

# **A Situational Analysis of Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Batwa Women of Kabale, Kisoro and Kanungu Districts in Southwestern Uganda**

**A Research carried out between November 2008 and April 2009**

**by**

**African International Christian Ministry (AICM)**

**and**

**United Organization of Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)**

**under the kind auspices of**

**MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP INTERNATIONAL (MRG)**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The research project among Batwa communities was implemented by two NGOs namely, African International Christian Ministry (AICM) and United Organization of Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU), based in Uganda, with funding from Minority Rights Group International (MRG). Both organizations have been working with the Batwa on various issues including education, resettlement, advocacy and capacity building.

African International Christian Ministry (AICM) is a non-governmental organization, non-denominational founded in 1983 with the objective of fostering literacy, evangelism and community development. Her mission is to reach, mobilize and empower rural communities and marginalized groups in Africa through capacity building and advocacy for sustainable development. AICM is registered under NGO Board **85/90** and Friends of AICM UK registered charity **NO. 1011451** and National Council of Voluntary social services for Uganda **No. 150/88**, and also registered under the Republic of Uganda, The Trustees Incorporation Act, **CAP.147.T.37424, C.I 568**.

The United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU) is an indigenous organization which was established in 2000 and aims to support Batwa in South West Uganda to address their land problems and to help them to develop sustainable alternative livelihoods. UOBDU is registered under The Company Act (CAP. 85) Company Limited by Guarantee & Not having share capital **NO. 52016**. UOBDU is driven by the vision of having a Batwa community that is dignified, educated, empowered and recognized while its mission is to promote the rights and build the capacity of the Batwa through formal and informal education, skills development, livelihoods support, health programmes, and advocating for the promotion and protection of their Human rights.

### **1.2 Background**

Historically, the Batwa were forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers, maintaining livelihoods within the high altitude forests around Lake Kivu and Lake Edward in the Great Lakes region of Central and East Africa. The Batwa are widely regarded by their neighbours, and historians, as the first inhabitants of the region, who were later joined by incoming farmers and pastoralists approximately 1000 years ago. Today, the Batwa largely live in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In 1991, the Batwa of south western Uganda were officially evicted from their ancestral land in order to create conservation areas, specifically the Bwindi and Mgahinga National Parks. The Batwa were never consulted or involved in any of the decision-making processes, and were never compensated. As a result, most Batwa became landless and live in extreme poverty.

The Batwa are an ethnic minority group of people who continue to be marginalized and victimized in development related issues. Their marginalization is based on their fewer

numbers and culture. This has influenced their culture to be in obscurity. Thus, injustice against the 'Twa' ethnicity by the mainstream tribes continues oppress them.

However it is vital to note that there is double tragedy against the Batwa women whose rights are violated by both the mainstream tribes and by their male counterparts. The Batwa women are an easy target owing to their high illiteracy levels, impoverished life styles, cultures impediments against women among others. Therefore, the Batwa women continue to shoulder multifaceted challenges culminating into violation of their rights.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

Although both men and women belonging to ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples suffer from different forms of violence, women do so in a multi-pronged fashion. Indigenous women don't have any status and are often entrapped by the double discrimination and marginalization by both the mainstream people and their own group. This situation has resulted into increased sexual and gender based violence among the Batwa women. Displacement from their original inhabitant coupled with traditional cultural systems, land related problems, and poverty and lack of education among the Batwa women has increasingly resulted into their sexual exploitation, domestic violence, early marriage and unwanted pregnancies. Thus sexual and gender based violence has continued to marginalize, oppress and violate the rights of Batwa women.

### **1.4 Objectives Of The Study**

#### **1.4.1 Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the research project was to establish the magnitude of gender based violence against women among the Batwa communities and its effect on Batwa women and propose strategies for changing this situation. It is strongly believed that the outcomes of this study will raise public awareness and arouse stakeholders' interest to intervene in improving and sustaining Batwa's human rights situation.

#### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

In line with the above overall objective, the study set out to achieve the following four interlinked specific objectives;

1. To establish whether Batwa women know their human rights.
2. To examine the different forms of violence against Batwa women.
3. To find out the major perpetrators of violence against Batwa women
4. To establish causes and impact of violence against Batwa women

### **1.5 Expected Outputs**

1. A detailed report on the situation of gender based violence against Batwa women and the extent to which the Batwa women are enjoying or deprived of their rights.
2. Possible strategies and actions to combat gender based violence among the Batwa women
3. Findings shall be disseminated to different stakeholder and community members on the plight of Batwa women and girls.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This section presents the relevant literature about the study topic. The literature has been searched and organized according to key themes of the study. Therefore the section flows from the general aspects of understanding minorities with specific emphasis on Batwa, sexual and gender based violence in terms of its definition, causes, effects and strategies to deal with it.

### **2.2 Understanding Minority Groups**

According to Banda and Chinkin (2004), there numerous minority groups each with unique features and a unique history that makes it impossible for them to be collapsed into one group or category. They note that new minorities may be formed or previous majorities become minorities. They therefore note that the numbers, location and types of minority groups are ever changing. What they note as omnipresent is that all minorities and indigenous peoples are entitled to all human rights as individuals. The Batwa are a recognized minority group of people in Uganda.

### **2.3 Who Are The Batwa?**

The Batwa are a marginalized ethnic minority group who live in Southwestern Uganda, Rwanda and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Following the 1990 Ugandan government policy on biodiversity conservation, Batwa were evicted from Echuya, Mgahinga and Bwindi forests without any provision made for their resettlement and integration in other non-Batwa communities around the forests (AICM, 2008). As a result, Batwa have lived as landless, homeless and unimaginably poor people often times squatting on other people's land and living close to inhumane living standard. Since their eviction, the fate of Batwa has been to whomever it may concern and therefore nobody's job. According to MRG (2008), the drastic change of their lifestyle, along with their small number and despised status, has brought the Ugandan Batwa close to being wiped out. In July 2006, the Uganda Land Alliance for Coalition of Pastoral Civil Society Organizations (COPACSO) warned that the few thousand Batwa (Twa) of Uganda are in danger of extinction. The organization's report warned of starvation and loss of social cohesion among desperate Batwa who lost their homes in the Bwindi Impenetrable Game Park when this became a World Heritage Site for preservation of endangered mountain gorillas in 1992.

Wairama (2001) noted that the Batwa were however a recognized minority with a constitutional right to participate in the decision making processes. Wairama attributes Batwa's continued marginalization to the fact that the existing frameworks that should have enhanced affirmative action in Batwa's favour primarily focus on disadvantages of children, persons with disabilities and women and are largely silent about ethnic minorities like Batwa.

### **2.4 Human Rights Situation In Batwa Communities**

Although there is scanty information on this subject matter area, available literature indicates that the human rights situation in Batwa communities is appallingly bad. According to a baseline conducted by AICM in 2007 indicated that Batwa were not

enjoying almost all human rights. The baseline study indicated that the majority of the Batwa were not aware of their basic human rights (AICM, 2008). As a result, the Batwa were not accessing the basic social services like health, and education with females being worse hit than males. Additionally, access to food, decent shelter and clean drinking water was also found to be very unexplainably low. In attempt to access basic needs for healthy and productive lives, Batwa were exploited by non-Batwa neighbours (AICM, 2008). Although the rights situation was that bad, AICM noted with happiness that there were rays of hope as Batwa were found to possess some minimal basic abilities, commitment, and willingness to improve their human rights situation and live like other people. Batwa were reportedly fully aware of their role in perpetuating and reversing the existing bad human rights situation, they were also articulate and appreciative of the need to re-organize themselves and collaborate with other actors to improve the existing situation.

## **2.5 Definition And Scale Of Sexual And Gender Based Violence**

According to UNHCR (1999), the term sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) encompasses a wide variety of abuses that includes sexual threats, exploitation, humiliation, assaults, molestation, domestic violence, incest, involuntary prostitution (sexual bartering), torture, insertion of objects into genital openings and attempted rape. Female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices (including early marriage, which substantially increases maternal morbidity and mortality) are forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women which cannot be overlooked nor justified on the grounds of tradition, culture or social conformity. In conformity with UNHCR the International Rescue Committee noted that according to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) gender-based violence was used to refer to any act... that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Although UNHCR (1999 and 2003) reports that SGBV is widespread, it notes with dismay that incidents of sexual and gender-based violence are under-reported and the true scale of the problem is unknown. The World Bank in concurrence with UNHCR estimates that less than 10 per cent of sexual violence cases are reported. In agreement with UNHCR and World Bank, the weekly forum for social justice in Africa noted that abuse victims were often not reporting because of they were too fearful to seek police intervention, not only because were the police otherwise engaged, but also because of discomfort in filing complaints with institutions they felt were associated with the perpetrators of the violence

Both UNHCR and World Bank agree that it may be essential to know that the problem of sexual violence is serious and therefore reporting and interviewing techniques should be adapted to encourage victims and support service providers to report and document incidents. Reporting and follow-up must be sensitive, discreet and confidential so that no further suffering is caused and lives are not further endangered.

## **2.6 Causes Of Sexual And Gender Based Violence**

Sexual and gender-based violence can occur under different circumstances resulting from different causes. According to UNHCR (1999), male disrespect and aggressive behavior towards women may result into sexual and gender based violence. UNHCR noted that the level of disrespect and aggressive behaviour may vary depending on circumstances and may be reinforced in conflict situations. UNHCR further noted that women and girls moving alone unaccompanied predisposed them to being viewed by men as easy target for sexual exploitation.

Lack of police protection and lawlessness also contribute to an increase in sexual violence. According to UNHCR (1999) there were possibilities of the would be 'saviours' like police officers, military personnel and government and non-government officers to sexually abuse women.

## **2.7 Effects Of Sexual And Gender Based Violence**

According to UNHCR (1999) sexual and gender-based violence has acute physical, psychological and social consequences. Survivors often experience psychological trauma: depression, terror, guilt, shame, loss of self-esteem. They may be rejected by spouses and families, ostracized, subjected to further exploitation or to punishment. They may also suffer from unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), sexual dysfunction, and trauma to the reproductive tract, and chronic infections leading to pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility.

## **2.8 Dealing With SGBV**

According to UNHCR (1999), a multi-sectoral team approach is required to prevent and respond appropriately to sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR recommends that a committee or task force should be formed to design, implement and evaluate sexual violence programming at the field level. International Rescue Committee (IRC) agrees with UNHCR and notes that a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to preventing and responding to gender based violence was needed, but it required ongoing and dedicated teamwork that relies on well-developed referral and reporting systems. IRC noted that the systems also depended on effective collaboration between various agencies, local organizations, the conflicted-affected (especially women), and all other concerned parties

UNHCR further notes that the most effective measures against SGBV require that the victims together with their community participate in promoting a safe environment for all. Women leaders need to be involved to represent women's interests and to help identify and protect those most vulnerable to sexual violence. Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) can be a valuable source of information and a channel for disseminating protection messages.

## CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

The design and conduct of this study were based on the premise that this study was an action research that must produce detailed and stand-alone findings that can be applied in planning and implementing actions aimed at addressing the identified problems. The study therefore employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to ensure that accurate data was captured in line with the study purposes and objectives. The quantitative method was chosen because of its ability to enable the findings of the study to be generalized and applied in developing and implementing corrective action on areas and people similar and/or related to those that were involved in the study. On the other hand, the qualitative approach was considered essential in order to obtain an in-depth understanding of the subject matter under study and aid circumstance-tailored interpretation and application of the findings of the study.

### 3.2 Population And Sampling

The research project targeted the Batwa women in Kabale, Kisoro and Kanungu districts. The total population of Batwa in the three districts is 2987 and out of this, 1552 are women (UOBDU, 2007).

**Table 1: Population Distribution by Sex in the Districts of Kabale, Kanungu and Kisoro**

District	Males	Females	Totals
Kisoro	738	829	1567
Kabale	382	392	774
Kanungu	315	331	646
<b>Total</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>2987</b>

The above table indicates the total Batwa population in the three districts of Kanungu, Kisoro and Kabale. It includes the young and the adults, males and females as at December 2007 (UOBDU, 2007).

### 3.3 Sampling Procedure

From the target population for the study, a total of 120 respondents were selected using the stratified proportionate cluster random sampling technique. This technique was chosen because of its ability to give equal chance to all Batwa men and women of being recruited as respondents in the study. Due to the differences in population distribution among the Batwa in the three districts as indicated in table 1, the sample was distributed according to the population in each district. Hence, more respondents were picked from Kisoro district (50) since it had a bigger population of the Batwa, followed by Kabale (40) and Kanungu (30) respectively. Table 2 below shows the numbers of males and females talked to in the study and their districts of residence.

**Table 2: Target Respondents by Districts**

<b>District</b>	<b>Data collection method</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kisoro	Individual interviews	16	0	16
	FGDs and key informant interviews	14	20	34
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>
Kabale	Individual interviews	14	0	14
	FGDs and key informant interviews	11	15	26
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>
Kanungu	Individual interviews	14	0	14
	FGDs and key informant interviews	06	10	16
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>Individual interviews</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>FGDs and Key informant interviews</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>120</b>

Within each of the three districts, the study team identified the sub-counties and communities within each of the sub-counties where the Batwa were living. The list of the sub-counties and communities within with Batwa were identified from the records available at AICM and UOBDU offices. In each of the identified communities, a list of community members was developed. Each of the names of the community members (males and females) was written on a small piece of paper and then folded. The folded pieces of paper were placed on the floor after which one member of the study team randomly picked one by one until the required number of respondents was obtained. On the other hand, the key informants were handpicked since the study was interested in those leaders or government employees at sub-county levels that frequently deal with rights abuse and domestic violence issues.

### 3.4 Instrumentation

The study involved use of a variety of data collection tools namely;

- Semi-structured interview schedule
- Checklists to guide the focus group discussions. The study had two sets of focus group discussion checklists; one for men and women and another one for the girls.
- Checklists to guide key informant interviews. The study had one set of key informant interview guideline for both men and women.

All the above tools were developed by the study team. The study team reviewed the study objectives so as to identify which important items to include in the study tools. The tools were then shared in a three-day training workshop involving all the people that would participate in data collection to further agree on whether the tools and the items within would be able to collect the needed data. After the sharing workshop, some new items were introduced; existing ones modified and re-ordered to produce the final versions of

the tools that were used in the study. The final modified version of the tools were pre-tested on nine respondents to ensure reliability whilst also giving the data collectors a chance to get more used to the tools. Copies of all the tools are appended onto this report.

### **3.5 Data Collection Methods**

The study involved collection of data through;

- Semi-structured interviews with individual randomly selected respondents
- Focus group discussions with selected groups of men, women and girls
- Key informant interviews with selected informants in the target area

#### **3.5.1 Semi-Structured Interviews With Randomly Selected Respondents**

A total of 44 women were interviewed using the semi-structured interview schedule. They were conducted in the local language (Rukiga in Kanungu and Kabale) and Rufumbira in Kisoro). Before the interview, the interviewer would introduce the study by giving explicit explanation about the purpose of the research and why that particular respondent had to be interviewed. The interviewer would also assure the respondent that the information they were giving would be confidential. Also given the fact that the study was looking at somewhat sensitive issues, there were instances where the interviewer would seek for general information that originates from families and communities rather than individuals. This was especially done to ensure openness but also ensure that respondents don't get embarrassed explaining real experiences.

#### **3.5.2 Focus Group Discussions And Key Informant Interviews**

A total of 76 people (45 males and 31 females) were engaged in focus group discussions and key informant interviews. These Focus Group Discussions and key informant interviews were conducted to generate in-depth (qualitative) information. This was especially possible given the fact that these qualitative methods generate more information during the discussions as people keep on challenging one another and building on others' ideas. During the discussions, respondents talked and the interviewer guided the discussions towards what he/she wanted to learn from the group. The FGDs and key informant interviews were facilitated by two people; one taking lead and the second one taking notes. In addition, the proceedings of each of the FGDs and Key informant interviews were recorded on a tape recorder in order to ensure that all data was captured in the form in which the respondents relayed it. The write up of respondents' speeches and the tape recording were backstopped with physical observations during the FGDs and interviews to obtain the information that has been used in this document especially to further explain some of the trends highlighted by the interviews with randomly selected individual respondents.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

Data collected using the individual interview schedule was checked for errors, coded and entered into Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) computer package. After entering the data in SPSS, it was analyzed to produce frequencies, cross tabulations that have been used in this report. The qualitative data on the other hand was reviewed for consistency. Qualitative data has mainly been used in this report to further explain the trends and patterns identified from the quantitative data.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section has been organized to flow from basic characteristics of the respondents, through exploring respondents' knowledge of their human rights, the level and types of violence in the community, their causes and effects on the respondents and/or victims. The section ends with a presentation of the possible remedies against violence among Batwa communities as suggested by the respondents. The study team chose this arrangement of content to ensure logical flow, and hence enhance comprehension. Additionally, the flow from knowledge on rights and violence through the levels and types of violence and their causes and effects was aimed at enabling readers to judge whether and how well the study has met its objectives. In the write up, data from the semi-structured interviews with individual respondents has been integrated together with that collected from the focus group discussions and key informant interviews to give the reader a more in-depth understanding of the existing situation. In this report, data from the focus group discussions and key informant interviews has been largely presented as anecdotes to give the readers a feel of the real life experiences and scenarios as they happen in the study area.

### **4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

It is widely accepted that a wide range of demographic characteristics affect and in some instances determine how people view issues, events and trends. As a result, numerous demographic characteristics of respondents have often been explored in almost all studies especially those in which respondents' opinions are interpreted, generalized and applied in planning and implementing corrective actions targeting not only the respondents but all other people affected. Therefore realizing that this study was examining sexual based gender violence (SGBV) which is rather sensitive in nature and also the fact that the outcomes of this study might be used to develop interventions to change the status quo (should it be less proper), the study team considered it essential to explore a few respondents' attributes that would help in interpreting, generalizing and applying to the findings. The attributes of interest in this study were; respondents' sex, age, religion, marital status and education level. For all categories of respondents, the study team obtained information about their district of residence, their sex, ethnicity and leadership/responsibility positions in their communities.

However, due to time constraints data about the education levels, age, marital status and religion was collected only for individual respondents involved in semi-structured interviews. Table 3 below summarizes the attributes of all the 120 respondents while tables 4 to 8 describe the education levels, age, marital status, and religion of the individual respondents.

**Table 3: Description of all categories of respondents involved in the study**

Attribute	Categories	Semi-structured individual interviews (n=44)		Focus group discussions (n=56)		Key informant interviews (n=20)		Total (n=120)	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
District of residence	Kisoro	16	36.4	26	46.4	08	40.0	50	41.7
	Kabale	14	31.8	20	35.7	06	30.0	40	33.3
	Kanungu	14	31.8	10	17.9	06	30.0	30	25.0
Sex	Female	44	100.0	27	48.2	04	20.0	75	62.5
	Male	0	-	29	51.8	16	80.0	45	37.5
					0.0				
Ethnicity	Batwa	44	100.0	56	100.0	05	25.0	105	87.5
	Non-Batwa	0	-	0	-	15	75.0	15	12.5
Positions of leadership and/or /responsibility	None	33	75.0	49	87.5	0	-	82	68.3
	Government employee	0	-	0	-	11	55.0	11	9.2
	Batwa leader	11	25.0	07	12.5	03	15.0	10	8.3
	Local councilor (LC 3)	0	-	0	-	02	10.0	02	1.7
	NGO employee	0	-	0	-	02	10.0	02	1.7
	Community based resource person	0	-	0	-	01	5.0	01	0.8
	Teacher in Batwa school	0	-	0	-	01	5.0	01	0.8

#### 4.2.1 Sex Of The Respondents

According to the table above, the majority of the respondents (62.5%) were females while only 37.5% were males. All individual respondents for the semi-structured interviews were females. The study gave particular focus to females because it was about investigating the occurrence, extent, causes and effects of sexual and gender based violence which largely affects females more than males. The study however also involved some males (37.5% of the total respondents) as key informants and participants in focus group discussions in order to ascertain their understanding of and perceptions about SGBV but also to explore possibilities for their cooperation in any future attempts to address SGBV in their communities.

#### 4.2.2 Respondents' Areas Of Residence

Realizing that Batwa just like most other minority groups reside in specific areas, the study targeted those particular areas in Kabale, Kisoro and Kanungu district that are known to be inhabited by Batwa. From table 3 above, Kisoro district had the highest number of respondents followed by Kabale and Kanungu. The numbers of respondents from each district depended on the number of Batwa settlements and Batwa people within. These three districts have higher numbers of Batwa because of their proximity to

Echuya forest and Bwindi national park respectively that were both originally Batwa's habitats before they were gazetted. The Batwa residence near these forests might be attributed to the need for them to have access to forest products such as fruits, herbs and tree products for use to make various items for their survival.

#### 4.2.3 Respondent's Ethnicity

The majority of the respondents were Batwa (87.5) and only 12.5% were non-Batwa. The Non-Batwa that were involved in the study were mainly key informants to provide detailed information about the occurrence, causes, effects, existing and potential mechanisms to address SGBV. They were involved in the study on the assumption that efforts to improve the situation of Batwa might require concerted efforts of all people including Batwa and non-Batwa. Non-Batwa especially those in positions of responsibility were involved in the study in order to understand their general perceptions about violence against Batwa (specifically Batwa women) but also to pave way for possible support by non-Batwa in future attempts to address SGBV and other development problems in Batwa communities.

#### 4.2.4 Respondents' Positions Of Leadership And/Or /Responsibility

The majority (68%) of the respondents did not hold any position of leadership or responsibility in their areas of residence. Among the respondents, only 9% were working with the government and all these were used as key informants in the study. The study respondents also included 8% as leaders in Batwa communities, two employees of NGOs operating in Batwa communities and two local council 3 representatives. The rather high proportion of respondents with no leadership/responsibility position might be attributed to the fact that the study was mainly targeting Batwa who are generally known to be less involved in leadership due to low levels of education, and being discriminated against by non-Batwa community members and neighbours.

#### 4.2.5 Respondent's Religion

Religion has a significant influence on people's attitudes and subsequent involvement in social, political, cultural and economic activities. This is especially due to the fact that for many believers, religion offers a forum through which they access information; find new hope and inspiration besides enabling them to build new friendships and groupings. Accordingly, this study perceived religion as an important attribute of the respondents that needed to be understood to aid meaningful interpretation of the respondents' perceptions of issues and trends. This data was only collected for the 44 individual respondents involved in the semi-structured interviews. Table 4 below shows respondents' religions.

**Table 4: Respondents' Religion**

Religion	District						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Protestant	13	29.5	14	31.9	11	25.0	<b>38</b>	<b>86.4</b>
Catholic	01	02.3	0	-	02	04.5	<b>03</b>	<b>06.8</b>
Traditional Religion	01	02.3	0	-	01	02.3	<b>02</b>	<b>04.5</b>
Seventh Day Adventist	01	02.3	0	-	00	04.5	<b>01</b>	<b>02.3</b>
Total	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority (86%) of the respondents were Protestants. The Catholic, Traditional Religion and Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) beliefs were on the other hand less popular in the target areas as indicated by all of them combined having only less than 15% of the respondents believing in them.

#### 4.2.6 Age Of The Respondents

The study also explored the respondents' age in years. This data was only collected for the 44 individual respondents. Table 5 below shows the findings.

**Table 5: Respondents' age**

Age	District						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
17 years and below	00	-	01	02.3	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>02.3</b>
18-45 years	14	31.9	12	27.3	11		<b>37</b>	<b>86.4</b>
46 years and above	02	04.5	01	02.3	03	06.8	<b>06</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Total	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

Almost all respondents were above 18 years apart from one respondent in Kabale district who reported to be below 17 years of age. This can be attributed to the fact that the study targeted adults (18 years and above) because it was assumed that these were mature and would therefore freely share information and their experiences in relation to SGBV with the enumerators.

#### 4.2.7 Marital Status Of The Respondents

Considering the fact that the study was looking at sexual, domestic and other forms of gender based violence, it was deemed necessary that the study ascertains the respondent's marital status. Table 6 below shows the marital status of the respondents involved in the individual semi-structured interviews.

**Table 6: Respondents' Marital Status**

Marital status	District						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Married	15	34.1	12	27.3	12	27.3	<b>39</b>	<b>88.6</b>
Single	00	-	01	02.3	02	4.5	<b>03</b>	<b>06.8</b>
Divorced	01	2.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>02.3</b>
Widowed	00	-	01	02.3	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>02.3</b>
Total	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

About 90% of the respondents were married. There were only about 7% who were still single, only 2% had divorced and/or widowed. This is due to the fact that the study targeted adult respondents, most of whom are married in rural areas. The study team felt

that these types of respondents could rightfully and confidently talk about their experience in relation to the topic under investigation.

#### 4.2.8 Education Level Of The Respondents

Education has a huge impact on people's knowledge levels and socio-economic status. Education enhances people's ability to access, interpret and use information. It also has a direct positive linkage to someone's ability to express and defend his/her opinions, relate with others and make informed decisions especially those related to the way of life. Accordingly Universal access to education is a key goal among the Millennium Development Goals as it is an important tool in eradicating disease, unemployment, human rights violation, and lawlessness, among many others that derail human development. During the study therefore, respondents were asked about their education levels, whether they had completed such levels and reasons for non-completion. The findings are shown in the proceeding tables.

**Table 7: Education Levels Of The Respondents**

Education level	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Never been to school	12	27.3	10	22.7	04	09.1	<b>26</b>	59.1
Primary	04	09.1	04	09.1	06	13.6	<b>14</b>	31.8
Functional Adult Literacy	00	-	00	-	02	04.5	<b>02</b>	04.5
No response	00	-	00	-	02	04.5	<b>02</b>	04.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>

The literacy level of the respondents involved in the study was very low. As indicated, about 59% of the respondents reported to have never been in school. Only 32% of the respondents had been in Primary school. When those respondents who reported to have been to primary school were asked whether they had actually completed that level, they all reported that they never completed.

Although the participants in the focus group discussions and key informant interviews were never asked about education levels in their communities, they never the less pointed out its linkage to the subject matter being investigated. For instance, the Bufundi sub-county internal security officer noted that the Batwa lacked education and were as a result shy and less confident of themselves. He cited Murubindi Batwa community which as a result of having a school within, had been changed and was behaving and acting like non-Batwa communities in terms of frequent attendance of church services, sending children to school and cooperation with leaders in enhancing access to justice and development services.

In her engagement with Batwa, AICM has actually realized that Batwa's literacy levels have been historically low. In 2007, AICM actually discovered that about 81% of the adult male Batwa and 90% of the females did not know how to read and write, interpret or manipulate numbers (AICM, 2008).

#### 4.2.9 Reasons For Low Levels Of Education Among Respondents

To further understand the literacy situation among Batwa communities, those respondents who reported to have been in primary schools were asked to explain why they had not completed that level. Table 8 shows the results.

**Table 8: Reasons For Non-Completion Of Primary Level Of Education**

Reasons for non-completion of the said education level	District (n=14)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Lack of fees and uniform	01	7.1	01	7.1	03	21.4	<b>05</b>	<b>35.7</b>
Left school to look for food	01	7.1	01	7.1	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Parents refused the respondent to go to school	01	7.1	00	0.0	01	7.1	<b>02</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Discrimination at school by non-Batwa	01	7.1	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Scared of animals on the way to school through the forest	00	-	00	-	01	7.1	<b>01</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Parents died and the respondent left school to care for siblings	00	-	01	7.1	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Poor performance in class	00	-	00	-	01	7.1	<b>01</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Dropped out to help parents with work	00	-	01	7.1		0.0	<b>01</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table above, the major reasons for non-completion of primary education among Batwa involved in the study were lack of fees and uniform, lack of food, parents denying the respondent continue with school. Other reasons mentioned were discrimination of Batwa by non-Batwa at school, fear of animals along the way to school through the forest, death of parents and poor performance in class. These reasons are closely similar to those reported by AICM in 2005 and 2008 where the low levels of education among Batwa were attributed to high drop outs due to hunger while at school, discrimination of Batwa while at school, and lack of essentials including uniform and books.

#### 4.3 RESPONDENTS' LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In line with objective one of the study, the study team attempted to examine respondents' level of awareness and knowledge about their human rights. The respondents were asked whether they knew that women had rights and then what women's rights (if any) they knew about. The study further engaged the respondents in assessing the extent to which women's rights were upheld and/or violated in the community.

##### 4.3.1 Whether The Respondent Knows Any Women's Rights

The respondents generally confidently reported that they knew women's rights. During the focus group discussions conducted with men and women in the three districts of study, participants confidently reported that they knew women's rights. However further probing of the participants to mention rights they knew of indicated that they were actually confusing women's rights with women's gender roles. Similar findings were obtained from the 44 individual respondents interviewed in the study as indicated in the table below.

**Table 9: Whether The Respondent Knows Any Women's Rights**

Whether the respondent knows any Women's rights	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Yes	11	25.0	07	15.9	08	18.2	<b>26</b>	<b>59.1</b>
No	05	11.4	07	15.9	06	13.6	<b>18</b>	<b>40.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>

According to the table above, the majority of the respondents (about 60%) reported that they knew some women's rights while only about 40% noted they did not know any. From the surface, this may seem to indicate that the respondents were aware of the existence of women's rights. In order to further ascertain respondent's knowledge levels on women's rights, the section below presents the specific women's rights mentioned by the individual respondents and the participants in focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

#### 4.3.2 Rights Known By The Respondents

In order to understand Batwa's knowledge of human rights, the respondents were asked about what rights they knew about. This question was posed to respondents during the focus group discussions, Key Informant Interviews and semi-structured interviews with individual respondents.

**Table 10: Rights Known By The Respondents**

Rights known by the respondents	District (n=26)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Right to own property	08	30.8	03	11.5	04	15.4	<b>15</b>	<b>57.7</b>
Access to justice from courts of law	01	3.8	00	0.0	02	7.7	<b>03</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Right to go to school	01	3.8	02	7.7	00	-	<b>03</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Right to make mats	00	-	02	7.7	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Right to protection	00	-	01	3.8	01	3.8	<b>02</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Right to do housework	00	0.0	02	7.7	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Right to be respected	01	3.8	01	3.8	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Right to life	01	3.8	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to educate their children	01	3.8	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to stand for leadership	00	-	00	-	01	3.8	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to good health	00	-	01	3.8	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to associate	00	-	01	3.8	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to refuse alcohol	01	3.8	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Right to take care of the husband	01	3.8	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>3.8</b>

According to the table above, about 60% of the respondents reported that they knew that women had a right to own property. Other less significant women's rights pointed out by respondents included right to access justice (12%), right to go to school (12%), right to

protection (8%) and right to be respected (8%). However, the emergence of such things like making mats and doing housework among rights known by respondents indicates the limited knowledge and confusion of roles with rights by respondents. Overall, however, the human rights awareness among Batwa communities seems to be better than is often assumed. The fact that most of the respondents realize that women have a right to own property might point at the fact that Batwa have realized the need to live settled and focused life styles rather than being beggars and idlers.

### 4.3.3 Violation Of Batwa Women’s Rights

Besides ascertaining respondents’ awareness and knowledge levels about women’s rights, the study also ventured into finding out the extent to which such rights were being violated, how and by whom. Participants in the focus group discussions and key informants apart from the assistant community development officer for Butanda sub-county in Kabale district reported that Batwa women’s rights were being violated.

Participants in focus group discussions had mixed reactions about whether women’s rights were abused. However through continuous sharing and probing by the facilitators, they all agreed that women’s rights were being abused. The mixed reactions about whether women’s rights were abused seem to be attributed to the limited knowledge about the women’s rights. The findings about the extent of Batwa women’s rights violation from the 44 individual respondents are presented in the table below.

**Table 11: Whether Batwa Women’s Rights Are Violated**

Whether the respondent thinks that Batwa women’s rights are violated	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Yes	10	22.7	05	11.4	08	18.2	<b>23</b>	<b>52.3</b>
No	05	11.4	09	20.5	03	06.8	<b>17</b>	<b>38.6</b>
No response	01	02.3	00	-	03	06.8	<b>04</b>	<b>09.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The majority (52%) of the respondents noted that Batwa women’s rights were being violated. Only about 39% noted that the rights of Batwa women were not being violated. These findings seem to indicate a rather high level of rights violation in Batwa communities.

### 4.3.4 Forms Of Violation Of Batwa Women’s Rights As Perceived By Respondents

In order to better understand respondents’ level of knowledge on human rights, the study delved into what forms of abuse in their areas which people labeled as human rights violation. According to the focus group discussion participants and key informants, there were numerous forms in which Batwa women’s rights were being violated. The major forms included physical assault, sexual assault, rape and verbal abuse (derogatory or demeaning statements) aimed at Batwa. According to the FGD of the Batwa girls in Kabale district, it was noted that their right to access parental advice and care in terms of decent beddings, food and personal basics like jelly and soap were also compromised. The girls noted many Batwa parents were not advising their young daughters about the effects of early sex and as such they were more likely to ignorantly engage in it resulting

into irreversible effects on their life and development. Similarly the girls from Nyakabande in Kisoro district who were engaged in a focus group discussion accused their parents for violating their right to being baptized. They also noted that separation of their parents also resulted into violation of their rights since they were forced to do all activities that were being done by their mothers.

The forms of rights abuse mentioned by key informants and participants in focus group discussions were re-echoed by the individual respondents during the semi-structured interviews as indicated in the table below.

**Table 12: Forms Of Violation Of Batwa Women’s Rights**

Forms of violation of Batwa women’s rights	District (n=23)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Battering	01	4.3	06	26.1	02	8.7	<b>09</b>	<b>39.1</b>
Women being taken as people with no voice	01	4.3	00	-	02	8.7	<b>03</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Sexual abuse	00	-	01	4.3	02	8.7	<b>03</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Rape	00	-	01	4.3	02	8.7	<b>03</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Refusing women to visit their parents	02	8.7	00	-	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>08.7</b>
Denial of basic health care	00	-	02	8.7	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>08.7</b>
Denial of ownership of property	00	-	02	8.7	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>08.7</b>
Women being refused to drink	01	4.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>
Being denied a say over their own children	01	4.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>
Men selling women’s crops and animals to drink	01	4.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>
Women being pushed out of houses they themselves have built	01	4.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>
Women being refused to send children to school	01	4.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>

According to the individual respondents, the most common form of violation of Batwa women’s rights was battering them. Other forms of violation of Batwa women’s rights included taking them as people with no voice (13%), sexual abuse (13%) and rape (13%). The mentioned forms of Batwa women’s rights abuse are all related sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). This seems to indicate that SGBV is wide spread in Batwa communities.

#### **4.3.5 Who Violates The Rights Of Batwa Women**

The study deemed it necessary to find out the major violators of Batwa women’s rights in order to ensure that corrective actions are properly targeted. All categories of respondents (participants in the focus group discussions, key informants and individual respondents) were all requested to respond to the question on who violates Batwa women’s rights.

Generally, it was found out that Batwa women’s rights were violated by various categories of people some directly and some indirectly. However all categories of respondents in all the three districts agreed that Batwa women’s rights were violated by both Batwa and non-Batwa people including lay people and leaders. In one focus group discussion of women in Kanungu district, respondents noted that their husbands and local leaders were the key perpetrators of violation of women’s rights. They pointed out that local council leaders were indirectly perpetuating rights violation through their corruption tendencies as one of respondents asserted that **“some time ago some women in our community used to report their husbands to the chairman LC1, when the chairman LC 1 met the husbands, they gave him some money and he kept on dodging the women until the time when the women gave up; the husbands again violated the rights of their wives because they had not been punished”** (FGD, Kanungu). These women argued that although the direct violation of the rights was being done by the husbands, the laxity of the leaders to punish them was somewhat encouraging them to continue their bad habits with ease. However, these women were however quick to add that by all measures and standards the husbands were the worst violators of women’s rights in the community. They noted that some men had a feeling of being above the law and would not change their behaviour even when summoned by local and clan leaders.

In order to show the specific contribution of each of the mentioned categories of people to rights violation in the area, the table below summarizes the responses of the 23 individual respondents who reported that Batwa women’s rights were being violated.

**Table 13: Who Violates The Rights Of Batwa Women**

Who violates Batwa women’s rights	District (n=23)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Husbands	06	26.1	05	21.7	02	08.7	<b>13</b>	<b>56.5</b>
Neighboring communities	05	21.7	01	4.3	05	21.7	<b>11</b>	<b>47.8</b>
Leaders	00	-	01	4.3	02	08.7	<b>03</b>	<b>13.0</b>
Local councilors	00	-	01	4.3	01	04.3	<b>02</b>	<b>08.7</b>
Legal people	00	-	00	-		04.3	<b>01</b>	<b>04.3</b>

The major violators of Batwa women’s rights were their husbands (57%), neighboring non-Batwa community members (48%) and leaders of different types including local councilors (22%).

The fact that all categories of respondents were, without fear or favour able to openly mention husbands, non-Batwa members from within and neighboring communities (who in most cases are better off and employ Batwa as casual laborers) and leaders as being key perpetrators of women’s rights abuse indicates that Batwa are resolutely searching for change. This level of openness might ultimately enhance the use of the lobbying and advocacy strategy to fight against such forms of human rights violation. Additionally, the mix of the categories of people highlighted as being key perpetrators of Batwa women’s rights abuse seems to point at the need to adopt a participatory and open approach involving a range of stakeholders at different levels rather than only Batwa themselves in developing and implementing actions aimed at reducing and/or stopping rights violation.

### 4.3.6 Existing Options To Deal With Batwa Women's Rights Violation

Based on the fact that there are numerous government and non-government entities that are engaged in defending human rights and supporting those whose rights are abused, the study also ventured into finding out whether and how the Batwa were using the existing avenues to preventing and/or dealing with rights abuse. Accordingly, the respondents were asked whether the victims of rights abuse reported to any one, what kind of support they got and whether and how it worked.

#### 4.3.6.1 Existing Avenues To Address Rights Abuse Cases And Whether Right Abuse Victims Report Anywhere

Based on the understanding that this study is action oriented in nature, attempts were made to understand the extent to which Batwa were using the existing avenues to address rights violation. Accordingly, respondents/participants were asked to explain whether the victims of rights abuse were reporting and if so to whom.

In all the Focus group discussions, the participants agreed that the victims of rights abuse often reported. However, four key informants noted that although a good number of Batwa rights abuse victims often reported to authorities, there were some who experience abuse and never report. On the other hand, for the 44 individual respondents, 75% of them reported that rights abuse victims actually reported their cases while only 18% noted that rights abuse victims did not report their cases.

These findings seem to indicate a good level of using the existing avenues to deal with rights violation. According to the Assistant Community Development Officer for Butanda sub-county who was involved in the study as a key informant, Batwa do not report their cases because they do not know how and where to report. According to him, Batwa are still a primitive group of people with low levels of education and a feeling that they cannot access leaders. The Bufundi sub-county Assistant Community Development officer on the other hand attributed Batwa's failure to report abuse cases to their ignorance on the usefulness of reporting and to the cruelty of the Batwa men that forces abuse victims to keep quiet for fear of being killed by the culprits. The failure of the victims to report abuse cases was reportedly frustrating the attempts to provide support and ensure justice. The Bufundi sub-county Internal Security Officer attributed Batwa's failure to report abuse cases to their low self esteem and shyness. He sounded rather disappointed with Batwa's failure to report their abuse cases when he reported that "**Batwa are shy, they fear to divulge information about their abuse, they fear to report to authorities, so they experience violence and keep quiet, by the time we know about it (violence) it is too late and we cannot do anything about it**". The Assistant Community Development officer for Bufundi agreed with the Internal Security Officer when he reported that there were cases where victims of abuse were refusing to go to the sub-counties to testify after the culprits are arrested.

#### 4.3.6.2 Individuals/Institutions To Whom Batwa Report To And How

The respondents who reported that abuse victims were reporting anywhere were asked to explain to whom the victims were reporting and how. The focus group discussants, key informants and the individual respondents all seemed to infer that the rights abuse victims preferred to report to local authorities. A male key informant from Kitahurira village in Mpungu sub-county in Kanungu district noted that victims usually reported first to the clan/family heads before the Local council 1 chairperson. He noted that regardless of the gravity of the abuse, the victim cannot directly report to the higher authorities without going through the lower levels. Preference for the lower level and local based institutions was also reported by the individual respondents as indicated in the table below.

**Table 14: To Whom Do Batwa Women Report Violence Against Them**

To whom do Batwa women report violence against them	District (n=33)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Clan leaders	8	24.2	9	39.1	12	36.4	29	87.9
Local council	8	24.2	6	26.1	10	30.3	24	72.7
Elders	5	15.2	2	8.7	5	15.2	12	36.4
Police	3	9.1	1	4.3	4	12.1	8	24.2
Court	2	6.1	0	-	4	12.1	6	18.2
Chairman of Batwa	0	-	1	4.3	1	3.0	2	6.1
Community members	1	3.0	0	-	0	-	1	3.0

The most commonly approached institutions/agencies by rights violation victims were clan leaders (88%), local council (73%), elders (36%) and police (24%). Both male and female focus group discussants and key informants also reported that most victims irrespective of the gravity of case (whether simple or capital) reported first to clan/family leaders, LC chairpersons from 1 to 3 and finally to police. They however noted that victims only go to the higher levels if the lower ones fail to handle their cases and forward them to the higher levels. The prominence of the clan leaders, local council and elders is attributed to their local availability and less and/or no costs incurred to report to them compared to the police and the courts of law.

Participants in the male focus group discussion in Kayonza sub-county in Kanungu district chorused that ***“women in our area always report to local council 1 and clan leaders because when they report to higher authorities, they are tossed up and down because of their inability to pay the required fees”***. During the focus group discussions in the different areas the amount of fees charged was reported to be varying between areas and also levels of hierarchy but the range was between 1,150 Uganda shillings (comprised of 1000 Uganda shillings as court fees and 150 Uganda shillings for an exercise book) at LC 1 to 70,000 Uganda shillings at police level.

Similar reports also emerged from Kisoro district where during a focus group discussion with women in Nteeko village chorused that ***“For us in our community before we report to the police we first report to our relatives or head of clan since police needs money which we don’t have”*** These assertions in the focus group discussions seem to have been

confirmed and actually re-echoed by the authorities who participate in ensuring that abuse victims get justice as noted by the Internal security officer for Bufundi sub-county in Kabale district who noted that ***“Batwa’s cases are not properly handled because sometimes a Mutwa reports a case at sub-county but s/he does not have money (5,000 Uganda shillings) to pay for transport of the Local defence unit personnel to arrest the culprit and the case dies there since the armed men cannot go to arrest the culprit when they have not received the money”***

The above reported reliance on the clan leaders, local council leaders and elders might compromise the victims’ chances of accessing proper justice and support since the health, physical and psychological effects of the rights violation on the victims might not be properly ascertained and attended to. The possibility of the locally based leaders to support the victims to access justice is especially questionable given the reported corruption among them and also the fact that they are also highlighted as key perpetrators of violation of Batwa women’s rights (table 13).

#### **4.4 RESPONDENTS’ PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH ABUSE OF RIGHTS**

In the section above, the study attempted to explore respondents’ awareness of what was happening within and around their communities. However, in order to make the findings of this study more relevant and practicable especially in as far as informing action planning against SGBV is concerned, it was deemed helpful to enquire from respondents about their personal experience with SGBV. The study attempted to find out whether respondents themselves had ever been abused, in what form, how often and by whom. In almost all focus group discussions and key informant interviews, respondents noted that there was sexual and domestic violence in their communities. Actually all the 44 respondents involved in individual interviews reported to have ever suffered from some form of violence. A total of 57% (25 out of 44) of the respondents reported to have ever been sexually abused while 46% (20 out of 44) of the respondents had actually been forced into sex by their partners.

Of the 20 respondents who had ever been sexually abused only 08 (40%) noted that they had reported the abuse case anywhere. The rest had simply kept quiet about it. These findings indicate that abuse of rights is widespread in the communities targeted for the study. The table below shows the various forms in which the respondents reported to have been abused.

##### **4.4.1 Forms of violence suffered by the respondents**

The individual respondents who reported to have ever been abused were requested to explain what form(s) of abuse they had ever experienced. Table 15 below summarizes the results.

**Table 15: Forms Of Violence Suffered By The Respondents**

Forms of violence suffered by respondents	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Slapped or hit	16	36.4	14	31.8	11	25.0	41	93.2
Beaten or kicked	08	18.2	08	18.2	07	15.9	23	52.3
Threatened with a weapon	07	15.9	05	11.4	04	9.1	16	36.4
Touched on respondent's sexual parts of the body	06	13.6	05	11.4	05	11.4	16	36.4
Experienced physical disfigurement	06	13.6	02	4.5	03	6.8	11	25.0
Dowry related violence	04	9.1	01	2.3	06	13.6	11	25.0
Tied up or blindfolded	05	11.4	00	0.0	05	11.4	10	22.7
Forced marriage	05	11.4	01	2.3	03	6.8	09	20.5
Marital rape	02	4.5	03	6.8	03	6.8	08	18.2
Detained against will	05	11.4	01	2.3	02	4.5	08	18.2
Subjected to unwanted kissing	03	6.8	00	0.0	03	6.8	06	13.6
Deprived of food, water or sleep	04	9.1	00	0.0	02	4.5	06	13.6
Subjected to improper sexual comments	03	6.8	01	2.3	02	4.5	06	13.6
Chocked		0.0	00	0.0	01	2.3	01	2.3
Intimidation at work	00	-	00	0.0	01	2.3	01	2.3

The most common forms of abuse reported by respondents were being slapped or hit (93%), being beaten or kicked (52%), being threatened with a weapon (36%), and touching them in a sexually abusive manner (36%). Generally, the respondents had been exposed to both physical and sexual violence. The different forms of violence were more or less evenly distributed across all the three districts.

#### 4.4.2 Perpetrators Of Violence

The individual respondents were asked to mention whom they thought were perpetrators of violence against Batwa women. The table below presents the findings.

**Table 16: Perpetrators Of Violence**

Perpetrators of violence	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Husband	16	36.4	14	31.8	14	31.8	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Police/local defence	00	-	01	2.3	02	04.5	<b>03</b>	<b>06.8</b>
Delinquent person	00	-	02	4.5	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>04.5</b>
Son	00	-	00	-	02	04.5	<b>02</b>	<b>04.5</b>
Parents	01	02.3	01	2.3	00	-	<b>02</b>	<b>04.5</b>
Brother in Law	00	-	00	-	02	04.5	<b>02</b>	<b>04.5</b>
Fellow Batwa	01	02.3	00	-	00	-	<b>01</b>	<b>02.3</b>

All the respondents reported that their husbands were the leading perpetrators of abuse. Other less frequently mentioned categories people include; the police and Local Defence

Unit (LDUs) personnel, delinquent persons, sons of respondents, parents, brothers in law, and fellow Batwa.

#### 4.4.3 Time that has elapsed since respondent was abused

The study also attempted to ascertain whether the respondents were still currently experiencing abuse by asking them how much time had elapsed since they were last abused. Table 17 shows the findings.

**Table 17: How Long It Has Taken Since The Respondent Was Abused**

How long is it since the respondent suffered abuse	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
On-going/within the last one year	12	27.3	08	18.2	08	18.2	28	<b>63.6</b>
1-3 years	03	06.8	04	09.1	05	11.4	12	<b>27.3</b>
More than three years	01	02.3	02	04.5	01	02.3	04	<b>09.1</b>
Total	<b>16</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>

About 64% of the respondents reported that they were abused within the last one year while 27% noted that were last abused between 1-3 years ago. This indicates that abuse of rights is still on-going in the target communities. Kisoro district seems to be having a slightly higher number of recent/current abuse cases compared to Kabale and Kanungu districts.

#### 4.5 CAUSES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN BATWA COMMUNITIES

In line with the third objective of the study and also to better contribute to the fight against SGBV, the study ventured into finding out the major causes of both sexual and domestic violence. The findings from the focus group discussions, key informant interviews and individual respondent interviews, indicate that the causes of both sexual and domestic violence are much related and the two evils often times take place from the same places. The major reported causes were alcoholism, Batwa's low self esteem, and poverty. Other causes highlighted included low education levels, prostitution, and lack of land.

According to the individual respondents, key informants and participants in focus group discussions, alcohol consumption by men, women and girls was the major cause of sexual and domestic violence. They reported that men often times raped and beat their wives under the influence of alcohol while women were also failing to do their domestic chores because of alcoholism. On the other hand girls were also reported to be raped and sexually abused when they were drunk and were sleeping along the way or moving at night. A shocking case of a drunken woman who was killed by her presumably sober husband was reported by the Bufundi sub-county internal security officer. In the unfortunate incidence respondents reported that, "***the woman left her husband at home and went to the bar at Kashaasha to drink. When the husband was still at home, some people came and told him that his wife was drunk and was sleeping with another man. The husband went to the bar and beat the wife to death... He was***

***later arrested and imprisoned and he seems to have also died in prison” (FGD Bufundi)***

Poverty was also reported by men, women and girls in focus group discussions and key informant interviews as also upholding sexual and gender based violence. The Batwa girls in one focus group discussion noted that they were being lured and trapped into sex by men and boys in exchange for money, petty gifts like sweets, mandazi (short cakes), alcohol and handkerchiefs. They however noted that some of them who had started generating their own money through sale of avocados, clothes and handcrafts were less vulnerable to the violence since they could resist the advances by men and boys luring them with money and gifts.

The above causes mentioned by the respondents in the FGD were further confirmed by the individual respondents. The table below shows the various causes of rights violation as highlighted by individual respondents.

**Table 18: Causes Of Sexual And Domestic Violence**

Cause	Sexual violence (n=36)		Domestic violence (n=36)		Total (n=72)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Alcoholism	27	75.0	32	88.9	59	81.9
Poverty	18	50.0	26	72.2	7	61.1
Disrespect	4	11.2	7	19.7	11	15.3
Denial of sex	6	8.3	2	5.6	8	11.1
Ignorance	6	16.7	0	-	6	8.3
High sexual libido in men	2	5.6	2	5.6	4	5.6
Disagreements	3	8.3			3	4.2
Wife refusing to give food to the husband	2	5.6	1	2.8	3	4.2
Financial issues (argument over money)	0	-	3	8.3	3	4.2
Teenage sex	2	5.6	0	-	2	2.8
Stubbornness	2	5.6	0	-	2	2.8
Broken marriages leading to wife joining prostitution	2	5.6	0	-	2	2.8
Drug abuse	1	2.8	1	2.8	2	2.8
Lack of communication between husband and wife	0	-	2	5.6	2	2.8
Women refusing to look after children	0	-	2	5.6	2	2.8
Girls do not have clothes	1	2.8	0	-	1	1.4
Girls are forced into marriage	1	2.8	0	-	1	1.4
Social activities like weddings	1	2.8	0	-	1	1.4
Woman refusing to give food to husband	0	-	1	2.8	1	1.4
Polygamy	0	-	1	2.8	1	1.4

The major causes of SGBV in Batwa communities were alcoholism (82%), poverty (61%) disrespect (15%), denial of sex (11%), and ignorance (8%). Looking at sexual violence, the majority of the respondents (75%) reported that alcoholism was the major cause of sexual violence. Other reported causes of sexual violence include ignorance (17%), denial of sex (8%) and disagreements (8%). On the hand, domestic violence was attributed alcoholism (89%), disrespect among men and women (19%), poverty (19%), financial issues (8%) and lack of communication between husbands and wives (8%).

Alcoholism was reportedly making some Batwa do inhumane and unimaginable sexual and gender based violence acts. One such act was reported by men from Nyarusiza in Kisoro district who, during a focus group discussion relayed an experience in their community where a Mutwa man under the influence of alcohol forced his wife to have sex with him in front of other people. The respondents also argued that when people are drunk they lose their reasoning and self-control. For instance, the respondents reported that it was common to see drunken women daring their husbands and other men over issues of sex. Additionally, alcoholism was reported to make the girls and women more vulnerable to sexual abuse because of its ability to weaken their ability to resist forceful or unlawful sexual advances. There were also claims by women in the focus group discussions in the three districts that men often times had high libido whenever they were drunk and as result they were more likely to force their wives into sexual acts and/or beat them when they refuse.

On the other hand, poverty in Batwa communities was reportedly predisposing both Batwa women and girls to SGBV. Lack of basic necessities especially food was reported to be forcing a good number of Batwa women and girls to give in to men who promised to give them the food. The girls in Nyakabande in Kisoro reported that “***when we go home from school, we find there is no soap, no food and other things, so when boys or men promise to give us these things some of us end up giving in.***” In agreement with these girls, the Assistant Community Development officer for Bufundi sub-county also noted that most Batwa households had small and indecent houses where children often hear their parents having sex and fighting which besides violating the rights of such children also makes them vulnerable to early sex and therefore abuse.

Generally, alcoholism and poverty seem to be the leading causes of both sexual and domestic violence. It is therefore likely that any efforts that can help to increase incomes and reduce the drinking patterns in the community may have a direct positive impact on the occurrence of sexual and domestic violence in Batwa communities. Also the variety of the causes of sexual and domestic violence seems to point at the need for behavioral change and involvement of various actors so as to yield a sustainable positive impact.

#### **4.5.2 Where SGBV Takes Place**

In order to better understand SGBV, respondents were asked about the places from where it usually took place.

**Table 19: Where Sexual And Domestic Violence Take Place From**

Place where SGBV takes place	Sexual violence (n=36)		Domestic violence (n=36)		Total (n=72)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
At home	24	66.7	31	86.1	55	76.4
Bars	12	33.3	12	33.3	24	33.3
Fields/bushes	6	16.7	2	5.6	8	11.1
Trading center	2	5.6	0	-	2	2.8
Markets	2	5.6	0	-	2	2.8
Schools	1	2.8	0	-	1	1.4
Social events	1	2.8	0	-	1	1.4

According to the table above, SGBV generally occurred from homes (76%), bars (33%) and bushes (11%). Sexual violence often occurred at homes (67%), in bars (33%), in the bushes (17%), trading centers and markets (6%). On the other hand domestic violence happened from homes (86%), bars (33%) and bushes (6%). The mentioned venues both sexual and domestic violence seem to further indicate that most people engage in sexual violence because of alcoholism and ignorance among other factors.

#### **4.6 EFFECTS OF SGBV**

In order to, more meaningfully contribute to the efforts aimed at addressing SGBV, the study attempted not only to examine its causes but also its effects on the health, psychological, social and economic status of the victims. The proceeding tables show the results.

##### **4.6.1 Effects Of Violence On The Health Of The Victims**

Those respondents who reported to have ever been abused were asked to explain whether they had had any health problem as a result of the abuse. During the Focus group discussions and key informant interviews, women and girls were more informed than men about the effects of SGBV. Common health effects mentioned by respondents and key informants included unwanted pregnancies, various forms of problems (sores, bad smells and itching in private parts). Further discussions in the focus group discussion with Batwa girls in Kabale mentioned that SGBV predisposed the victims to HIV-AIDS infection. The individual respondents for the semi-structured interviews reported similar effects as above as indicated in the table below.

**Table 20: Effects Of Violence On The Health Of The Victims**

Effect of violence on respondents' health	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Vaginal bleeding	3	6.8	2	4.5	9	20.5	14	31.8
Urinating without knowing	3	6.8	1	2.3	6	13.6	10	22.7
Sores in the genital area	3	6.8	2	4.5	5	11.4	10	22.7
Smelly vaginal discharge	6	13.6	0	0.0	1	2.3	7	15.9
Unwanted pregnancy	2	4.5	2	4.5	3	6.8	7	15.9
Bloody stools	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	11.4	5	11.4
Pain in the lower abdomen	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3
Scratching myself in the private parts	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	1	2.3
<b>No problem</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31.8</b>

Over 68% of the respondents noted that they had experienced some health problems as a result of abuse. The health problems experienced by respondents included vaginal bleeding (32%), urinating without knowing (23%), and sores in the genital area (23%), smelly vaginal discharge (16%) and unwanted pregnancy (16%). The effects of SGBV on victims health as found out in this study are closely similar to those reported by UNHCR (1999) where they noted that SGBV may result into unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), sexual dysfunction, trauma to the reproductive tract, and chronic infections leading to pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility

#### 4.6.2 Use Of Healthcare Services After Abuse

Realizing that abuse had adverse effects on the health status of the victims, the study also inquired from the respondents whether they visited any health facility after abuse and reasons if any for not seeking for medical help.

**Table 21: Use Of Healthcare Services After Abuse**

Whether the respondent has ever sought for medical help after abuse	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Yes	9	20.5	6	13.6	3	6.8	18	40.9
No	4	9.1	3	6.8	7	15.9	14	31.8
Not applicable	3	6.8	5	11.4	4	9.1	12	27.3

According to table 21 above, 41% of the respondents had ever sought for medical help after being abused. Only 32% had never sought for medical help after being abused. Comparing the districts, more victims of abuse in Kanungu unlike in Kabale and Kisoro seemed to have never sought for medical care. Inability of the abuse victims to obtain medical help might have long-term and in some cases irreversible effects on their health. The study attempted to find out why some of the abuse victims were reluctant to seek for medical help.

#### 4.6.3 Reasons Why Victims Of Abuse Never Sought For Medical Help

The victims of abuse who had never sought for medical help were asked to explain why they had never sought for help because this information is necessary in designing a strategy aimed at changing the abuse victims' attitude towards seeking for medical help. The table below shows the reasons pointed out by the respondents as having stopped them from seeking for medical care after abuse.

**Table 22: Reasons For Not Seeking For Medical Help After Abuse**

Why the respondent never sought for medical help after abuse	District (n=14)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Did not need medical care	4	28.6	3	21.4	7	58.3	14	100.0
Had no money for medical fees and transport	2	14.3	1	7.1	3	25.0	6	42.9
Did not know where to go	1	7.1	1	7.1	0	0.0	2	14.3
Felt that medical care would not do any good	1	7.1	0		1	7.1	2	14.3

All the victims of abuse who had never sought for medical care reported that it was because they felt that they did not need any medical care. Other reasons for not visiting health facilities after abuse included lack of money for medical bills and transport (43%), ignorance about where to seek for health care services (14%) and a feeling that the medical care services would not help the victims' situation (14%). Failure of the victims of abuse to seek for medical help just because they feel they are alright or because they feel that medical care cannot help is rather dangerous as it might end up resulting into simple conditions becoming more complicated and ultimately impairing the victims' sexual and reproductive functions. In addition there also such consequences like HIV-AIDS infection which may be unnoticed by the victims if they only decide to seek for health care support because of pain, injury or any other signs that can be detected/felt without a medical examination. It is likely that such consequences that may not been detected by the victims if they don't go to a health center may be detected when it is too late to address them.

#### 4.6.4 Effect Of SGBV On The Respondents' Psychological Status

Besides the health effects of abuse, the study also investigated the psychological effects that might have been experienced by the abuse victims. A total of 34 out of 44 respondents (77%) reported to have experienced some psychological problems after they had been abused. The table below shows the detailed findings.

**Table 23: Effect Of Abuse On The Respondents' Psychological Status**

Psychological effects of violence on the respondent	District (n=34)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Fear/worries	7	20.6	4	11.8	5	14.7	16	47.1
Shame	8	23.5	1	2.9	7	20.6	16	47.1
Sleeplessness	6	17.6	2	5.9	4	11.8	12	35.3
Feeling of humiliation	4	11.8	2	5.9	5	14.7	11	32.4
Feeling of rejection	5	14.7	2	5.9	0	-	7	20.6
Withdrawal	2	5.9	1	2.9	3	8.8	6	17.6
Sadness	1	2.9	2	5.9	3	8.8	6	17.6
Trembling	3	8.8	1	2.9	0	-	4	11.8
Anxiety	1	2.9	0	-	3	8.8	4	11.8
Sexual hatred	0	-	1	2.9	2	5.9	3	8.8
Divorce	0	-	0	-	2	5.9	2	5.9
Mockeries	2	5.9	0	-	0	-	2	5.9
Feeling that life is useless	1	2.9	1	2.9	0	-	2	5.9
Frustration	0	-	0	-	2	5.9	2	5.9
Feeling of hatred	0	-	1	2.9	0	-	1	2.9
Feeling guilty	1	2.9	0	-	0	-	1	2.9

The major psychological effects of abuse on the victims were fears/worries (47%), shame (47%), sleeplessness (35%), feeling of humiliation (32%), feeling of rejection (21%), withdrawal (18%) and sadness (18%). These psychological effects if not well handled can result into more adverse effects like hopelessness. These findings about the effects of SGBV are closely similar to those noted by UNHCR in its work with refugees. According to UNHCR, SGBV in refugee settlements was resulting into psychological trauma: depression, terror, guilt, shame, loss of self-esteem, rejection by spouses and families and further exploitation or punishment.

#### **4.6.5: Effects Of SGBV On The Respondent's Social Status**

Besides the effects on the victims' health and psychological status, the study also investigated the effects of SGBV on the social status of the victims. A total of 30 out of 44 respondents (68%) reported to have experienced one or more social problems as a result having been abused. The results are shown in the table below.

**Table 24: Effects Of Sexual And Gender Based Violence On The Respondent's Social Status**

Social effects of violence on the respondent	District (n=30)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Stigmatization by community	3	10.0	4	13.3	10	33.3	17	56.7
Divorce	7	23.3	1	3.3	5	16.7	13	43.3
Pregnancy	2	6.7	4	13.3	5	16.7	11	36.7
Embarrassment from husband	3	10.0	3	10.0	4	13.3	10	33.3
Stigmatization by family	3	10.0	0	-	5	16.7	8	26.7
Young single parents	0	-	0	-	5	16.7	5	16.7
Constant public humiliation	1	3.3	1	3.3	2	6.7	4	13.3
Separation from husband and children	0	-	1	3.3	1	3.3	2	6.7
Rape in front of children	1	3.3	0	-	0	-	1	3.3

The major social effects of SGBV on victims include stigmatization by community members (57%), divorce (43%), unwanted pregnancies (37%), embarrassment from husband (33%) and stigmatization by family members (27%). The prominence of stigmatization of the victims by both community and family members points at the need to sensitize community members and family members to assist and support SGBV victims rather than adding to their agony through stigmatizing them.

#### 4.6.6 Effect Of SGBV On The Victims' Economic Status

A total of 30 out of 44 respondents (68%) reported to have experienced one or more economic consequences as a result of having been abused. The specific economic consequences experienced by respondents as a result of abuse are shown in the table below.

**Table 25: Economic Consequences Of Abuse On The Respondents**

Economic effects of violence on the respondent	District (n=30)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Lost possessions	3	10.0	2	6.7	5	16.7	10	33.3
Forced labour	3	10.0	3	10.0	4	13.3	10	33.3
Sexual exploitation for food	0	-	2	6.7	3	10.0	5	16.7
Failure to work due to bruises	1	3.3	2	6.7	2	6.7	5	16.7
Forced prostitution	0	-	1	3.3	4	13.3	5	16.7
Living with other people (relatives)	1	3.3	0	-	0	-	1	3.3
Eating seeds meant for planting	1	3.3	0	-	0	-	1	3.3
Given a piece of land for sex	0	-	1	3.3	0	-	1	3.3

The major economic consequences of SGBV included loss of possessions (33%), forced labour (33%), sexual exploitation for food (17%), failure to work due to bruises /ill health (17%) and forced prostitution (17%). These economic consequences indicate that SGBV

has far reaching and some what indirect effects on the victims' way of life and overall livelihoods.

#### 4.7 USE OF EXISTING AGENCIES BY SGBV VICTIMS

Those respondents who reported to have ever experienced any abuse were asked to explain whether they had approached any body or agency to seek for support. They were also asked to explain what sort of changes they had experienced as a result of visiting any of the agencies for help. The tables below show the findings.

##### 4.7.1 Agencies Approached By The Respondents After Being Abused

A total of 37 out of 44 individual respondents had approached one or more agencies for assistance after experiencing SGBV. Table 26 below shows the agencies that the respondents reported to have ever approached.

**Table 26: Agencies Approached By The Respondent For Advice/Help After Abuse**

Agency	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Local council	09	20.5	09	20.5	07	15.9	25	56.8
Church	05	11.4	02	04.5	04	09.1	11	25.0
Abataka (village council)	03	06.8	01	02.3	04	09.1	08	18.2
NGOs	03	06.8	01	02.3	04	09.1	08	18.2
Police	05	11.4	01	02.3	02	04.5	08	18.2
Community leader	03	06.8	01	02.3	01	02.3	05	11.4
Doctor	02	04.5	01	02.3	02	04.5	05	11.4
Siblings	00	-	01	02.3	00	-	01	02.3
Father	01	02.3	00	-	00	-	01	02.3
Mother	00	-	00	-	01	02.3	01	02.3
<i>No agency ever approached</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>06.8</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>06.8</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>15.9</i>

The most commonly approached agencies for help were local council (57%), church (25%), village council (18%), NGOs (18%), police (18%), community leader (11%) and doctor (11%). However, 16% of the respondents reported that they had never approached any agency for help/advice after they had been abused. The variety of agencies/people approached for help/advice seemed to depend much on the proximity of the agency/person to the respondent and the gravity of the abuse.

##### 4.7.2 Reasons For Having Never Sought Advice Or Help

The 16% of the respondents who reported that they had never approached anybody for help/advice after they had been abused were asked to explain why they had decided to do that. The table below presents the findings.

**Table 27: Reasons For Having Never Sought Advice Or Help**

Reasons for having never seen any agency	District (n=7)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Scared to ask for help	01	14.3	01	14.3	03	42.9	05	71.4
Concerns about confidentiality	01	14.3	01	14.3	00	-	02	28.6
Don't know what is available	00	-	01	14.3	00	-	01	14.3

Over 70% of those who never approached anybody or agency for support were scared to seek for help, while about 29% were actually concerned about confidentiality of the information they would divulge when they report. These findings were further confirmed during a focused group discussion with men in Biraara community center in Kisoro where the respondents noted that “**Most cases/all cases of SGBV are handled outside court because of no evidence since ladies don't talk whenever they are abused .....**”. (Male FGD, Birara) Victims' inability to seek for help and advice has far reaching and long-term negative effects on the victims themselves and also on the efforts aimed at fighting the abuse since it results into the victims never accessing justice and medical help besides protecting the perpetrators of violence against women.

#### **4.7.3 Changes After The Respondent Had Approached The Agencies For Advice/Help**

In order to ascertain the usefulness and/or uselessness of the existing avenues for addressing SGBV, those respondents who reported to have sought for help from different agencies after they had been abused were asked to explain what change (if any) they had experienced after seeking for help.

Most of the victims that attempted to seek for support and/or help after abuse seem to have experienced some positive changes. There were a variety of testimonies by both individual respondents, key informants and participants in focus group discussions about the usefulness of seeking for help from existing agencies involved in defending rights. However, there were a few but equally strong complaints about the worthlessness of reporting cases of abuse to existing individuals and/or institutions.

In terms of usefulness of seeking for help, among the 37 individual respondents that reported to have ever approached any body or agency for help after abuse, 78% of them had had a positive change as a result of having approached the agency/individual as shown in the table below.

**Table 28: Changes After The Respondent Had Approached The Agencies For Advice/Help**

How the agencies approached by the respondent were helpful	District (n=37)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	%
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Husband was fined and/punished and thereafter never again disturbed the respondent	08	21.6	05	13.5	08	21.6	21	56.8
Husband changed after being counseled	07	18.9	03	8.1	06	16.2	16	43.2
Husband stopped drinking alcohol	1	2.7	0	-	2	5.4	3	8.1
Husband was taken to police and thereafter stopped beating the wife	02	5.4		-	00	-	02	5.4
Husband now takes time before abusing respondent	2	5.4	0	-	0	-	2	5.4
Husband went to stay with second wife after respondent reported him	1	2.7	0	-	0	-	1	2.7
Husband was summoned and no longer beats me	00	-	00	-	01	2.7	01	2.7
Doctors tested her for HIV after she had been raped	01	2.7	00	-	00	-	01	2.7
<b>Not in anyway helpful</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>21.6</b>

About 57% of the respondents reported that their husbands had stopped abusing them as result of having been punished (fined or any other form) and 43% of the respondents reported that their husbands had stopped beating them as a result of having been counseled. Other changes mentioned included husbands stopped drinking alcohol (8%), and beating their wives after being taken to police (5%). The respondents who had experienced a positive change seem to have had some reasonable confidence in the existing/available agencies for handling cases of abuse and were as a result able to freely testify. One good experience was relayed by a woman in a focus group discussion in Kitahurira Batwa community in Mpungu sub-county in Kanungu district when she noted that ***“I reported my husband to the sub-county and he was arrested and taken to the sub-county during broad day light. Taking him to the sub-county while every body was looking at him made him feel embarrassed and by the time he reached the sub-county he was already a changed man. At the sub-county he was fined money to replace the blood that I had lost but unfortunately I shared the money with the local defence unit personnel that had arrested him”***.

The worthlessness of seeking for help from existing institutions was attributed to the already existing corruption tendencies among some leaders and lack of money by the victims to pay fees and the difficulties met in following up the cases. Other factors that result into reporting cases worthless include lack of evidence, lack of adequate facilitation e.g. transport means to take suspects and victims to police and failure to trace and punish the perpetrators. According to the Bufundi sub-county Internal Security Officer, it was common for Batwa men to rape, defile, and/or beat their women and girls and run into

hiding in other Batwa communities in Rwanda where they cannot be traced for prosecution. In such instances, the victims do not get justice even after reporting.

This study however also found out that there was a likelihood of victims of abuse wrongly labeling the existing agencies as being worthless. This was especially possible considering that there were cases where victims of abuse were largely responsible for their failure to get support from the existing agencies to access justice. Such incidences where the victims of abuse might be responsible for their failure to access proper justice included ; victims refusing to report after being abused, victims reporting too long after being abused and some victims misrepresenting facts and information to achieve their own selfish and ill-intentions. A good example of such an incidence was mentioned by the Bufundi sub-county Internal Security Officer about a Mutwa girl raped by a Mutwa boy as he explained “ ***a Mutwa girl from Kinyarushengye Batwa community (in Bufundi sub-county) reported to me in November 2008, when she had been raped by a boy in August 2008 and was already pregnant. On close investigation, the girl was only interested in getting the boy to marry her, but the boy had already gone to school in Kisoro and as a result I could not continue to follow up the case***”. In such a case the lady who had been raped might have solely blamed the system for no progress on her case when she is to blame because she reported late and she also had wrong and ill - intentions that could not be granted by the agency (government).

Generally speaking, the findings indicate that those respondents who attempted to seek for support had actually experienced some remarkable changes in their lives and were no longer experiencing too much violence. The prominence of counseling besides punishments was among those factors that had contributed to change in the behavior of men. Hence this seems to point out the need to use an integrated approach that combines both punitive and psychosocial support practices against violence. The psychosocial support approach is useful due to its potential to enhance a sustainable positive change unlike the punitive measures that only work if there are effective enforcement mechanisms.

Additionally, the findings further point out the huge potential possessed by the existing avenues in enhancing rights enjoyment by Batwa women. However, the Batwa women and other community members need to be advised and encouraged to be open and share information about their abusive experience.

#### **4.8 RESPONDENTS' SUGGESTIONS TO END SGBV**

Over the recent past, bottom-up planning has received considerable support and favour over the top-down approach due to the formers' capacity to enhance ownership and sustainability. Therefore this study incorporated a section aimed at giving the respondents the liberty to provide initial input in the process of developing actions against SGBV. Respondents were asked about what needed to be done to prevent SGBV and the roles of government and women (most common victims of SGBV) and the kind of support they thought would be needed by victims of SGBV.

#### 4.8.1 Respondents' Suggestions On How To Prevent SGBV

The study established that there are many causes and effects of SGBV among the Batwa women, hence the need for combined efforts involving local community members, the government and other non-government agencies was pointed out by participants and key informants in all the three districts of study. Respondents in the focus group discussions and key informant interviews felt that the community members needed to change their behavior, pointing out the need to reduce and/or stop alcoholism by both men and women. During a focus group discussion with men from Nyarusiza in Kisoro district, they noted that drunkenness makes people lose their senses thereby committing crimes regardless of the consequences on the victims and themselves.

Although the community members realized that they had a stake in the fight against SGBV they expressed some limitation in terms of their capacity and thereby needed external backstopping. In one of the focus group discussions with men in Kitahurira village in Mpungu sub-county in Kanungu district, one participant acknowledged local community members' failure to single-handedly deal with SGBV when he noted that ***“Government should help us in these problems (SGBV) because we as parents have tried our level best and failed. We have young girls who disrespect us as their parents and also move at night and we have failed to handle them, may be if police can arrest them, they can learn and behave better”***

The Bufundi sub-county Internal Security Officer agreed with the men from Kitahurira on the need to involve various actors in preventing and dealing with SGBV but further elaborated on the need for each of the actors to have specific roles which they are strategically capable of doing. He therefore noted that although it was his responsibility to obtain and report information about Batwa girls and women who have been raped and abused, he needed to collaborate with the community members and other agencies such as AICM, UOBDU, other development workers that are operating in the same area and the government departments especially the sub-county Chief who is the arresting officer for the Bufundi sub-county since there is no police post within the sub-county.

On the other hand, the Batwa girls from Nyakabande in Kisoro suggested that efforts aimed at preventing SGBV needed to focus on both the adult women and the girls. They argued that the girls needed to be supported to develop into self-reliant and informed citizens that could make their own decisions. They recommended that girls in school needed to be guided and counseled about sex so as to stay in and complete school to get meaningful employment rather than engaging in commercial sex. They further noted that those girls out of school should together with women be supported with seeds and land so as to generate their own incomes and be able to resist temptations from men and boys who usually lure them into sex using money and other cheap things like short cakes and handkerchiefs. Their recommendation holds water as it reflects the views of the FGD for Kabale girls who also noted that those girls who were engaged in some income generating activities were able to resist attempts by men luring them into sex with money and sweets and handkerchiefs among others.

The above suggestions by participants in key focus group discussions and key informants were further confirmed by the individual respondents involved in the semi-structured interviews. The table below summarizes the suggestions put across by the individual respondents on what needs to be done on to prevent SGBV among the Batwa women.

**Table 29: What Needs To Be Done To Prevent SGBV Among Batwa Communities**

Suggestion	District (n=44)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	
	Freq		Freq		Freq			
Mass sensitizations on SGBV	11	25.0	07	15.9	05	11.4	23	52.3
Stopping alcoholism	04	9.1	01	2.3	01	2.3	6	13.6
Punishing the wrong doers	02	4.5	00	0.0	02	4.5	4	9.1
Training	01	2.3	01	2.3	02	4.5	4	9.1
Girls should protect themselves	01	2.3	02	4.5	00	0.0	3	6.8
Regular information sharing between husbands and wives	01	2.3	00	0.0	02	4.5	3	6.8
Forcing culprits to pay heavy fines to their victims	00	0.0	01	2.3	01	2.3	2	4.5
Start income generating projects to empower women	01	2.3	01	2.3	00	0.0	2	4.5
Imprisoning wrong doers	00	0.0	00	0.0	01	2.3	1	2.3
Choosing good leaders	00	0.0	01	2.3	00	0.0	1	2.3
Women should stop moving at night	00	0.0	00	0.0	01	2.3	1	2.3
Stopping multiple sex relationships	00	0.0	00	0.0	01	2.3	1	2.3
Enforcing security in the area to stop movements at night	00	0.0	01	2.3	00	0.0	1	2.3
Reduce court fees	00	0.0	00	0.0	01	2.3	1	2.3
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.8</b>

According to the table above, Major suggestions to prevent SGBV as generated by respondents include sensitization of all people (52%), stopping alcoholism (15%), punishing wrong doers (9%) and training (9%). The suggestions put across by respondents to prevent SGBV highlight their thinking that the fight against SGBV should involve many different actors including the Batwa themselves, the government and others. In addition, their suggestions also point at their understanding that SGBV is largely caused by unawareness of the rights and lawlessness resulting from alcoholism and other factors.

#### **4.8.2 Respondents' Suggestions About How To Help SGBV Victims**

Respondents were asked to give their suggestions about what needed to be done to victims of SGBV to enable them live healthy and productive lives after experiencing SGBV. According to an LC 3 councilor from Kisoro who was engaged in the study as a

key informant; the Batwa who become victims of abuse needed to be helped to access justice without paying any fees since they don't have the money. Other participants in the focus group discussions and key informants noted that SGBV needed to be encouraged and supported to approach government agencies like police in order to access. In addition, the participants in the focus group discussions involving Batwa women focused on the need for material support (finances, agricultural inputs and housing) to the abuse victims. Table 30 below shows the suggestions from the individual respondents involved in the study.

**Table 30: Suggested Support For SGBV Victims**

Suggestion	District (n=42)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	
	Freq		Freq		Freq			
Counsel them	12	28.6	02	4.8	05	11.9	19	45.2
Provide them with medical care	03	7.1	08	19.0	03	7.1	14	33.3
Lobby for support for them	00	-	01	2.4	02	4.8	3	7.1
They should always seek for help immediately	00	-	03	7.1	00	-	3	7.1
Start for them income generating activities	00	-	00	-	02	4.8	2	4.8
Punish husbands and men who rape and beat women	02	4.8	00	-	00	-	2	4.8
Helping them to access justice	00	-	01	2.4	01	2.4	2	4.8
Build for them iron sheet houses	00	-	00	-	01	2.4	1	2.4
Educate them about their rights	01	2.4	00	-	-	-	1	2.4
Take victims to school	00	-	01	2.4	00	-	1	2.4
Seek financial support for them from non-Batwa community members	00	-	01	2.4	00	-	1	2.4
Give them land and seeds for food production	00	-	01	2.4	00	-	1	2.4
Teach them family planning to avoid unwanted pregnancy	00	-	00	-	01	2.4	1	2.4
The perpetrators should compensate them	00	-	00	-	01	2.4	1	2.4

The respondents noted that victims of rights violation need psychosocial support (43%), and relevant medical care (33%), other kinds of support that respondents felt would be needed by victims of rights abuse include; a need for them to be supported to generate income, punishing their husbands and helping them to access justice from appropriate sources. The prominence of the need to counsel SGBV victims further indicates

respondents' belief that SGBV can successfully be dealt with through voluntary behavioral and attitudinal change.

#### 4.8.3 Respondents' Suggested Role Of Government In Addressing SGBV

Realizing the big role government has to play in promoting order and development and the fact that people look at government for support, the respondents mentioned different roles government should play in handling SGBV. Table 31 below summarizes respondents' suggestions

**Table 31: Suggested Roles Of Government In Addressing SGBV**

Suggestion	District (n=37)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	
	Freq		Freq		Freq			
Training both Batwa men and women on SGBV	09	24.3	00	-	04	10.8	13	35.1
Tighten laws against SGBV	00	-	04	10.8	03	8.1	07	18.9
Punish husbands and men who violate women	02	5.4	02	5.4	01	2.7	05	13.5
Police should arrest those violate against women	01	2.7	02	5.4	01	2.7	04	10.8
Announce strong laws on radio	01	2.7	01	2.7	01	2.7	03	8.1
Force culprits to pay heavy fines	00	-	03	8.1	00	-	03	8.1
Give victims seeds and land to generate income	03	8.1	00	-	00	-	03	8.1
Government should give goats to women to enhance their incomes	00	-	01	2.7	01	2.7	02	5.4
Give victims land	00	-	00	-	02	5.4	02	5.4
Allow divorce to be possible any time	00	-	00	-	01	2.7	01	2.7

The major potential roles of the government in dealing with SGBV as perceived by respondents include; training Batwa on SGBV (35%), tightening laws against SGBV, punishing men (e.g. fining them, imprisoning them etc) who perpetuate SGBV (25%). The suggested support from the government indicates that the respondents' need to have external guidance to understand, respect and follow existing policies and laws to deal with SGBV.

#### 4.8.4 How Women Can Better Cope With SGBV

Considering the fact that SGBV mainly affects females compared to men, the study ventured into finding out what sort of advice the respondents would offer to the women to enable them better avoid and/or deal with the effects of SGBV. During a focus group discussion with Batwa girls in Kabale, they suggested that fellow girls needed to be advised that engaging in early sex exposes them to HIV-AIDS and early pregnancies. They further noted that the girls need to be advised to stop moving at night, going for night dances and also avoid receiving gifts from men and boys.

**Table 32: Suggestions About How Women Can Better Prevent And/Or Deal With SGBV**

Suggestion	District (n=33)						Total	
	Kisoro		Kabale		Kanungu		Freq	
	Freq		Freq		Freq			
Be courageous and report culprits	07	21.2	04	12.1	04	12.1	15	45.5
Seeking for counseling	02	6.1	00	-	04	12.1	06	18.2
Women should stop drinking alcohol	03	9.1	00	-	01	3.0	04	12.1
Women should generate income without depending on husbands	01	3.0	00	-	03	9.1	04	12.1
Men and women should respect each other	01	3.0	02	6.1	00	-	03	9.1
Ignore rumor mongers	02	6.1	00	-	01	3.0	03	9.1
Women should stand together against violent men	00		01	3.0	01	3.0	02	6.1
Women should form a committee to fight SGBV	00	-	01	3.0	00	-	01	3.0
Women should go home early	01	3.0	00	-	00	-	01	3.0
Women should delay marriage to enhance economic capacity	00	-	01	3.0	00	-	01	3.0
Get fair hearing	00	-	01	3.0	00	-	01	3.0
Regularly Go to church in order to get advice	01	3.0	00	-	00	-	01	3.0
Secure medical care when hurt	00	-	01	3.0	00	-	01	3.0

Respondents felt that women needed to contribute towards addressing SGBV and dealing with its consequences through reporting SGBV cases (46%), seeking for counseling (18%), stopping alcoholism (12%) and being socio-economically self-reliant so as to avoid having to depend of their husbands for everything (12%). These suggestions point at the respondents' belief that women have a critical role in addressing SGBV and its effects. The suggestions further indicate respondents' thinking about the need for

women to change behavior, take care and be open about their problems so as to access support and justice from the existing legal establishments.

Generally, respondents' suggestions about how to prevent SGBV and deal with its effects seem to point at the need for a multi-sectoral approach. This is especially necessary considering the wide range of the reported causes and effects of SGBV. The approach of dealing with SGBV may therefore have to involve different actors e.g.-law enforcement agencies, health care service providers to offer psychosocial support and deal with health problems that may result from violence. The approach may also need to involve livelihoods improvement service providers and existing social systems. This multi-sectoral approach has also been suggested by Creel (2002) and UNHCR (1999) who noted that preventing and addressing gender based violence especially against refugee women required collaboration between all actors including the relief agencies, local leaders and the refugees themselves.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

This study conducted in three districts of Kanungu, Kisoro and Kabale in southwestern Uganda between November 2008 to March 2009. It aimed at establishing the magnitude of gender based violence against women among the Batwa communities and its effect on Batwa women and to propose strategies for changing this situation. The study involved a total of 120 respondents (50 from Kisoro, 40 from Kabale and 30 from Kanungu) selected in proportionate cluster random sampling to ensure that the findings were representative. The study respondents included 75 females and 45 males of whom 44 females were involved in semi-structured individual interviews and the rest were respondents in focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The study found that the majority (60%) of the individual respondents reported to know some women's rights. However, further probing indicated that the most commonly know women's right was the right to own property. Other rights mentioned by the respondents like the right to make mats and do housework seemed to indicate limited knowledge on rights and possible confusion of gender roles with rights.

The extent and scale of women's rights seemed to be high in the study area with the most common forms of violation including battering of women, denying the women a voice, sexual abuse and rape. In fact all the 44 individual female respondents involved in the study had reported to have ever been abused in one or more ways. Women's rights were mainly violated by husbands, neighboring non-Batwa community members and leaders of different types including local councilors and the police. The leaders were indirectly perpetuating rights violation through their corruption tendencies that compromised their ability to punish culprits.

Rights violation in the area was attributed to a variety of factors with alcoholism among men, women and girls standing above the rest. Other causes of rights abuse included Batwa's low self esteem, and poverty, low education levels, prostitution and lack of land.

Regarding utilization of existing avenues to accessing justice after abuse, the study found out that there was a good level of using the existing avenues to deal with rights violation since over half of abuse victims had reportedly report to authorities and/or friends. The victims of abuse seemed to prefer reporting to the locally based leaders (clan/family leaders and local council 1 chairperson) rather than the higher level authorities like sub-county and police. There was a reported phenomenon of Batwa women generally refusing to share information about their abuse due to low self-esteem, shyness and low levels of education. Victims' lack of finances to pay fees and transport and their failure to get any help in previous attempts to seek for help were reportedly discouraging victims from reporting their cases. On a positive note, those victims of abuse who had sought for help had experienced some positive outcomes; notably their husbands had stopped abusing and/or beating them as a result of being punished and/or counseled. Some of the husbands stopping to drink alcohol completely.

Rights violation had had varying adverse effects on the health, psychological social and economic status of the victims. In terms of health, about 70% of the 44 individual respondents reported to have experienced some health problems after being abused. The health problems experienced included vaginal bleeding (32%), urinating without knowing (23%), and sores in the genital area (23%), smelly vaginal discharge (16%) and unwanted pregnancy (16%). Unfortunately, over 30% of the victims reported to have never sought for medical help after abuse on the pretext that they were alright and also lack of money to pay medical bills and transport. Failure to seek for medical care after abuse might predispose the victims to more complications like urinal-genital tract infections and HIV-AIDS that might be difficult to handle when detected when it is too late.

In terms of psychological effects, the violation of rights was reported to have resulted into fears/worries, shame, sleeplessness, feelings of humiliation, feelings of rejection, withdrawal and sadness. These psychological effects if not well handled can result into more adverse effects like hopelessness as well as suicide.

Socially, the victims of violence had experienced a number of undesirable effects including; stigmatization from family and community members, divorce; unwanted pregnancies and embarrassment from husband in front of their children and/or members of the public. Economically, the victims of abuse had experienced forced labour, sexual exploitation for food, failure to work due to bruises /ill health and forced prostitution.

All categories of respondents for the study generally felt that in order to prevent and/or deal with SGBV, a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach needed to be employed involving Batwa and Non-Batwa community members, leaders at different levels and non-government agencies. The respondents felt that sensitization of every body about; women's rights and how to protect them but also about the different development programmes available from government like Universal Primary and Secondary Education, NAADS among others would help in preventing and/or dealing with SGBV. Other suggestions raised by respondents included the need to avail the needed but lacking essential social services like health care and counseling among others.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been put forward and attempts have been made to elaborate on them to ensure that they are easily understood and where possible be adopted.

### **5.3.1 Initiate and operate Functional Adult Literacy Centers in Batwa communities**

Realizing the high illiteracy levels among the Batwa, it might be necessary that support to establish and operate FAL classes in Batwa communities be acquired. The FAL would not only focus on equipping Batwa with reading and writing skills, but also other components of the adult learning curriculum like family life education, home management among others. To ensure a rather meaningful involvement of the targeted people, these FAL classes should be located within the communities. Where possible some cheap

inputs like vegetable seeds should be given to the learners in these classes and practical lessons on how to look after such also included.

#### 5.3.2 Train and facilitate selected Batwa community members (Men, women and youth) to work as peer counselors.

The study has highlighted the huge potential of counseling to bring about a positive change in the behavior of people especially the husbands who are the biggest perpetrators of violence and rights abuse. It might therefore be necessary to identify people within Batwa communities who are strategically positioned to advise and support others, train them and give them some basic materials (information materials, stationery) for them to advise and counsel people. To be more trusted by the Batwa whom they will serve, these people should be selected in a participatory process guided by a facilitator who must make clear roles of the people being selected and the incentive mechanism.

#### 5.3.3 Conduct sensitizations and trainings about women's rights and how to protect and promote them:

The study has highlighted wide gaps in terms of Batwa's awareness and knowledge of women's rights. It is therefore necessary that sensitization on these rights be conducted targeting all Batwa community members and non-Batwa given the fact that non-Batwa neighbors have been identified among those who violate Batwa women's rights. The sensitization could also focus on encouraging and advising Batwa on; the need to report cases of rights abuse, where and how including legal redress. The sensitization could also focus on those practices like alcoholism, disrespect among others that were reported to be responsible for many cases of SGBV in the area. The training could on the other hand target strategically selected groups of people for example local leaders, clan leaders or Batwa women and youth leaders on helping and supporting victims of abuse to report and access justice and other needed support. Targeting the local leaders might especially considering that they are have been reported to be handling rape and other big cases yet their role is supposed to help the victims to report to higher levels so as to get justice and appropriate support.

#### 5.3.4 Design and implement a stakeholder led strategy against SGBV

The study has indicated that there are various perpetrators of SGBV just like there are numerous actors attempting to deal with SGBV. It is therefore important that all these stakeholders are brought on board to have a harmonized understanding of SGBV in terms of its causes, effects and every person's role(s) in addressing it. This would then pave way for agreeing on what to do where, how and by whom. The stakeholders of particular interest would include Batwa men and women, surrounding non-Batwa communities, local leaders, churches, NGOs among others.

#### 5.3.5 Sensitizing and supporting victims of abuse to immediately access medical care and justice

The study found out that a good proportion of victims of abuse neither reported nor sought for any medical care services. Key factors responsible for this included ignorance, shyness, low self esteem and lack of financial resources. It is therefore necessary that all community members especially women and girls who seem to be more vulnerable to SGBV be sensitized to always report and seek for medical help after abuse. This sensitization could be done through community level sensitization meetings, use of mass

media (radio) and local leaders as these have been found to be the most commonly accessed sources of information in the areas of study. In order to ensure that lack of finances does not constrain the victims from accessing immediate help especially quality health care, the community members could be advised and supported to establish a mechanism that enables victims to access money easily and quickly. One way that might work would be to encourage and support community members to start savings and credit groups with an emergency vote that can be availed to any member with an emergency. To ensure that the abuse victims do not fear to go for the funds, they might have to be kept by a selected woman leader in the community since the victims who are mostly females are more likely to be free with a fellow female. The success and continuity of this mechanism may also be enhanced if women take lead since they have traditionally been known to be more faithful than men in financial issues. Alternatively, if resources could be available, a rehabilitation center could be established to host and rehabilitate victims of abuse. The rehabilitation center would especially be very useful due to its ability to provide protection to the victims and therefore ensure that they open up and share information that is very essential in ensuring proper justice. The rehabilitation center could among other essential services like shelter, food and basic health care) have professional counselors to provide psycho-social support to the victims of abuse deal with the psychological effects but also encourage them to go for medical help.

#### 5.3.6 Design a comprehensive socio-economic development intervention targeting both Batwa men and women

This study found out that ignorance, alcoholism and poverty are among the major causes of SGBV. In addition, the lack of finance resources has been reported to compromise victims' ability to access appropriate help (justice and medical help). It might therefore be necessary that an intervention that aims at building and sustaining Batwa's economic capacity be developed. Such an intervention needs to have a direct effect on reducing alcoholism. One such intervention might involve identifying and promoting agricultural enterprises that are highly productive, have a ready market but require less land and a lot of labour. Such enterprises may include vegetables like onions, carrots, tomatoes among others. The project may want to provide seeds, farm implements and trainings to the Batwa on the agronomy, post-harvest handling and marketing of the selected enterprises. During the trainings, the trainers may chip in with messages talking about the problems that emanate from alcoholism. Besides the material inputs and trainings, incentives for instance ranging from exposure visits and to household items among others could be introduced to encourage the people to work harder and compete. The reasoning here would be, that once people work harder and for longer periods, they would have less time to go to bars to drink. The intervention may also involve encouraging and supporting the recipients of seeds and other support to form and operate savings groups to ensure that the income generated is not used for drinking alcohol but for purposes that contribute to the wellbeing of all household members.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

Generally, women's rights awareness among Batwa communities involved in the study is low. The limited awareness about women's rights, was resulting into wide spread sexual

and domestic violence in the study area mainly by both Batwa and non-Batwa men and leaders. The wide spread violation of women's rights was having short and long term adverse effects on the health, psychological, social and economic effects on the victims that need a collaborative effort to be sustainably addressed. On a positive note, there were encouraging trends of victims of violence seeking for support mainly from the locally available leaders who were nonetheless providing the support that had enabled some victims to experience some positive impact in terms of reduced violation of their rights. However, cases of victims not seeking for any help be it justice or medical were also reported. These were largely attributed to ignorance, financial resource constraints and past failure of the existing institutions/individuals to provide any substantial help

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