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What evidence exists for  
initiatives to reduce risk and  
incidence of sexual violence  
in armed conflict and other  
humanitarian crises?

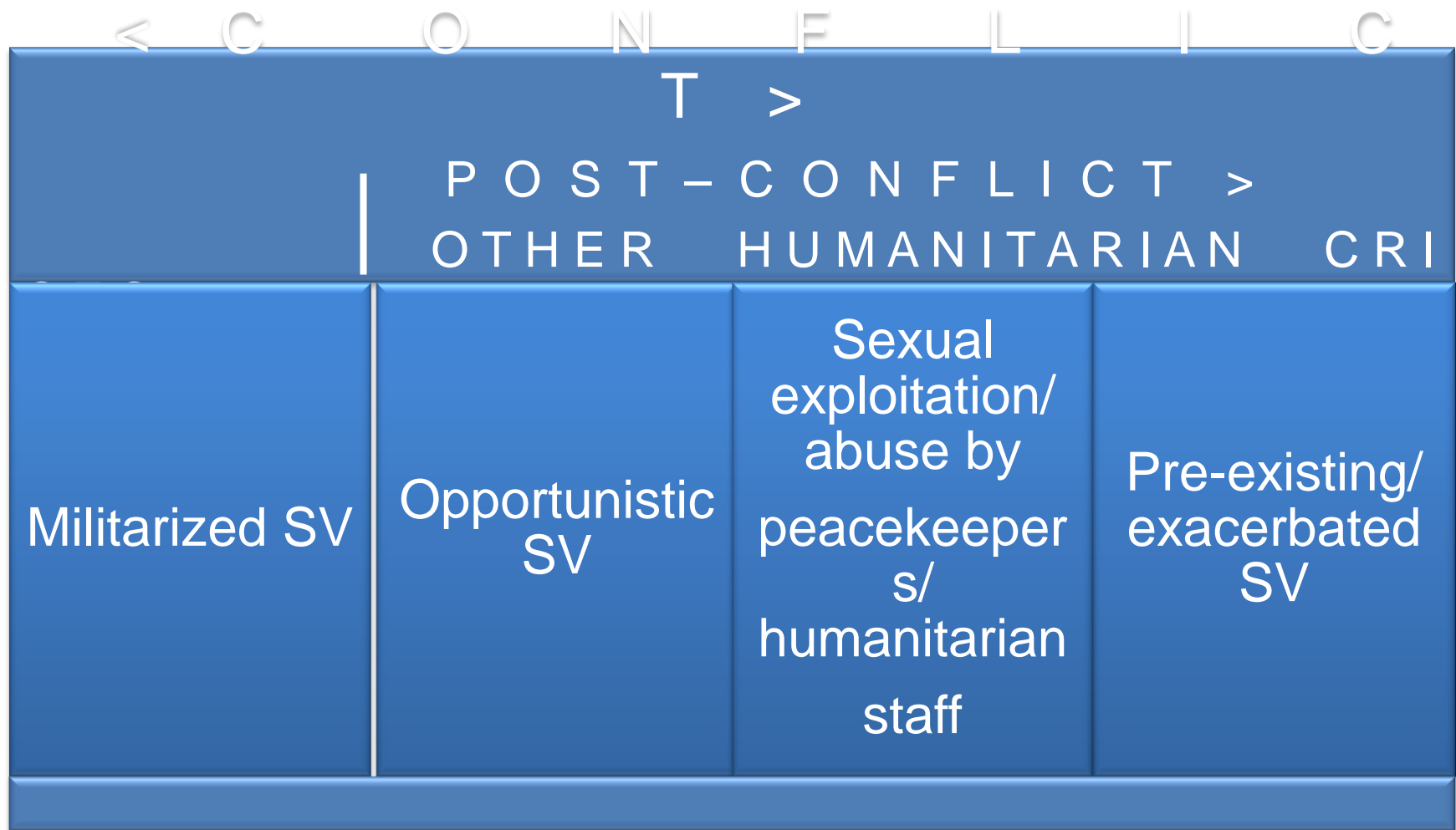
A systematic review



# Review scope and Methods

- Funded by AusAID, DFID and 3ie
- Oversight -EPPI-Centre and Advisory Group
- Scope: Evidence for reduced risk and incidence of SV in conflict, post-conflict and disaster
- Publication 1990- September 2011
- Search: 23 bibliographic data-bases and 23 web sites - both peer review and grey literature
- Analysis: Narrative and realist

# Typology of sexual violence in conflict/crisis



# INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

INDIVIDUAL

Survivor responses  
Livelihood strategies  
Combatant-focused initiatives\*

COMMUNITY

Community mobilization  
Peace building \*

SOCIETAL

Personnel  
Systems and security  
Infrastructure  
Legal action



# What did we find?

- 40 studies - (20 implementation only)
- Most studies from Africa and former Yugoslavia
- Most for post-conflict violence
- One study addressed the disaster setting only
- 18 studies addressed >1 type of violence
- Militarized sexual violence (14)
- Sexual exploitation and abuse - SEA (3)
- Pre-existing/exacerbated sexual violence (3)
- Opportunistic sexual violence (2)

# Number of studies by strategy type

Strategy type	Implement	Outcome	Total
Survivor care	6	4	10
Livelihood	1	1	2
Community mobilization	3	0	3
Personnel	1	2	3
Systems & security	0	3	3
Multiple components	8	5	13
Legal	1	5	6
Total	20	20	40

# Evidence for reduced incidence

- ❑ No studies prospectively measured changed incidence through interventions.
- ❑ 2 studies of systems and security interventions provided some evidence of reduced victim reports of sexual violence in association with firewood distribution/ fuel alternatives
- ❑ 1 study of a personnel intervention provided evidence of reduced of SEA by peacekeepers

# Evidence for reduced risk

- ❑ Personnel strategies:  
little evidence of  
reduced risk
- ❑ Firewood patrols/ fuel  
alternatives: reduced  
risk from firewood  
collection but not  
necessarily in other  
settings





# Evidence for reduced risk 2

## ❑ Multiple component interventions:

4 out of 5 studies showed some indicators for reduced risk though quality was low

## ❑ Legal interventions:

Mixed - progress at International Criminal Court -  
SV included in majority of ICC prosecutions,  
Other tribunals - risk of re-traumatisation,  
retaliation and stigma

# Evidence for secondary prevention

- Provision of a medical response and two sessions of post-trauma counselling improves functioning sustained 1-2 years.
- Participation in groups and with other women who have experienced trauma are valued and may reduce distress even where SV is not the explicit focus.
- Use of traditional rituals may have merit

# Policy implications 2

- Anonymity and confidentiality in services and reporting
- Gender equality programs need to address tensions
- Separate consultation with different community groups (age, sex, and culture) on design and implementation.
- Systems for offender accountability should privilege survivors' protection and avoid re-traumatisation.

# References

Bloom S (2010) Violence against women and girls: A compendium of monitoring and evaluation indicators Chapel Hill, NC: MEASURE Evaluation, Carolina Population Center 250 p.

Spangaro,J, Adogu,C, et al (2013)“What evidence exists for initiatives to reduce risk and incidence of sexual violence in armed conflict and other humanitarian crises? A systematic review”, PLoS ONE 8(5): e62600.

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