

## Linking Data Analysis to Programming Series: No. 3

Once the GBVIMS is implemented there are a myriad of ways to utilize the collected service-based data<sup>1</sup> to inform programming. This note shares the experience of International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Women's Protection and Empowerment Program in Tanzania using GBVIMS data for program improvement.



### ***Tanzania: How GBVIMS Data Helped Advocate for Improved Services and Specialized Interventions in Refugee Camps***

**Context:** Tanzania has been receiving many refugees over the years and presently hosts 134,353 refugees and asylum seekers in Nyarugusu, the largest camp in the country.<sup>2</sup> At the invitation of the Government of Tanzania, UNHCR has been coordinating the refugee response across all sectors in close partnership with other agencies and organizations working within the camp. Since 2010, IRC has operated in Nyarugusu camp providing survivor-centered case management services to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) among other prevention services and empowerment activities. In May 2015, the demand for multi-sectoral response spiked as conflict in Burundi sparked the displacement of thousands more Burundians to Tanzania and neighboring countries.<sup>3</sup> As a result, the Government of Tanzania with the support of UNHCR opened two new refugee camps, Nduta and Mtendeli.

The journey made by refugees is a risky one, beginning in their country of origin, along the route to the border and to the camp. Once arrived in the camps in Tanzania, women and girls, reported verbal threats, physical violence, separation of children from families, abductions, and high levels of sexual violence that they experienced within or during flight from Burundi.

The influx of new asylum-seekers, increasing the demand for supplies, had an impact on living conditions in the camps that in turn contributed to an increased risk to GBV. Securing adequate fuel sources, in particular, was problematic. Approximately just two percent of the camp population received firewood, which was reserved for the most vulnerable populations: persons with disabilities, the chronically ill, and a limited number of female headed households.<sup>4</sup> Supply did not match demand. Nearby forests were identified as an alternative source for firewood collection, though movement outside the four kilometer radius of the camp was restricted by the government. Once firewood collection was depleted inside the camp, women and girls risked walking long distances outside the camp for procurement in local forests.

An adequate solution to these issues required a coordinated multi-sectoral response. As part of the emergency response, several working groups were initiated and coordinated by UNHCR, including a

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<sup>1</sup> Service-based data, as stored in the GBVIMS, is labeled 'service-based' because the data is collected at the point of and in connection with service delivery. The GBVIMS can provide one source of data to inform programming. This data is best used in combination with other data sources such as surveys, needs assessments, situational analyses, focus group discussions, and evidence-based research. It should be noted as well that this data is not prevalence data, nor does it capture all incidents, only those reported in the context of service provision. GBVIMS data is a critical piece to inform programming but needs to be interpreted in the broader context of gender-based violence in that setting.

<sup>2</sup> See the latest UNHCR statistics and trends at the Inter Agency Portal - <http://data.unhcr.org/burundi/country.php?id=212>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Proportion of persons with specific needs who receive firewood in Nyarugusu – UNHCR distribution statistics.

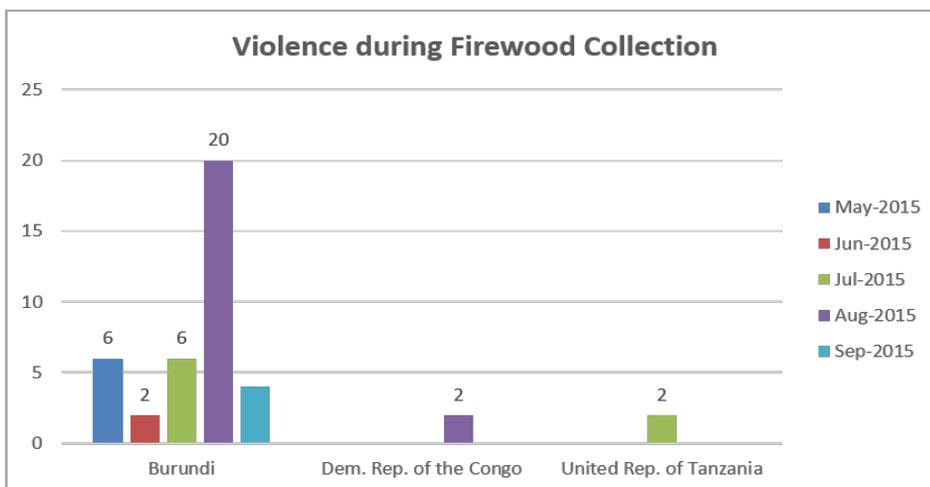
group focused on GBV prevention and response, co-chaired by UNHCR and IRC. In addition, a specialized GBV case conference committee for direct service providers was coordinated by IRC as the primary provider of GBV response services in the camp. Despite the presence of these groups from the beginning, with the increase in new arrivals and the continued reports of violence, there was a growing need for a more coordinated response, specifically, for risk reduction activities across camp planning, camp management, education, food security, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

**Service-Based Data:**

A gap analysis, including discussions with camp residents, focus group discussions and community dialogue revealed overcrowding in tents, insufficient water sources, inadequate latrines (not separated by sex), and lack of necessary non-food items and menstrual hygiene management supplies. These discussions were complemented with data from the GBVIMS.

Reflecting on the gap analysis trends and the need for improved planning the GBV working group discussed the need for an inter-agency strategy for a coordinated and multi-sectoral response to address GBV risks identified through the analysis and corroborated in community consultations. The working group members, informed by the focus group discussions, raised more questions to better understand the problems particularly those affecting marginalized groups and children. Namely, common types of GBV, profiles of survivors, displacement status, incident time of day, context of incidents, delay in reporting, profile of the alleged perpetrator, incident locations, and displacement status. The working group therefore used GBVIMS data to further analyze the problems identified in the focus group discussions in order to create a strategy informed by real-time trends.

From May through September there were 356 reported incidents of sexual violence, the majority of which occurred in the country of origin or during flight. Still, the high rates of reported sexual violence warranted further in-depth analysis into the situation in the country of asylum. The GBVIMS data further showed that of the incidents occurring in Tanzania, 12% occurred while collecting firewood outside the camp. Of these incidents, 49% were perpetrated by strangers and 33% by unknown perpetrators (meaning the survivor was unable to even identify if it was a known person or a stranger).



*Figure 1.* This graph shows violence reported during firewood collection and the incident area during the emergency period.

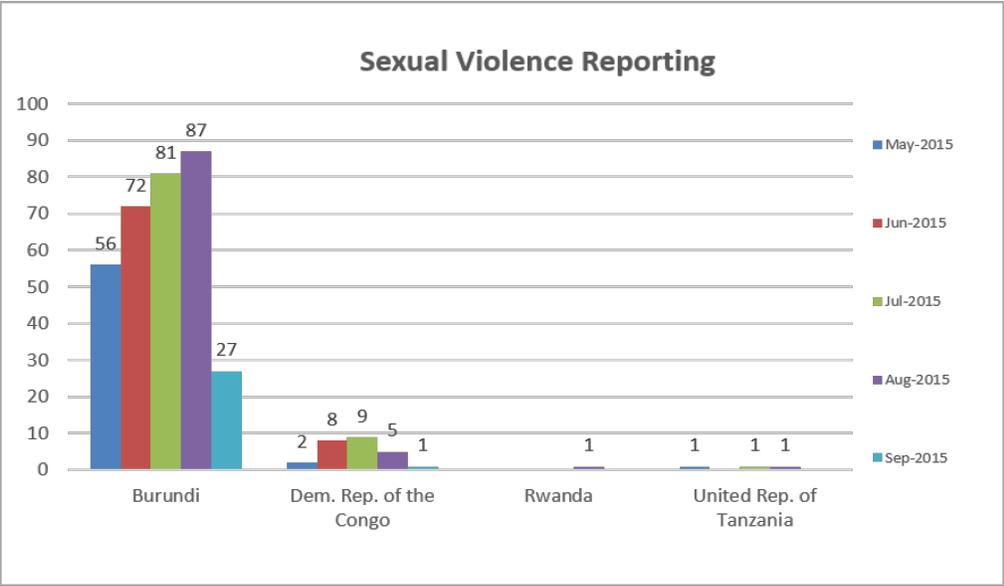


Figure 2. This shows reported sexual violence by the nationality of survivors.

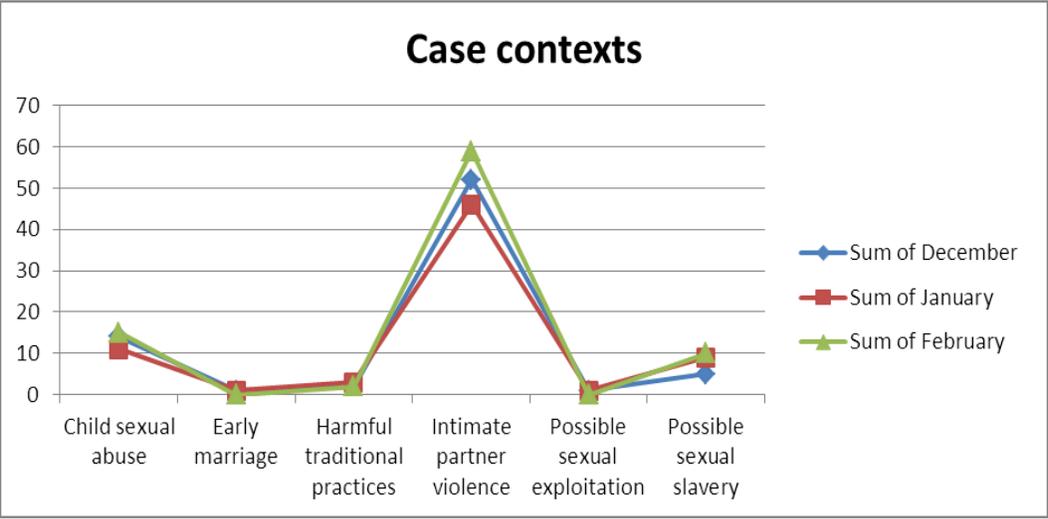


Figure 3. This graph reveals the high level of intimate partner violence reported in the period following the emergency phase.

**Linking Data to Programming:**

The sharing of trends analysis led to several changes in the refugee camps: the establishment of human rights violation monitoring mechanisms, risk mitigation measures, and a more encompassing and responsible multi-sectoral response to GBV.

**Human Rights Monitoring.** In response to the rates of sexual violence reported IRC implemented a screening activity at reception areas for new arrivals to ensure all new arrivals were receiving information about available services. Women and girls were particularly identified for individual screening activities while they waited for registration or other services. This quick response is credited for the identification of many cases that might otherwise have remained unreported and services not sought.

Jointly prepared trend reports and analyses were shared with high level delegations and human rights monitors and international political representatives such as the U.S. Envoy to the Great Lakes Region leading to further inquiries into sexual violence in Burundi as the trends showed the largest percentage of reported sexual violence occurred in Burundi prior to displacement. At the time this edition of Linking Data Analysis was shared, a delegation from the UN Security Council had visited Burundi on a mission to find out more about sexual violence inside Burundi as a human rights violation.

**Enhanced Risk Mitigation.** During the emergency, the inter-agency response in the camp faced a number of challenges due to the large influx, limited space, finite resources, and environmental constraints. Reflecting on the monthly GBVIMS reports it was analyzed that in the emergency period 12% of the reported incidents of sexual violence were reported as occurring during firewood collection. This led to an in-depth assessment and report by the SGBV working group in September 2015. The recommendations from this report including food security, safety and GBV prevention were circulated to the inter-agency group for action.

This GBVIMS data analysis and report gave a strong voice for advocating for greater efficiencies and safer methods for fuel sourcing in the camp. The SGBV working group regularly shared the analysis at the weekly inter-agency camp management meetings, showing the extent that lack of firewood had contributed to sexual violence. Advocacy was conducted with the relevant governmental departments at the local and national level on the issue. In January 2016, the government and an environmental conservation partner met to find suitable locations for sustainable harvesting. Community members were also engaged in initiating community escorts. In addition, a campaign on constructing fuel efficient mud stoves using local materials was initiated with the objective to reach 100% coverage across the camp. This is being complemented with distribution of fuel efficient cooking practices guidance for use by the community to conserve energy as well as the development of a project on biomass briquettes.

**Strengthened Multi-Sectoral Response.** At the Inter-Agency SGBV Planning Workshop in December 2015, GBVIMS data was used to present an overview of reported GBV incidents in the camps, which revealed several areas where urgent interventions were needed. The data helped clarify the gaps and link these to service-oriented solutions. After sharing the trends from the GBVIMS, participants were asked to group by sector and using the IASC Guidelines<sup>5</sup>, identify gaps and develop proposals for how to address needs. Group activities greatly informed the multi-sectoral strategy to address GBV. UNHCR, with IRC as the sector co-lead and lead GBV implementing partner, have since developed an inter-agency work plan to implement the agreed-upon strategy, which both IRC and UNHCR use in resource mobilization for the proposed interventions and unmet needs.

Though issues such as sexual violence received increased attention during the peak of the emergency and led to enhanced screening and service provision, the GBVIMS showed a marked increase in the number of incidents related to intimate partner violence (IPV) as shown in Figure 3. This analysis was shared and discussed with the SGBV sub working group, the technical group working on SGBV prevention and response. From the data analysis, it was clear that IPV was becoming the most commonly reported case context type. IPV, or domestic violence, was included as a key thematic priority in the 2016 Inter Agency Strategy and it also led to the introduction in 2016 of the Engaging Men in

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<sup>5</sup> For more information read the *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* at <http://gbvguidelines.org/>

Accountable Practices and Economic and Social Empowerment programming implemented by IRC and supported by UNHCR as a direct measure to mitigate further risk and prevent SGBV.

### **Recommendations**

This case study shows the variety of ways GBVIMS data can be used in a setting. Below are some key recommendations from this case study:

- *Use other data sources as a guide for analysis in the GBVIMS.* You can start analysis looking generally at trends in the GBVIMS. Or you can use trends from other data sources, in this case study focus group discussions, and then dig further into the data and look for other information to guide decision making.
- *Use GBVIMS data for multiple outcomes.* You can use GBVIMS data to inform prevention and response programming, and it can also be used to give strength to advocacy claims and resource mobilization needs.
- *Use GBVIMS data to inform the inter-agency response.* GBVIMS data can be used by organizations to improve their own response, and it can also be used to strengthen the inter-agency response. A collective response to GBV has the strength of a group behind it and can help improve coordination.
- *Use GBVIMS data to inform the multi-sectoral response.* The GBVIMS is a good source for broad trends in GBV and commonly can be useful (when safely guided) to share trends with other sectors. This can help improve the overall response to gender-based violence in any setting.

**A special thanks to Anne Achieng Oketch of International Rescue Committee and Elizabeth Morrissey of UNHCR for sharing their best practices for this edition of Linking Data Analysis to Programming.**

If you've utilized GBVIMS data to improve your programming, advocacy efforts or for resource mobilization, and would like to share your story, contact us at [gbvims@gmail.com](mailto:gbvims@gmail.com). Your story could appear in the next in the series of Linking Data Analysis to Programming.