Session on: “War, Conflict & Sanctions / Challenges for Global Health”

Reproductive health in wars and conflicts

Albrecht Jahn, University of Heidelberg, Germany
The "new" UN-Resolution 2467 on sexual violence in war from 23 April 2019:

An incomplete list of systematic use of rape as weapon of war

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place and time</th>
<th>Main groups of victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala 1960ies - 1996</td>
<td>Indigenous population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruanda 1994</td>
<td>Ethnic Minority Tutsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria 2014 -</td>
<td>Yazidis, other religious minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar 2017 -</td>
<td>Rohingya Muslims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, South Sudan</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Care for survivors of sexual violence: The least we can do

- Empathy and respect
- Postexposure prophylaxis for HIV
- Emergency contraception
- Presumptive treatment of STIs
- Abortion services if needed
- Pregnancy and other health care if needed
- Psychosocial support
- Documentation for legal follow up
Sexual violence in warfare in the Global Health Agenda

The *Lancet* Commission on synergies between **Universal Health Coverage** (UHC), **Global Health Security** (GHS) and health promotion

Adapted from WHO’s Global Programme of Work 2019-2023 (Ooms, Ottersen, Jahn, Agyepong. Lancet 2018)
Security and Coverage Priorities according to Key actors:

**GHS-Agenda on GHS:**
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Zoonotic Disease
- Biosafety and Biosecurity
- Immunization
- National Laboratory System
- Real-Time Surveillance
- Workforce Development
- Emergency Operations Centers
- Linking Public Health with Law
- Medical Countermeasures

**WHO on UHC (GPW13):**
- Service access and quality
- Health workforce
- Access to medicines and vaccines
- Governance and finance
- Health information systems
- The „UHC Cube“
  - Coverage of cost
  - Coverage of essential interventions
  - Covering all, and in particular disadvantaged populations.
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Where is security for girls and women?
Conclusions

• Stop stigmatizing and dehumanising minorities and those how are perceived to be different

• Stop acceptancing that sexual violence is an unavoidable side-effect of conflict and war

• Reinforce international law institutions

• Provide all care needed to survivors

• Highlight and frame sexual violence also as a global health security issue