



Sudan Briefing on Gender Based Violence

- The Federal Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children represents the National independent body responsible for protecting women, girls, and children. It establishes basic standards for addressing gender-based violence and reports on the situations of women, girls, and children in Sudan.
- The ongoing war that erupted on April 15, 2023, has created a challenging reality for communities, especially for women, girls, and children. The Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children (CVAW) has undertaken its responsibilities in collaboration with governmental bodies and civil society, through developing emergency measures to respond to the current challenges, ensuring women's access to health services and providing a minimum response to gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). This is achieved through documenting, and addressing cases of CRSV, particularly as these types of crimes are condemned by national legislation, as well as international and regional treaties and agreements. Incidents are



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- been monitored and documented through on-the-ground coordination with various entities, providing services to survivors to the best extent possible.
- Since the conflict erupted on April 15th of this year, approximately 8 million people have been forced to leave their homes and flee to other locations within Sudan or to neighboring countries. Within Sudan, over 8.8 million individuals have been displaced to 3,855 sites across all eighteen states. It is well-known that the reality of displacement and refuge, like the reality of conflict, increases the burdens on women and girls, weakens their conditions, and makes them more vulnerable to gender-based violence.
 - The incidence of conflict-related sexual violence has significantly increased, adding to the burdens borne by women and girls and intensifying their suffering. Sexual violence associated with conflict has become a haunting concern for families and communities that are still present in Khartoum and unable to leave. It poses one of the greatest challenges for women in the states of Darfur, especially in West and South Darfur.
 - The term “conflict-related sexual violence,” as used in this report, refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced



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- pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of equal severity committed against women, men, girls and boys. Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), as defined under UN Security Council Resolutions: 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2467 (2019) on sexual violence in armed conflicts.
- That conflict-related sexual violence, in its various forms, is a silent crime fueled by our silence, shrouded in social stigma. It is a crime that often goes unpunished, allowing perpetrators to escape accountability, and it silences victims, preventing them from reporting promptly .
 - What has been documented through the provided services, with 164 incidents of sexual violence, represents no more than 2% of the actual violations and assaults happening in reality. Comparing this documentation to various incidents of conflict-related sexual violence makes it clear that it is being used as a weapon against citizens for different purposes, including humiliation for racial or ideological reasons, forcing home evacuations and displacement, as well as creating chaos and spreading a sense of insecurity by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).



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- Since April, 14 cases of sexual violence against girls and adolescents under the age of 18 have been documented. The youngest victim was nine years old in Khartoum, Nyala, and El Geneina, within the context of conflict-related sexual violence. These perpetrators targeted young girls, both documented and undocumented, as it was challenging to access some incidents reported by witnesses or digitally documented by civilians. Additionally, there were survivors under the age of eighteen among the women and girls detained in May at the Al-Daman Hotel in Nyala. The youngest survivor, aged 12, was more physically affected by the repeated sexual violence than others. Previous reports from the unit detailed the targeting of girls under the age of eighteen from specific ethnic backgrounds and poor families who had been forcibly displaced from the homes that they have been living in as guards with their families, and sought refuge in under-construction buildings .
- The cases of sexual enslavement have increased alongside the rising incidents of repeated abductions and forced disappearances of women and girls in Khartoum and South Darfur. The unit has documented 29 cases, out of the total recorded cases, involving



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sexual enslavement, forcible detention, and repeated sexual assaults on women and girls by various members of the Rapid Support Forces .

- In July 2023, several girls were repeatedly abducted in the Al-Halfaia area (North Khartoum) by the Rapid Support Forces, including minors. The efforts of the local community were successful in returning them to their families. In Al-Musallama in Omdurman, a 15-year-old girl was abducted and also returned after her family demanded the return of the child from the Rapid Support Forces commander in the area.
- The forced disappearance of women and girls has taken a more dangerous turn with reports emerging about the presence of girls brought from Khartoum to Darfur, some of whom were allegedly sold as a new form of enslavement. We have exerted all efforts to investigate these incidents, which are increasing day by day. The severity of the situation makes it challenging to obtain information, as those seeking it are at risk of harm. While the information is confirmed, it has been difficult to ascertain the actual numbers of detained girls, including those under the age of eighteen, or to determine the specific locations. Some of them



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- have been released and returned, but the reluctance of families to speak out due to fear of social stigma has hindered access to survivors of enslavement. Consequently, providing necessary health and social services for their psychological, physical, and social rehabilitation becomes more difficult.
- What is currently happening, involving the enslavement and abduction of girls, with some being taken from Khartoum or transported across borders by the Rapid Support Forces, brings to mind the atrocities committed against Yazidi women by the extremist Islamic State (ISIS) in 2014 in Iraq, including abduction, trafficking, and enslavement.
 - Most incidents of conflict-related sexual violence in Khartoum have occurred within homes, where armed intruders, described by survivors as individuals dressed in Rapid Support Forces uniforms, forcefully and through intimidation attack one or more girls or assault all members of the family, including women and girls. Women and girls in Khartoum have chosen not to leave their relatively safe homes, believing that staying indoors might not protect them from shelling and gunfire but would shield them from encountering armed soldiers and the risk of sexual violence.



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The invasion of homes and assaults within them has completely defeated the preventive measures they have taken, erasing the sense of security associated with these homes and the memories of their pre-war lives .

- The CVAW Unit successfully documented and coordinated the provision of services through available healthcare services and in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the SIHA Regional Network, Nada Al-Azhaar Organization, Hadireen Organization, the Al-Ahfad Counseling and Trauma Treatment Center, the Shari' Al-Hwadith Initiative, and other vital initiatives, including the Survivors of April 15th Initiative.. In addition of some emergency rooms in Khartoum and various activists and protection committees in the displaced camps in Darfur states .
- The Combating Violence against Women Unit (CVAW) which represents the institutional responsibility of the state towards protection of women and girls had reported 162 incidents of CRSV in whole Sudan , although this number is only of 2% of the reality in the ground , especially the areas where there is no current reports is able to be done in Darfur states and Eljazeera.



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- Considering the fact that humanitarian intervention to the current emergency is weak in gendered responses and the poor knowledge of the states governments to the gender based violence in emergency.
- CVAW had been operating since April in both of coordinating to the support service to CRSV survivors as well as coordinating and implementing the genders responses to the emergency.
- In White Nile CVAW provided as series of trainings to government officials and services providers started by reviewing the national Stranded Operational Procedures of Mitigation and Response (SoP)
- Training on GBV (Gender Based Violence) in emergency, and GBV and Human rights PESA, methodology trainings for services providers at both the justice system and health services and this was supported by UNFPA, and this will be replicated in Gaddarif Kassala RedSead Northern states and River Nile states
- On the other hand in collaboration with UNICEF CVAW had conducted series of training in relation to prevention of FGM/C and child marriage and the article 141 implementation and challenges the training targeted justice system



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- Judges judiciary police and persecution also socially workers doctors medical assistants midwives and lawyers.
- And as the a year past since the onset of the war , we recognized the need to articulate political commitments to alleviate GBV through practical decess and procedure
- CVAW had visited to states of Gaddarif, Kassala and RedSea to provide political support to the states CVAW as well as finding the gaps and challenges face GBV intervention and mitigation in all those states
- CVAW had met with Sudan Attorney general to acclarets the process of decree related to Form 8
- And also propose a legal framework in relation to acceleration of legal abortion services in cases of pregnancies resulted from Sexual violence
- CVAW conducted meeting with his excellency Mr Malik Aqar the Sovereign council deputy on the Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse at humanitarian setting and the role of political commitments on PESA prevention
- CVAW also with the Support of the Social development minster conducted a meeting with minster of interior targeting the



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establishment of the Gender desk at family and children protection unit to provide safe space for women and girls and facilitate the women access to justice and the crucial role of CVAW and police partnership and coordination in PSEA awareness and prevention.

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