Research Proposal

Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Among Displaced Women and Girls in Alafaad Camp

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❖ Introduction

Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts directed against individuals based on their gender and includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. It is recognized as a violation of human rights and a significant public health issue worldwide. Humanitarian crises increase the vulnerability of women and girls to various forms of violence due to social network disruption, lake of protection systems, and economic constrains (1).

Globally, approximately one in three women experience physical or sexual violence during their lifetime (2). In conflict and displacement settings, the risk of GBV is often amplified due to overcrowded living conditions, inadequate security, poverty, and dependence on humanitarian assistance (3). Women and girls living in internally displaced camps(IDS) frequently face risks such as sexual assault, intimate partner violence, forced and early marriage, and exploitation (4).

Despite increasing attention to GBV in humanitarian settings, evidence regarding the prevalence, forms and determinants of violence among displaced populations remains inadequate in many countries. Understanding the magnitude and contributing factors of GBV is essential for implementing effective interventions and improving protection services for vulnerable populations.

❖ 2. Problem Statement

Women and girls residing in IDP camps are at higher risk to face gender-based violence due to insecurity, poor living conditions, limited access to services, and disruption of social support. Many incidents remain unreported because of stigma, fear of retaliation, cultural norms, and lack of confidence in reporting mechanisms (5). The absence of comprehensive data on GBV within IDP camps limits the ability of humanitarian actors and policymakers to develop effective prevention and response strategies. Therefore, this study seeks to generate evidence on the prevalence, risk factors, forms and barriers associated with support services uptake GBV among displaced women and girls in Alafaad camp.

❖ Research Questions

General Research Question

What is the prevalence of gender-based violence among displaced women and girls in Alafaad camp?

Specific Research Questions

1. What forms of GBV are experienced by displaced women and girls in Alafaad camp?
2. What factors contribute to GBV in Alafaad camp?
3. What barriers prevent survivors from reporting incidents and accessing services?

❖ Objectives

General Objective

To define the prevalence of gender-based violence among displaced women and girls living in Alafaad camp.

Specific Objectives

1. To identify common forms of GBV experienced by displaced women and girls.
2. To determine factors associated with GBV in Alafaad camp.
3. To explore barriers associated with uptake of support services among GBV survivors

❖ Literature Review

Studies have consistently shown that women and girls are at high risk of violence during humanitarian crises. Stark and Ager reported that GBV is prevalent in complex emergencies, although accurate prevalence estimates are often difficult due to incidents underreporting and methodological difficulties (6). Research among displaced populations has documented high levels of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and exploitation. Vu et al. found that female refugees and displaced women experience substantial levels of sexual violence across humanitarian settings (7). Factors contributing to GBV include poverty, overcrowding, lack of privacy, inadequate lighting, unsafe sanitation facilities, and lack of law enforcement systems (3,7).

The consequences of GBV extend beyond immediate physical injuries and include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, and social exclusion (2,8). Despite international guidelines promoting survivor-centered care, access to services remains inadequate in many IDP camps (3).

❖ Research methodology

Study Design; cross-sectional quantitative analytical study.

Study period; June 2026

Study Area; The study will be conducted in Alafaad Camp-Northern State-Sudan. Its considered one of the main internally displaced persons (IDP) camp located in Northern State of Sudan, and populated by 4200 households, vast majority are families displaced from Northern State of Darfur as a consequence of armed conflict in the state. The camp is governed by Sudan authorities and supported by many national and international non-governmental organizations.

Study Population; Displaced women and girls aged 15 years and above residing in Alafaad camp.

Inclusion Criteria

- Female residents in Alafaad camp and aged 15 years and above.
- Living in the camp for at least six months.
- Accepting to participate after informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria

- Female who refuses to participate in the study.
- Living in the camp for less than 6 months.
- Unable to participate due to severe illness or mental disease.

Sample Size Calculation

The sample size will be calculated using Cochran's formula for prevalence studies:

$n_0 = Z^2P(1-P)/e^2$

Assuming:

- N_0 = Required sample size
- Z = the Z- score corresponding to 95% confident level (1.96).
- P = the estimated prevalence (0.5).
- E = the acceptable margin of error (0.05).

The minimum sample size will be 384 participants. An additional 10% will be added for non-response. (The expected sample size will be 422 study participants).

Sampling Technique

A multistage sampling technique will be used:

1. Selection of camps (Alafaad camp).
2. Selection of households using systematic random sampling.
3. Selection of eligible participants from each household.

Data Collection tool

Structured questionnaire consists of 33 points will be used to collect data regarding:

- Socio-demographic characteristics.
- Experiences of GBV.
- Forms of GBV.
- Risk factors.
- Reporting behaviors and access to services.

Main Outcome Variables

The questionnaire allows calculation of:

- Lifetime prevalence of GBV.
- Prevalence of GBV during displacement.
- 12-month prevalence of GBV.
- Prevalence of physical violence.
- Prevalence of sexual violence.
- Prevalence of emotional violence.
- Prevalence of economic violence.
- Prevalence of child/forced marriage.
- Health consequences of GBV.
- Help-seeking behavior among survivors.
- GBV risk factors in displacement settings.
- Awareness and utilization of GBV services.

Data collection technique

Face-to-face interview conducted in a safe and confidential setting and led by trained Obstetrics and gynecology specialist.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data will be entered and analyzed using SPSS version 26.

Descriptive statistics:

- Frequencies.
- Percentages.
- Means and standard deviations.

Inferential statistics:

- Chi-square tests.
- Logistic regression analysis.
- P- value at or less than 0,05 will be considered statistically significant.

❖ **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval will be obtained from the Ethical Committee at Ministry of health – Northern State- Sudan.

Written and informed consent will be obtained from all participants. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained. Interviews will be conducted in private settings to ensure participant safety. Survivors requiring support will be referred to available health and protection services.

❖ **Expected Outcomes:** The study is expected to:

- Determine the prevalence of GBV among displaced women and girls at Alafaad camp.
- Determine forms of GBV at Alafaad camp.
- Identify major risk factors associated with GBV.
- Assess barriers to reporting and accessing services.
- Generate evidence to improve GBV prevention and response programs.
- Provide recommendations for policymakers and humanitarian organizations.

References

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