

Prior to sharing or reading case studies, please refer to the notes included in the lesson plan. They provide important and necessary context for understanding these stories.

Meet Joyce



Joyce - 28yrs

“I have been married for 11 years. My husband and I are farmers. Up to now he is just doing farming. We have a plot we cultivate but we have to go to the owner’s field to cultivate it as well as payment for rent. The beans and cassava we grow we sell and use for home consumption. With the money we get we pay for school fees, food and cover other costs in the home.

“In June 2019 at night four soldiers came into the house speaking a language I didn’t understand. It was around 9pm. It was dinner time and my husband was eating. At first when they came I held the door closed and they were pushing to get in. Then they shot through the door so I ran into the bedroom and hid under

the bed and my husband followed me but when they got in they caught him – they didn't see me. They tied my husband's feet and hands together and started beating him. They said they were going to kill him. I got out from under the bed and they beat me. They pulled me into the living room and started raping me. I was already pregnant. Three soldiers raped me. They said she will die with this pregnancy so leave her. My husband was there. The whole thing lasted two hours.

"It hurt so much. I hurt very much in my belly. In my mind was nothing, it was as if I was no longer alive. When they finished they pushed us into the bedroom and closed the door. They took all our belongings, clothes, everything we had. They got in two other houses and raped two other women.

"After the attack there were no words, we just looked at each other. He was suffering on his side and I was suffering on my side.

"The children were in the house and when it started they ran into the banana field and stayed there for the night.

"The following day we came to the hospital and did an examination. The nurses told me to stay as they felt I had a problem with the baby. Then, together, they gave us medicine. My case was not easy. The doctors thought to do a caesarean but then decided it was ok with the normal birth method. The baby was born very tired. They gave him milk through a tube in his nose and he is receiving oxygen.

"My husband has not come here because he himself was beaten and is in hospital.

"The problem I have here is that they have looted everything in my house and then when I came here I have no money and I have to pay. Before the baby was born, the doctor told me to buy medicine for £30 to inject the check the baby's movement but I could not buy it. We must pay £3 per day in the room for the baby. He has been there for four days. I also need to pay for the treatment when I arrived here.

"After the examination they gave me drugs and asked for me to be examined again – after which they said I was ok.

"The challenge I have is to have money to school the children and to start trading small items so I can diversify my income – so far we just have farming. I'm also unsure what will be the position of my husband. I need psychological support so I can face this. I don't know how the children are surviving today.

"I would ask the government to secure the population. It is unbelievable that people may come at night and get in our homes and go away and nothing is said about this. There is no government army to protect us. After this, what is the support from the government. I don't know how I will get money. I don't know

how my children will continue living. All these thoughts are coming in my mind. I am thinking a lot.