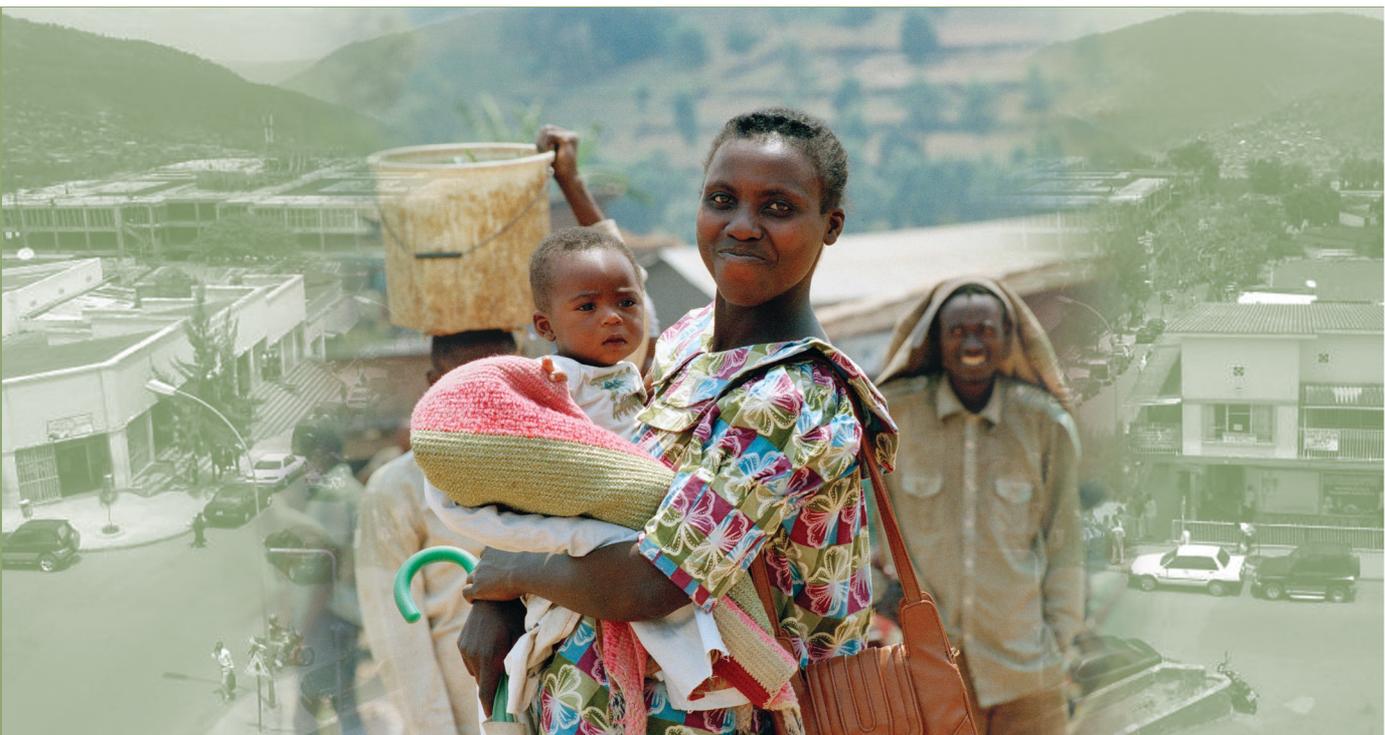




UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



VICTIMIZATION SURVEY IN RWANDA

Executive summary

December 2008

The UNODC initiative *Data for Africa* has the overall objective to improve the knowledge of drugs and crime problems in Africa, by strengthening the capacity of African countries to collect and analyse data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization.

This report presents the results of a victimization survey carried out within the framework UN Development Account project 06/07R *Collection and analysis of data and trends on drugs, crime, and victimization in Africa*

<http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/2006/0607R.html>



The victimization survey in Rwanda was carried out by the NGO Together Against Impunity in the Great Lakes Region (TAIGLR) in collaboration with the National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA) and the National Institute of Statistics.

This report and other Data for Africa publications can be downloaded from:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/Data-for-Africa.html>

The boundaries, names and designations used in all maps in this document do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

This document has not been formally edited.

Rate of victimization

During the period 2003-2008, the number of crimes reported by survey respondents amounted to 1 599 cases of which 68.9% (1 102) were crimes at the household level and 31.1% (497) as personal/individual cases.

During the year preceding the survey (2007), crimes amounted to 435 cases as reported by respondents, 69.4% classified as crimes in the household (302 cases) and 30, 6% as personal crimes (133 cases).

Table 1 – Prevalence of victimization during the year preceding the survey (2007)

Type of crime	Frequency	Percentage
Household crimes	302	69.4
Theft of car	0	0.0 ¹
Car hijacking	0	0.0 ²
Theft from car	1	2.2 ³
Car vandalism	1	2.2 ⁴
Theft of motorcycle	0	0.0 ⁵
Theft of bicycle	22	4.7 ⁶
Theft of livestock	53	5.3 ⁷
Burglary	121	5.8
Attempted burglary	52	2.5
Deliberate destruction of goods	43	2.0
Witnessing homicide	9	0.4
Crimes against the individual respondent	133	30.6
Robbery	5	0.2
Theft of personal property	108	5.1
Sexual offences	11	0,8 ⁸
Assault/threat	9	0,4
TOTAL	435	100,0

At the household level, the highest prevalent crimes during the year preceding the survey are burglary (5.8%), theft of livestock (5.3%) and theft of bicycles (4.7%). As for the personal/individual crimes, the most frequent type of incident is theft of personal property (5.1% of cases).

¹ This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (45).

² This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (45).

³ This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (45).

⁴ This percentage is based on the number of households owning a car (45).

⁵ This percentage is based on the number of households owning a motorcycle (74).

⁶ This percentage is based on the number of households owning a bicycle (469).

⁷ This percentage is based on the number of households owning livestock (1 002).

⁸ This percentage is based on the number of women interviewed (1 401).

In the longer period (5 years), the survey also observed 58 cases of witnessing homicide (2.8% of respondents), 168 cases of deliberate destruction of goods (8%) and 1 case of car hijacking.

According to survey results, 39 female respondents (3.9%) have been victims of sexual offences during the 5 years preceding the survey and 11 in 2007. It should be noted that in this type of crime the offender was frequently acquainted with the victim. This was the case in 27 out of 39 cases, that is 69.2%.

Experience of respondents with the police

According to survey results, about one third of the victims (30%) reported the crime to the police. However, there are big differences between types of crimes being reported, ranging from 100% (the single case of car hijacking was reported to the police) to a minimum of 8.1% of corruption cases.

As regards reasons for reporting, three were mentioned on a regular basis: to recover property, wanted offender to be caught/punished, to stop it happening again.

The percentage of victims satisfied with the way the police dealt with his report vary from a minimum of 20% of those who witnessed homicide and victims of corruption to 50% of victims of assault/threat and 66.7% of those of theft from car. It should be noted that 52.6% of victims of sexual offences were satisfied with the reaction of the police.

The reasons for dissatisfaction with the work of the police were mainly three: the police did not do enough, they were not interested, they did not find the offenders. The response “police did not do enough” appeared in 75% of cases of reported corruption and 62% of the sexual offences. Victims of theft from car and sexual offences who reported to the police frequently complained about the police not finding or arresting the offenders. The response « police was not interested » was regularly mentioned by victims of all crimes.

Many victims did not report to the police because of several reasons. In particular, the response « police could do nothing/lack of proof » was mentioned by 43.6% of victims of theft of livestock and 36% of those of burglary.

As regards sexual offences, the main reason mentioned by victims for not reporting to the police was fear of reprisal (23%). In 27% of cases of assault, victims preferred to report to other public or private agency. 26% of victims of corruption said that reporting to the police would be inappropriate/police not necessary. Of the two respondents who witnessed an homicide and did not call the police, one did not answer this question and the other said he did not report because of lack of confidence in the police.

The number of respondents who reported the crime to private or public agencies other than the police, have higher proportions in as far as the crime of assault (39%), sexual violence (29.6%) and theft in the car (22.2%) are concerned.

Agencies specialized in assisting victims

The views of survey respondents on the work of specialized agencies in helping victims are different depending on the type of the crime: victims of car theft find it unnecessary while victims of sexual violence on the other hand find it useful. However, the impression of those who have been victims of robbery or assault/threat is balanced.

Criminality in the neighborhood

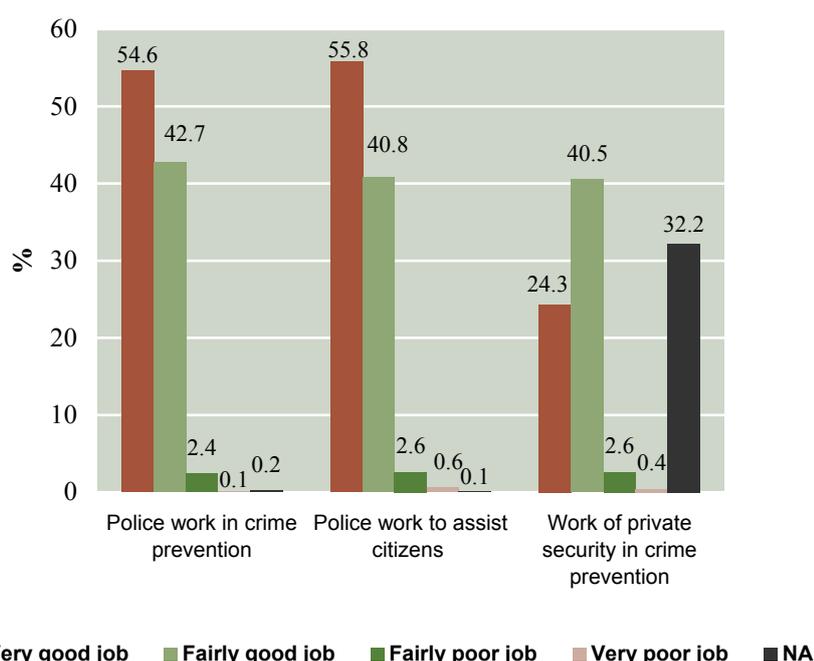
Almost all respondents feel safe in their neighbourhoods. 94.8% are not afraid to walk alone at night, 93.8% are not afraid to stay alone at home during the night and 97.5% are sure that nobody could disrupt their peace at home.

This feeling of safety enjoyed by the people and their properties in their residential areas is the result of night patrols jointly organized by grassroots authorities and the national police (community policing) in all places, both urban and rural areas. 92.4% of the respondents said their household is protected by such programmes.

Opinions about crime prevention work

Even though several victims have decided to address their report to agencies other than the police, the work done by the police in preventing and controlling crime is assessed positively by the majority of respondents.

Table 2 – Opinion about police work in preventing and controlling crime



Attitude of respondents towards punishment

Regarding the sentence to recidivist offenders, 44.2% of respondents felt that the appropriate sentence would be imprisonment for 24.7% it would be a fine, whereas 23% work for general interest (*travaux d'intérêt général*).

concerning the term of imprisonment for recidivist, survey respondents 17.8% of suggested for a period of 2 to 6 months imprisonment, 16% for a year 13.8% suggested a period of 5 Years while about 11.4% suggested for 2 years of imprisonment. A proportion of only 5.8% of survey respondents believed that these offenders should be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Other information about the survey

Criminal Justice System

The National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA), which is an organ that acts between the Executive and the Judiciary plays an important role in the criminal procedure and contributes in good administration of criminal justice system and ensures the protection of victims and witnesses who are always in the weaker position. It is in this regard that the NPPA put in place the specialized service responsible for protection of victims and witnesses everywhere in Rwanda.

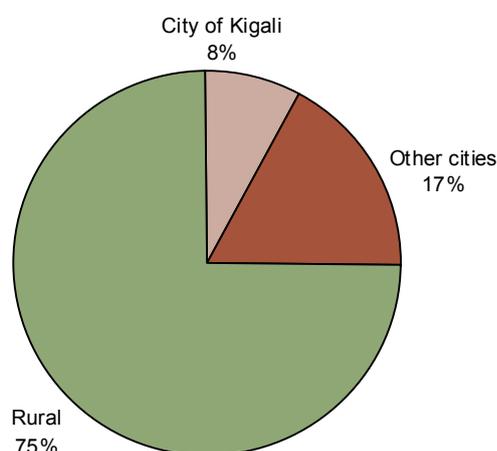
Today, it is the National Police and the administration of criminal justice that can provide crime related information. These sources are not sufficient to exhaustively analyze a complex issue like criminality. To supplement the available data, the household national crime victim survey becomes crucial. This survey is the first ever carried out in Rwanda.

Sampling

This survey covered the entire territory of Rwanda, both rural and urban areas. The population was divided into three categories, namely, the Kigali City, other urban centers and rural areas. On the other hand, the sample selection was done at two levels: at the cluster/village and at the household level.

The sample size was determined by both the degree of accuracy, time allocated to the survey combined with human and financial resources available. Thus, to attempt to cover a large scale, as the first kind of survey in Rwanda (without earlier references), the sample size of the study was rationally set at 2 100 households on the national level, where Kigali City was allocated 8% of households, 17% in other cities across the country and 75% in rural areas.

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents by area of residence



Rate of no response

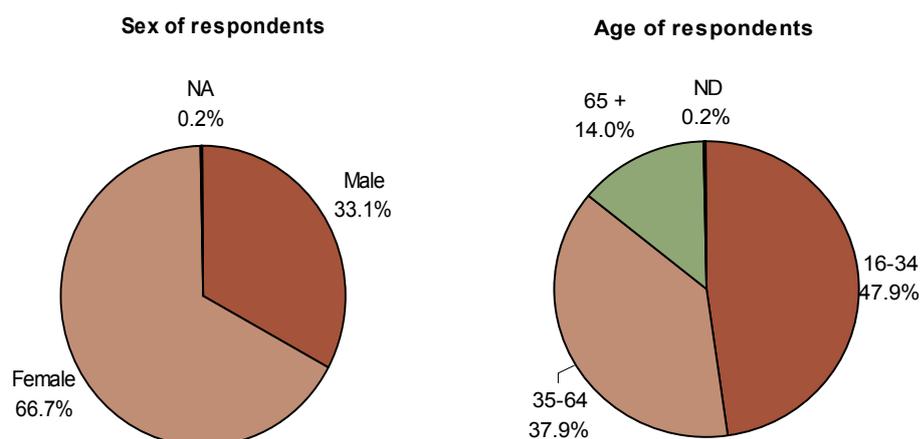
Like other surveys conducted in Rwanda, this survey did not encounter refusal of respondents to participate. The 100% participation was mainly due to public awareness contributed by local level authorities combined with frequent similar requests from various institutions involved in data collection since 1996.

Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

On the gender basis, majority of respondents were male (67%) to (33%) female.

As regards the breakdown by age groups, the majority of respondents consisted of young people under 34 (48%), followed by persons aged between 35-64 years (38%), and older people over 65 representing only 14% of total respondents.

Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by sex and age



Rwanda being a post-conflict country, having experienced war and the 1994 Tutsi genocide resulting in population movements, the proportion of respondents who lived in their neighborhood since the birth is 40%, while 22% have been residing in the area for 10 years or more.

The most prevalent housing is the conglomeration or "imidugudu" which represents 53% of respondents, followed by separate houses (35%) and huts (11%). The proportion of respondents who live in apartments is still very low (0.8%) due the scarcity of such buildings housing in Rwanda.

Generally the respondent's level of education is very low because those who have no formal education and those who have less than primary represent 41%. Among those who have completed courses, 39% have primary education and 18% secondary education. Only 2% of the respondents have a university level.

Regarding the occupation of respondents, 55% were self-employed, 24% had a paid employment, 7% students, and 5% are housewives.

Although 60% of respondents stated they felt only slightly worse off than most households, the same proportion felt dissatisfied about the level of their household income. The low standard of living is reflected in properties owned by households. Out of 2 100 households surveyed, only 45 have vehicles (2.1%), while the proportion of those that have a motorcycle is 3.8% and 22.3% of households have a bicycle.