

# Sexual Violence and HIV & AIDS

## Key Statistics

- Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are 55% more likely to be HIV positive.<sup>1</sup>
- Women living with HIV are also more likely to experience gender-based violence.<sup>2</sup>
- Women are twice as likely as men to contract HIV during unprotected sex with an infected partner, and the trauma sustained during forced sex further increases the likelihood of infection.<sup>3</sup>
- The STI infection rate of soldiers in peacetime, which is 2 to 5 times higher than that of the civilian population, can be up to 50 times higher during armed conflict, posing a high risk for sexual partners or victims of rape in conflict zones.<sup>4</sup>
- Women who experience intimate partner violence are approximately 40% more likely to have unprotected sex due to fear of violence and emotional abuse.<sup>5</sup>
- Every hour 50 young women become newly infected with HIV.<sup>6</sup>

## Sexual Violence in the DRC

- The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo remains the world's deadliest humanitarian crisis. An estimated 5.4 million people have died since the end of the Rwandan genocide<sup>7</sup> – the highest death toll of any conflict since the end of World War II.<sup>8</sup>
- Only 30% of female rape cases undergo prophylactic treatment against HIV in the DRC, where health workers have described the rate of rape-related fistula as 'unique.'<sup>9</sup>
- 65% of the 15,996 new cases of sexual violence reported in the DRC in 2008 were among children.<sup>10</sup>
- The Panzi Hospital in Bukavu receives some 3,500 cases each year of women who suffer traumatic fistula and other severe genital injuries resulting from these 'sexualized atrocities.'<sup>11</sup>
- An estimated 30% of survivors of rape in Congo are infected with HIV.<sup>12</sup>
- There are an estimated 2.7 million internally displaced people living in the DRC,<sup>13</sup> some 890,000 of them in the North Kivu province alone.<sup>14</sup>
- Displacement puts women and girls at even greater risk of sexual violence and exploitation, particularly as they may be forced to exchange sex for protection, safe passage, food, shelter or other necessities.<sup>15</sup>

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## References

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