



VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN
AND GIRLS
HELPLESS

Violence Against Women and Girls Helpdesk

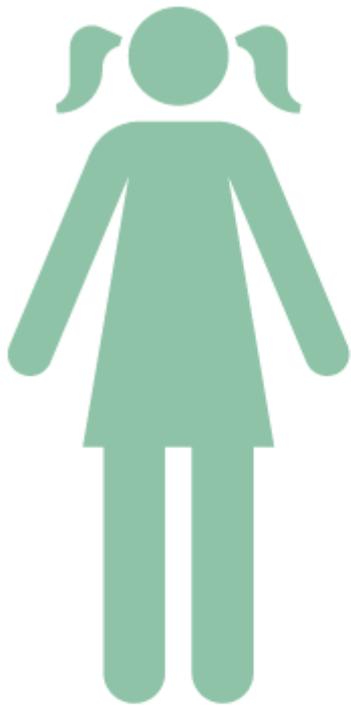


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WOMANKIND
WORLDWIDE EQUAL RESPECTED PROUD

Globally, what can we say about the extent of sexual exploitation and abuse?



15-20%



7-8%

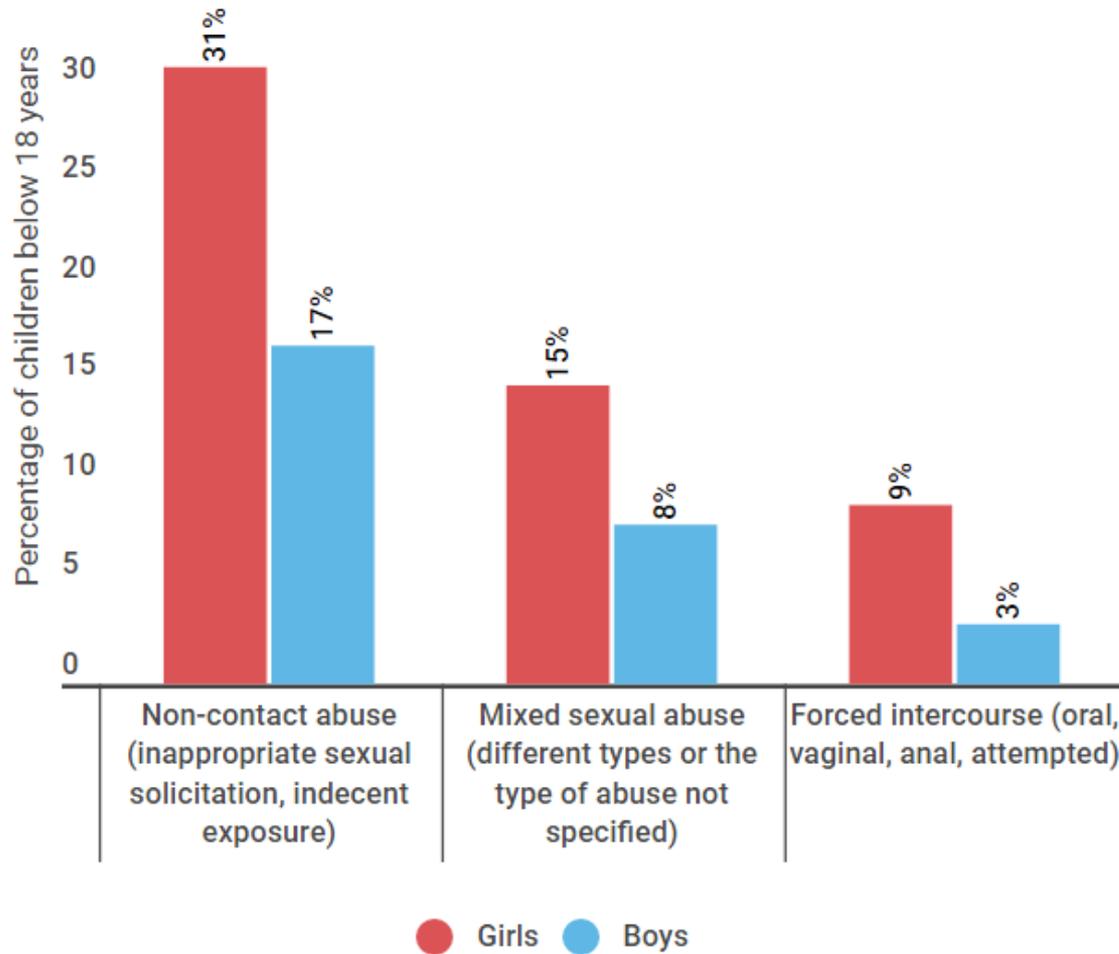
Prevalence research is focused on child sexual abuse.

Little available prevalence data on sexual exploitation.

” Whilst there is lack of consistency in definitions and methods which makes comparisons across time and countries complex, the conclusions in meta-analyses suggest that minimum estimates of CSA are 15–20% for girls and 7–8% for boys

Kelly and Karsna (2017)

What about different types of sexual exploitation and abuse?



55 studies from 24 countries

Includes studies published between 2002 and 2009 that reported CSA in children below 18 years



Our findings suggest that it is important to differentiate between types of abuse to gain more adequate estimates

Barth et al (2013)

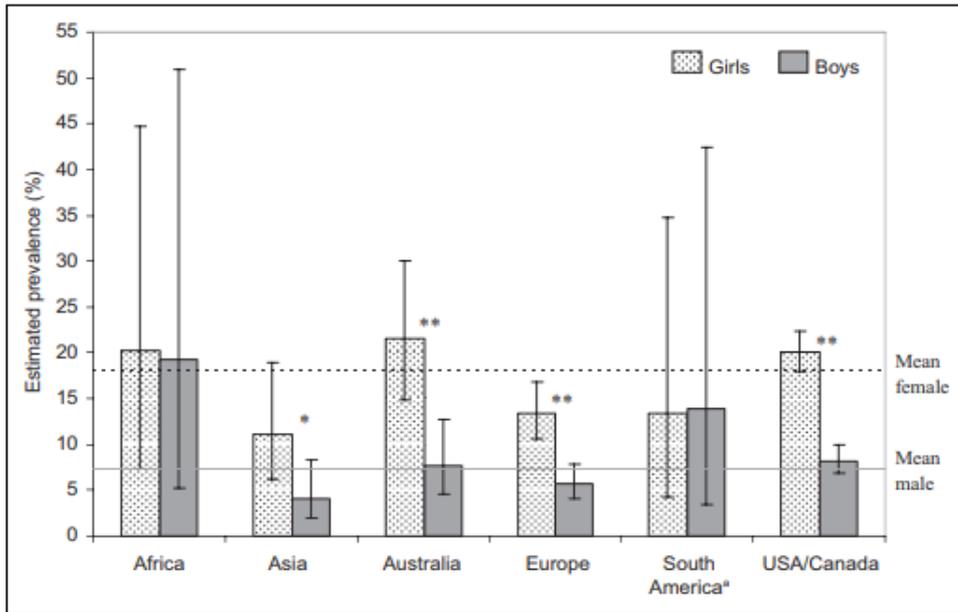
What can we say about the extent of sexual exploitation and abuse in specific regions?

Lack of consistency in definitions and methods makes comparison across time and countries complex



Preventive measures are needed in all countries, since CSA seems to be independent from geographical region

Barth et al (2013)



Highest prevalence in Africa, Australia, USA and Canada

But ... might partially stem from culturally based willingness to disclose sexual experiences



Lowest prevalence in Asia

But ... abuse experiences are less often disclosed in Asia due to taboos and shame

Timeline of allegations

1992/3

Cambodia: During the UN mission, the number of prostitutes rose from 6,000 to 25,000, including an increase in the number of child prostitutes

2003

Eritrea: Italian, Danish and Slovak peacekeepers were expelled in separate incidents for having sex with minors

2008

Southern Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti: Save the Children reported significant levels of abuse of girls and boys in emergencies

2018

Haiti (and globally): Reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by Oxfam staff in Haiti, before allegations emerge from other countries and organisations

2000

Bosnia and Herzegovina: US civilians and Jordanian, Pakistani and German peacekeeping troops were investigated for trafficking in women

2006

Liberia: Save the Children reported high levels of abuse of girls, some as young as eight

2014-18

Syria: Reports of women and girls experiencing sexual abuse and exploitation when accessing aid and services

In 2017, the UN reported:



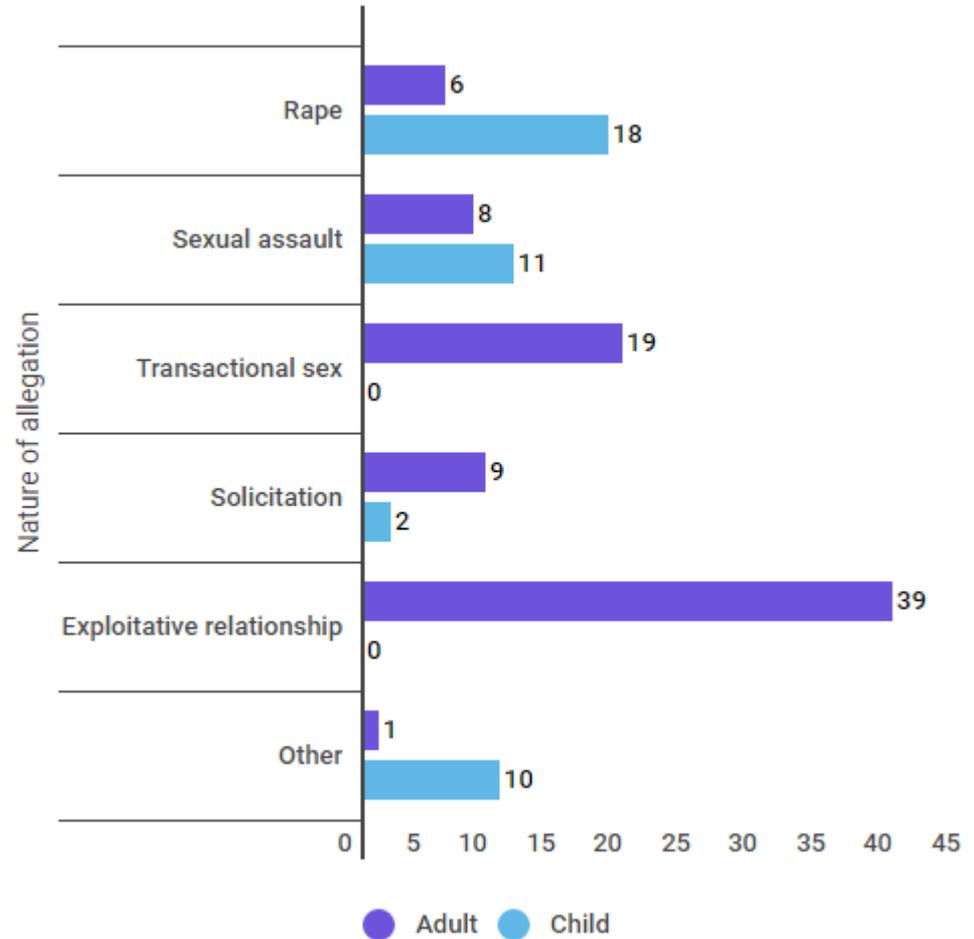
138 allegations

Of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by UN peacekeepers and civilian staff



209 victims

Of which 154 are women, 49 are girls, 3 are boys, 2 are men, and 1 unknown



Based on data from UN (2017) Reports of the Secretary General on Special Measures for Protection from SEA; Allegations reported in 2017

Liberia



In 2006, Save the Children reported 'disturbingly high' numbers of girls being sexually exploited in both camps and returnee communities in Liberia, with girls as young as 8 years involved. Some people cited boys as young as 14 years being sexually exploited.



30-60 year old men

Perpetrators were generally adult men with some money and 'status', including humanitarian workers, peacekeeping soldiers, and Camp Management Committee and Block Leaders



12,000

Women in Monrovia entered the transactional sex market who would not have done so in the absence of UNMIL

Each additional battalion of UN peacekeepers significantly increases the probability that a woman in Monrovia will engage in her first transactional sex in a given year



1 in 5



3%

For each additional UNMIL battalian

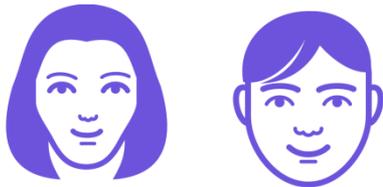


6%

For each additional battalion of African troops

● Women aged 18-30 that have engaged in transactional sex with UN personnel

Côte d'Ivoire, Southern Sudan and Haiti



In 2008, Save the Children reported that significant levels of abuse of boys and girls continue in emergencies, with much of it going unreported

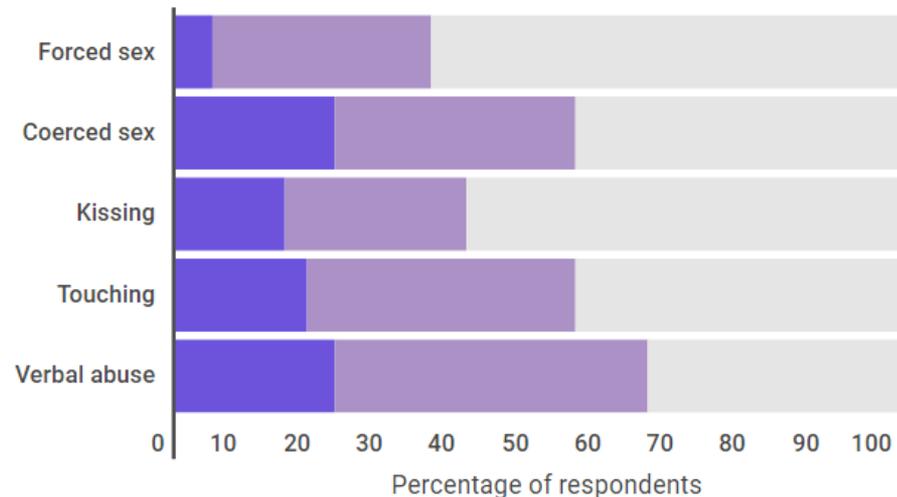
23 organisations

With staff accused of abuse, including humanitarian, peacekeeping and security organisations

Large-scale underreporting

"Clearly there is a significant disparity between the low levels of abuse cited in [official UN] statistics and the high levels suggested in field investigations and other evidence" (Csaky, 2008: 11).

Proportion of research participants who could identify allegations of abuse in their communities



● 10+ allegations ● 1-9 allegations ● 0 allegations



Based on data from: Csaky, C (2008) No-one to turn to: The under-reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers and peacekeepers, London: Save the Children

Source: 38 focus group discussions across South Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti

Syria Crisis



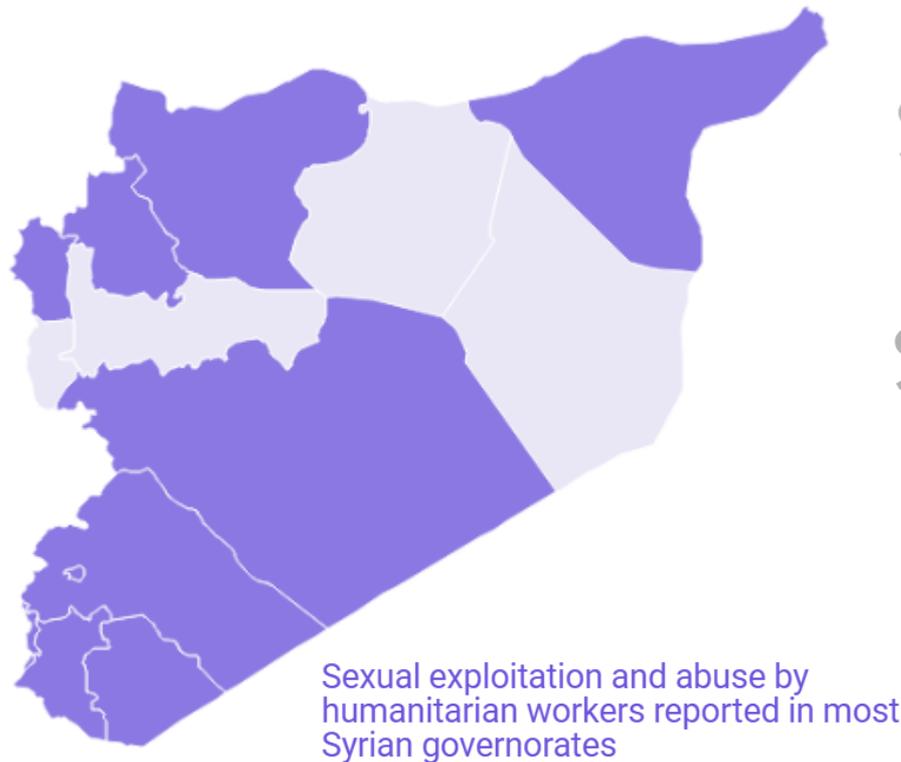
40%

Women and girls surveyed in Syria who had experienced sexual violence when accessing services and aid



14-15 years

Most common age to experience sexual exploitation and abuse



”

In the squatter camps, some distributors use their authority to sexually abuse women

Adolescent boy from A'zaz sub-district Aleppo governorate

”

People will start gossip like saying that woman is talking to the distributor. No one will believe she is not, and then she will give up and stop taking distributions

Adolescent girl from Kafr Batna sub-district, Rural Damascus governorate

Sexual assault against aid workers



1 in 4 women aid workers reported being sexually assaulted while on mission



69%

Did not report the sexual assault



35%

Of those who had been assaulted, 35% had experienced more than one sexual assault while on mission



'Deeply dissatisfied'

Women who reported sexual assault said they were deeply dissatisfied with how the organisation handled the incident



LGBT aid workers reported sexual identity harassment, blackmail, threats and assault, primarily by men working in the aid industry or security providers employed by aid agencies

Mazaruna, D and Donnelly, P (2017)

Sexual exploitation and abuse: untangling the behaviours

Research by Jasmine-Kim Westendorf and Louise Searle in 2017 highlighted that the range of SEA perpetrated in peace operations is diverse, including: opportunistic sexual abuse; planned sadistic attacks; transactional sex; and networked sexual exploitation.

These behaviours could also be applied to sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers. Further research is needed to understand the form and function of these types of SEA, as well as how to prevent such behaviour.

Opportunistic sexual abuse

Often occurs in contexts where sexual violence has long been a norm. Does not include the pre-planning or coordination characteristic of other forms of SEA.

For example, in 2015 Human Rights Watch documented rapes in the Central African Republic, including gang-rape of two girls by MINUSCA peacekeepers near their base. The older girl had been seeking food or money from the peacekeepers, and was threatened with death if she resisted, while the younger had simply been walking by.

Planned, sadistic abuse

Characterized not by its opportunistic nature but by the perpetration of rape in a planned, sadistic form.

For example, in 2015 the UN reported allegations from the Central African Republic of regular oral and anal rape of homeless and starving boys aged 8 to 15 by 26 peacekeepers from France, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. It also alleges a French military commander had tied up and undressed four girls and forced them to have sex with a dog.

Transactional sex

The vast majority of SEA allegations relate to transactional sex, or 'survival sex', including 'the exchange of sex for money (on average \$1–3 per encounter), for food (for immediate consumption or barter later) or for jobs (especially affecting daily workers).

For example, in 2003 civilians from Bunia in eastern DRC took refuge in and around UN headquarters and camps where an extensive survival sex economy sprang up. In East Timor, minors were offered food and small amounts of cash for sex, and T-shirts were sold with the logo 'Feel Safe Tonight: Sleep with a Peacekeeper'

Networked SEA

The connection with criminal networks makes this form of SEA distinct from transactional sex. The extensive coordination and links with money and profit are crucial to understanding its presence in peace operations.

For example, Italian peacekeepers allegedly ran child prostitution rings from their barracks in Sarajevo while Ukrainians smuggled contraband and women. There have been reports that peacekeepers patronized brothels operated out of Serb-run concentration camps outside Sarajevo.

What do we know about the scale of the problem in other sectors?

Religion



4-7% of Catholic priests

4% of Catholic priests in the US and 7% in Australia have been the subject of allegations of child sexual abuse. No data for the UK, globally, or other religions



1,119 allegations

In Australia made over a 35 year period (between 1980 and 2015)



11 year old boys are most vulnerable

Average age of experiencing child sexual abuse from a Catholic priest is 11 years old. 75% of complainants in US and Australian studies were male



Schools, youth groups, orphanages and care homes

Just under a quarter (22%) of all the cases of alleged child sexual abuse from Catholic priests related to schools, whilst 13% related to the Australian youth group the Church of England Boy's Society and 14% reportedly occurred in an orphanage or children's home

Sports



Up to 49% prevalence

Prevalence rates vary from 2% to 49% for sexual abuse in sport, depending on the study design



Elite, disabled, child and LGBT athletes are at higher risk

For example, homophobia in sport is often cited as a reason why boys and young men who are sexually abused are afraid to report or disclose it in case people think they are gay. Youth athletes with disabilities experience a 2-3 times increased risk of sexual abuse and harassment compared with youth athletes in general



839 victims of abuse in 334 football clubs in the UK

'Operation Hydrant' investigation was set up in 2014 to look at non-recent abuse in the UK, including in sport. Statistics from football include: 95% of victims are male, with an age at the time of abuse from 4 years to 20 years. 294 alleged suspects have been identified

What do we know about the scale of the problem in other sectors?

Travel and tourism



Large data gaps

ECPAT's Global Study points to the sheer difficulties of gathering data on the scale and scope as well as the absence of a clear definition on the crime, and therefore lack of clarity on what is to be measured



Vulnerable groups

Include minorities, street children and LGBT



No typical offender

Most are male. Offenders include tourists, business travelers, migrant and transient workers, expats and civil society volunteers. Offenders are usually from the region or country where the offense takes place.



30% of all 12-18 year old girls

In coastal area of Kenya were involved in commercial sex work - approximately 10,000 - 15,000 girls according to UNICEF study in 2006

Online



1 million media files from 88 countries

Analysis of information recorded from the International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) Database



65% of images were girls

Although girls formed the majority of images, when boys were depicted in the abuse it was more likely to be severe



Over half of images were pre-pubescent children

56% of cases depicted pre-pubescent children, 25% were pubescent children, and 4.3% were very young children (infants and toddlers). When victims were younger, the abuse was more likely to be severe.



93% of offenders were male

Almost all offenders were male. Female offenders were most frequently depicted together with a male offender in the sample (in 5.5% of cases)

Quality of the evidence



Global data on child sexual abuse

Strong: High quality body of evidence, large or medium in size, highly or moderately consistent, and contextually relevant. Some robust prevalence studies on child sexual abuse. However, difficulties comparing regionally or between countries.



Global data on sexual exploitation

Medium: Moderate quality studies in particular forms of sexual exploitation (e.g. on online child sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children through sex tourism), but moderate level of consistency



Data on sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector

Limited: Moderate to low quality studies for a few selected countries or humanitarian emergencies. High levels of under-reporting. Online surveys can have 'selection bias'



Data from other sectors

Limited: Moderate to low quality studies for different sectors. Difficulties comparing within a sector due to differences in study design and type of sub-sector (e.g. different types of religion or sports)

Key methodological insights on assessing the extent of sexual exploitation and abuse:

- Surveys framed as crimes generate lower prevalence rates than those framed in terms of health, well-being or sexual experience
- Specialised CSA and sexual violence surveys produce higher estimates than modules nested in wider surveys.
- The age cut off for childhood – 15, 16 or 17 – decreases or increases prevalence measures.
- The most effective questions are behaviourally specific lists which avoid terms such as 'rape', 'assault', 'violence' or 'force'
- Including non-contact abuse (and more recently online) and abuse by peers increases prevalence rates
- The context in which surveys are completed (home, school, college) affects disclosure rates, especially for young people
- Offering more than one opportunity to reveal, including questions about escapes or attempts, increases prevalence rates

Gaps in the evidence:

- Lack of comparable prevalence data at a national level
- Incidence data is highly under-reported - large disparity between official statistics of reported SEA and data from surveys, research and other investigations
- Very limited data available on severity of sexual exploitation and abuse, although some data on child sexual abuse, and UN data on types of reported allegations
- Lack of analysis of nationalities and job roles of people who perpetrate
- Lack of data on sexual exploitation and abuse for vulnerable adults
- Some qualitative data highlighting that LGBT and people with disabilities are at higher risk, but lack of prevalence or incidence data