity, equality, freedom and security of person must be protected and promoted as is the case for everyone else” (Naidu & Mkhize, 2005 p.18).

In 2004, Honorable Njoki Ndungu, a female legislator in Kenya, sponsored the Sexual Offenses Act (SOA) in parliament. The goal was to combat Kenya's growing rape and sexual assault problem, as well as to impose harsh penalties on perpetrators. The SOA consolidated all rape laws into a single act and redefined rape as a felony that covered not only forced sexual intercourse between male and female, but also male-on-male rape, child pornography, child trafficking, rape, intentional HIV/AIDS transmission, gang rape, and drug rape (Ndungu, 2006).

Unfortunately, neither domestic violence nor marital rapes were criminalized in the final document (FIDA, 2006). The Bill became law in July 2006, making it the very first piece of gender-related legislation ever passed by the Kenyan parliament. However, as Kenya enters the twenty-first century, policies and attitudes toward GBV among the public remain tense, urgent, and perilous. The problem is significantly worse in slum areas, where GBV is not only difficult by tradition, but is exacerbated by economic factors. (Dagne, 2011).

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, poor administration and the presence of numerous armed factions have resulted in rampant rape and sexual assault, major human rights violations, and acute poverty. The African Union, the United Nations, and surrounding countries have battled to handle the challenges posed by rebel groups while still promoting long-term development. However, some international organizations such as United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA), UNDP, UNHCR, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Pleaders of Children and Elderly at Risk (PEPA), among others, have been put in place to address rape which is currently used as a weapon of war, and also to assist other victims of GBV (Dagne, 2011).

Effectiveness of the Strategies in Dealing with GBV

The government has the responsibility to always safeguard its citizens. One of the ways to stop the effects of GBV should be a strong political pronouncement, making it clear that those who disregarding the rights of women and children will face the full force of the law. Also, the government should provide shelters, where women and children can find refuge in case they are subjected to domestic and sexual violence (Njunge, 2020).

Empirical Literature Review

Nature of Gender Based Violence

For this purpose, it is imperative in this study to consider what other researchers perceive on gender-based violence. This section however analyses what proponents have studied or found concerning gender-based violence. Each of the variables included in this study is discussed with reference to the existing body of literature review and with notation of their theoretical foundations. Lessons gathered from literature sources are presented in conceptual framework with the essential variables.

For more than 25 years, Congo has been in a state of constant war. The leaders do not have the sense of patriotism and that puts Congo in a misery forever. However, the national Army is disorganized, and soldiers are poorly paid and because of that, sometimes they leave the army to be part of the rebels' groups. The government negotiates with them and then put them back into the army, often with high-ranking position than what they had before (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015).

Some armed movements and forces were operating in the DRC. This includes the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). This is a Rwandan Hutu Power

Group; By far the most significant of the rebel groups was still active. Its numbers, however, have depleted, principally due to the DDR process. An approximate fighting force of between 1,000 and 3,500; Several European based FDLR leaders were arrested in Europe and now face trials at the ICC and within the German national courts system. Another armed group is Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC). This is the national armed forces of the DRC. Historically responsible for the majority of the sexual violence. Then there is Forces nationals' deliberation (FNL) made of Burundian Hutu rebel group. Led by Agathon Rwasa. it is believed to consist of some 3,000 troops (Aldworth, 2011).

In addition, the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), a Rebel force set up by Laurent Nkunda. Nkunda was arrested in January 2009 and remains in custody in Rwanda, without charge. Bosco Ntaganda (formerly of the Rwandan Defense Force) is now commanding the group. He has been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his role in recruiting child soldiers. Finally, the Mai Mai. An independent rebel groups, named after their group leaders and are not necessarily affiliated to a particular organized rebel group. They include the Mai Mai Cheka, Kifuafua, Pareco, and Yakutumba (Aldworth, 2011).

Congo is a big country with several mountains and minerals, especially in the Eastern Region. The resources available include diamonds, zinc, coltan, uranium among others. The Uranium from Congo helped the USA bomb Erosshima and Nagasaki, which made them a superpower. The money gained benefited the corrupts leaders, the NGOS, the big foreign powers; everyone benefited except the victims, who are the Congolese themselves (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015).

In April 2012, one of the armed rebel groups called M23 based in the Eastern part of Congo started gaining territory and responsible for the current atrocities especially rape and massive killing. The acting leader, Makanga, was in the national Army. The group was created as a movement of all Congolese who wanted change after going through all the problems as citizens. The aim of coming together was to bring stability in all levels like economic, social, among others. Also they wanted credible authorities, but on 23rd of March, the government failed to negotiate with the people and that is how the rebel group started so is the name M23 which means the movement of the 23rd of March (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015).

The National General Army Mamadou Ndala, under the government of Joseph Kabilo participated in many conflicts and he dedicated himself to serve the DRC until the end. He thought his men to be patriotic, professional, great leaders, human rights advocates and to be the heroes of the DRC. He trained them to put the country first by saying that Congo is one and should not be divided. During his time in the army, he fought the rebel groups and managed to chase them in the region many times and for that he became everyone's favorite person in the East. His bravery and patriotism made him a hero and a rising star in the East, Goma especially to the Women because they felt protected and cases about rape and killing went down because he fought also for gender equality. He was praised more than the president or anyone in Goma.

Unfortunate for him, not everyone was impressed by his rising stature among the great people of the Eastern Congo, and he was assassinated on 2nd of January 2014 while traveling in convoy. A rocket propelled grenade hit his vehicle and killed him and several of his unit. The attack has also formatted rumors of assassination by the regime itself. After

his death, the M23 took over the region again. They walked in the streets of Goma with no one stopping them and they took time to speak to the population, promising peace by showing them that the government is the problem and the source of all their sufferings. While in Goma, they steal, kill and rape. Women were targeted again (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015)

Other than women being the target of the rebel group in the DRC, children under the age of 18 are also targeted and used as child soldiers in current ongoing conflicts. Child soldiers are often both the victims and perpetrators of horrendous acts of violence. In the DRC, children make up the majority of soldiers within all armed groups. While being recruited, they are promised a better future and most of them, in their desperation agree to everything that is because they do not have families, or maybe they are orphans or abandoned during conflicts. Therefore, joining an armed group becomes the only way for many kids to have protection or simply survive. Young girls are also targeted and used as cook and sexual tools and the boys are used as messengers, spies, fighters, suicide bombers and also for sex just as the young ladies (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015)

During conflicts in Congo, the child soldiers are told what to do like torturing the captivated enemies like cutting their ears, their hands and other parts. Sometimes they are asked to bury them alive. The ones who are scared and traumatized are given drugs to make them strong, courageous and awake. Many of them do not survive and the ones who do have severe physical and emotional injuries and end up living with disability for the rest of their lives.

Strategies used by UNFPA in GOMA

In Goma, many international organizations and hospitals have come in to help women and girls overcome GBV, and they use different strategies in their approach.

“The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) works with national partners on legal and policy frameworks to combat GBV and supports national capacities to prevent violence and end impunity among perpetrators. It also ensures access to justice and protection of women and girls, and to provide survivors with multi-sectoral support and services. Partners in this work include the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the security sector, public prosecutors, women’s groups, civil society organizations and movements, the private sector and traditional, community and religious leaders” (Goff, 2010, p. 45).

Women who go to HEAL Africa for medical care, for instance, receive far more just refuge. They not only get medical care, but also acquire skills, as some are accommodated in the residence, during their recovery. They take part in vocational training, learning skills such as sewing and ceramics, and their children are provided with classroom and a teacher for. In addition, women are taught literacy skills and given access to micro-credit loans, because illiteracy and poverty they lack confidence undermines their confidence and freedom. From this intervention, the influence of HEAL Africa is felt far beyond the borders of Goma (Zihindula & Maharaj, 2015).

The UNFPA, our main focus organization for the study, published an article on strategy and framework for action to addressing GBV (2005-2011). In the article, they claim that “violence against women and girls is a human right violation and a public health priority.

The elimination of violence against women and girls is the ultimate goal of the UNFPA responses require unraveling and transforming the root causes of GBV, which is often manifested in gender inequality and discrimination. Their efforts focus on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, that are especially relevant to the mandate of UNFPA of programming issues such as domestic and sexual violence and harmful practices as well as on addressing sexual and other forms of violence in humanitarian settings” (Kalisya et al., 2015, p. 27).

While men and boys can also be victims of GBV, UNFPA's major focus is on women and girls because they are disproportionately targeted for abuse and their reproductive health is threatened. Rape and other types of sexual abuse can lead to undesired pregnancies, traumatic fistulas, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS, all of which can be devastating. “The UNFPA also lobbies for the passage of new legislation against GBV, as well as the strengthening and execution of current regulations. It fosters inter-ministerial coordination to ensure are engaged in the development and monitoring of government, including National Action Plans (NAPs) on gender equality and GBV. It provides advocacy support and technical assistance to governments, NGOs, coalitions, media outlets and research or academic institutions committed to accountability in GBV issues” (Kalisya et al., 2015, p. 23).

In 2008, UNFPA launched a global strategy to combat GBV, identifying eight priority areas where it could affect global change, including policymaking and legal protection, data collection and analysis, addressing GBV through sexual and reproductive health programs, incorporating violence prevention into humanitarian responses in conflict and natural disasters, and reaching out to adolescents (Kalisya et al., 2015).

Focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals, preventing abuse, and addressing negative effects as early as possible are at the heart of UNFPA's work in the priority areas. “As UNFPA and its implementing partners work to address the issue, some common challenges have been identified, including a lack of data to build the evidence base for programs and support new policies, weak security and legal institutions, a lack of strong support and capacities in relevant government ministries, and strongly rooted patriarchal attitudes against women and girls, as well as significant cultural or religious hurdles to admitting, facing, or even discussing GBV” (Kalisya et al., 2015, p. 22).

Effectiveness of the Strategies used by the UNFPA in Goma

For more than 40 years, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has worked to provide millions of women and their families with lifesaving and life-changing reproductive health care. Recognizing that gender inequalities, and their most despicable manifestation, GBV, prevent women and girls from accessing reproductive health services, and that proper reproductive health care in the aftermath of a sexual violence incident can be lifesaving, UNFPA has taken the lead in addressing this major human rights issue. GBV is a severe public health issue that also impedes women's and girls' vital roles in development (Kalisya et al., 2015).

The UNFPA has published multiples books about the causes and consequences if GBV on the population of Congo, especially on women and girls. In the book *Managing GBV Programs in Emergencies*, the authors describe that being a woman in modern conflict is riskier than being a soldier. The book further asserts that the roots cause of GBV are a society's attitudes towards practices of gender discrimination. The accepted gender norms,

as well as the lack of social and economic importance placed on women and women's labor, reinforce the belief that males have decision-making power and control over women. Perpetrators of GBV then aim to maintain privileges, power, and control over others by their actions (Kalisya et al., 2015) .

Violence has a wide range of effects on women. It is determined by the nature of the occurrence, the woman's relationship with her abuser, and the circumstances in which it occurred. "While women are often the immediate victims of gender violence, the ramifications of gender violence extend far beyond the sufferer to the entire society. Gender violence jeopardizes family structures; children suffer mental harm as they witness their moms and sisters being beaten, and families may break up, leaving the new female heads of home to battle against increasing poverty and severe societal ramifications" (Freedman, 2011).

Psychological scars can make it difficult to have healthy and rewarding relationships in the future. Gender abuse victims may vent their frustrations on their children and others, conveying and exacerbating the unpleasant experiences of people around them. Children, on the other hand, may come to tolerate violence as a substitute for dispute resolution and communication. Violence is repeated and perpetuated in this way. Institutions such as health facilities and police that have a role to help the victims move on from the trauma are under-staffed or non-existent (Freedman, 2011).

Other effects include "injury, disability, chronic health problems, sexual and reproductive health problems, anxiety, fear, mistrust of others, inability to concentrate, loneliness, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, shame and guilt, suicide, isolation, rejection, reduced

ability to participate in social and economic activities, fear of future violence among others” (Freedman, 2011). These impacts extend beyond the individual survivors to other members of the community, with women's confidence being harmed as a result of their fear of stepping into public settings. This frequently reduces women's educational possibilities, limiting their ability to earn a living.

Freedman, (2011) did the research on sexual gender-based violence in Congo, case study of the eastern part. He used the conceptualization of social constructivism as the most relevant theory to the sexual violence in DRC, in his opinion. The main reason for this being that it seeks to explain how both men and women can be victims of sexual violence and acknowledges that there is in fact a long history of sexual violence against men in all-male environments (Freedman, 2011).

This research used feminism and liberalism theories to maintain gender equality in the society. The methodology used for his research was primarily the qualitative analysis of secondary sources with some access to quantitative data, but this research used qualitative data. The sample size was 40 respondents with direct knowledge of Eastern region of the DRC compare to this research which was made of 48 respondents which included the members of the UNFPA, women organized in groups as well as the key informants (Freedman, 2011).

Many groups are responsible for rape, but the largest perpetrators remain the official armed forces of the DRC, the FARDC. These elements consist of the former rebels, rebels integrated into the FARDC. He also argued that the civilians are also responsible for a

growing number of rapes, and lastly anyone in a position of power can be a perpetrator of sexual violence against women in the eastern part of the DRC (Freedman, 2011).

Generally, the safety of women and girls has been undermined by the insecurity in Goma. However, many scholars have done their research on the issue of GBV, but they are not so clear on how to end it, and not all of them have brought in the help of international organizations. This study will re-examine the ideas of the authors cited above and bringing in the help of international organizations in general and UNFPA in particular and also the study will analyze the strategies that they use to overcome the issue of GBV which has been in Goma for over two decades and understand how effective they are and the kind of help they provide to the victims.

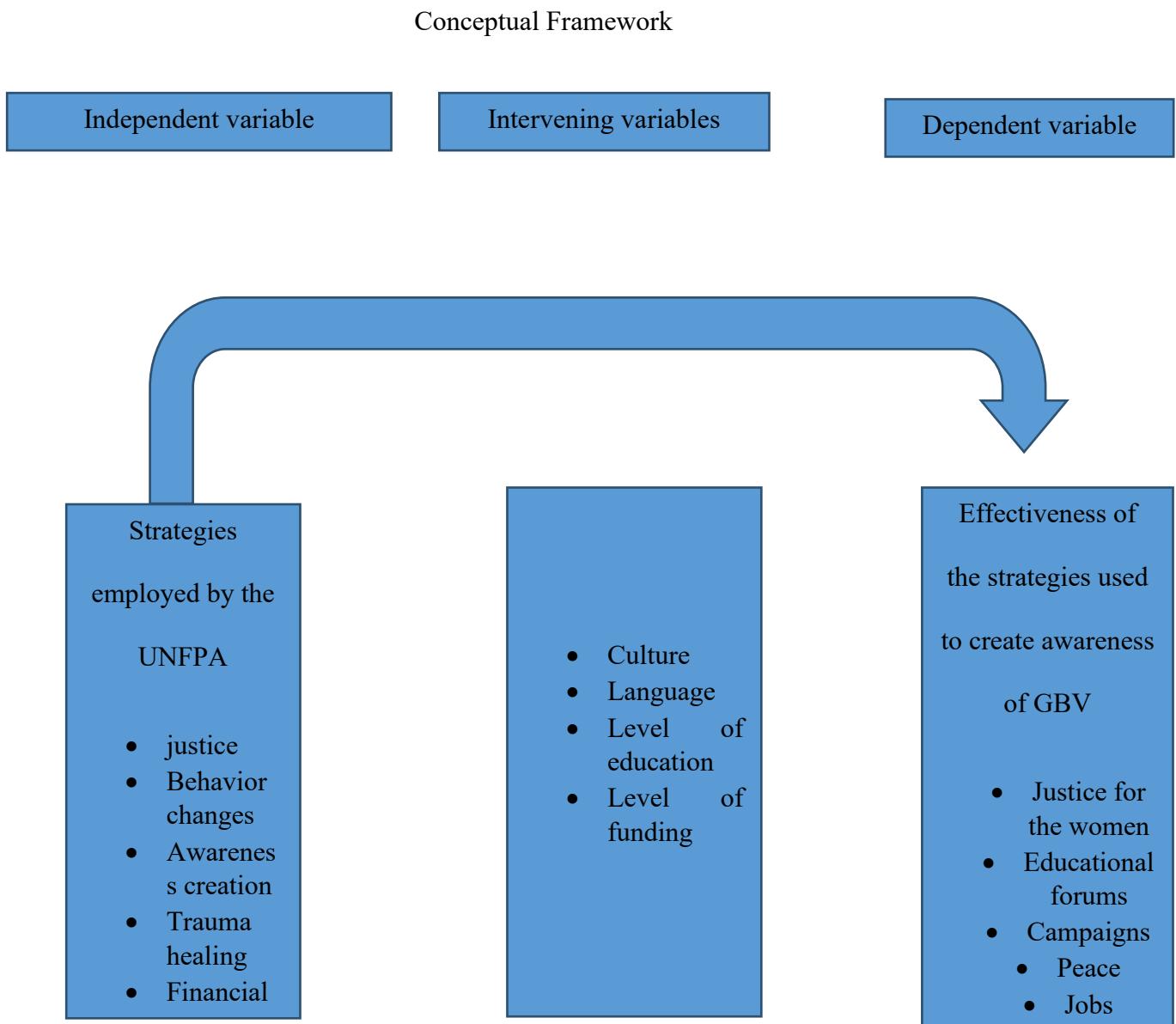


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Author (2021)

Discussion

In Congo, every time wars occur, women are primarily victimized through all kinds of sexual violence and rape is widely used as a weapon of war. Despite many challenges existing in Goma, international organizations have come up with various solutions to help

victims and stop GBV from happening again. The UNFPA has managed to educate men on women issues, and generally to raise awareness on GBV and Gender equality.

The above Conceptual Framework has examined GBV through academic works and has also clearly analyzed the issue of GBV through journals, reports and previous research publications on the same. Therefore, the Conceptual Framework shows clearly the dependent, independent and intervening variables of this study.

The dependent variable is the effectiveness of the strategies to create awareness of gender-based violence by assuring that justice for women is done through punishing the perpetrator. However, this is depending on the strategies employed to create awareness of GBV through policymaking and legal protection Moreover, other aspects or intervening variables affects GBV in Goma DRC, such as culture like the patriarchal beliefs whereby women are still seen as inferior to the men.

In addition, educational forums and companies are used as ways to changes behaviors of people (men and boys) of Goma, that can be harmful to the women and girls and these ways are important because as a result, they create awareness of GBV as a human right violation. These ways bring people together but the issues such as language and level of education can bring up the issue of tribalism, which easily increase the effects the GBV.

Moreover, trauma healing is offered to the victims of gender-based violence in Goma by the UNFPA through therapy sessions and as a result, women find peace with their partners, in their homes or in their work environment. However, financial assistance is required, with the help of partners and the government. In this case, the low level of funding can be an intervening variable when the organization fail to assist the victims because that increases

mental issues or even death due to depression. In addition, by assisting the victims, it means providing jobs opportunities, because poverty can lead people to harass others especially women by any kind of violence.

On the same issue of lack of funding, some organizations in Goma are created to take advantage of the crisis and use the humanitarian umbrella to gain attention and personnel interests. The organizations created with wrong intentions use the victims and keep them for long, instead of helping them have their lives back, because of their humanitarian economic value. For example, when Hilary Clinton visited Goma in 2009, bearing financial assistance conflict victims, and particularly GBV victims of rape, many people took advantage by establishing organizations, as well as constructing false victims with fake stories for monetary gains.

Summary

The chapter has analyzed the issue of GBV worldwide, and particularly in DRC. It began with an overview or the nature of GBV then the strategies used by the UNFPA and how effective they are in response to GBV. The study has also examined the literature review, theory that will be used as well as the empirical literature and the conceptual framework.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter describes the research methodology to be used in this study. It explains the research design to be applied and the population of interest and sample that is to be used. Research methodology as defined by Njoroge (2017, p. 35) “is the steps or sequence of events needed to plan the data to be analyzed. It provides a framework of how the study is to be carried out. The data collection methods and data validation are provided as well as the data analysis technique to be applied.” Maxwell (2013) referred to where, who, what, how and why of conducting research and the choice of approaches used in the research. The chapter is outlined in the following order: research design, population, target population, sample size, type of data, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, data analysis plan, ethical considerations and summary of the chapter.

Research Design

According to Cooper and Schindler (2014, p. 24), “a research design is a framework that specifies the integration of the study’s variables and outlines procedures for every research activity.” Zikmund (2010) added that “the research design includes the procedures as well as the procedural framework necessary for obtaining the data and information needed to structure and solve a research problem. It refers to the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research, as a blueprint to make research as efficient as possible” (p. 12).

This study used the qualitative descriptive and explanatory research designs. Descriptive research design was used to describe the issue of GBV as well as the population affected,

which are mostly women and girls. A descriptive study design focused on what the problem was, where it happened, when it happened and how it happened. Which is about the strategies used. (Kothari, 2014). On the other hand, an explanatory research design helped answer the “why” question and assess the effectiveness of the strategies employed in response to GBV.

Population

“Population is defined as the entire set of individuals or entities to which study findings are to be generalized” (Lavrakas, 2013, p. 2). The UNFPA Goma branch has 60 staff in the GBV section and approximately 360 women who benefited from the GBV (UNFPA, 2017). The population for this study was all the staff of the UNFPA office of Goma, girls and women who benefited in the GBV in Goma town in the DRC and the key informants.

Target population

The area under study was Goma town in the DRC. Cooper and Schindler (2014) state that “a target population is the events, records or people that contain the desired information”. For this study, the target population included 6 employees of the UNFPA in the GBV department in Goma town. In addition, the study targeted 36 women who benefit from the GBV program (organized in grassroots groups) as well as 6 key informants who are conversant with UNFPA and its projects within Goma town.

Sample Size

A sample size refers to a selected portion of the population under study that is to be presumed as the correct reflection of the population (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2012). Having a sample from a population is essential as it assists the researcher in acquiring more insight

into the population (Cooper & Schindler, 2014). The target population for this study was purposive since not all the staff working in UNFPA will be considered. Depending on the nature of population, a sample size between 10% and 30% is a good representation for generalization (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Therefore, the study adopted 10%, which implies 10% of 60 staff, then 10% of the 360 and 10% of the 60 key informants. This sample included 6 employees in the department of GBV of the UNFPA including 2 manager-level officers who work in GBV programs and 4 field officers. The sample also included 36 women selected from 12 women groups in Goma town. The 36 women included 3 women selected from each of the 12 women groups including the chairlady, secretary and the treasurer. In addition, the sample included 2 known opinion leaders in Goma town taking into consideration inclusivity and gender as well as 2 former employees of the UNFPA and 2 experts' academics with knowledge of GBV. Which give us a total of 6 key informants.

Sampling Technique

The study adopted both purposive and snowballing sampling techniques. The purposive sampling method was used because the participants were considered to have the vital information that was required for the research. According to Etikan, Musa, and Alkassim (2016), “purposive sampling technique, is the deliberate choice of a participant due to the qualities the participant possesses. It is a nonrandom technique that does not need underlying theories or a set number of participants” (p. 2). The snowballing sampling method was chosen because of the sensitive nature of the study. All the respondents in this study were furnished with the interview guidelines beforehand for the purpose of preparation and familiarization.

Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used the Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) whereby people from similar background were gathered to discuss about the topic. To facilitate the focus group discussion, the researcher developed guides with questions guided by the research objectives. In addition, the researcher used the key informant interview guides to collect the information needed from people who knows what is going on in Goma about GBV. These interviews provided sufficient information regarding the incidences of GBV in Goma, which enabled the researcher to fulfill the objectives of the research. For example, the former members of the UNFPA, the women from different social groups, academics, among others. The interviews and FGDs were done in French. They were later translated in English.

Data Collection Procedures

According to Punch (2021), data collection procedures refer to the actual process of data collection, over and above any instrument proposed. This study employed Focus Group Discussion and interviews as the main methods of data collection. “A focus group is a type of in-depth interview done in a group, whose meetings present characteristics defined in regard to the proposal, size, composition, and interview procedures” (Mishra, 2016, p. 8). This tool was helpful in collecting the experiences and understanding of the respondents on the effectiveness of UNPFPA’s strategies in response to GBV. The interviews guide was administered to six (6) staff from GBV department, and 36 women who benefited from the programme.

The researcher recruited research assistants who were on ground to gather and organize the relevant data through interviews and focus group discussion. The researcher provided the

interview guidelines to the interviewee, prior to the intended interview. Subsequently, the study compiled all the raw data into one pool for comprehensive analysis thereafter.

Pretesting

According to Cooper and Schindler (2014), pretesting helps to establish the existence of questions that were not clear as well as editing them to avoid mistakes before the actual study. The findings obtained from pretesting were used to adjust appropriately the data collection tools for quality data collection. Pretesting of the tools was carried out by the research assistants in Goma on few selected respondents who would not be part of the final sample. To test the reliability of the instrument the study purposely considered 1% of the population. This was a total of 6 respondents, who were suitable for the pre-test because the respondents have same characteristics as those of the target population.

Reliability and Validity

According to Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2016), reliability refers to “the consistency of measurement and was frequently assessed using the test-retest reliability method.” In the study, reliability was enhanced by measuring similar items using a diverse sample and using uniform testing procedures. A sample of respondents was chosen to test the accuracy of the research instrument. The research instrument was pre-tested as part of the study. The goal was to correct anomalies in the instruments, ensuring that they measure what is intended. The pilot data was not incorporated into the main study. The results of the pilot study were helpful to the researcher while revising the questionnaire to ensure that it covers the study's objectives.

Data Analysis Plan

Data analysis is the process of examining what had been collected and making deductions and inferences (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). Qualitative data was collected through in-depth interviews with the women's groups and the members of UNFPA, and then the Focus Group Discussion was done with select key informants. The data collected was done in narrative form.

Ethical Considerations

The study used consent forms to be filled by the respondents and an introduction letter from Daystar University. Additionally, the University assisted in obtaining research permission from Daystar University Ethics and Review Board (DU-ERB). Both DU-ERB and the departmental authorization assisted in getting an approval from the DRC Ministry of Education to collect data from UNFPA for educational purposes in Kenya. Participation in this study was entirely voluntary, and the participants were informed that they were free to take part in the research. Respondents signed a consent form that they were voluntarily participating. The researcher made the respondents aware that they have the right to withdraw from being involved in the research at any time.

The participants were informed of the purpose of the research and who would conduct it and were guaranteed confidentiality. They were assured that any information that they disclosed in due course would be treated in strict confidentiality and no coercion was offered to the participants to participate in the research. For the respondents who were interviewed within their premises of work or residential areas were also assured that their location would remain anonymous and that the information that they shared in this study would be used for academic purposes only.

Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the researcher gave time to participants to share their experiences and provided a shoulder to lean on when participants broke down, and this was successful because, being a female, with a background in courses related to gender-based violence and psychology, the researcher understood their pain. However, counseling therapy sections was provided to those more affected by their experiences. The respondents were further assured that any information that they provided for this study would not be shared by any unauthorized persons.

Summary

This chapter was made of research design, the population, and sample size among others. It also dealt with the collection of data to examine the responses of UNFPA in Goma when it comes to gender-based violence. The researcher made sure that all the information was clear, and respondents were not forced at all to be part of the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of United Nations Population Fund strategies in response to Gender-Based Violence in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. Its main objectives were to analyze the nature of GBV experienced and reported by women and girls in Goma, to examine the strategies used by UNFPA to raise awareness of GBV, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies employed by the UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma, DRC. Therefore, this study collected, analyzed, interpreted, and reported in a comprehensive way to make it beneficial. The data was summed into different themes in order make sense to the analysis and based on the theories and the study objectives. Analytical report was done and presented in narrative form.

Analysis and Interpretation

Nature of Gender Based Violence

The first objective of the study sought to analyze the nature of Gender Based Violence faced by women in Goma. The findings show that many of the women experienced all sorts of violence such as physical violence (like battery, burning, hitting, acid throwing and assault or any other type of body harm). Women and girls also suffered psychological (harassment, emotional,). They also experienced economic violence whereby they were denied job opportunities, discrimination at work. Lastly, they suffered emotional violence like false accusations, abusive words in private and public, social isolation, exclusion, and humiliation among others. This can be termed as various domestic violence, as a report by the European Union (2020) revealed that domestic violence has been proved to be the most

frequent form of GBV and it is a high priority of the Europe. Therefore, Africa is not left behind. As (Freedman 2011, p. 21) posited that “each year, countless women and children flee violence at home and take an uncertain journey in the hope of finding safety in a new country.”

Other women underwent tradition practices such as female genital mutilation against their will, giving them in marriages at early ages without their consent due to patriarchy norms, for example the case of one researcher was got married when she was thirteen years old and currently at eighteen, she has three children and her husband, who is twelve years older than her left her for another woman.

Others were sexually assaulted or raped by the rebels during war crisis in the presence of their kids and partners. One respondent state that she was tortured and raped by three men, and one of them was introducing his long gun inside her genital part. She was in too much pain and her husband was forced to watch everything and later on, he was executed. She has to deal with that pain for the rest of her life.

Other women in Goma explained that they were forced into prostitution while others endured incest from close relatives. For example, a 20-year-old respondent stated that, she was forced to have sexual relationships by her father for almost two years. She was afraid to speak out because no one would believe her. It was so hard for her to live in the same house with her mother because of guilt and she also hated her father a lot. After falling into depression, she spoke out, was helped and the father was arrested

Another case of incest is from a 13 year old girl who explained during the interview that her uncle abused her for almost six months. As an orphan of both parents who were burned

in their house during a war crisis in 2008 when she was just one, her aunt took care of her and raised her as her own child. However, her uncle, who she considered as a father took advantage of her and raped her multiple times.

He asked her not to tell anyone or else she would be kicked out; out of panic, she chose silence and became bitter with everyone. She was always angry that her aunt got concerned and she ended up telling her the truth; instead of understanding that it was not her fault, her aunt beat her and blamed and treated her as a witch a big liar. She added that her aunt did not want to see her ever again and kicked her out and she ended up in the streets. Few days later, she met a woman who took her to her house as a house help and after sharing her story, she was taken to the UNFPA and was assisted.

This agrees with Ali (2018) who indicated that the GBV acts include spousal battery, sexual abuse including “female genital mutilation/cutting and other practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, sexual violence related to exploitation, incest, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in school and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution” (p. 24).

Causes of Gender Based Violence

In the follow up as to what motivated gender-based violence, the study examined the causes of GBV. The results show that of the respondents mentioned cultural backgrounds and traditional family systems as the major contributor of GBV. Another reason identified during the interviews was unemployment which creates poverty in the society. This is a major issue because many respondents agreed that poverty could push many people into malicious activities. Notably, the high poverty levels in Congo contribute to incidences of

criminal activities. An example that was common is that some individuals break in people's houses at night with the aim to steal, rape, and kill.

During the interview, one 24 years old respondent shared her inspirational story in French:

"C'était la nuit, j'étais avec ma mère et ma grande sœur dans la maison. Subitement, nous avions entendu des bruits dehors et on a commencé à frapper à la porte chez nous. Ils ont forcé la porte, 4 personnes se sont introduites dans la maison. Ils ont demandé où se trouvait mon père. Je leur ai dit que papa n'est pas la maison. Ils m'ont demandé alors de l'argent. Je leur ai répondu que je n'en avais pas. Ils ont commencé à tabasser ma mère et ma grande. Avec cette souffrance, je leur ai remis l'argent de la chorale que je gardais à la maison. Je croyais que c'était fini. Ils m'ont demandé de me déshabiller tout en poursuivant à me tabasser. J'ai fini par me déshabiller et ils m'ont violée tous les 4 à tour de rôle alors que j'étais encore vierge. J'avais du sang sur mes cuisses. Ma mère avait mal et en voulant me sauver ils l'ont tirer dessus et c'est comme ça qu'elle est morte. Je ne voulais plus qu'une personne s'approche de moi. J'aitais vraiment traumatiser."

Translation:

"That one night, I was at home with my mother and my sister, then suddenly, we heard too much noise from outside and few minutes later people started pushing our door with too much strength, then four men broke in and started aggressing us. One came to me and asked where my father was, and that they wanted money. I replied that we did not have money and that father was not home.

They started beating my mother and my sister so hard that I got scared and gave the money for the choir that I was keeping in the house. I thought they would go after that. However, they asked me to remove all my clothes, while beating me so hard. I did exactly what they wanted after resisting for some time and then all of them raped me and that is how I lost my virginity. My mother felt too much pain watching that and wanted to defend me, but she was shot and died. I was traumatized and did not want to talk to anyone for a long time."

As a summary, this woman went through a lot of suffering, but the UNFPA helped her by providing her medical support to avoid unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted

diseases. She went through therapy sessions as well as a healing process. She also added that her choir members supported her throughout the process with moral and financial help. Although the woman received support to enable her to recover fully, the memories of the fateful day still linger in her mind, and she is unable to forgive the perpetrators for the wrong committed against her.

However, another cause is ongoing crisis and insecurity in Goma led to violence against women. An example is that one of the respondents explained that one day, around six in the evening, she was going to pick her phone and suddenly, a motorbike with two people stopped in front of her and covered her face with a serviette and immediately she lost conscience. She woke up two hours later not knowing where she was. She was feeling so weak, and she had blood all over her thighs. She noticed a guy holding a machete next to her and who told her immediately that if she screamed, she would be killed. She was just feeling sick and did not have the courage to talk.

Later in the evening, the same guy gave her some medicine, but she did not feel good. She later heard him talking to his friend that they should leave her on the road, which they did. Some neighbors found her on their road and took her to her grandmother's house. She later discovered after a month that she was pregnant. To date, the woman is still traumatized by everything that happened to her but with the help of the UNFPA and therapy sessions she got better.

During the interview, a respondent explained that during the ongoing crisis in Congo, many people run away from the villages hoping to be safe somewhere else before things go back

to normal. She explained how she was once a victim of rape and she lost both her parents and her brother.

In her words she said,

Un jour nous etions a la maison, ma mere etais a la cuisine et j'etais entrain d'aider mon petit frère à faire son devoir a domicile. Mon père lui, s'asseoyer dehors avec d'autres hommes du village quand soudain nous attendîmes de coup de bals venir de part et d'autres dans le village. Tout le monde était agiter, ne sachant pas quoi faire ou encore moins ou aller. C'est qui est sûr est que c'était dangereux de se cacher dans la maison parce que c'est n'était pas la première fois que cela arriver, et chaque fois que les gens restaient, ils étaient toujours victimes soit d'être brules vifs dans la maison ou être tuer d'une manière ou d'une autre. J'entendis ensuite la porte s'ouvrir brusquement et mon père se pointa en hurlant de toute sa voix: ils sont de retour dans notre village, il faut qu'on y aille, dit-il, on prendra la direction de l'ouest.

En se tourna vers ma mère, je remarquai si vite qu'elle était inquiète pour nous tous mais comme toujours elle montra son courage et prit rapidement un peu de nourriture et on sortit de la maison si vite et prudemment. Mon père me pris la main et ma mère pris celle de mon petit frère qui était aussi inquiet parce que, lors de la dernière attaque de rebelles dans notre village, deux ans plus tôt il s'était fait tirer dessus au niveau de l'épaule et pour lui, tout était horrible. En route tout était catastrophe, certaines personnes perdaient leurs familles vu que les gens étaient tellement nombreux, entacer les uns contre les autres, ne sachant pas où aller. Tout ce qu'ils voulaient était qu'il trouve refuge quelque part et respirer encore une fois la liberté. J'entendu soudain une femme pleurer dans la foule en disant que les rebelles brulaient nos maisons sans se soucier de quoi que ce soit ou de qui était à l'intérieur et que tous nos champs étaient prisent.

Quelques minutes plus tard, nous attendîmes de coups de bals s'augmenter, cette fois on croirait que c'étaient juste derrière nous, les femmes et les enfants pleuraient et les hommes prenaient soins de les calmer. Ne sachant pas où aller, mon père sera fort ma main et me conduisit dans un autre chemin tellement qu'il connaissait beaucoup d'endroits dans notre village. C'est une fois la que je remarquai que Maman et mon petit frère n'étaient plus avec nous, mais je me suis dit que c'était tôt pour m'inquiétai. Mes pensées furent interrompu quand je vis les rebelles devant nous, j'avais trop peur, je trembler, je voulais disparaître et soudain l'un d'eux s'approcha de nous en parlant dans une langue que je ne comprenais pas. Je senti ensuite une main couvrir ma bouche de toute sa force pour m'empêcher de dire quoi que ce soit. C'est alors que je compris que ces cruels voulaient que mon père me viol.

Je voulais dire quelque chose à propos mais cet homme ne voulait pas du tout me lâcher et n'en avait même pas l'intention. Ils menacèrent même mon père de le tuer s'il ne voulait pas me violer mais il refusa. Ensuite un autre lui promit qu'il le

tuerait après qu'ils m'aient violé devant lui. Mon père le supplia de tout son cœur en leurs disant que je n'avais que dix-sept ans pour subir sa mais ils se moquèrent de lui en éclata de rire parce que pour eux dix-sept, trois ou cinquante ans c'est la même chose alors rien ne les arrêteraient de faire ce qu'ils avaient en tête. Je ne savais plus quoi faire, mes larmes étaient comme bloquer quelques part, j'étais juste confuse et traumatisée. Mon regard croisa désespérément celui de mon père qui était déjà éloigner de moi, son regard me disait quelques chose du genre "soit forte comme toujours ma fille"

Ils déchirèrent ma robe rose que maman venait à peine de me payer, tout se faisait comme dans un rêve et surtout que mon père était forcer de regarder. Tout était horrible, j'avais mal partout, j'étais faible tellement qu'ils étaient comme de bêtes sauvages sur moi, ils étaient comme de monstres et c'était insupportable de le sentir l'un après l'autre. Mon père criait, hurlait, pleurer comme s'il ressentait les mêmes douleurs que moi, voir même plus que les miennes. Je saigner, je sentais comme le feu d'enfer dans moi et petit à petit je perdais la force jusqu'à ce que ne vu que le noir, je perdis connaissance. Je me suis retrouvée. Deux jours plus tard dans une chambre que j'ignorai complètement. Je me sentais toute faible, j'avais de maux de têtes violents et je ne pouvais pas me tourner pour voir ce qui se trouvait à cote. Apres deux jours, j'appris que mon père étais tué, ainsi que ma mère et mon frère."

Translation :

One day we were in the house. My Mother was in the kitchen and i was helping my brother do his homework. My Father was sitting outside with other men from our village, then all of a sudden we heard gun shots all over the place. Everyone panicked, not knowing what to do or where to go. What is true is that it was dangerous to hide in the house because it was not the first time that it has happened, and whenever people stayed in their houses they were burned alive or killed in a way or another. Then i heard the door opened suddenly and my Dad came in while telling us loudly that the rebels were back to our village and that we should leave immedialtely taking the direction of the west.

While turning to my Mother, i noticed quickly that she was worried for all of us but as usual she showed us her courage, took quickly some food then we left the house so fast but carefuly. My Father took my hand and my Father took my brother's, who was also worried because, two years ago when the rebels attacked again he was hot on the shoulder so for him everything was horrible. On the road, everything was catastrophique, some people were losing their families because people were so many, not knowing where to go. All they wanted was finding peace once again. Therefore i heard a woman crying, saying that the rebels were burning our houses without caring that people were inside or not and that our plantations were taken. Few minutes later, we heard more gun shots, this time we thought they were just right behind us. Women and children were crying and the men were taking care of them. Nit knowing where to go, my Dad took my hand with all his strenght and took another road because he was familiar with the places in the village more than us. It is only one on the side i noticed that my mother and my brother were no longer with us but i told myself that it was too early for me to panick. My thoughts

were interrupted when i saw the rebels right in front of us. I was shaking, scared and i just wanted to dissapear but all of a sudden one of them came closer to us and started to speak in a language that i did not understand. However, i felt suddenly a hand covering my mouth with too much strenght to avoid me from speaking and it was at that time that i realized that they wanted my Father to rape me. I wanted to say Something about that but that man did not want to let me go, not even a little bit, however those men told my father that since he did not want to rape me, the will do it and kill him after. He begged them with all his heart not to do it, telling them that i was only 17 years old but they laughed at him because being 17, 3 or 50 did not mean anything to them and that could not stop them at all. I did not know what to do, i felt like my tears were stuck somewhere, i could not cry but i was just confused and traumatised. I looked at my Dad and i could read through his eyes something like, stay strong my daughter, as always.

Those men the cut my dress that my Mother got for me a while ago, everything happened like in a dream especially because my father was sprced to watch everything. It was horrible. I was hurt so much, i was weak because they were like animals or monstres all over me.it was hard to fell them one after the other and i could see my Dad screaming louderm crying too as if he could feel my pain, even more than me. I was bleeding because it was the first time and i was feeling like my insides were burning in hell slowly. However i lost my strenght and slowly i saw the darkness, i lost my conscience. I woke up two days later in a room that i did not recognize. I was still weak and i had a severe headache that i could not even turn around to see what was next to me. Later on, i was told that my Dad was found dead as well as my mother and my little Brother.

Another example concerning insecurity is of a 12 years old girl who explains that she was playing around the plot alone when she saw a man approaching her. At first she thought the man was her father's friend and she politely welcomed him and calling him uncle. No one was around because her mother went to fetch water and her dad went to the nearest shop to get a battery for his radio which she explained to the man politely.

In her words the man said:

Viens je vais acheter pour toi le chocolat en attendant qu'ils arrivent. Tu prendra aussi les bonbons si tu veux. J'ai vite accepter en me disant que c'est le meilleur oncle du monde. Il m'a pris par la main et nous sommes partis au shop. J'ai pris tout ce que je voulais comme le bonbons, biscuit et une bouteille de jus de mangue. Ensuite il a pris une autre route et je n'ai pas pris la peine de demander ou on aller parceque j'avais confiance en lui. Apres quelque minutes de marches il m'a conduit dans une maisonette en me disant que c'etait chez lui et qu'il allais recuperer une chose appurtenant a mon pere. Une fois a l'interieur il m'a pris de force et m'a

violee. J'avais mal partout. Je criais de toute mes forces a cause de la douleur mais il y avait personne pour me sauver. Je me suis retrouver plus tard a l'hopital ne sachant pas comment j'y etais arriver, ma mere etait assise a ma gauche en pleurant.

Translation:

Come I want to buy for you some chocolate before they arrive, you will take candies too if you want. I accepted quickly while telling myself that he was the best uncle in the whole world. He held my hand and we went to the shop. As promised I took whatever I wanted like candies, biscuits and one bottle of mango juice. Then he took a different road but I did not bother to ask where we were going because I trusted him already. Few minutes later he took me to a small house while saying that he lives there and he just want to pick something for my Dad. One inside, he took me by force and raped me. I was in too much pain that I started screaming with all my strengths but no one came to save me. I found myself later on in the hospital not knowing how I got there and my mother was sitting on my left, crying.

Furthermore, respondents felt that lack of an established legal framework to cushion women from GBV which led to increased violence against them. Lastly, the minority of the respondents felt that failed marriages, early marriages or forced marriages contribute to gender based violence. This is supported by the research by Puechguirbal (2003) who argued that certain community practices and beliefs such as forced marriage, inequality at school or at work, or domestic abuse among others are yet to be fully acknowledged as for their status as GBV.

How Women Are Affected by GBV

The respondents were asked to list the effects of GBV. The study revealed that most women experienced unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, and trauma, mostly because they are blamed from what happened. Maybe because of how they dressed, or because they were seen in bar and many other reasons. During the interview, a 17-year-old lady who is a beneficiary at the UNFPA shared her story and she said:

Un jour, je me suis reveiller vers 22h dans une des chambres de la sale où la fête d'anniversaire d'une amie avait été organisée, j'étais fatigue et j'avais mal partout, j'avais vite remarquer que j'avais été violée et droguer quand j'ai realizer que je n'avais plus mes habits sur moi. J'avais peur car je ne me souvainais plus de rien. J'avais peur de le dire a qui que ce soit par crainte d'etre juger mais un mois plus tard j'ai remarquer que j'étais enceinte et mes parents ont arrater de me parler et m'ont chasser de la maison en me demandant d'aller chez mon Homme.

Translation:

Later on after the party, I found myself around 10pm in one of the rooms at the venue where my friend's birthday was organized. I did not remember anything, but I could feel too much pain and I was exhausted. Then I realized that I was drugged, raped and abandoned. I was scared to death and I did not want anyone because I was afraid of judgments, but also, every time when the night came, I was so scared, I had nightmares and I thought that the same thing might happen again. I lived in fear, then after a month, I realized that I was pregnant. My parents blamed me for everything and chased me out saying that I should go to my man's place. But later on, I was taken back home, and my perpetrators were found and arrested.

More respondents reported health related issues, some claimed to have suffered from sexually transmitted diseases. According to Puechguirbal (2003) cited early in chapter one, “victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, trauma, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and even death”.

Strategies by UNFPA to Raise Awareness

The study sought to examine the strategies that UNFPA use in raising awareness on Gender Based Violence in Goma and the whole of DRC.

The study revealed that most of the respondents indicated that UNFPA and other NGOs had partnered through media campaigns to create awareness about the gender-based violence done to women and girls. The GBV campaigns were done through online and offline campaigns, movies to educate people to change their bad behavior towards women

and girls, posters and adverts, radio and TV, and social media platforms. On the other, there are other tools used for mobilization campaigns like open houses, schools, peace festivals, schools, conferences, and churches to promote the gender equality and education towards changing behavior of men and boys to women and girls. As the European Union (2020) reported that media comprise of one of the key targets to raise awareness, prevent and end violence against women by the most important conventions and declaration endeavoring to overcome violence against women, therefore the respective media initiates including the audio-visual material is of the major importance.

Other respondents revealed that UNFPA was involved into activities of social education campaigns through offering trainings and field visitations, counseling, family planning trainings, self-defense sessions, among others. Once people are aware, GBV decreases, therefore support for victims will rise (Kearl, 2018). On the account of creation in the Bible, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created him; male and female created them” (Gen 1:27). This should be incorporated by UNFPA to educate men and boy child to understand gender equality.

Another number the respondents agreed that funding women initiatives were other strategies that UNFPA got involved in in the process of bringing GBV survivors to normal. This was done through supporting the victims’ needs, distribution of goods and services (legal, medical, paying their children’s fees) and provision of job opportunities and businesses ideas.

Effectiveness of the Strategies Used by UNFPA

The third and last objective of the study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies used by UNFPA to fight gender-based violence. The effectiveness of the strategies used by UNFPA to raise awareness was seen through the following: Psychological and therapy healing, women empowerment, socio-economic autonomy, and reinforcement of laws. The findings were presented in the following manner.

The psychological and therapy healing of women was done through counseling sessions to victims. Much evidence exists for effective treatment of common mental disorders after trauma, such as depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with most studies using cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) with a trauma focus (Bass, Annan, McIvor Murray, Kaysen, Griffiths, & Cetinoglu, 2013). In the DRC, UNFPA partner named WHO developed a brief psychological intervention named Problem Management Plus with the aim to train non-qualified people to get involved into behavior activation, problem-solving, distribution social and financial support, and stress reduction (Cuijpers, Van Straten & Warmerdam, 2007). These strategies were effective as they purportedly improved the victims' mental health in reducing depression, solving financial problems, decreasing stress, anxiety.

A study by Bryant et al. (2017) assessed the effectiveness of PM+ to alleviate distress in women who had experienced GBV in peri-urban slums in Nairobi, Kenya, where women are frequently exposed to violence. It was established that PM+ reduced psychological stress, impaired functioning, post-traumatic stress, and health issues.

The other strategy that indicated the effectiveness of UNFPA campaign for awareness was through women empowerment. This concurs with Kearn (2018) who argued that “the movement works on empowerment of women through empathy, by showing the survivors that they are not alone and are supported” (p. 57). The results show that most of the respondents believed that psychological healing was the most strategy used. This was done through counseling sessions offered to the victims.

Many respondents agreed that the strategies are so effective because women leave the place so powerful and fearless and they are also encouraged to join the women organizations so that they can lift up each other’s because they have been through the same experience, or almost. A respondent said during the interview that now, after many years of trauma and pain after being affected by HIV she is fine because of the help given by the UNFPA because her medical expenses were taken care of, as well as her therapy sessions. She is now helping other women, in their small group, while telling them the importance to go to the hospital within 72 hours, to receive quality medical care to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Summary of Key Findings

The general objective of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of the strategies used by the UNFPA in response to GBV in Goma. The study focused on three objectives; analyzing the nature of GBV experienced and reported by women and girls in Goma, examining the strategies used by the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) to raise awareness of GBV and to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies employed by the UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma, DRC.

The nature of gender-based violence is of various types: All sorts of violence (termed as domestic violence types) such as economic, psychological, emotional and physical violence done to women and girls at all ages. This finding agrees with that of Zihindula and Maharaj (2015) that women are more vulnerable to rape, battery, assault, and discrimination. The findings further agree with UNHCR (2020) that 705 cases of sexual violence in Goma were registered, including 619 cases of rape.

The study also established that women are raped and sexually assaulted and harassed as supported by a majority of the respondents. Women and girls are sexually harassed in the name of traditional practices like early marriages and FGM. This finding concurs with Freedman (2016) that most women reported sexual assault especially during times of conflict and leading to unplanned pregnancies. The acts of violence and aggression against women are also increased by the closure of borders, and the inadequate accommodation in refugee camps, which further exposes the women to abuse.

The study further revealed that women and girls are raped by intimate relatives then silenced in the name of family protection. Majority of rape cases are orchestrated by relatives of victims. Women are subjected to sexual abuse and torment, including rape, forced incest, and breast oblation (Berry, 2018).

It was established that the causes of GBV are ranging from cultural backgrounds and traditional family systems, poverty, and unemployment; war and insecurity crisis in Goma and DRC at large; lack of education to women and a girl child; lack of working legal system and finally failed, early and forced marriages. This finding concurs with (Freedman, 2011) that causes of GBV can best be visualized as four concentric circles. The innermost circle

represents the biological and personal history that affects an individual's behavior in his/her relationships. The second circle represents the immediate context in which GBV takes place, frequently the family or other intimate or acquaintance relationship. The third circle represents the institutions and social structures, both formal and informal, in which relationships are embedded, including neighborhood, workplace, social networks, and peer groups. The fourth and outermost circle is the economic and social environment, including cultural norms.

Women and girls are affected by trauma, health issues, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, rejection and divorce, STDS/HIV, and death. These results are in tandem with Freedman (2011) that psychological scars can make it difficult to have healthy and rewarding relationships in the future. Gender abuse victims may vent their frustrations on their children and others, conveying and exacerbating the unpleasant experiences of people around them. Children, on the other hand, may come to tolerate violence as a substitute for dispute resolution and communication. Violence is repeated and perpetuated in this way. Institutions such as health facilities and police that have a role to help the victims move on from the trauma are under-staffed or non-existent.

Strategies used by UNFPA are education and media mobilization, partnership management, medical and legal assistance, therapy and financial support. This finding agrees with Goff (2010) that in Goma, many international organizations and hospitals have come in to help women and girls overcome GBV, and they use different strategies in their approach. The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) works with national partners on legal and policy frameworks to combat GBV and supports national capacities to prevent violence and end impunity among perpetrators. It also ensures access to justice and

protection of women and girls, and to provide survivors with multi-sectoral support and services. Partners in this work include the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the security sector, public prosecutors, women's groups, civil society organizations and movements, the private sector and traditional, community and religious leaders.

It was reported that the effectiveness of these strategies are psychological healing, women empowerment, financial autonomy and policies and regulations put into laws that protect women and girls against GBV.

Summary

Chapter four discussed the data analysis, the findings obtained, and interpretation of the findings in accordance with the research objectives. It was concluded that women suffer various domestic violence types such as economic, psychological, emotional, and physical violence done to women and girls at all ages. They are harassed at work, at home and almost everywhere. UNFPA was trying to collaborate with other NGOs to create more awareness and help to educate men and boys and the society at large to understand gender equality.

Further, the study evaluated those strategies used were effective as GBV was being decreasing step by step.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Chapter five involves the summary of the study in regard to the research objectives which are as follows: To analyses the nature of GBV experienced and reported by women and girls in Goma, to examine the strategies used by the United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) to raise awareness of GBV and finally to assess the effectiveness of the strategies employed by the UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma, DRC. This section also presents the main findings per objectives and presents the conclusions of the study, recommendations for further improvements and areas for further research in regard to the effectiveness of UNFPA role in response to GBV curbing in the Goma/DRC.

Discussion of the Key Findings

The study sought to determine the effects of gender-based violence that was meted on women. From the findings, bodily harm such as assault, battery was the most form of GBV directed toward women as supported by most of the respondents. These findings are line with the findings by Mukanangana, Moyo, Zvoushe, and Rusinga (2014) who asserted that GBV negatively affects women's reproductive health and it contributes to the abuse of human rights. The high incidences of GBV in societies points out to the challenges faced by women who are subjected to various forms of abuse. The study's findings also revealed that women suffered psychological (emotional) trauma because of GBV. These are in line with the findings by Silove et al. (2017) which indicated that "women reported a threefold higher level of exposure to GBV and were seven times more likely to nominate GBV as the index trauma as compared to men" (p. 2). Therefore, the traumatic incidences

experienced affect the quality of life of the women and could contribute to Post Traumatic Stress Disorders among the affected individuals. The implications of these psychological effects contribute to fear of abuse among the women due to the flashbacks of the events that happened to them in the past, dissociation from others and emotional numbness. These factors affect the mental well-being of the victims and they also affect how the victims interact with the members of society.

The findings further revealed that women were discriminated in relation to jobs thus denying them equal opportunities to compete fairly against their male counterparts. The forms of discrimination against women are evident even in households as girls are barred from attending school and they are forced to do household chores such as cleaning, taking care of younger siblings and preparing meals for the family. On the other hand, the boys freely attend school, thereby creating equality in education. As a result, the women are denied opportunities to compete at the same level with them men, which is against the global goal of attaining equity. Therefore, the women resort to early marriages which expose them to incidences of GBV. These findings agree with European Union (2020) that domestic violence has been proved to be the most frequent form of GBV.

The findings also revealed that women faced emotional abuse. This came in the forms of abusive words in private and public, social isolation, exclusion, humiliation among others. Emotional abuse has both long-term and short-term effects on the lives of individuals. In the short-term, incidences of emotional abuse can cause fear, shame, confusion, and feelings of hopelessness. However, in the long-term, these effects could have detrimental effects on the individuals as they can lead to social withdrawal, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem. As a result, the individuals exposed to this form of abuse may have

difficulties forming meaningful relationships with others and may develop mental health issues due to constant exposure to abuse.

Sexual related abuses were also identified as common forms of GBV. These findings are in line with the argument by McCloskey (2016), who asserts that “sexual minorities often face gender-based violence, although the sheer number of women who are attacked because of their sex exceeds that of any other group. Examples of gender-based violence include sexual abuse across the life-course and intimate partner violence (IPV)” (p. 153). Retrogressive traditional practices such as female genital mutilation against their will, and early marriages also contribute to the incidences of GBV. Notably, the girls married off at a young age without their consent due to patriarchy norms and were sexually assaulted or raped or even forced into prostitution while others endured incest from close relatives. “The United Nations estimates two of three girls aged between 15 and 24 have prostituted themselves for money, food or shelter. They face high levels of discrimination and hate crime, while having no protection and no advocates” (Garbe & Struck-Garbe, 2018, p. 23).

The study established that women who were victims of GBV experienced trauma, some reported health related issues, others claimed to have suffered from sexually transmitted diseases, or even rejection and some opted for divorce from their partners. However, some women got unwanted pregnancies while they could not keep pregnancies opted for unsafe abortion. The results also revealed that the respondents believe that UNFPA use education and media to tackle gender-based violence. Another strategy is that UNFPA work with various partners, other governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and gender affiliated bodies to stop GBV from happening in Goma. This was supported by

many the respondents. Further, some of the respondents stated that UNFPA catered for medical expenses to the people who are directly affected by the issue of GBV, while some believed that UNFPA offered judicial assistance to victims by accusing the perpetrators of GBV while making them face justice no matter their position in the society. This indicates that intervention by the community and other institutions such as NGOs leads to management of gender-based violence cases. These findings agree with The United Nation Development Program (UNDP, 2020) that working with national partners on legal and policy frameworks to combat GBV and support national capacities to prevent violence. This also ensures access to justice and protection of women and girls, and to provide survivors with multi-sectoral support and services.

However, the study further revealed that few women stated that they were provided with free counseling services while the minority benefitted financially from UNFPA. This agrees with Freedman (2011), that UNFPA gets involved to find lawyers who can defend these survivors who cannot defend themselves or fear to speak out.

In addition, the study sought to determine the activities that UNFPA got involved in through raising awareness on Gender Based Violence in Goma and the whole of DRC. According to Freedman (2011), sexual violence is the most reported form of GBV in the Democratic Republic of Congo, however many women fear to report rape or violence due to stigma and the fear of reprisal from perpetrators. This is one of activities UNFPA gets involved in to find lawyers who can defend these survivors who cannot defend themselves or fear to speak out because the majority of the population of Goma have fear of rejection because gender violence like beating, forced sex among others have been normalized and

women are told that they should just be patient because a man who isn't violent toward them does not care so patience and silence is the key to a successful marriage.

Finally, the research sought to establish the effectiveness of the strategies used by UNFPA to fight gender-based violence. The results show that most of the respondents believed that psychological healing was the most used strategy. This was done through therapy sessions offered to the victims. The respondents agreed that some of the GBV victims were empowered through being given jobs thus empowering them economically and offering them independence to sustain themselves after suffering GBV.

Conclusions

This study focused on investigating the effectiveness of strategies employed by UNFPA to respond to GBV against women and girls in Goma town, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Interviews were done with the availability of the respondents, and they provided a couple of information needed for this study.

The stated that the nature of gender-based violence is of various types: All sorts of violence (termed as domestic violence types) such as economic, psychological, emotional, and physical violence done to women and girls at all ages. Women are raped and sexually assaulted and harassed as supported by a majority of the respondents. Women and girls are sexually harassed in the name of traditional practices like early marriages and FGM. The causes of GBV ranged from cultural backgrounds and traditional family systems, poverty, and unemployment; war and insecurity crisis in Goma and DRC at large; lack of education to women and a girl child; lack of working legal system and finally failed, early and forced marriages.

This means that Women and girls are affected by trauma, health issues, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, rejection and divorce, STDS/HIV and death. However, the Strategies used by UNFPA are education and media mobilization, partnership management, medical and legal assistance, therapy and financial support. A couple of strategies that UNFPA used about GBV were as follows: Partnership with other stakeholders in order to reach out to a wide range, education women and girls; mobilization through the media platforms (using radio and TV stations, social media like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, among others), medical assistance to the survivors and provision of counseling and guidance to the victims in order to come back to normal and funding women's initiatives. These strategies have helped to reduce the impact of gender-based violence in Goma town, DRC.

Recommendations

The war in Congo where women and children suffer most has led to traumatization among men and boys. This kind of trauma affects people psychologically and leads to disregard of basic rights. Consequently, men continue mistreating women. Therefore, this study recommends that war survivors should be counseled before being assimilated within the community. Another recommendation is that UNFPA, DRC government and NGOs service providers should come up with procedures in order to identify the real victims of GBV and offer referrals for care. Policies and rules should be put into laws by the DRC national parliament curbing the GBV and protecting women and girls, also putting GBV perpetrators to justices and imprisonments.

The study also recommends that the victims of GBV should be provided with free therapy sessions to enable them to heal from the past traumatic events. These victims have

experienced traumatic events due to the GBV, therefore, providing free therapy sessions would be helpful to enable them to overcome the bitterness and anger against the perpetrators. As a result, the victims will learn to deal with the past events and they will be willing to forgive and heal from the past hurt.

Finally, the researcher also recommends that the UNFPA should rehabilitate of the child soldiers because many of them struggle to overcome the horrors of wars. In most cases they leave their communities underage and come back as adults. Therefore, they have challenges coping up with life in the society, they are traumatized and depressed because they have killed and raped. They feel unable to do anything in future because they cannot forgive themselves. This is important for the UNFPA to consider because, once these men get married and have families, they are bitter with their partners and kids and cause a lot of domestic violence like beating, insulting everyone in the house, getting angry etc. therefore therapy should be provided to them during their rehabilitation process which will allow them to be at peace before going back to the society. Policies and rules should be put into laws by the DRC national parliament curbing the GBV and protecting women and girls, also putting GBV perpetrators to justice and imprisonments.

Recommendations for Further Study

The study recommends a future study on how Information Communication Technology can help curbing GBV culprits to formal justice system. Additionally, other studies should also be done on effects of sexual violence on men and boys in the DRC. A study should also be done on dealing with traumatic events to provide healing for the individuals who have experienced different forms of abuse. In so doing, the concerned institutions will find better ways to deal with trauma and provide healing for the affected parties. Finally, yet

importantly, further study should focus on traditional and cultural practices and domestic violence done to women and girls in DRC.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Researcher's Letter of Introduction to Respondents

My name is Rachel Sematumba Muhoza, a student at Daystar University pursuing a Master of Arts in diplomacy, development, and security studies. I am currently writing a thesis and the topic is Gender Based Violence and International Organizations' Responses in Africa: A Case Study of the UNFPA in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. Please answer the following questions which will be helpful for my research to address the causes and effects of GVB on women and girls. Your responses will be strictly confidential. Thank you.

Appendix B: Interview guide for Focus Group Discussions (FGD)

Section A: Nature of Gender Based Violence

1. What type of Gender Based Violence do women experience?
2. In your words, what type of GBV against women is most common one in Goma and its surrounding?
3. When does GBV occur?
4. What are the causes of GBV in Goma?
5. What are the effects of GBV in Goma?

Section B: strategies used by the United Nations population funds (UNFPA) to raise awareness of GBV

6. What strategies has UNFPA employed to raise awareness of GBV in Goma?
7. What challenges does UNPFA encounter in implementing the strategies for responding to GBV in Goma?

Section C: effectiveness of the strategies employed by the UNFPA in dealing with GBV in Goma.

8. In your opinion, how effective are the strategies employed by UNFPA?
9. Is the organization effective when it comes to assisting the victims of GBV?
10. To what extend have these strategies been effective in responding to Gender Based Violence in Goma?
11. Which strategy has been most effective and why?
12. Do you have any other opinion regarding the effectiveness of the strategies used by the UNFPA in Goma?

Appendix C: Interview Guide for the Key Informants

1. In your words what is the nature of gender-based violence experienced by the women in Goma?
2. What are the strategies used in your community in response to GBV?
3. How effectives are those responses in dealing with GBV in Goma?

Appendix D: Ethical Clearance

VERDICT: APPROVAL WITH COMMENTS

Daystar University Ethics Review Board

Our Ref: DU-ERB/19/07/2021/000548



Date: 19th July 2021

To: Rachel Sernatumba Muhuza

Dear Rachel,

RE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND STRATEGIES IN RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN GOMA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Reference is made to your ERB application reference no. 020721-02 dated 2nd July 2021 in which you requested for ethical approval of your proposal by Daystar University Ethics Review Board.

We are pleased to inform you that ethical review has been done and the **verdict is to revise to the satisfaction of your Supervisors before proceeding to the next stage**. As guidance, ensure that the attached comments are addressed. Please be advised that it is an offence to proceed to collect data without addressing the concerns of Ethics Review board. Your application approval number is **DU-ERB-000548**. The approval period for the research is between **19th July 2021 to 18th July 2022** after which the ethical approval lapses. Should you wish to continue with the research after the lapse you will be required to apply for an extension from DU-ERB at half the review charges.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements.

- i. Only approved documents including (informed consents, study instruments, MIA) will be used.
- ii. All changes including (amendments, deviations, and violations) are submitted for review and approval by Daystar University Ethics Review Board.
- iii. Death and life threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to Daystar University Ethics Review Board within 72 hours of notification.
- iv. Any changes anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affected safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to Daystar University Ethics Review Board within 72 hours.
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions.
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal.
- vii. Submission of a signed one page executive summary report and a closure report within 90 days upon completion of the study to Daystar University Ethics Review Board via email [duerb@daystar.ac.ke].

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://oris.nacosti.go.ke> and other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Prof. A. L. Lando PhD

Chair, Daystar University Ethics Review Board

Encl. Review Report



Appendix E: UNFPA Permit



République Démocratique du Congo

20th of July 2021

Object: Permission letter from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Dear members of DU-ERB committee:

On behalf of UNFPA DRC, we are writing to formally indicate our awareness of the research proposed by RACHEL SEMATUMBA MUHOZA, a student at Daystar university, Nairobi Kenya. We are aware that she intends to conduct her research with UNFPA and its partners in the implementation of the Gender-Based Violence program. The subject of the said research is entitled 'ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STRATEGIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND IN RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN GOMA, IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO' and it will be obtained with the consent of the respondents.

As a country representative, I am responsible for employee within the organization and I grant RACHEL SEMATUMBA permission to conduct her research at our organization.

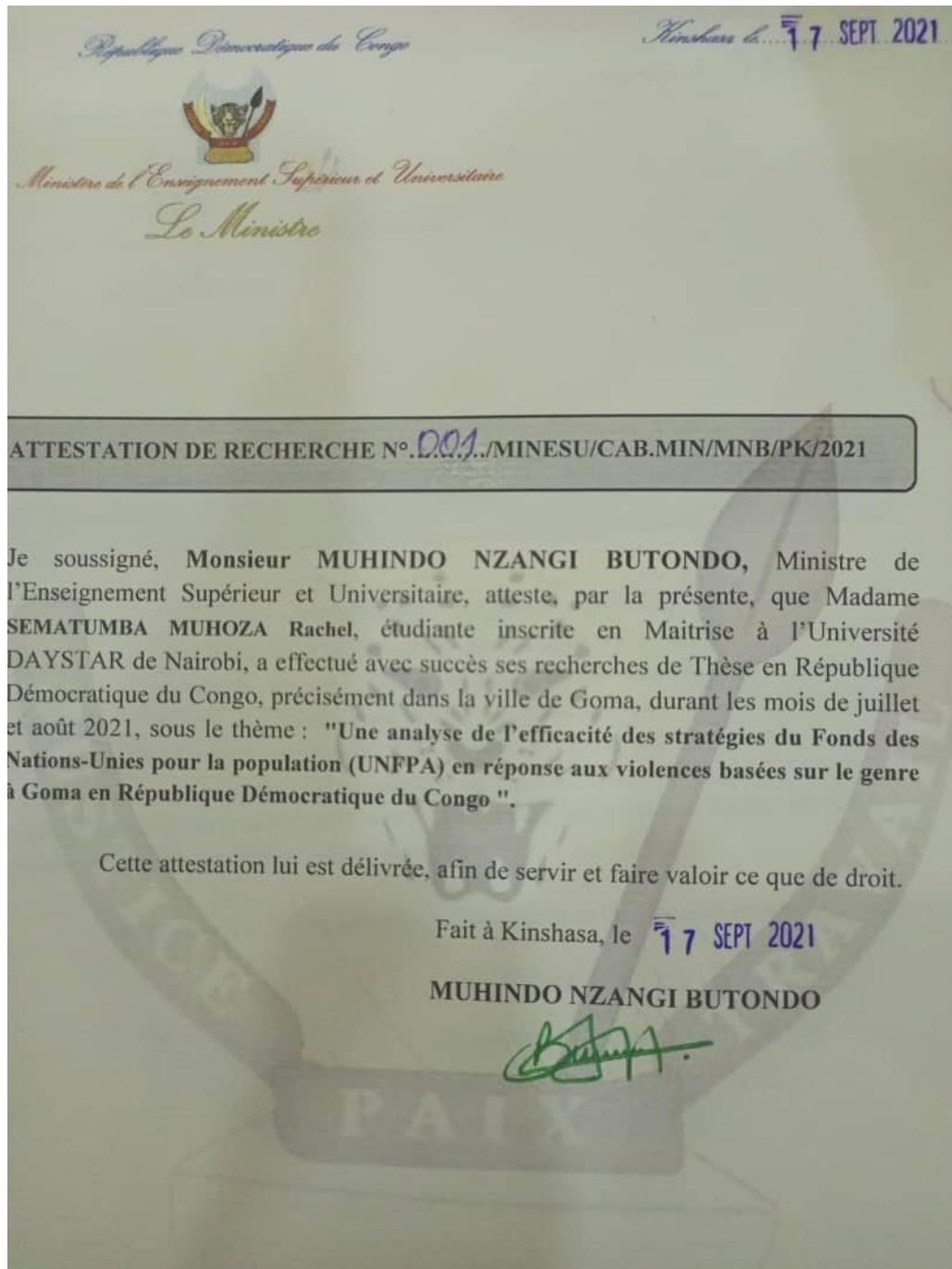
Sincerely,

Sennen HOUNTON
country representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sennen HOUNTON".

*République Démocratique du Congo- 30, Boulevard du 30 Juin, Commune de Gombe, BP. 7248 Kin I
VODACOM : 00 (243) 819947292, 818803627*

Appendix F: Research Permit



Appendix H: Plagiarism Report

Rachel Sematumba - 27th October 2021

ORIGINALITY REPORT

19%	16%	7%	10%
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