


Going Beyond the Taboos
in CBR



Identifying & Preventing
Violence and Abuse Towards
PWD and Supporting Persons
Affected by It

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Overview

- Status of Sexual Violence in Liberia
- Contributors to High Levels of Sexual Violence
- Status of Sexual Violence among PWDs
- Prevention of Sexual Violence in Liberia
- Prevention of Sexual Violence among PWDs
- The Way Forward

Status of Sexual Violence in Liberia Quick Facts

- According to the LDHS 2007, 44% of women aged 15-49 had experienced physical violence since age 15.
- 62% of perpetrators of SGBV knew the survivors*
- Rape most commonly reported SGBV (68%) of all cases*
- 63% of women experienced form of sexual torture during conflict**

*([Dziewanski, 2011](#));**ISIS-WICCE, 2008)

Status of Sexual Violence in Liberia Quick Facts

- Over half (55%) of SGBV survivors under 14 yrs*
- Almost 66% of SGBV cases never enter Criminal Justice System
- A new sex crimes court established and new rape law passed
- Rate of successful prosecutions remain low
- Fistula clinics and SGBV clinics established in the country to address the “physical” and related trauma associated with SGBV

*([Dziewanski, 2011](#));**ISIS-WICCE, 2008)

Contributors to High Levels of SGBV

- Right to marry **more** than one wife is granted to a man under the Customary Law. Grounds for physical, sexual and domestic violence to the women by their husband/partner.
- From 1989 to 2003, a series of intermittent wars loss of over 250K lives, the destruction of property and exposure of horrific sexual & gender-based crimes that continue today.
- For example 60% of Liberian women reported being raped during the conflict with rates as high as 77% in two counties ([Dziewanski, 2011](#)).

Contributors to High Levels of SGBV

- Disparity in schooling: 39% females versus 56% males
- The rate of sexual violence perpetrated by intimate partners is higher than those perpetrated by non-intimate partners
- One survey found that 44% of respondents believed based on religion or tradition that rape can not happen in the context of marriage or long-term intimate relationships (2008 UNMIL Report)

Contributors to High Levels of SGBV

- Girls and boys in Liberia are expected to join and participate in traditional schools during which time traditional ways of maturing to woman/manhood are passed on.**
- During this period they undergo other cultural rites of passage. Some of these practices are harmful e.g.: FGM, forced marriages and others present challenges for these girls as they navigate the traditional and modern worlds.

*Abrahams, 2011

Status of Sexual Violence among PWDs

- Acc. to GOL figures only 1% of SGBV survivors reported to have a “known” disability
- But 67% of data on disability status in the SGBV database is ***missing!***

Status of Sexual Violence among PWDs Perceived Increased Susceptibility to SBV due to Disability

% of Respondents Perceiving Perceptibility to Rape Women & Children w. Disabilities

Assumed More Vulnerable if	West Point	Peace Island
Woman is blind, deaf, or "crippled"	82%	72%
Woman is mentally ill or "crazy"	76%	72%
Woman has "spell" or epilepsy	66%	58%
Child is blind, deaf or "crippled"	74%	67%
Child is mentally ill or "crazy"	75%	71%
Child with "spell" or epilepsy	66%	57%

N=649 WP=345 PI=304 18+ years Avg. age 34 years M/F:50% Unemployment rate 60%;
Literacy rate 29-32%

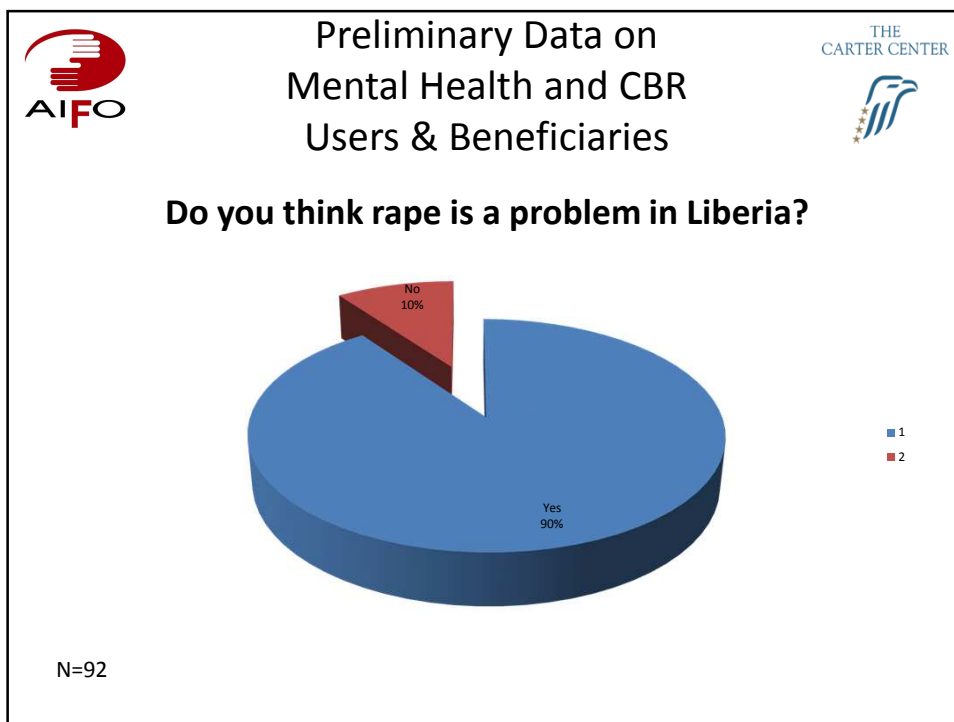
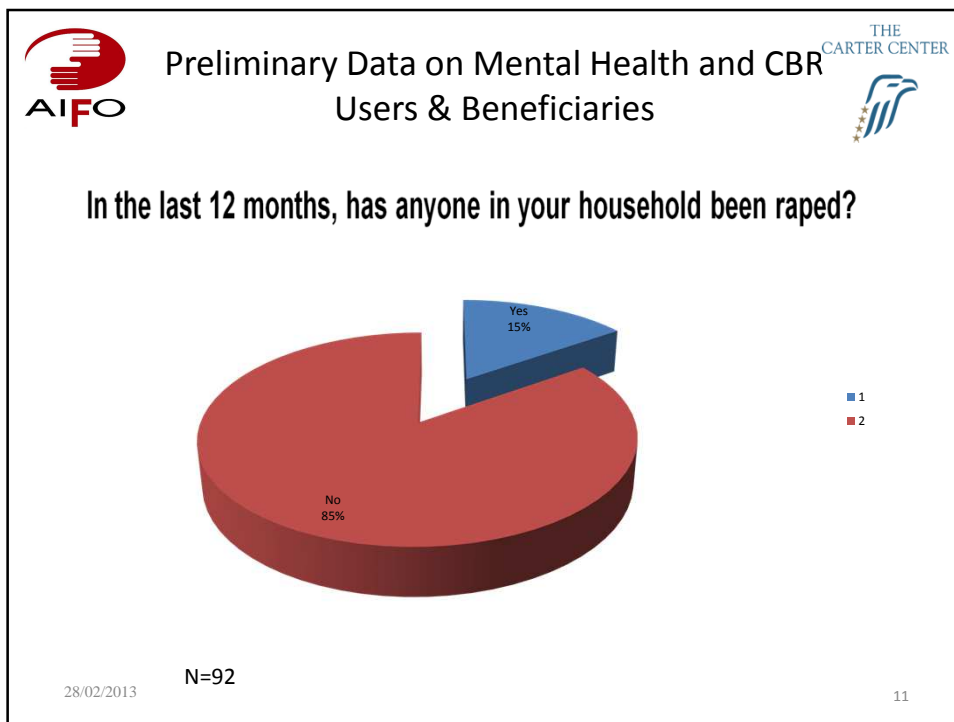
Based on Preliminary Data from AIFO/Carter Center MH in CBR Project, 2012

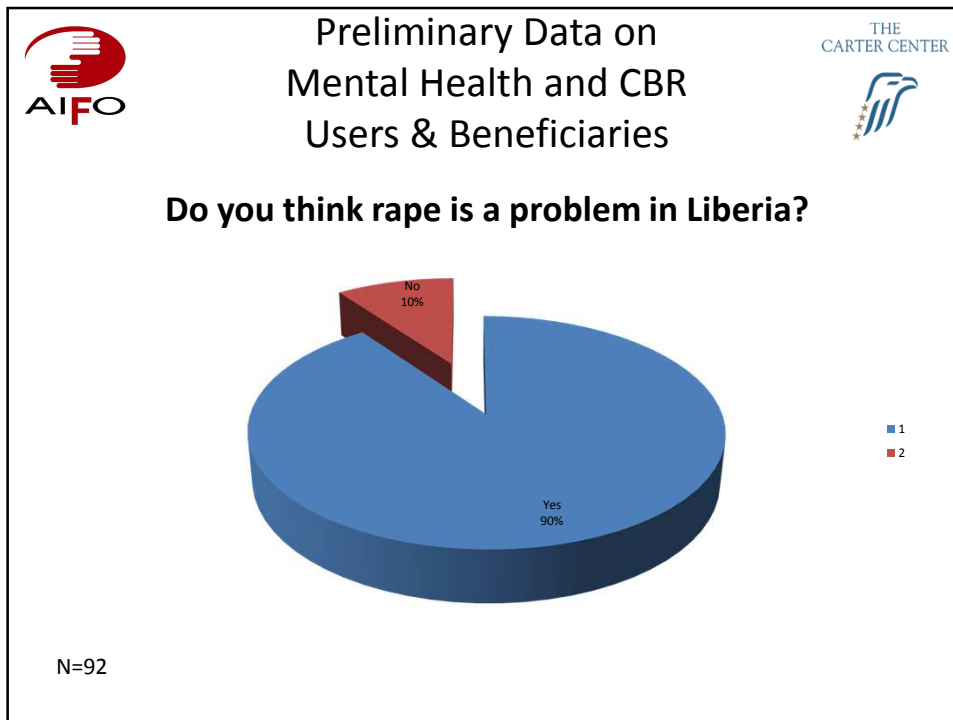
Status of Sexual Violence among PWDs: FGDs Results

How PWMDs are Treated

Type of Worker	Location	Report WWMD Raped & Beaten
CBR Facilitators	Bong (N=6)	✘ "A girl in this community ...constantly ... raped"
CBR Facilitators	Margibi (N=5)	✘
CBR Facilitators	Nimba (N=6)	✘
MH Clinicians	Montserrado (N=16)	✘
MH Clinicians	Bong (N=4)	✘ "People rape them and even impregnate them"
MH Clinicians	Grand Gedeh (N=6)	✘
Users	Nimba (N=1)	✘ "Girls are more likely to be raped"
Users	Bong (1=1)	✘
Users	Margibi (N=2)	✘
Users	Montserrado (N=2)	✘
gCHVs	Bong (N=7)	✘ A girl raped by motor cyclists constantly
gCHVs	Margibi (N=4)	✘

Based on Preliminary Data from AIFO/Carter Center MH in CBR Project, 2012





Violence at Critical Service Delivery Points

- Health clinics, hospitals and birthing homes
 - 63% of births still take place at home by TTMs with myths and perceptions about disability and about protracted labor
- Special schools, residential facilities and within the families: no **recourse** for abuses of PWD/MHD
- Over 70% of individuals in jail/prison are not adjudicated. Juveniles and PWMHD are increased risk of sexual violence and of being accused of sexual violence.

Prevention of Sexual Violence

Some of the measures proposed by SGBV Sector Leaders

1. Increase psychosocial counselors in the community and in the health facilities
2. Create awareness on the referral pathway
3. Establish one stop facility for survivors
4. Establish GBV observatory networks in 6 counties
5. Operate Government run safe homes in five counties

Prevention of Sexual Violence

Some of the measures proposed by SGBV Sector Leaders

6. Provide living quarters for women police officers
7. Train of health care personnel on testifying in courts
8. Survivor support to access health and legal services
9. Train and awareness on GBV and SEA countrywide

Prevention of Sexual Violence among PWDs

- With Funding from SGBV Sector TCC Training MHCs in SGBV
 - Help train mh clinicians to be better advocates and expert witnesses for PWMHD in court
 - Focus on reproductive health for PWMHD
- Training on myths and misconceptions of mental disabilities
- Advocate to include focus on disabilities in SGBV media campaign
- Training SGBV media focal people on mental disabilities

Research shows that social contact with PWD/PWMHD contributes to stigma reduction



Jose explaining the Mandya research on CBR



The Way Forward

- Hold GOL accountable for lack of data on GBV for PWDs
- Require training of counselors of GBV, HIV and mental health in disability and human rights
- Require higher criminal sanctions for SGBV where PWD or CWD is the survivor
- Nothing about us without us, support participation of PWMHD in SGBV sector high level planning meetings

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