

A close-up photograph of a hand with a string tied around the wrist, set against a dark background. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers spread. The string is a thin, light-colored thread. The overall mood is somber and evocative, suggesting themes of conflict, violence, or suffering.

# **Conflict and Sexual Violence against Men**

**Perspectives from South Sudanese men living in resettlement  
communities in Uganda**

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# The study

- Explored the forms and health consequences of CRSV against South Sudanese men living in two resettlement communities in Uganda.
- Also explored the factors responsible for CRSV against men.
- Relied on survivors' perspectives.
- Situated in the humanitarian public health field.

# Why the study?

- Multiple report of CRSV against men in history.
- Survivors continue to experience health consequences.
- We cannot “wish the problem away” by our silence.
- Survivors understand their experience better.

# Methodology

- Exploratory sequential mixed method study.
- Participants were South Sudanese men and few humanitarian aid workers.
- Framework: social construction of masculinity.
- Ethical standards was maintained.

# Findings: Forms of CRSV

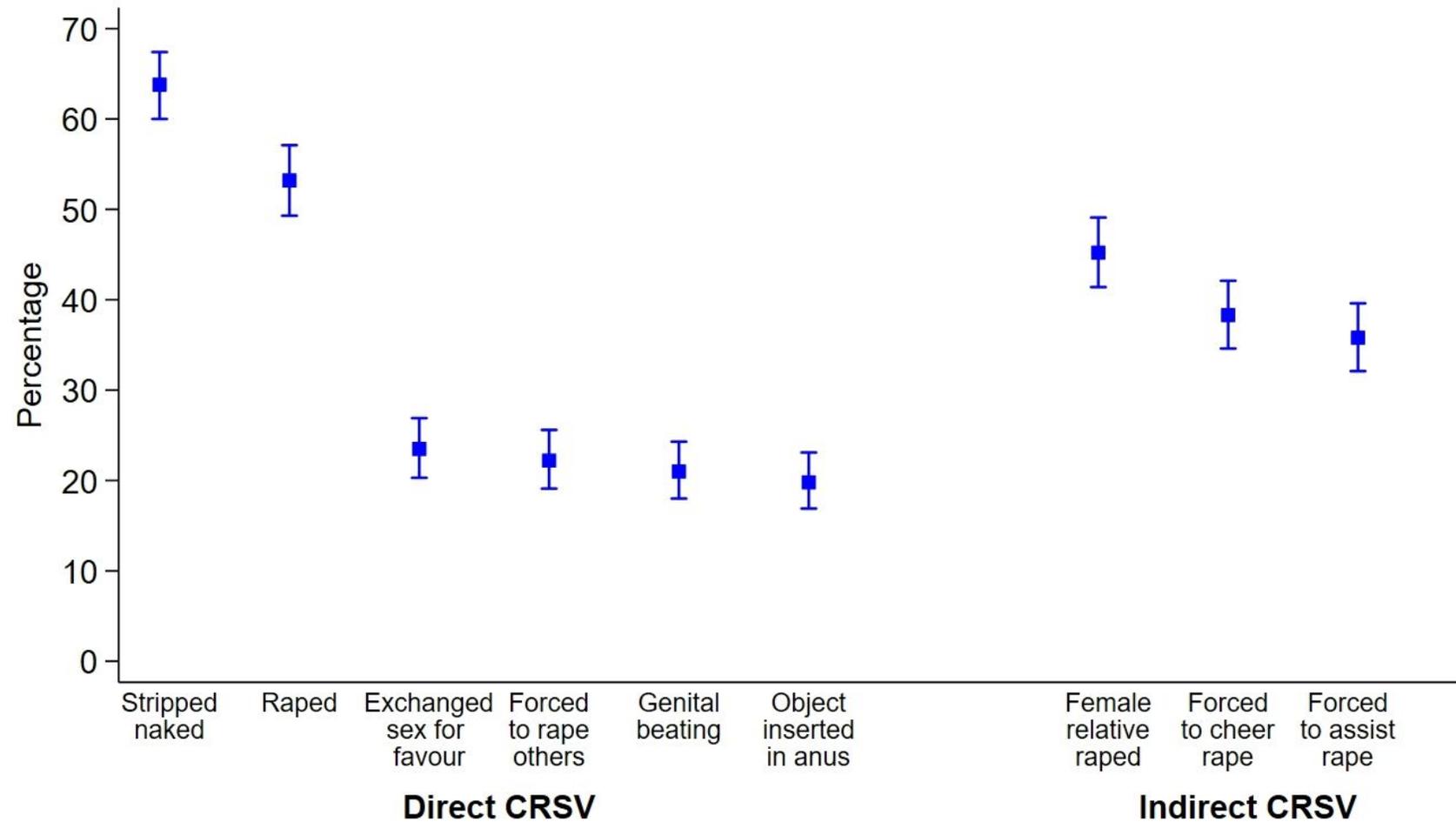
- **Direct**

- Stripping men naked
- Rape (including attempted rape)
- Forced to rape others (including incest).
- Exchanged sex for favours.
- Genital beating.
- Insertion of objects into anus/penis.
- Taking men as wives.

- **Indirect**

- Forced to witness sexual violence against female family member.
- Forced to cheer perpetrator of CRSV.
- Forced to assist during rape.

# Findings: Prevalence of CRSV



# Factors responsible for CRSV against men

- Targeting masculinity
- Demonstration of power and dominance
- Sexual satisfaction
- Weapon of war
- Exploiting lack of money and resources

# Findings: Health consequences

- **Physical health**

- Anal pain
- Anal bleeding
- Groin and genital pain
- Urine incontinence
- Faecal incontinence
- Tachycardia and palpitation
- Body pains

- **Sexual health**

- Reduced libido
- Premature ejaculation
- Difficulty in achieving erection
- Diagnosed STDs

# Findings: Health consequences

- **Mental health**

- Anxiety

- Depression

- PTSD

- Suicidal ideation

- Homicidal thoughts

- Drug and alcohol abuse

- **Social aspects**

- Shame

- Uncertainty about gender

- Marital problems

# Support seeking attitude and behaviour

- Only two in five survivors have sought support for their experience
- Sources of support include
  - Family members and friends
  - Religious leaders
  - NGOs
  - Hospitals

# Reasons for not seeking support (Intrinsic)

- Shame and Stigma
- Fear of being blamed
- Construction of masculinity
- Not knowing where to go
- Financial constraint

# Reasons for not seeking support (structural)

- Limited support resources
- Female survivor-centred programs
- Previous unfulfilled promises
- Bureaucracy
- Treating different complaints

# Recommendations

- Broader definition of forms of CRSV
- Holistic approach to healthcare
- Introduce support systems that target men
- Involve religious leaders
- Keep men busy with education and source of income
- Punishing perpetrators of CRSV
- More research with male survivors as participants

# References

- <https://www.shiftnigeria.com/cbxpetition/our-plan-to-prevent-sexual-assault-and-harassment-in-nigeria/>
- <https://chartcons.com/when-is-it-appropriate-to-say-thank-you-for-listening/>

**thanks for  
listening!**