

The Culture of Suffering and Humiliation: Women in Refugee Camps

Experience from Darfur Camps
In Eastern Chad

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AIM OF THE PRESENTATION

- The aim of this presentation is to highlight some reflections and thoughts on “Gender Based Violence” in refugee camps. The presentation raises questions more than providing answers, which will help in generating some ideas for further research.













GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- ◉ In Refugees camps in Chad, evidence of Gender Based Violence is alarming. Among GBV: forced marriage, young age at marriage, rape and sexual assaults, domestic violence and Female Genital Mutilation.



RAPE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Cases of rape of and violence against women in Darfur and in refugee camps in Chad are well-documented. These occur while women are collecting water, fuel or animal fodder, or during imprisonment. There have also been cases of women being forced to submit to sex in exchange for ‘protection’ by police officers and male camp residents*.
- (*) UNICEF The Effects of Conflict on Health and Well-being of Women and Girls in Darfur. Sept 2005.
www.unicef.org/spanish/emerg/darfur/files/sitan_unfpaunicef.pdf



RAPE AND FGM

- Rape can in some circumstances result in death or lasting injury. Female genital mutilation by infibulation, which occurs among some groups in Darfur and eastern Chad, can increase the severity of injuries incurred during rape, and can contribute to, for example, severe blood loss.





A QUESTION

- Given the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur, why are safe abortion services and treatment of complications resulting from unsafe abortions or miscarriages not provided at refugee/ IDP health facilities?



AN OBSERVATION AND A QUESTION

The impact of the suffering of the refugees on
Humanitarian Workers:

Do we really know about these impacts and
how this affects their current and future life?





AN OBSERVATION AND A QUESTION

- ◉ Did we examine the dynamics of the relations between the Humanitarians and the Refugees and their impact on the humanitarian process?







A CONCERN AND A QUESTION

- ◉ Refugees have some concerns regarding some of the Humanitarian assistance, some of these are serious.
- ◉ Do we know about these concerns? Do we take these concerns into consideration?





CONCLUDING REMARK

- The refugee community and humanitarian workers must understand the importance of the problem and have the confidence to report all cases of sexual violence as soon as possible.



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