

### Resource List: Children Born of Rape

**Query:** Identify examples of strategies, practical tools, etc. related to caring for children born out of rape.

#### Introduction

This list identifies key documents that might be helpful in formulating a strategy to deal with children born of rape. Programming aimed at assisting mothers and their children are included. There are limited Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or practical tools aimed at addressing this problem. The documents included here therefore describe the type of programming that is taking place. Most of the writing on children born of wartime rape describes the problems these children and their mothers experience, yet little looks at how to assist them. Many articles emphasize the critical need for further research on this subject, pointing to the many glaring research gaps in this area

The resources below are set out country by country, with a general section at the end. The documents listed contained in a Dropbox folder. The link to this folder is as follows:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wybpn7rpjoi8r0r/AADRUKysy-Oote2C-9FS7r55a?dl=0>

#### Resources

##### 1. Northern Nigeria:

**“Bad Blood: Perceptions of Children Born of Conflict-related Sexual Violence and Women and Girls Associated with Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria.” UNICEF and International Alert, 2016.**

- This deals with the impact of communities’ and authorities’ perceptions of women and their children born of Boko Haram, on their safety, rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities.
- Today there is a lack of services tailored to these women and their children in northeast Nigeria’s camps, and existing services are not adequate to meet these women’s needs.
- P10 describes a centre established by the Office of the National Security Adviser for the rehabilitation of non-combatant children and women associated with Boko Haram, including for children born of Boko Haram. The programme provided medical care, psycho-social support, counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a ‘de-radicalisation’ programme, as well as education and livelihood programming. By the end of 2015, this facility was closed.
- P18 notes that community members had positive feelings about this government led process, and that this programming facilitated their accepting women and their children back into the community.
- P21-26 sets out various recommendations to help women and their children born of rape, across different areas of programming.

**Silent Shame: Bringing out the Voices of the Children Caught in the Lake Chad Crisis, UNICEF, April 2017**

- This article talks about children abducted by Boko Haram. It describes efforts in working with religious leaders and community elders to reduce stigma against these children.

- P16-19 describes steps taken to assist abducted children, including those who fell pregnant during captivity.

## 2. Democratic Republic of Congo

### “Children Born of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones, DRC Country Study”, UNICEF and Pole Institute

- P7-10 provides recommendations on how to help children born of rape – each aimed at different actors and different areas of programming.
- These include recommendations for ensuring the needs of these women are well covered by more general GBV programming – an approach they prefer over tailored programming as this prevents stigma.
- P9-10 includes recommendations specifically geared at UNICEF.
- P50 describes responses that are in place, aimed at supporting mothers and their children born of rape.
- Annex 3 provides an overview of services provided for mothers and children born of rape. (*The annexe is included in the DropBox as a separate document*).

## 3. Rwanda:

See “**Foundation Rwanda**”, for the work that they do with children born of rape in the Rwandan genocide: <http://www.foundationrwanda.org/home.aspx>

Their organizational mission includes:

1. Provide funding for education of children born from rape during the 1994 genocide.
2. Link their mothers to psychological and medical services and income generating activities.
3. Create awareness about the consequences of genocide and sexual violence through photography and new media.

## 4. Northern Uganda

“**When War is Better than Peace: The Post-Conflict Realities of Children Born of Wartime Rape in Northern Uganda**”, Myriam Denov, Atim Angela Lakor. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 65 (2017) 255–265.

- P259-260 describes the Gusco Reception Centre, where children born within the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) were taken before being reintegrated back into their communities.
- It describes the types of livelihood and reintegration assistance that young abductee mothers were given.

“**Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers in Northern Uganda: Coming to Terms with Children’s Agency and Accountability**”, Grace Akello, Annemiek Richters & Ria Reis, *Intervention* 2006, Volume 4, Number 3.

- This article describes various programmes aimed at assisting children released from captivity with the LRA. Many of the young women released had fallen pregnant while in captivity.

“**A Feminist and Rights-Based Analysis of the Experiences of Formerly Abducted Child-Mothers in Northern Uganda**”, Eric Awich Ochen, *Social and Cultural Dimensions of Conflict and Peacebuilding*.

- P209 describes the rehabilitation for child soldiers, with a particular focus on child mothers.

## 5. Iraq

**“Challenges of Children Born by ISIS Rape in Iraq”, CERAH Working paper 49, Serri (Sura) Mahmood, 2016-2017.**

- P17-18 describes legal implications of being born to rape, such as children being considered legally stateless. Page 26-7 further discusses legal issues.
- P20 describes steps taken to protect children born of rape in Bosnia and talks about the role religious leaders can play.
- P28 talks about foreign adoptions.
- P33 talks about the lack of response by international organisations. P34 talks about what international organisations should do.

**“Children of the Caliphate, What to Do About Kids Born Under ISIS”, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/11/23/children-caliphate>**

- This deals statelessness of children born under ISIS

## 6. Bosnia

A number of sources refer to an unpublished study by UNICEF about children born of wartime rape in Bosnia. In Bosnia it is thought that the vast majority of women who give birth due to wartime rape abandoned their children.

**“Protecting Children Born of Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Conflict Zones: Existing Practice and Knowledge Gaps”, GSPIA and Ford Institute, 2005.**

- P5 refers to the unpublished study by UNICEF, which I was not able to locate. The study is named: “Children Born of Wartime Rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina: A Preliminary Investigation. UNICEF, Sarajevo, 2005.
- This article notes that, “The report suggests that the children living with adopted families are economically and psycho-socially better off than those living with their mothers or those without parental care in institutions; however, adoptive parents are struggling with the question of how to tell their children, who are now reaching puberty, about their origins, and some of the children have made the discovery through peer networks. Children being raised by their mothers are experiencing a range of attachment difficulties, psycho-social stressors associated with feeling responsible for the care of their traumatized parent, and in some cases, stigma and social exclusion from neighborhoods, peers and extended families.”
- P12: “Programming, existing practice, operational gaps and recommendations.”
- “In particular the importance of involving religious leaders in anti-discrimination campaigns was mentioned, as was the importance of economic support for mothers raising children born of rape...”

## 7. Bangladesh

**“War’s Impact on Children Born of Rape and Sexual Exploitation: Physical, Economic and Psychosocial Dimensions” Charli Carpenter, (no date).**

- P9 talks about international adoptions for children born of wartime rape, and different approaches that countries have had to these.
- “The new government of Bangladesh constructed a “marry-off” campaign for women raped during the war that depended on their relinquishment of their babies conceived in rape, to be sent to other countries (Mookherjee, 2004).”

- P10 talks about the option of institutionalization for children born of wartime rape.

## 8. General

### **“Children Born of Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones: Considerations for UNICEF Response”, Meeting Summary 23 November 2005.**

- This is a report of a meeting between UNICEF Child Protection and Innocenti Research Centre, considering how to best assist children born of sexual violence in conflict.
- It affirms that the best means to assist children is through assisting their mothers, and that this is best done by strengthening the GBV response framework.

### **“Violence against Women in Conflict, Post-conflict and Emergency Settings, UN Women, Virtual Knowledge Centre to end Violence Against Women and Girls”**

<http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1482-children-born-of-rape.html?next=1483>

- P133 describes programming that will help children born of rape, as one of the document’s listed marginalised groups.

### **“Transformative Spaces in the Social Reintegration of Former Child Soldier, Young Mothers in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Northern Uganda”, Angela Veale, Miranda Worthen, Susan Mckay**

#### **“UNICEF Position on Babies Born of War Rape Still Unclear”, Susan Yoshihara, 2017.**

[https://c-fam.org/friday\\_fax/unicef-position-babies-born-war-rape-still-unclear/](https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/unicef-position-babies-born-war-rape-still-unclear/) . Finally, an interesting, yet critical article on UNICEF’s stance on this:

- This article talks of providing abortions for women who have fallen pregnant due to rape.
- It mentions that UNICEF left a research consortium on children born of Boko Haram abductions, and quashed the findings of research conducted, due to concerns about crossing the reproductive rights lobby at the UN.

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