



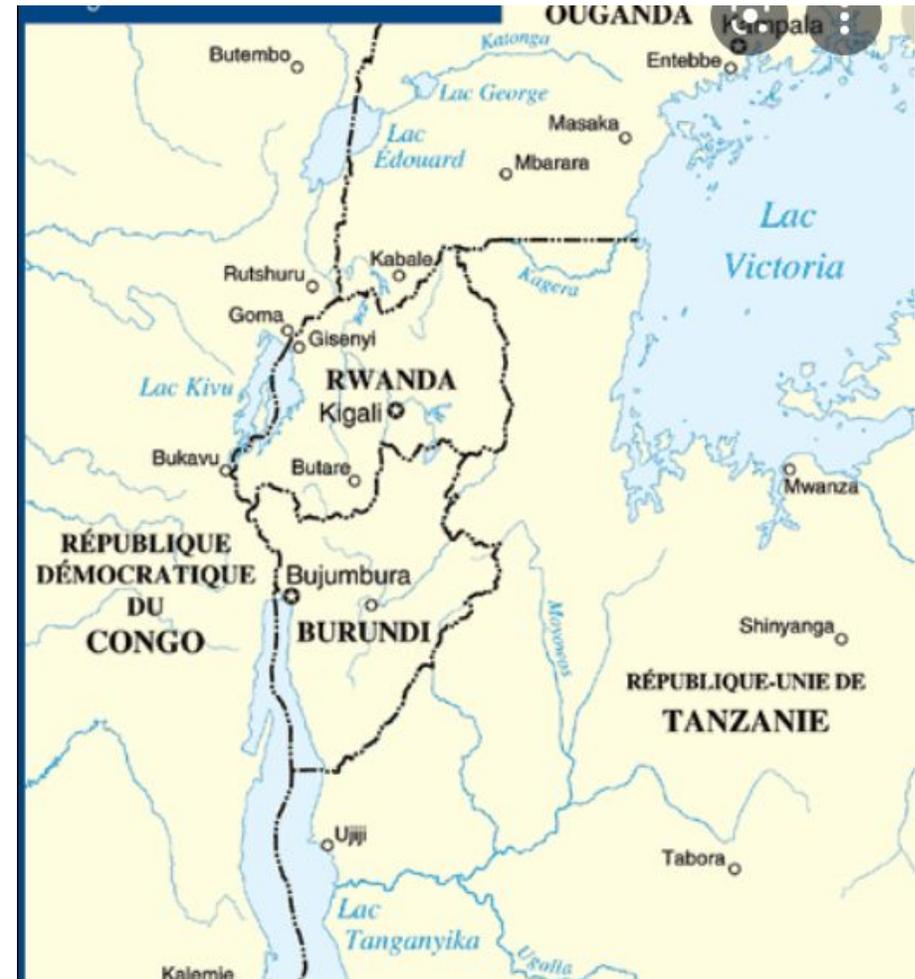
CHALLENGES AND GAPS IN SERVICES FOR MALE SGBV SURVIVORS

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Background

- 3 decades of armed conflicts in the region; high level of fragmentation and destruction of community cohesion
- Cultural similarities in the three countries; patriarchal norms
- Numerous initiatives and national progress, especially on women rights (Rwanda)
- Services for individuals are not sufficient to address the needs of survivors





Number of male beneficiaries of the program

- Difficult to get accurate data (about 1.3 % to 15% of beneficiaries)
- Survivors are brought by family members; mothers talk to psychologists about young boys
- Some men consult service because of other problem, e.g. conflict with wife
- Very few men denounce the sexual violence for fear of being stigmatized
- Survivors are accused of being less of a man: they lose social status and respect



Factors for violence against men

- War /armed conflict, inheritance, ignorance
- Poverty, men and boys in search of work (especially young boys)
- Under influence of alcohol and drugs
- Revenge
- On the road
- In detention
- Promiscuity
- Irresponsibility and ignorance of parents



Types of violence against men and boys

- Rape or torture targeting the sexual organ
- Public humiliation by forcing sexual acts
- Forced marriage,
- Voyeurism, harassment
- Minor boys are the most affected
- “Witchcraft” causing man's sexual impotence
- Sexual violence at household level can also be perpetrated by women



Assistance provided by the program

- Holistic care
- Individual and group psychotherapy (including therapeutic groups of men and boys)
- Medical care, legal support in centers or through references
- Income generating activities for reintegration
- Spiritual support
- Support in case of marital problems



Some particularities

- More time required for addressing male survivors
- Men prefer separate spaces/different place for psychosocial accompaniment
- Prefer male service providers
- Express their stories with difficulty
- Lack patience - many survivors want a immediate healing
- Need to establish a stable relationship based on trust and stability (lot of appointments; absolute confidentiality)
- Many of them want to rely on themselves and immediately jump to solutions



Challenges

- Stereotypes / social norms and expectations with regard to masculinity
- Men are perceived as the sources of violence, they fear of not being believed
- Unsuitable care system
- Fear of being ridiculed after breaking the silence; or labeled as gay
- Fear of reprisals (even by witchcraft)



Conclusions

- Violence against men exist even if taboo;
- Violence is difficult to fight because of gender stereotypes and the weight of patriarchy
- Working with men survivors requires additional strategies and skills
- Studies and research to document the violence against men
- Boys also require a form of protection against sexual violence

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