

MEDIA SURVEY
VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AT SCHOOL
(SUMMARY JULY- SEPTEMBER)



ActionAid
Octobre 2009
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Introduction

This media survey aims at compiling and reviewing cases of violence against girls as hindrances to their access, maintenance and achievement at school in a number of national media selected by ActionAid Country Offices.

Violence is defined as “any forms of **abuse** (physical, mental, psychological, verbal, emotional, direct, indirect, etc) against girls **under 18, schooled or of school age**. Violence may occur at home (household chores, corporal punishment, ill-treatment, rapes, genital mutilations and other traditional practices harmful to girls), at school (punishment, discrimination, physical and verbal abuse) as well as on the street.”

We also considered cases of **early pregnancies, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, indecent assault, contracting HIV, early/forced marriages, abortion under duress, forced prostitution, forced labour, gender-based selection before birth** as various forms of abuse.

In the framework of this work and from ActionAid’s standpoint any hindrance to girls’ access, maintenance and achievement at school may be deemed as cases of violence.

We are not in any case using this work as a means of tracking actual incidence of VAGS , but rather the response of the media to Violence against girls at school. This objective would be presumptuous, considering that the number of cases compiled would reflect only the interest of newspapers or their editorial line. Our study focuses on the coverage of the VAGS in newspapers and tries at the same time, to identify the profiles of the victims, the perpetrators and the locality. Are VAGS often covered in newspapers? from which perspective is it analysed? Sensationalist? legal terms? Or as part of a societal phenomenon?

If the VAGS cases are largely reported in newspapers, is it the evidence that the taboo is broken in our societies, are the victims and families reporting more or are the VAGS just a “sale/attractive subject”? If we find, at the end of the period of the survey in July 2010, more analytical articles in the majority of the countries where we are working to raise the profile of VAGS, then we can celebrate a great success. However, while we can say that the VAGS media survey has great potential to be used as a basis for evaluating our campaigning and advocacy work on this issue, we should not ever see declining coverage as a sign of declining incidence - and nor should we celebrate more articles if the way they are covered is negative (press sensationalist, crude vocabulary).

The tools –on which we agreed- allow us to generate VAGS profile and assess cases of abuse to be shared with the relevant stakeholders (education actors such as partners, parents, schools, children, media, etc.).

The results can be used in purposes of campaign and advocacy on this issue, but also as arguments to raise funds, to feed our policy work in terms of prevention and protection mechanism in order to ensure access, maintenance and achievement at school of girls, especially the victims of abuses,.

In terms of approach, our corpus is comprised of **thirty-nine (39) dailies**. Out of eighteen (18) countries targeted we received a list of newspapers to be reviewed from **fourteen (14) countries**.

We also collected articles posted on the websites of the newspapers selected by colleagues. However, in most cases, national colleagues who agreed to participate in the survey send us scanned articles since most of the papers have neither websites nor online archives¹.

The articles compiled are kept in a database as per the following variables: viewpoint developed in the article, the column, the type of abuse, the victim's profile (age and social standing), presumed perpetrator's profile (age and relation to the victim), place of perpetration and sentence.

We listed several articles compiling a large number of violence against girls during this year². But for methodological reasons, we were not able to integrate these cases in our corpus. Indeed, articles give no sociologic precision and their integration in our corpus will corrupt the results.

A final report summarizing the twelve-month media survey on violence against girls at school will be released in July 2010.

The quarterly summary (exceptionally in monthly version in this issue) encompasses all cases listed in **eighteen (18) African countries, namely Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.**

This document will be distributed to all ActionAid education coordinators in the region and their colleagues involved in the media survey; but also to relevant persons they will judge necessary to share with : educational, governmental and associative structures concerned by the violence against girls, the media selected, etc. We hope that sharing with the media will encourage the journalists and possibly improve coverage, analysis and distribution of the VAGS in newspapers by privileging analytical articles and adequate terminology.

Hundred and sixty seven cases of abuse were identified in thirteen out of the eighteen (18) countries covered in this media survey. Cases are classified as per the following variables: type of abuse, pattern of treatment by the media, victim's profile, profile of the accused, locality, and means of perpetration.

Thank you in advance for your comments which will enable us to improve the next issue (October to December).

¹ The media survey covers the 1 July 2009 - 31 July 2010 period. We started our activities only on 15 September 2009. As a result, we are facing serious difficulties in compiling articles published in the 1 July - 15 September period. This applies also to October for countries which came on-board that month.

² Articles published in Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe reveal that more than three hundred and forty seven (347) cases of violence on the girls were committed between January 1st and September 30th, 2009.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY BURUNDI



02 daily newspapers : **Renouveau et l'agence de presse Netpress**

The alert caused by the large number of cases of violence against girls had already been given during the 1993-2003 civil war. However, since the end of the civil war girls continue to be abused. In effect, the inflow of refugees, displaced persons, the presence of ex-combatants and the general degradation of the economic and social sphere have contributed towards increasing the number of cases of VAGS in Burundi.

However, we noted upon embarking on this media survey for one month that **cases of VAGS were not reported by Le Renouveau and Netpress.**

According to the AA Coordinator, this silencing of VAGS in the print media is due, on the one hand, to the specificity of the Burundian press and to the predominance of oral tradition in Burundi, on the other hand. Indeed, the Burundian print media focuses basically on politics and the issue of national reconciliation.

However, **local radios that are better suited to the tradition of communication and realities in Burundi report on cases of VAGS.** Therefore, we would like to suggest one of the following alternative solutions and we are expecting our colleagues to advise on the feasibility:

1. Ensuring a monitoring of cases of abuse reported to the police (minutes of complaints);
2. Working in cooperation with a public organization and/or an association mandated to monitor abuses in order to record cases of VAGS;
3. Listing cases of VAGS reported on by radios. In this instance, we will target a set of general news radio stations and will work jointly with consultants (journalists) tasked with reporting on VAGS cases.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY CAMEROUN



03 daily newspapers : **Cameroun Tribune, le Messager et Mutations.**

According to a report published by GTZ and the Cameroonian Ministry of Health, building on interviews conducted with 37 719 women across the country, rapes and incest are on the rise. Approximately 432 000 women and girls have been abused over the past two decades. Among these victims one fifth is raped by a member of their family and **on average the rape victims are aged 15.**

However, we could not find records of cases of VAGS in newspapers in the 1-31 July period.

As a result, we are expecting soft/hard copies of articles dating back to July and September to conduct the media survey.

JULY

We could not find records of cases of VAGS in newspapers in the 1-31 July period.

AUGUST

Two (2) cases of VAGS were reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuses

The cases of abuses listed were:

- A case of **incest** with grave mutilations of the private parts and followed by death of the victim, in the city of Bonabéri

- A case of rape in the city of Douala.

Victims' Profile

The two victims are **five (5) years old**. They were not sent to school yet, because six years is the legal age of schooling.

Perpetrators' Profile

Both perpetrators of abuse are close to the victim :

- **The forty six (46) years old father of the victim**
- **The son of the tenant of the victim'parents (14 years old)**

In both cases, we decry the inhumanity of the committed violence which are followed by the death of the victim (case 1) or of grave repercussion (bleeding).

We notice a battle of will (paternal, elder, financial, etc.) between the victim and the aggressor. This report consolidates the fact that the sexual violence is committed by persons exerting a strong influence over the victim.

In the case of the incest, the perpetrator is a recidivist. The victim's mother had already been a victim of rape followed by pregnancy by the same perpetrator when she was thirteen-years-old.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

VAGS are covered exclusively in the **news items** column. Thus, only their **legal aspect** is covered. They are analyzed as society phenomenon, customs depravation and perversion. The articles contain are very long and tell in detail contexts and conditions of abuses. **The vocabulary used is very raw.**

Also, none of the articles reviewed depicts cases of abuse judged as a violation of girls' rights or a societal issue, etc.

SEPTEMBER

A single case of VAGS was reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuses

The case of abuse listed is **a death by poisoning**.

Victims' Profile

The victim is eighteen **(18) years old** and was sick.

Perpetrators' Profile

The perpetrator is a **sixty nine (69) years old quack**. He is accused of poisoning the girl and three other members of the family of the victim having given them to eat a poisoned duck.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

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Also, none of the articles reviewed depicts cases of abuse judged as a violation of girls' rights or a societal issue, etc.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY ETHIOPIE



05 daily newspapers: Ethiopian **Herald, Fortune, Reporter, Addis Admas, et The Daily Monitor.**

Abductions followed by forced marriages, genital mutilations and abuses are rife in Ethiopia. Seventy-three (73) percent of women and girls are subjected to genital mutilations. Thirty-three (33) percent of married women were below 15 when they married.

JULY

Reporter, Addis Admas, and **The Daily Monitor** have no website. Therefore, we could not conduct a media survey on these dailies. **Ethiopian Herald** and **Fortune** have website but no case of abuse was recorded on the existing websites

AUGUST

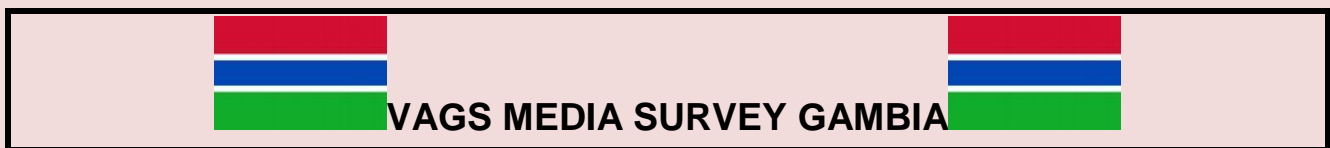
A single article was collected in **The Ethiopian Herald** of August 30th, 2009. The article titled " Female genital circumcision: Rite of passage or violation of rights " presents the social context of this practice, consequences, campaigns against excision and perspectives of the fight against the feminine genital mutilations in Africa.

The author analysed violations of girls rights. The author reveals that between 20 and 25 % of the cases of infertility in Sudan are caused by excision and that a study realized in 1986 in Nigeria show that 90 % of the women in five Nigerian states were excised.

The author notes that campaigns led for decades allowed to lower the number of cases of excisions particularly in Republic Centre African, in Eritrea and in Mali.

July August and September

No article received till today.



01 daily newspaper: **The Daily Observer**.

JULY

The **Daily Observer** reported **six (6) cases of abuse** over that period.

Typology and Sites of Abuses

The cases of abuses listed were chiefly sexual abuses of under age girls. They occurred in the following areas: **Kololi** in the KSMD region, **Manjai Kumo**, **Serekunda**, **Ebo Town** in **Banjul**, and in **Bundung**.

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are under age children aged **8-17**. It should however be noted that in most articles the reporters do not specify victims' age. Therefore, we cannot determine the abused victims' age.

Also, no article specifies whether victims are school children or not. We assume however that they are all of school age.

Perpetrators' Profile

Articles specify neither the relationship of the presumed perpetrator with the victim nor the age of the perpetrators in the articles listed. We infer that the perpetrators of sexual abuse are **adults and unrelated to the victim**. This assumption is substantiated by the fact these events of abuse occur outside the victims' homes.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

VAGS are covered exclusively in the “Court and Law” column. Thus, only their **legal aspect** is covered. The content of the article remains focused on a summary of facts, testimonies, pleas of the parties/judge and the sentence.

Also, none of the articles reviewed depicts cases of abuse judged as a violation of girls’ rights or a societal issue, etc.

AUGUST

Six (6) cases of abuse was listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuses

The cases of abuses listed were **mainly sexual abuses of under age girls**. They occurred in the following areas: in the region of **Sibanor, Bakau, Steered, Sankuya, Boiram and in the municipality of Kanifing to Abuko**.

Victims’ Profile

The recorded victims are under age children aged **3-16**. On average, they are **11.5 year-old**.

Also, no article specifies whether victims are school girls or not. We assume however that they are all of school age.

Perpetrators’ Profile

Articles specify neither the relationship of the presumed perpetrator with the victim nor the age of the perpetrators in the articles listed. We infer that the perpetrators of sexual abuse are **adults and unrelated to the victim**. This assumption is substantiated by the fact these events of abuse occur outside the victims’ homes.

This hypothesis is consolidated by the fact that the violence takes place outside of the places of residence of the victims (beach, wood). The authors entice the victims by the guile and the presents.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

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None of the articles reviewed depicts cases of abuse judged as a violation of girls’ rights or a societal issue, etc.

SEPTEMBER

The **Daily Observer** reported **eleven (11) cases of abuse** over that period.

Typology and Sites of Abuses

As in the previous months, the cases of abuses listed were chiefly sexual abuses of under age girls. They took place in the following areas: **in the municipality of Kanifing, at Latrikunda German and Bundung, in the village of Lamin, at Sounkuya in the District of Jarra (2 cases), at Barra, at Kololi, in the region the West to Sibanor, at the village of Boiram and at Banjul on Tobacco Road**. Two violences took place at school, the others take place outside.

Victims’ Profile

The recorded victims are under age children aged **3-16**. On average, they are **10.4 year-old**. The average of the victims age is weak with regard to the previous months (15 and 11.4 years). Two of the victims are school girls and six others are in school age.

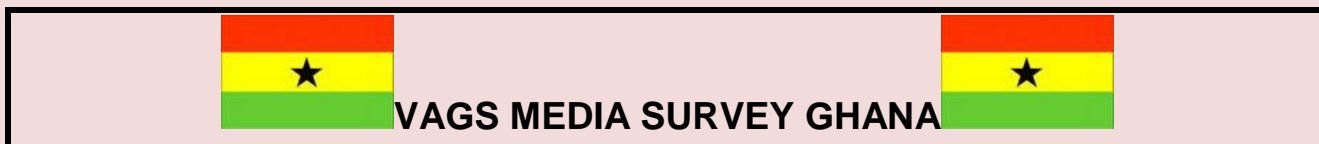
Perpetrators’ Profile

A single article specifies the profile of the perpetrator: a teacher.

We infer that the others perpetrators of sexual abuse are **adults and unrelated to the victim**. This assumption is substantiated by the fact these events of abuse occur outside the victims' homes.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

VAGS are covered exclusively in the "Court and Law" column. Thus, only their **legal aspect** is covered. The content of the article remains focused on a summary of facts, testimonies, pleas of the parties/judge and the sentence. The articles never specify the profiles of the victims and the perpetrators.



03 daily newspapers : **Daily Graphic, The Ghanaian Times, The Chronicle, GNA and Ghana districts.**

JULY

Six (6) cases of VAGS were reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuse recorded are **basically cases of sexually abuse**, with a case of rape resulting in a pregnancy and associated with forced labour. These cases of abuse occurred in the following sectors: **Mallam** (rape leading to pregnancy and followed by forced labour), at **Nkwanta** in the district of **Ho**, at **Kordorbeda, Kumasi** and in an undetermined locality.

The cases of sexual abuse occurred outside victims' home as well as on the street (market, groves, farms, etc.).

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are **aged 13-16**. On average, they are **14.8 year-old**. No article specifies whether the victims are attending school or not.

Perpetrators' Profile

Only two perpetrators are close to the victims: **uncle** to the victim and a **religious man**.

The perpetrators' age is not specified in any of the articles listed. But based on clues in some articles, we may assume that offenders are **adults unrelated to the victim**. In effect, most of the recorded cases of rapes occur outside the victims' home.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

In all the newspapers comprising our corpus, cases of VAGS are covered in the **crime and punishment** column. No case is analyzed as a violation of the child's rights or as impeding the victim's achievement at school.

AUGUST

Eight **(8) cases** of VAGS were reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuse are **seven (7) cases of rapes** of which **one (1) with theft** and a case of **incest resulting in a pregnancy**.

The violence took place in the following sectors: **in Kumasi (5 cases), Cape Coast, Aishman Night Market, Bortianor in the capital in Accra.**

The cases of sexual abuse occurred around victims' home (2 cases at school and 2 in victims' house) as well as on the street (4 cases.).

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are **aged 13-16**. On average, they are **14.14 year-old**. All the victims are school girls.

Perpetrators' Profile

We count eight (**8**) perpetrators aged **18-59 years old**. On average, they are **30.37 year-old**.

- Two (2) perpetrators are close to the victim: **father-in-law and boyfriend**. In this case, the girls are frequently raped. This abuse takes place in victims' house (victim or perpetrator's bedroom).
- Two perpetrators are school staffs: **gymnastic teacher and primary school teacher**.
- **Four (4) perpetrators are unrelated to the victim**: all of such cases of abuse occurred on the street, including one on the way to school.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

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SEPTEMBER

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Typology and Sites of Abuses

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Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are under age children aged **3-16**. On average, they are **10.4 year-old**. The average of age of the victims is weak with regard to the previous months (15 and 11.4 years). Two of the victims are officially school girls and six others are in school age.

Perpetrators' Profile

A single article specifies the profile of the perpetrator: **a teacher**.

We infer that the others perpetrators of sexual abuse are **adults and unrelated to the victim**. This assumption is substantiated by the fact these events of abuse occur outside the victims' homes.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

VAGS are covered exclusively in the "Court and Law" column. Thus, only their **legal aspect** is covered. The content of the article remains focused on a summary of facts, testimonies, pleas of the parties/judge and the sentence. The articles never specify the profiles of the victims and the perpetrators.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY KENYA



04 daily newspapers : **Standard, Daily Nation, and East Africa**.

JULY

It is only in **The Standard** that we were able to list **five (5) cases** of VAGS. The other dailies selected have no archiving system for articles published in July 2009.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The five (5) cases of abuse listed include **four cases of rape leading to pregnancies** in the Koibatek District and **one case of abduction followed by corporal ill-treatment resulting into death** in the Rarieda District. The cases of sexual abuses occurred at school (4 cases) and on the way to school (1 case).

Victims' profile

Victims are under-age children **aged five (5) to fifteen (15)**, including four in primary school and one in pre-school.

Perpetrators' profile

The four cases of pregnancy recorded were committed by the same perpetrator, that is the **teacher of the victims**. Based on details in the articles, we may assume that the offenders were adults.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The five cases of abuse were reported in only two articles published in **The Standard** under the News column. They are analyzed as a societal phenomenon. No article is oriented towards the control of sexual abuses and their consequences for victims.

AUGUST

It is only in **The Standard** that we were able to list **five (5) cases** of VAGS. The other dailies selected have no archiving system for articles published in August 2009.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuse listed include: **a case of moral violence followed by escape (during two weeks) to Kilifi District and a case of domestic slavery to Mballe (Uganda).**

Victims' Profile

Victims are under-age children **aged ten (10) to fifteen (15)**.

Perpetrators' profile

Both violence is the fact of the victim' relatives: **victim' mother** for the case of the moral violence and the **grandmother** for that of the domestic slavery.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The five cases of abuse were reported in only two articles published in **The Standard** under the News column. They are analyzed as a societal phenomenon. No article analysed sexual abuses and their consequences for victims.

SEPTEMBER

Thirty three (33) cases were listed in this month.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuse listed include:

- **twenty five (25) cases of rapes** followed by **pregnancies**
- **five cases of rapes**
- **a gang rape followed by HIV infection** of the victim
- **a rape with kidnapping**
- **a case of incest**

The cases took place at **Kéricho** (24 cases), at **Boikanga in** Gucha District, at **Embu**, at **Eldoret** and **Mukuru Kwa Njenga**.

Victims' Profile

Victims are under-age children **aged eight (8) to eighteen (18)**.

Perpetrators' profile

The perpetrators of violence are:

- unrelated to the victim: **workers in the fields of tea which the victims cross to go to the school** or the **unrelated persons** (gang rape);
- a related: **victim' father**;
- **a teacher**: in that case, the article takes the hypothesis that the teacher raped others pupils; but only one victims pressed charges. Articles do not specify the age of the perpetrators.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The cases of abuse were reported in **The Standard and Daily Nation** in the News column. The article " *Lone chorus girl in class after 24 pregnant students drop out* " analysed " the epidemic of rape " on the road of the school of Kericho was analyzed as a grave problem having consequences in the maintance of girls at school.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY LIBERIA



02 daily newspapers selected : **The Inquirer and The Heritage**

In Liberia, rapes and sexual abuses were common forms of abuse during the war. Many young girls were abducted and turned into "bush wives", cooks, chore aids and sexual slaves for combatants. Although the war has come to an end, there is still massive evidence of a high rate of sexual and sex-based abuses (SSBA) and domestic abuse across the country.

Despite the acknowledgement of these numerous cases of rape, we were not able to collect articles dealing with cases of VAGS.

In effect, **The Inquirer** and **The Heritage** have no VAGS records.

We are expecting soft/hard copies of articles in order to conduct the media survey.

JULY , AUGUST

No article received.

SEPTEMBER

Two (2) cases of VAGS were reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

These abuses are cases of an **infanticide and a murder**. The violence was committed at **Tubmanburg (Bony country)** and at **Montserrado (Morovia)**.

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are **aged thirteen (13) years** . All the victims are school girls.

Perpetrators' profile

The perpetrators are:

- **victims'father** (aged 50 years old)
- A "**reliable person**": watchman of the victim'house and her fiancée.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The articles contents are rather short and do not detail the motives of the murders. The case of Angel Togba's murder aroused the reactions of pressure groups of girls.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY MALAWI



02 daily newspapers: **The Nation and The Daily Times.**

JULY

Two cases were recorded in 1 - 31 July 2009 in **The Daily Times**: "*Teacher arrested for raping pupil*" and "*Man in for defiling step daughter*".

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

These abuses are cases of **rape leading to pregnancies**. And they took place in the homes of the perpetrators at **Makata** and **Chirimba**.

Victims' Profile

The victims are primary school **children** aged **sixteen (16)**.

Perpetrators' profile

Both victims were raped by someone close to them, that is a **teacher aged thirty-nine (39)** and a **step-father**.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Both cases of abuse were found in the News column. They are analyzed as a societal phenomenon. No article was in line with the control of sexual abuses and their consequences for victims.

AUGUST

Four **(4) cases** of VAGS were reported by the selected dailies.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

These abuses are **three (3) cases of incest among which one on vulnerable person and a case of sexual attouchments**. And they took place in perpetrators' homes at Nkhotakota District (2 cases) and at Nancholi; and a case in a school of Mangochi.

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are **aged 8-13**. On average, they are **9.75 year-old**. All the victims are school children. Two of the victims are seven and eight years old sisters.

Perpetrators' profile

We count all in all three perpetrators **aged 29-38 years old**. They are all close to victims:

- Step-father (2 cases): he raped the elder sister but the affair was hushed up by the victim' mother. Then, he was red-handed raping the younger sister;
- father: he raped repeatedly his daughter affected by epileptic crises; -
- teacher: in that case, the victim had alerted at first the Headteacher which did not react. The victim' parents lodged complaint.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Both cases of abuse were found in the News column. They are analyzed as a societal phenomenon. No article analysed sexual abuses and their consequences for victims.

We also notice that these articles often compile the other facts-miscellaneous thefts, embezzlements, attacks.

SEPTEMBER

Eight **(8)** cases of VAGS were reported.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

These abuses are:

- **A physical violence**
- **Five (5) cases of incest**
- **A single rape case**
- **A forced marriage**

The violence took place in the village of Chindevu (3 cases), in the le village of **Nkhotakota (in the wood), at Mzuzu, in the District of Nkhata Bay, at Mangochi District and at Kamuzu.**

The majority of the violence took place in victims' house. For the case of the sisters violated by their father, the violence began since 2006.

Victims' Profile

The recorded victims are **aged 7-14**. On average, they are **11.75 year-old**. All the victims are school girls. Three of the victims are seven, eleven, and thirteen years old sisters.

Perpetrators' profile

We count all in all **six perpetrators** aged **20-45 years old**. On the average, they are **42 year old**. They are generally related to the victim.

- **A father** (Case of 3 sisters), **Step-fathers** (2 cases), a **mother** (case of burning)
- **A husband**: case of the forced marriage after a early pregnancy of a pupil (Standard 6)
- **A unrelated person**: the victim was raped by an unknown person on the road of the school

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Both cases of abuse were found in the News column. They are analyzed as a societal phenomenon.

We notice that articles often compile the other facts-miscellaneous thefts, embezzlements, attacks.

Eight cases of violence were listed in the News column.

Three of the cases were analyzed under the angle of violation of girls rights and raised deep reactions from political authorities, associations and public opinion.

It is at first about the case of the forced marriage by the pupil Standard 6. The article reveals that the victims father denounced the abuse to the social worker of the District of Nkhata Bay which press charges. Furthermore, to assure the maintenance to school of the teenager after delivery, the NGO WORLD VISION offered a grant to the victim.

This affair came at the same time that the President Bingu wa Mutharika refused to sign the law raising the legal age of the marriage from fifteen (15) to sixteen (16) years.

Then, the case of the incest of three sisters denounced by the victim's mother , aroused the debate, the mother testified in groups of defence of the rights of the women.

Finally, the case of the girl which was burned with paraffin by her mother followed by three months of hospitalization and the grave repercussion also aroused Patrice Kaliati's reaction, Minister of Gender and Children. He condemned firmly the violence and encourage population to support the victim.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY MOZAMBIQUE



Newspaper selected : **still expecting newspapers titles from Local coordinators.**

Violence against girls is widespread in Mozambique. While there is but scanty information about its real scope, there are many indications that girls are exposed to sexual, psychological and physical abuses within the family and the community.

FROM JULY to SEPTEMBER

We have not yet received the list of newspapers to be able to review VAGS in Mozambique.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY NIGERIA



02 daily newspapers selected : **The Guardian, This Day, Vanguard.**

In Nigeria, violence against girls is a serious and common problem facing girls across all sixteen geographic areas in the country. They are victims of physical, verbal and sexual abuses as well as other forms of abuse and exploitation.

JULY

Despite the acknowledgement of these numerous cases of rape, we were not able to collect articles dealing with cases of VAGS in July.

The websites of **The Guardian, This Day, and Vanguard** have no archives on VAGS.

We are expecting soft/hard copies of articles in order to be able to conduct the media survey.

AUGUST

A single article was collected in **Leadership Newspaper** of August 20th, 2009: "*Violence against women, hinderance to democratic activist*". The article deals with the physical, sexual and psychic violence perpetrated against girls / women as obstacle to their success, to their participation in the democratic life of the country.

However, the article contains no statistics, or cases of violence which can be listed in our VAGS database.

We are expecting titles and soft/hard copies of articles to conduct the media survey.

SEPTEMBER

A single case was collected : « *CP Tasked on Rape of Teenager by Policeman* ».

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The case of abuse listed is a case of **rape at Asaba**.

Victims' Profile

The victim is aged **sixteen (16) years old**.

Perpetrators' profile

The author **is a policeman** (corporal) attached to the Delta State Police Command d'Abasa.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The article is very short and reveals no detail.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY - RWANDA



The colleagues in charge of compiling articles noted **that cases of violence against girls are not covered by the Rwandan print media** but rather by local radios.

This lack of treatment of VAGS in the print media is due, on the one hand, to the specificity of the Rwandan press and to the predominance of oral tradition in Rwanda, on the other hand.

In the wake of the genocide, the private press that had played a leading role in politics and in the popularization of the divisive ideology had difficulties recovering. Therefore, there was a need for a new and federating press. As a result, **most articles published deal with peace, national reconciliation, justice, religion, etc.**

Cases of VAGS are extensively covered by radios **which are more adapted to the tradition of communication and realities** in Rwanda. Therefore we would like to suggest one of the following options, and like in Burundi, we are expecting our colleagues to advise on the feasibility:

1. Ensuring a monitoring of cases of abuse reported to the police (minutes of complaints);
2. Working in cooperation with a public organization and/or an association mandated to monitor abuses in order to record cases of VAGS;
3. Listing cases VAGS reported by radios. In this instance, we will target a set of general news radio stations and will work jointly with consultants (journalists) tasked with reporting on cases of VAGS.

FROM JULY to SEPTEMBER

We have not yet received the list of newspapers to be able to review VAGS in Rwanda.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY SENEGAL



05 daily newspapers selected: **Le Soleil, L'Observateur, Le Quotidien, Sud Quotidien and Walfadjri.**

JULY

Fifteen (15) cases of abuse were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The fifteen (15) cases listed include:

- **Eleven (11) cases of rape** with one leading to the **pregnancy** of the victim and **two (2) cases of gang rapes³**;
- **Two (2) cases of incest with one leading to a pregnancy and the other being a case of abduction**;
- **One case of indecent exposure with physical abuse and a case of forced marriage.**

These cases of abuse occurred in the following areas:

³ Gang rape of twins at Grand Yoff by four presumed perpetrators.

- **The District of Dakar and the greater Dakar: nine (9) cases of abuse** were listed in the Senegalese capital **in working-class/under-privileged neighbourhoods** (Bargny, hiaroye, Malika, Bambilor, Guédiawaye, Rufisque, and Grand Yoff).
- **The region of Kolda: four (4) cases** of abuse were recorded at Si-Thiang, Velingara and in two other localities unspecified in the articles.
- **In the district of Linguère (Louga region), two case of abuse** were reported in the areas of Sagatta Djoloff and Yang Yang.
- **In the district of Tivouane: one case of abuse.**

Victims' profile

On average, the victims are aged **12.5** with an age bracket of **eight to sixteen**.

Three (3) victims are officially school girls (1st, 3rd and 4th forms). The other victims are of school age.

Perpetrators' profile

In all, there are **eighteen (18) presumed perpetrators** of violence against girls **who are aged 18-84**, including:

- **Seven (7) perpetrators of abuse related to the victim⁴**. In this case, the girls are frequently raped. This abuse takes place within the family's space (victim or perpetrator's bedroom).
- **Six (6) offenders are "reliable persons"**. These individuals live or work close to the victim (co-tenant, neighbour, grocer, etc.). Cases of abuse are common in co-tenantships in working-class neighbourhoods.
- **Five (5) perpetrators are unrelated to the victim**: all of such cases of abuse occurred on the street, including one on the way to school.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Cases of VAGS are covered in Society, News Stories, and News columns. They are often analyzed as a societal phenomenon (corruption of mores) and often treated very crudely. In general, titles are very long and down-to-earth such as "The teacher used to have sex with his daughter".

The case of rape that occurred at the office of the *Parti Démocratique Sénégalais* in Rufisque was analyzed from the political standpoint by three newspapers. The reporters gave pre-eminence to the political dimensions and hid behind presumed political pressures to hush up the case at the expense of the abused victim. A single article was in line with the fight against sexual abuse and their consequences for victims, "*Viol des jumelles de Grand Yoff, le CEGID dit niet à toute médiation familiale*".

AUGUST

Sixteen (16) cases of abuse were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The sixteen (16) cases listed include:

- **Eleven (11) cases of rape** with two leading to the **pregnancies** of the victims and
- **Three (3) cases of incest with two leading to pregnancies**
- **One case of corruption of a minor**

These cases of abuse occurred in the following areas:

- **The District of Dakar and the greater Dakar: nine (9) cases of abuse** were listed in the Senegalese capital **in working-class/under-privileged neighbourhoods** (Grand Dakar, Tapée, Ouakam, Guediawaye, Yeumbeul, Cambéréne, Yoff). These places are characterized by a low level of income and a strong crowding. The children are often left with them even while the mothers work outside of the district or take charge of the home. This fact increases the risk of violence against girls.
- **The region of Kolda: four (4) cases** of abuse were recorded at Diobé, Ndiobéne, Padiara et Kidira. Like Dakar, Kolda is very affected by abuses. Indeed, we notice that for July and August we count 9 out 31 cases of violence.
- **In Saint Louis** in the village of **Ngalléle** : two cases

⁴ Father (3 cases), step-father (1 case), cousin (2 cases), uncle (1 case).

- **The region of Casamance at Mangouroungou and Mandani (2 cases).**

Victims' profile

On average, the victims are aged **12.15** with an age bracket of **five to seventeen**.

Four (4) victims are officially school girls from Class CM1, CM2, 4^{eme} et 3^{eme} ie 5th year, 6th year of primary school; 3rd, 4th year of secondary school. The other victims are of school age. Two victims are sisters.

Perpetrators' profile

In all, there are **fourteen (14) presumed perpetrators** of violence against girls included **two for double rapes**⁵:

- **Three (3) perpetrators of abuse related to the victim**⁶. In this case, the girls are frequently raped. This abuse takes place within the family's space (victim or perpetrator's bedroom).
- **Eight (6) offenders are "reliable persons"**. These individuals live or work close to the victim (co-tenant, neighbour, grocer, male-nurse, and boyfriend). Cases of abuse are common in co-tenantships in working-class neighbourhoods and also, in houses containing businesses or workshops (grocer's shop, tailor, joiner). This report was also valid for July. To note that one of the authors was nursing member of staff of the hospital of Ouakam and took advantage of the consultation to assault the victim.
- **Three (3) perpetrators are unrelated to the victim**: all of such cases of abuse occurred on the street, beach and market.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

As for July, the cases VAGS are covered in Society, News Stories, and News columns. They are often analyzed as a societal phenomenon (corruption of mores) and often treated very rawely. Let us note finally that the case of both sisters raped by their uncle and Caliph of Mandani was covered in eighteen articles between July and August. A single article analysed the case as a VAGS , and denounced risks of premature pregnancies on the health of the young mother.

SEPTEMBER

Sixteen (16) cases of abuse were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The sixteen (16) cases listed include:

- **Thirteen (13) cases of rape** with one leading to the **pregnancy** of the victim , a rape on a vulnerable person and a rape followed by the death of the victim
- **Three (3) cases of incest**

These cases of abuse occurred in the following areas:

- **The District of Dakar and the greater Dakar: many cases of abuse** were listed in the Senegalese capital in **working-class/under-privileged** (Colobane, Pikine, Bargny, 2 cases to Yeumbeul, HLM, Cité Arafat, City center and Cité Gadaye). It is necessary to underline that the districts of Yeumbeul, Guediawaye (Cité Gadaye) and from Bargny are very got by the phenomenon of the violence against girls.

Indeed, many cases compiled previous months took place in these very under-privileged districts. We notice in these districts, a reduction of the physical distance, people live in excess in small rooms. This crowding can wake temptations, which could facilitate cases of sexual abuse. The poverty is also an explanatory factor. The violence against girls could be a shape of "virilism"⁷ of the men to mitigate the poverty, the unemployment and the suffering not to be able to prove its " male domination ".

- **The department of Velingara: three (3) cases abuse at Diobé, at Foulladou and at Fouebe**. According to the Grave NGO: 35 % of the cases of rapes of minors in Senegal take place in the region of Kolda and particularly in the department of Velingara.

⁵ Caliph of Mandani (rape of these two nieces of whom a case followed by pregnancy) and an Uncle to Saint Louis (rape of these two 5-year-old nieces)

⁶ Uncle (4 cases), Father-in-law (1 case)

⁷ " The men « virilism » in the popular districts can be analyzed as a strategy of collective defence in answer to the fear of the unemployment, the racism, to the state of right(law), to the suffering not to be able to show the other attributes of the virility "in" Virility and Virilism in the popular districts of France ", Daniel Welzer-Lang.

- In the city of Touba
- A case in Sam's district, Region of Kaolack
- A case case at Pékhesse in the region of Thiès.

Victims' profile

On average, the victims are aged **10 year old** with an age bracket of **three to seventeen**.

Four (4) victims are officially school girls (Class CE1, CM2, 5^e and 4^e). The other victims are school age. Two victims are sisters.

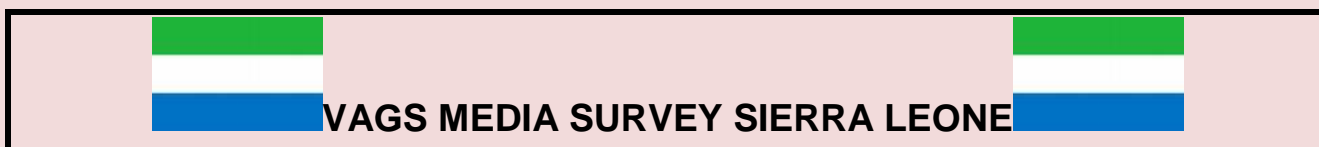
Perpetrators' profile

In all, there are **fifteen (15) presumed perpetrators** aged between twenty and **fifty six years old**. And on average, they are **34.88 year old**.

- **Three (3) perpetrators of abuse related to the victim⁸**. In this case, the girls are frequently raped. This abuse takes place within the family's space (victim or perpetrator's bedroom).
- **Six (6) offenders are "reliable persons"**: Two friends of the family, three teachers and the storekeeper
- **Six (6) perpetrators are unrelated to the victim**: all of such cases of abuse occurred in houses under construction.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

As for July and August, the cases VAGS are covered in Society, News Stories, and News columns. They are often analyzed as a societal phenomenon. The vocabulary remains very raw " the father-in-law rubbed his sex against his daughter's ", " He had abused a 15-year-old mentally disabled person ".



03 daily newspapers: **Premier News, Awareness Times et For Di People**.

JULY

Three (3) cases of rape were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuse recorded over this period include one case of **physical abuse** with physical after-effects, one **case of incest**, and one **case of rape leading to the demise** of the victim. They occurred in Freetown at **Tower Hill** (two cases) and at **Lansana Koivo** in the Tibo village.

Victims' profile

On average, the victims were aged **8.33** with an age bracket of **eight to nine**. The three (3) victims were officially **school girls** (primary school).

Perpetrators' profile

Two offenders are quite close to the victim: **uncle** and **father**. In one case, the perpetrator was **not related to** the victim.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Cases of VAGS are covered in the News columns and no case of abuse is perceived as a violation of the child's rights or as an obstacle to the victim's achievement at school.

⁸ Step - brother (2 cases) and Step-father (1 case)

AUGUST

Five (5) cases of rape were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuses listed were chiefly sexual abuses of under age girls including one case of gang rape.

Two violence has followed by grave aftereffects (bleedings) and hospitalization of victims. The violence took place at Old Railway (Line Wellington), at Pendubu (Upper Bambara), and two in not definite places.

Victims' profile

On average, the victims were aged **7.33** with an age bracket of **three to fourteen**. Articles do not specify if the victims are school girls but, two victims were officially **school girls** (primary school).

Perpetrators' profile

All the perpetrators are adults . One of the perpetrators is a 83-year-old religious.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Cases of VAGS are covered in the News columns . Two articles are analytical. We also note several articles reviewing the meeting of the SLPP (a party of opposition) on the sexual violence in Sierra Leone.

SEPTEMBER

Hundred and two cases (102) cases of violence were listed in newspapers.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The cases of abuses listed were chiefly sexual abuses of under age girls. **Hundred cases take place in all the territory of Sierra Leone for a period of seven months**. Two articles (not listed precise cases), denounce an "epidemic of sexual violence" in the District of Kailashu (Kenema) and premature pregnancies to the village of Kpetema (Bonthe District).

Victims' profile

The victims are between **six (6) and sixteen (16) years old**. On average, the victims were aged **7.33 year**. They are all in school age. The majority of the girls victims of premature pregnancy are pupils to the primary school of Kpetema.

Perpetrators' profile

The hundred (100) cases of sexual violence reveal that the perpetrators have the "same age as the parents of the victims". In the cases of pregnancies in the village of Kpetema, the perpetrators are either classmates or people who live in the village. Only two articles specify the profile of the aggressors: it is about the rape committed by a football player of the Exchange Parade and a 45-year-old foreigner.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

Cases of VAGS are covered in the News columns . Three articles sound the alarm on the phenomenon of the violence against girls.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY TANZANIE



03 daily newspapers selected: **The Gardian, Daily News and This Day**.

JULY

A single article making an **assessment of the cases of abuse reported over the year** was published in the July releases. In this article, one could count for the year:

- **Forty (40) cases of early marriages** recorded in schools in Zanzibar;
- **Forty-four (44) cases of pregnancies** among school girls with **fourteen (14) due to schoolmates**;
- **Eight cases of rape** were recorded mostly at Chumbuni school.

The article specifies neither the age of the victims nor the profile of the perpetrators.

We are expecting soft/hard copies of articles in order to be able to conduct the media survey.

AUGUST

A single case of rape was listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

It is a case of rape with violence . The abuse took place at **Buguruni Kisiwani**.

Victims' profile

The victim is three (3) years old.

Perpetrators' profile

The perpetrator is thirty (30) years old and is a person foreign to the victim.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The case of VAG is covered in the Local News columns.

SEPTEMBER

Three (3) cases of rape were listed.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

Two cases of rapes were listed at **Dar-es-Salaam (Vingunguti and Mtoni Madegu)** and a case of incest in the district of **Nkesi (region of Rukwa)**.

Victims' profile

The recorded victims are **aged 3-5**. On average, they are **4 year-old** is the smallest that we registered during three months of media survey.

Perpetrators' profile

The perpetrators are aged between **20-43** years old and on average they are **31,5 year old**. The perpetrators are: victim's **father**, a **grocer** and **an unrelated to the victim**. These statistics confirm the information according to which most of perpetrators are "reliable persons", living near the victims and having an authority on her.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The case of VAG is covered in the Local News columns.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY UGANDA



02 daily newspapers selected: **The New Vision, Daily Monitor and The Observer**.

In Uganda, violence against girls is endemic. The conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army and Governmental forces, which spanned over twenty-one years and ended in 2006, was characterized by

violence against girls (sexual and physical abuses, and early marriages). Despite the end of the conflict, the situation remains alarming according to the report released by Amnesty International in December 2007. Despite the acknowledgement of these numerous cases of abuses by NGOs and women associations, we were not able to compile articles dealing with cases of VAGS.

In effect, **The New Vision**, **Daily Monitor** and **The Observer** have no archives and no article on cases of violence against girls was sent to us by AA country office.

This could be due to the following factors:

- People reporting cases of sexual abuses come up against hurdles impeding access to justice, that is the lack or absence of police officers to record complaints, reluctance when the offender is a family member or a soldier.
- Legal costs can deter the victim from taking legal actions (medical expenses, meals for police officer during the investigation, catering for the detained suspect).

JULY

We are expecting soft/hard copies of articles in order to be able to conduct the media survey.

AUGUST

A single case of rape was listed in the Daily Monitor.

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

It is a case of gang rape followed by murder. The violence took place in a plantation of bananas at the village of **Kikono (Kirinya in Kiira town Council)**.

Victims' profile

The victim is eighteen (18) years old. She was assaulted on the way to her evening classes school.

Perpetrators' profile

The rapists are three and are unrelated to the victim. The article does not specify their age.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The case of VAGS is covered in the Local News columns. It redraws the school route of the victim and the testimonies of the educational staff and the members of the victim's family.

SEPTEMBER

Hundred and fifty three cases of violence were listed in a single article of Daily Monitor (period May-September, 2009).

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The violence listed were chiefly sexual abuse at school or on the way to school. One of the cases of rapes was followed by an infection of STD by the victim.

Victims' profile

The victims are all pupils. A single victim is identified in the article as a seventeen years old pupil.

Perpetrators' profile

The perpetrators are generally teachers, classmates or villagers.

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The case of VAG is covered in the Local News columns. It analyses "the epidemic of rapes" on minors in schools.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY ZAMBIA



Daily newspapers selected : **expecting newspapers titles from Local coordinators.**

A survey on sexual behaviour conducted by the Zambian Government in 2003 showed that **16.3 percent** of female individuals surveyed - of all age - had been subjected to **forced sex**; **17.7% of those in the youngest age bracket (15-19)** declared having had "forced sex".

In a survey conducted in 2007 by the WLSA-Zambia, **school girls mentioned cases of abuse at school, ranging from sexual harassment to verbal abuse and rape.**

Furthermore, associations and NGOs recorded an "**epidemic of rapes resulting in HIV infection**" among young girls. This phenomenon is due to some HIV carriers' beliefs that having sex with a young virgin neutralizes the disease.

FROM JULY to SEPTEMBER

We are still expecting titles and soft/hard copies of articles in order to conduct the media survey.



VAGS MEDIA SURVEY ZIMBABWE



03 daily newspaper: **The Herald, The Standard, et The Chronicle.**

Violence against girls is increasing steadily in Zimbabwe with **an epidemic of rapes of under-age girls leading to HIV infection.** This phenomenon is due to some HIV carriers' beliefs in Southern and Eastern Africa that having sex with an young virgin neutralizes the disease.

The lack of publications on cases of VAGS may be due to the following factors:

- The economic and political crisis has taken its toll on publications dealing exclusively with political and economic issues.
- Cases of sexual abuses rarely lead to the filing of complaints and remain hushed up by families.

FROM JULY TO AUGUST

No case of abuse was received. We are expecting titles and soft/hard copies of articles to conduct the media survey.

SEPTEMBER

A single case of violence was listed in **The Standard.**

Typology and Sites of Abuse Perpetration

The violence listed is a rape followed by pregnancy at **Sebakwe River Bridge** along the Kwekwe-Harare road.

Victims' profile

The victim is a fourteen (14) years old school girl.

Perpetrators' profile

The presumed perpetrator is Blessing Chebundo: a member of the parliament and a leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). He is 51-year-old. Presumed perpetrator pleads innocent and denounces a tentative to destroy him politically. He knew presumed victim and his sister (member of the junior parliament).

Pattern of Treatment of Cases of Abuse

The case of VAG is covered in the Local News columns and in a very well-balanced way and without politicization of the affair questioning a political leader.

For more information, Please contact

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SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF CASES OF VIOLENCE : 1st JULY TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2009

COUNTRY	MONTH 1		MONTH 2		MONTH3		COUNTRY TOTAL	
	analyzed	<i>Not considered⁹</i>	analyzed	<i>Not considered</i>	analyzed	<i>Not considered</i>	analyzed	<i>Not considered</i>
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0
DRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Éthiopia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gambia	6	0	6	0	11	0	23	0
Ghana	6	0	8	0	7	0	21	0
Kenya	5	0	2	0	33	0	40	0
Liberia	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
Malawi	2	0	4	0	8	0	14	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senegal	15	0	16	0	16	0	47	0
Sierra Leone	3	0	5	0	2	100	10	100
Tanzanie	0	92	1	0	3	0	4	92
Uganda	0	0	1	0	0	153	1	153
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL MOIS	37	92	45	0	85	253	167	345

⁹ The violence not considered is not integrated into our media survey. We make just reference to the national statistics revealed in articles as information.