Annotated Bibliography:

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls in Refugee and Internally-Displaced Camps Carried Out By Men in Power

Produced for IRC and the INEE Gender Task Team/ IASC Education Cluster Gender Working Group

By: Haviva Kohl
Date: July 2008
This annotated bibliography was produced for the INEE Gender Task Team under the help and guidance of Jackie Kirk, INEE convener. This product was framed in the context of *Education in Displacement –Providing Access, Building Systems*, a course taught by Sarah Dryden-Peterson at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education that focuses on education in conflict zones, highlighting the plight of refugee and internally-displaced children.

The selection of this annotated bibliography came from the need to understand the complexity of vulnerabilities amongst women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps. The goal of this product is to serve as a resource for the INEE Gender Task Team in their absolutely essential and critical work in the field of gender and displacement.

I would like to personally acknowledge and thank Jackie Kirk for her guidance and support in the process of producing this annotated bibliography. I am extremely inspired by the commitment and passion that Jackie Kirk has for the field of gender and education. I would also like to thank Sarah Dryden-Peterson for her love of teaching, her incredible willingness to share her knowledge with her students, and her guidance throughout the course and beyond. Thank you.
Introduction:
Today there are over 13 million refugees, and 25-30 million internally-displaced people around the world as a result of internal and external country conflicts (Martin, 2004).¹ The Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children estimates that 80% of these refugee and internally-displaced populations are women and children (Schmiechen, 2004). During times of war and displacement, women and children, especially girls, are often easy targets for sexual and gender-based violence because such conditions make the vulnerable even more vulnerable.
Refugee and internally-displaced camps are established to serve as safe-havens for the vulnerable, and to provide such populations with food, water, and shelter, to name a few. However, conditions in these settings are often too difficult to withstand, and have become the breeding ground for further violations against women and children. During times of war, such populations are so concerned with survival, that men in power —stemming from military, police, teachers, UN peacekeepers, and humanitarian aid workers —have been known to misuse their power to take advantage of the very populations that they are supposed to protect.² The most common abuse of power is sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls.
Although there is not extensive literature written on this topic, all sectors dealing with refugee and internally-displaced populations agree that it is indeed a problem that exists and must be addressed because the consequences of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls affect not only their health and well-being, but also their families and societies (Heise et. al 1999; Heise et al. 1994).

This annotated bibliography will focus on answering the following research question: How have communities, governments and non-governmental organizations dealt with sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps, and what can be done to further address this growing problem. In order to address this question, I have pooled together literature and briefing papers that address this issue, and have separated them into three sections:

1 By internal and external country conflicts, I am referring to social, political and economic strife between people within borders, and external strife between people across borders.
2 There is not a lot of literature written about this topic, therefore it is difficult to say how widespread this behavior is amongst men in power. However, this annotated bibliography focuses on the misuse of power by men in refugee and internally-displaced camps because it occurs and the more we know about it and can identify when it occurs, the faster we can address it and protect the vulnerable women and girls.
Section 1: The Survivors
Relevant literature focusing on sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps

Sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps occurs during all phases of the refugee and internally-displaced experience, including the time prior to departure from their homes, during flight, while in the country of asylum or in a displacement camp, and during repatriation and reintegration (John-Langba, 2007). Reasons noted throughout the literature on this topic state that the desperate conditions of female refugee and internally-displaced populations create a vulnerable situation that allows for men in power to capitalize on unstable conditions, often trading food, water, and other basic resources for sex with women and girls (Martin, 2004). This is a clear violation of human rights, and must be documented in order to create policies that can address the loopholes in management and service that occur in such camps against female populations.

Due to the delicate nature of this topic, however many governments and organizations have all come up with their own definition of “sexual and gender-based violence,” and for the purpose of addressing my research question, I have employed the United Nations High Commission of Refugee’s (UNHCR) definition which encompasses “…a wide variety of abuses that include rape, sexual threats, exploitation, humiliation, assaults, molestation, domestic violence, incest, involuntary prostitution (sexual bartering), torture, insertion of objects into genital openings, and attempted rape” (UNHCR, 1999: 36). Although the following sources in this section pool an array of literature that discusses women and girls under the same category, it is critical to note that there are differences between the vulnerability of women and girls, and program mechanisms to combat this issue must be designed from different angles of the spectrum depending on the age of the female, i.e. school-aged females versus elderly. Furthermore, the literature on this topic often uses key terms such as ‘gender-based violence’ and ‘sexual exploitation’ interchangeably, and although there is a slight difference, I have pooled together literature that touches upon one or both of these terminologies to reflect an inclusive picture of the problem facing women and girls during conflict times.
The literature listed in this section is meant to provide readers with a good foundation for understanding the sexual and gender-based violence occurring in refugee and internally-displaced camps against women and girls. However, this section refers to such women and girls as ‘survivors,’ and not ‘victims.’ Far too often the term ‘victim’ is used, and it becomes hard to move readers beyond this term. Therefore, in this annotated bibliography I chose to use the term ‘survivor’ as opposed to ‘victim’ because even though some men's actions in refugee and internally-displaced camps have victimized and continue to victimize women and girls, these vulnerable populations are indeed survivors, which suggests continued agency on the part of the women and girls; hence, the term survivor is used.

Brown, Gordon Kempert. May 2006. “Gender Roles in Refugee Camps: The Lasting Impact of Refugee Interventions in Tanzania.” Masters of Arts in Law and Diplomacy Thesis for the Fletcher School, Tufts University. This paper uses Burundian refugees stationed in Tanzanian refugee camps to explore how the male and female relationships of household units have been affected by humanitarian assistance during times of crises. When Burundian women and children fled their homes and settled in refugee camps, they found a culture of gender equality filtered in every dimension of such the camps. This literature looks at whether this new gender culture in the Tanzanian refugee camps for Burundians was a lasting thing that stayed with these camp populations when they returned to their home country.

Clark, Cari. April 2003. Gender-Based Violence Research Initiatives In Refugee, Internally Displaced, and Post-Conflict Settings: Lessons Learned. Working Paper #17. This paper presents research findings of gender-based violence toward women and girls in Azerbaijan, Kosovo, and Bosnia & Herzegovina during times of conflict and post-conflict periods. This paper takes the readers through each stage of the data collection and gives insight into the methodology used to determine the extent to which sexual and gender-based violence is occurring in these communities. As this paper points out, documenting such violence against women and girls is extremely challenging. Therefore, this paper focuses on how to deal with these challenges and glitches in the research process. This paper also discusses ways in which to create quality surveys and thorough documentation that will make the case of sexual and gender-based violence more urgent for the international community to address. However, the key recommendation in this paper is that sexual and gender-based violence research must be conducted within a context-specific design that respects the cultures of both the legal and government entities of a specific country.

El-Bushra, Judy, and Eugenia Piza Lopez. June 1993. “Gender-Relates Violence: Its Scope and Relevance.” Focus on Gender. Vol. 1, No. 2 [Violence; Military and Civilian Strife], pp.1-9. This paper sketches out the parameters for which gender violence occurs and highlights the many forms in which it occurs. The authors of this paper distinguish between violence against women
in different settings, i.e. violence within the household, public violence, and development policies that enhance gender-directed violence, to name a few. However, for the sake of this annotated bibliography, I selected this paper as an adequate reference because it also focuses on violence against women during wartime and lists a set of fundamental recommendations to address this critical issue, including promoting the Draft Declaration on Violence Against Women, ensuring that gender violence is an agenda item in all human rights forums, and bringing affected women into the process of designing gender-based policies to protect their well-being during dangerous times.

Background paper prepared for the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2003/4 – Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality.
This background paper gives a very thorough and succinct look at the gender crisis impacting women and girls during war time, focusing primarily on how this situation impacts their ability to get an education. Kirk meticulously separates country-specific contexts into current conflict, isolated conflict, and countries emerging from conflict to discuss women and girls lack of access to education, including one major component – sexual and gender-based violence. As Kirk stresses throughout her paper, “…education is a force for conflict prevention, for protection, and for peace.” This paper includes many critical statistics from key organizations working in conflict and post-conflict settings that pinpoint the major barriers that hinder women and girls from accessing an education. Furthermore, the author offers policy recommendations to the international community based on key research findings.

This text offers a comprehensive look at the lives of refugee and displaced women, and describes their daily challenges, focusing on accessing resources, staying physically healthy, taking care of their children, and staying safe. It addresses their needs and provides a thorough picture of the gender changing roles as well as the community roles that occur during desperate wartimes for women and girls. It also touches upon the need for women to be a part of the decision-making process and program design to help protect their lives during such delicate times. Overall, this text highlights the need to protect this vulnerable population, and describes ways in which the international community is and has been responding to this current issue. However, this text focuses more on the qualitative issues surrounding the sexual and gender-based violence as opposed to the quantitative figures that describe this issue.

Report prepared for The Humanity Knights Network:
http://www.humanityknights.net/pdfs/Conflict_and_Youth_in_Africa_An_Overview.pdf
Tassell’s paper is African youth centric, and implies that youth in Africa are more likely than non-African youth to experience violent conflict since “…60% of all on-going violent conflicts around the globe since 1999 have been concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa.” She then puts forth a hypothesis that states that due to the consequences of this violence, females are at more risk because they become the vulnerable of the vulnerable, often exposed to sexual exploitation, assault and rape that undermines the fabric of these refugee and internally-displaced populations. One area that Tassell focuses on is the increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV rates among the vulnerable female youth in these settings. This paper gives a succinct
picture of the war-torn impact on young girls, but it should not be looked upon for an in-depth study of sexual and gender-based violence issues impacting the female gender at large because it is limited in scope and is region-specific.


This paper succinctly pools together research on sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls from different humanitarian crises over the last two decades. The authors focus on identifying actors in these types of violent settings, and state upfront that: “Sexual violence may be systematic, carried out by fighting forces for the explicit purpose of destabilizing populations and destroying bonds within communities and families.” The authors then go on to explain how this systematic process occurs and how it can have tragic long-term physical and mental affects on the women and girls even after the conflicts are over. This paper also discusses the conditions for which sexual and gender-based violence are easier to come by, i.e. the logistical set-up and poor lighting of a refugee or displaced camp. Lastly, this paper takes a holistic approach when recommending how to address sexual and gender-based violence by identifying key figures/entities in the different sectors that must play a role in the strategic plan to address this problem: government, health, psychosocial, legal/ justice and security sector.


This document focuses on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the Gambia, describing the scope of the problem, some factors that allow for such violations to occur, who the perpetrators might be, outside community perspectives of this issue, and the policies and programs that are currently in place to help these children. More importantly, however this document provides strategic actions that entities outside the Gambian government should take to help fight against sexual abuse and exploitation of children. As this document notes, sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a growing phenomena in the Gambia and must be combated in a constructive manner. This is a great case study to use for looking at all the different factors that could make a country, like the Gambia, a breeding ground for sexual exploitation of children, including economic and cultural issues. Although this paper does not specifically discuss refugee and displacement settings, it does in fact create a solid basis for studying how children’s vulnerabilities in a communal context can be easily taken advantage of, i.e. children’s awareness of their rights and community attitudes toward sexual abuse by men in power like teachers who hold authoritarian power to distribute grades and tourists who hold economic power.
Section 2: The Perpetrators

Relevant literature focusing on men in power and their roles as sexual perpetrators in refugee and internally-displaced camps

Sexual and gender-based violence is a serious problem not only for the female targets, but also for the organizations and governments in which the men associated with carrying out such violations are aligned with, i.e. schools, military, and non-governmental organizations. Men that prey on women and girls are termed ‘perpetrators,’ which is defined by UNHCR as “…a person, group, or institution that directly inflicts, supports and condones violence or other abuse against a person or a group of persons. Perpetrators are in a position of real or perceived power, decision-making and/ or authority and can thus exert control over victims” (UNHCR, 2003). Since reporting such violations against women and girls has an array of potential consequences for both the victims and the perpetrators, it is hard to find extensive literature on this topic. However, the literature that I did in fact locate gives an overview of who these male perpetrators in camps tend to be and what mechanisms they are using in order to capitalize on the vulnerable. A lot of the literature identifies ‘these male perpetrators’ as being humanitarian aid workers, members of police and military personal (John-Langba, 2007). Although teachers have been mentioned as being perpetrators in such camps, the extent to which this abuse is occurring is hard to quantify due to sporadic reporting by both the survivors and those that know it is occurring but are too afraid to say something. Furthermore, all the literature available on this topic highlights that because resources in refugee and internally-displaced camps are scarce, the men who are in charge of allocating them have the upper hand at deciding who gets what, creating an environment where men in power can easily apply coercive actions to get what they want (Spencer, 2006).

The literature in this section is meant to provide readers with a better understanding of who these ‘male perpetrators’ or ‘men in power’ are that are taking advantage of women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps because of their power-ridden status in such settings.

This study focuses on the issue of sexual exploitation by male UN peacekeepers against women and girls in war torn communities. This paper frames the issue around the UN definition of sexual exploitation, and although the author notes that exploitation is committed by a wide variety of humanitarian aid workers, including UN civilian staff, non-governmental organization
workers and others in positions of power, this paper focuses strictly on peacekeeping troops. In presenting her case, the author does in fact acknowledge that the accurate rate at which sexual exploitation occurs against women by peacekeeping troops is very difficult to attain due to poor levels of reporting. However, knowing this the author discusses the different facets of unequal power dynamics between peacekeeping troops and women and girls, and offers recommendations based on her findings that lie at the cause of these desperate circumstances. One key recommendation that the author makes is that it is essential to have highly trained UN investigation teams stationed in the regional offices that should be ready to deploy at anytime to investigate any allegations of abuse, and there must be modes of punishment for the perpetrators, as well as strict levels of accountability amongst peacekeepers to carry out their duties.

http://www.hrw.org/backgrounder/africa/darfur0505/
This paper is region specific and captures the first-hand encounters of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in both the refugee camps in Chad and the internally-displaced camps in Southern Darfur. This paper focuses on the numerous social, economic and medical consequences of violence against women and girls, including the increased rate of HIV/AIDS. This report also focuses on the issue of male residents in the camps who coerce women and girls into providing them with “sexual services” in exchange for their “protection” against the oppressors of these conflicts; men who are powerless against the authorities in the camps, which symbolize that from all levels, women and girls are at extreme risk of experiencing sexual and gender-based violence in camp settings.

http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/AllDocsByUNID/6010f9ed3c651c93c1256b6d00560fca
This briefing paper lays out key findings of sexual exploitation of girls in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone by men in power at different levels ranging from exploitation by humanitarian agency to security forces, and even teachers in these refugee and displaced-person camp settings. This paper highlights that peacekeepers are among the highest paying customers for sex with children, paying anywhere from US $5 to $300, and even go as far as to meet the parents of the girls to highlight their good intentions. This paper also sheds light on the fact that those men abusing their power status are often the more junior staff in the camps. Furthermore, this paper describes a “conspiracy of silence” effect that exists amongst humanitarian agency workers and military personal that suggests that staff will not pass on information about a colleague involved in any form of sexual or gender-based violence for risk of being ostracized by fellow colleagues. This paper also looks at the consequences of sexual exploitation for refugee children, including teenage pregnancies, reduced educational opportunities, sexually transmitted diseases and unhealthy patterns of sexual relationships.

Lebbie, Hindowa. Education Policy Makers Blind to Dangers of Sexual Exploitation of Children at School: The Case of Africa. Regional Situation Analysis:
www.ecpat.com/eng/A4A02-03_online/ENG_A4A/Regional_Education_Policy.pdf
This paper asserts that there is a problem with teachers, specifically in sub-Saharan Africa that are abusing their powers to sexually exploit children. This is a brief paper that discusses the
commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the school context and discusses the different forms of abuse that do in fact manifest in such settings. The author also frames her analysis through the lens of patriarchal attitudes of females, and links this to the vulnerability of children in these poor settings. Although this does not directly discuss refugee and internally-displaced conditions explicitly, I included this literature because it highlights the specific elements that allow for men in power, such as teachers, to take advantage of children. Furthermore, this paper offers key legal and monitoring mechanisms that should be put in place to protect children. Interestingly, this paper also talks about the social attitudes affecting exploited children, mainly girls, and says that a patriarchal context means that girls are even more disadvantaged.

### Section 3: Community Response

Relevant literature focusing on how refugee and internally-displaced communities as well as international communities address issues of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls committed by men in power

Extensive and accurate reporting of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps is hard to come by for many complicated reasons. As the literature on this topic repeatedly highlights, it is clear that women and girls are afraid to report such incidences because it could jeopardize their ability to get access to basic resources such as food and water (UNFPA, UNIFEM, and OSAGI, 2005). Furthermore, reporting such incidences could potentially jeopardize their lives, as well as the lives of their family members (Martin 2004). Therefore, there is not much documentation surrounding how refugee and internally-displaced communities are and have been reacting to this issue. However, the little that has been published about this issue has garnered the attention of the international humanitarian community, international governments, and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations who are responding to this issue by creating gender-based training manuals that include provisions to protect the vulnerable from field-based workers who decide to take advantage of these populations. However, if men in such positions do in fact violate their obligation to protect the women and girls in these camps, there must be enforced punishment.

The literature in this section is meant to provide readers with a better understanding of how communities have responded to sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps. However, it is critical to note that because of the warranted fears that the vulnerable refugee and internally-displaced populations have with reporting sexual and gender-based violence, the literature in this section focuses primarily on
how organizations and governments have responded to this issue. Most of what has been written on this subject has been in form of training manuals for organizations to use when training their personnel working in these camps, and briefing papers that recommend policies to governments and others in the field on how to better respond to this issue.

**UNHCR. May 2003. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response.**

http://www.rhrc.org/pdf/gl_sgbv03.pdf

This is one of the more comprehensive documents written on sexual and gender-based violence occurring in refugee and internally-displaced camps. This document lays out the UNHCR’s code of conduct as well as its core principals of its conduct for its staff and organization as a whole. It defines key concepts, identifies when and where gender-based violence occurs, and highlights major causes and consequences of gender-based violence. This document also discusses key monitoring and evaluation systems that are currently in place to address this problem as well as provides potential strategies to engage refugee and internally-displaced communities.


This paper discusses the massive sexual violence that women and girls experience in refugee and internally-displaced camps, and distinguishes between ‘sexual violence’ and ‘sexualized violence’ against this vulnerable population. The authors define sexualized violence as being that in which is committed in a “sexually way” rather than a form of aggressive sexuality as sexual violence connotes. Most importantly, however this paper briefly discusses ways in which the media can be used as a powerful response to publicizing sexualized violence against women and girls in such settings because if the public is not aware of the gender violations, nothing will be done to address such problems, especially because the victims are so vulnerable and have little power.


This is a child-focused document that discusses the effects of war on children, including a lengthy section on sexual exploitation of girls during vulnerable times. This document gives specific ways to address sexual exploitation of refugee children, and is a huge proponent for more women to get involved in the decision-making process of governments and non-governmental organizations to combat this issue. This is an extensive manual that discusses how to interact with psychologically distressed children, how to create strategies that target the underlying issues that cause children to be so susceptible to such vulnerabilities, and this document gives country-specific backgrounds where children, specifically girls, are being taken advantage of, i.e. the slums of Kenya, unoccupied minors living in Hong Kong, and the children of war-torn Iraq. This is a good paper to learn about different ways that communities, governments and organizations are fighting the issues affecting children in vulnerable situations.

**Heissler, Karin. 2001. Background paper on Good Practices and Priorities to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Bangladesh.**
This paper provides an extensive overview of the situation of sexual exploitation of children in Bangladesh, and describes the extent to which this is a challenge for the Bangladeshi government to address. Heissler does a thorough job at defining what “sexual exploitation” is, who it affects in Bangladesh, and how the government and the outside communities are dealing with this issue. More importantly, however this document takes a holistic approach to creating a list of ‘good practices’ that involve all different sectors in order to combat this problem and make certain that it cannot continue occurring, including the involvement of the media and educational institutions.


The author of this paper states that “gender justice is fundamental to fostering gender equality and gender mainstreaming.” In order to do this, accountability mechanisms must be in place that can allow for a justice-ridden environment to occur. This paper is aimed at the decision-makers involved in peace support operations, and provides policy recommendations to help keep the military and civilian peacekeepers accountable for their work. This paper came out of a response to growing reports indicating that men in powerful peacekeeping roles were taking advantage of women and girls in the refugee and internally-displaced camps.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations were repeatedly mentioned throughout the literature I reviewed on sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps, and should be taken into serious consideration when creating policies to protect such vulnerable populations.

To donor governments:

- Provide long-term support for humanitarian programs that assist female victims through economic, legal, reproductive health services as an essential part of emergency and post-conflict reconstruction. Available health services should include:
  - Treatment of injuries that may have occurred during sexual and gender-based violence
  - Counseling to address the emotional and psychological impact of sexual exploitation activities
  - Access to emergency contraception and abortion services

Government to government institution and policy support:

- Seek to influence governments in the formulation of population policies, and the provision of family-planning services which do not abuse women’s reproductive rights
- Focus on ways to assist governments in developing countries in receipt of bilateral aid to improve the capacity of state institutions to cope with sexual and gender-based violence during war time by training appropriate personnel working with such vulnerable populations
- Create policies that recognize the change in gender roles during periods of conflict, i.e. men go off and fight, leaving women to be sole caregivers for their families
Monitoring, accountability and evaluation of development and emergency projects:
- Must use gender violence issue as a specific monitoring point at all stages of refugee work cycle, from the design and implementation stages of refugee camps and war-related services, to the repatriation stages and war torn country follow-up assessments
- Assess the gender impact of relief and rehabilitation projects and the involvement of women in these projects
- NGO and peacekeepers working with refugee and internally-displaced populations must have standards to uphold that are written down in their codes of conduct, and they must be enforced

Support to women’s organizations on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence:
- Build the capacity of research centers working on gender-based violence issues
- Support the promotion of large circulation of information on this subject

Education Support:
- Women and girls of this vulnerable populations must be educated to identify what sexual and gender-based violence is, and they must identify key people that they can turn to for help in such settings if need be
- Use gender-sensitive curriculum in refugee schools
- Create refugee and internally-displaced schools that have at least one female adult in the classroom/ space at all times

Conclusions:
Internal and external country conflicts put women and children at greater risk of harm from men because they are termed the ‘more vulnerable’ by international standards and more easily preyed upon by men in power. During times of conflict when women and children, primarily girls, settle in refugee and internally-displaced camps to seek shelter and safety, they are often met with even more challenges due to the disruption in their community support structures, unsafe camp settings, separation from families, and patriarchal governing structures that often heighten women and children’s vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence (Vann, 2002).
Therefore, mechanisms must be put in place to protect this vulnerable population, and in order to do this it is critical that everyone working near and with this vulnerable population be forced to undergo gender-sensitive training so that when they are out in the field, not only do they have explicit guidelines from the very institutions and organizations that employ them, but also a defined process of reporting violations by fellow colleagues or others working in the camps in an anonymous way. However, as stated in the UNHCR’s guidelines for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in refugee and internally-displaced camps, “[T]o prevent
sexual and gender-based violence, you must identify, understand and address its causes and contributing factors” (2003).

It is one thing for governments and organizations to make statements about violations that have been, and are being, committed against the female refugee and internally-displaced populations, but it is an entirely different thing to make a statement, have a system in place to prosecute or punish the perpetrators, and have services set-up to help the survivors deal with what has occurred to them. Although such systems and processes take careful planning and money, these are steps that must be taken in order to ensure that women and girls get the protection they need and are entitled to people.

Protecting women and girls in refugee and internally-displaced camps is the obligation of the very systems that are meant to help protect such populations from other dangers that could potentially arise during times of conflict (Schmiechen, 2004). Furthermore, it is critical to consider the repercussions of not protecting these populations, including an increase of sexually transmitted diseases and the psychosocial impacts that such violence has on these women, as well as their families and communities (Benard, 1986). Thus, governments and organizations must take extra steps to ensure that men in power who support the operations in refugee and internally-displaced camps do not have the opportunity to take advantage of the vulnerable females in these settings; however, if such perpetration is committed, there must be systems in place that punish such violators, and all systems must be upheld by governments and organizations everywhere to ensure that this inappropriate abuse of power is stopped.
References


