

“Medical Care of Male Survivors of Sexual Violence in CAR” Podcast Commemorates International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

*Discussion highlights challenges in medical services for male survivors
in CAR*

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London – All Survivors Project (ASP) commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on June 19, 2018, by releasing “Medical Care of Male Survivors of Sexual Violence in CAR”. The twenty-six minute podcast highlights the medical needs of male sexual violence survivors and the challenges they face in accessing care in situations of conflict. The podcast examines barriers faced by male survivors of sexual violence in the Central African Republic following the recent ASP [report](#) on sexual violence against men and boys in the country.

“The quality and quantity of services available for men and boys in CAR is very limited, particularly in the countryside,” said Zack Baddorf, Research Consultant for ASP in CAR. Baddorf, who carried out over sixty interviews with various stakeholders and conducted eight focus group discussions in addition to interviewing male survivors in CAR in 2017, identified stigma and lack of focus and expertise by the humanitarian community on this issue as some of the main causes behind the inadequate responses for male survivors.

Catrin Schulte-Hillen, Head of MSF International Working Group on Reproductive Health and Sexual Violence Care, noted that MSF focuses on the medical care of victims of sexual violence: treatment of trauma injuries, preventive treatment for sexually-transmitted infections as well as prevention of Hepatitis and Tetanus – and in case of women, the prevention and management of unwanted pregnancy. Immediate psychosocial support is part of the medical care, as is the provision of a medical certificate for all victims and constitutes a contribution to the victim’s capacity to seek justice and reparation. She added that MSF

specifically, but humanitarian actors in general are not particularly well placed to address the long-term consequences this form of violence can have on the mental health and life of victims.

“We need to find a multi-disciplinary way of setting up healthcare for victims of sexual violence which allows men, women, boys and girls to come forward,” said Schulte-Hillen calling for systematic training of all medical staff.

All Survivors Project calls upon policy makers, humanitarian actors and donors to implement the following recommendations:

- Intensify efforts to ensure that free, quality, confidential medical care is provided to all survivors of sexual violence, including men and boys. Build capacity for clinical management of rape and train medical staff in the identification and medical management of men and boy victims of sexual violence.
- Invest in ensuring that appropriate mental health and psychosocial support is available to all survivors of sexual violence including men and boys. Specific needs of male survivors should be included in strategies and plans for the development of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services.
- Involve survivors and their communities in encouraging disclosure and enabling male survivors to safely access appropriate medical and MHPSS services. Ensure that survivors are integrally involved and consulted in the design of strategies, projects and services.
- Ensure the right to remedy of men and boys who have been subjected to sexual violence by holding perpetrators to account and providing comprehensive reparations to survivors.

[All Survivors Project](#) seeks to ensure that all survivors of sexual violence in situations of conflict and displacement receive equitable access to services, remedies, and reparations by documenting and advocating on the much-neglected issue of sexual violence against men and boys.

Listen [here](#).