



## CSiW Kigali Workshop Report

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### Introduction

One of the biggest strengths of a collaborative research partnership like CSiW is the different skill sets, backgrounds, and areas of expertise contributed by partners. This allows us to share knowledge and develop skills across organizations and institutions. Following our 2016 Partnership Meeting in Toronto, specific training needs of the CSiW partners were identified through the Meeting Exit Survey and subsequent Partner Evaluation. It was based on these identified training needs that the Kigali workshop was organized. Approximately 25 people gathered at the Centre Saint Paul in Kigali for the 4-day workshop, bringing together two representatives from each community-based partner organization along with academic colleagues. The overall goal of the workshop was to provide capacity-building opportunities to community-based partners that complement and facilitate their work in the field while strengthening collaborative linkages and initiatives among the Partnership in a way conducive to mentoring and research training.



Group exercise during the qualitative data analysis session. Photo: dRPC

This workshop would not have been possible without the organization and facilitation of Rwandan partner SEVOTA whose members worked hard to organize travel, welcome us all to Kigali, and ensure we had a comfortable place to stay, work, and (happily!) eat.

**Day 1:** Our first day began in the best possible way- a beautiful and warm welcome from the women of SEVOTA who kicked off our morning with a song and warm-up activity. This really set the tone for the day and had us all smiling and feeling a sense of comradery.



From left to right: Allen Kiconco, Lawan Balami, Anna Agathangelou, Grace Acan, Evelyn Amony, and Aminu Sabo Abdullahi. Photo: dRPC

### Data Collection Using Kobo Toolbox

The first session of the workshop was a training on one of the most important data collection tools, [Kobo Toolbox](#). The session was delivered by Gisèle Eva Coté. Developed by [Harvard Humanitarian Initiative](#), Kobo Toolbox is a suite of tools for field data collection for use especially in challenging environments. It is free, open source software and has the ability to collect data both online and offline.

Kobo Toolbox is basically used to create surveys, collect data and conduct some basic data analysis. Gisèle Eva Coté took the participants through creating surveys using Kobo Toolbox, field data collection using [Kobo Collect](#) and performing some basic data analysis using Kobo Toolbox. There was also a practical session where participants were encouraged to practice what we learned using Samsung tablets distributed to all partnership organizations. CSiW partners have been conducting surveys, interviews and other forms of data collection in remote as well as high risk areas. The use of tablet based-methods will no doubt enhance ease of data collection and management as well as allow immediate analysis and reporting of results. It was recommended for partners to extend the application of this new knowledge to other projects they were working on, as well as share the skills learned with Kobo training for other staff not present at the workshop.



## Research ethics

As the CSiW partnership is a predominantly research-based project working with vulnerable groups, adherence to Research Ethics is paramount and so we always include a session on ethics in our workshops and meetings. Basic principles of research ethics were extensively discussed, and we tried to move the conversation beyond formal, institutional ethics to consider practical concerns for academic and community partners alike.



Photo: Heather Tasker

## Qualitative data analysis

**Day 2** commenced with an interesting session on qualitative data analysis. We started the session off by breaking into our four thematic research groups (Justice, Masculinities/Femininities, Children Born of War, History) to re-orient ourselves to our key research questions and the issues driving our work. We then moved into the analysis discussion. While this initially seemed like a refresher for the participants, it was actually so much more. The training on data analysis was intense and advanced. Qualitative research experts from York University, led by Anna Agathangelou, Annie Bunting and Heather Tasker, introduced the participants to the basics of qualitative data entry and analysis. The training focused more on thematic content analysis and coding with case studies using data from the justice survey were used for each group. It was an interesting opportunity to see how different people understand and interpret similar responses and how they “zoom out” to make sense of the content conceptually.

## Organizing and analysis of data using Excel

As most of the participants were new to coding and data analysis, we were first taken through an introduction to the Microsoft Excel 2013 user interface. This was followed up by the data analysis session. Using the CSiW Justice Survey data, emerging themes were identified, grouped, and coded followed by data entry and preliminary analysis using Microsoft Excel. The session was highly practical and participatory using a hands-on learning approach, and we were all able to appreciate the importance of keeping data organized for analysis. This was another opportunity for our diverse backgrounds and research interests to lend insight and new perspectives.

## Day 3: Knowledge mobilization

Knowledge mobilization seeks to maximize the impact of academic research and expertise on public policy, social programming, and professional practice. Véronique Bourget and Denise Challenger encouraged participants to think about how we can best represent research findings visually, what works, and what doesn't when trying to capture attention and share messaging across diverse audiences.



The session focused on two means of knowledge mobilization: research snapshots and infographics. There was also an interactive session on infographics followed by some practical exercises. This formed the foundation for the infographic group work sessions where participants divided back into our four groups and designed infographics for the respective thematic areas we're working on. Creative thinking was the objective of this group session to come up with logical and self-explanatory posters, and while all groups definitely achieved this goal we couldn't pass up the chance for some healthy competition between groups!





## Video advocacy

In our second session for training Day 3 Patrick Otim of the Refugee Law Project (RLP), Uganda, led a fantastic session on video advocacy. He explained how video could be a strong tool to advocate for justice for victims of abductions, forced marriage, and other wartime violence. Patrick Otim and his team screened a couple of videos by the RLP used for outreach and advocacy. Participants learned here that video messaging can be used not only to present research findings, but also as an accountability mechanism to funders providing support to research and service provision projects. The session summarized what could have been a whole project report in only a few minutes. This demonstrated how partners could use several tools at their disposal for creating visibility, fund raising, reporting, and accountability.



Photo: dRPC

## Using audio recorder for interviews

Our final session for Day 3 was a refresher on recording interviews in the field led by Bruno Veras. Bruno started with a presentation on different audio devices and dynamics with which they work. He moved on to discuss the various common mistakes people make while recording an interview: how the positioning of the audio recorder, the distance of the interviewer and interviewee, the distance from doors and other outlets all could affect or not affect the quality of recording. While he could have walked us through the do's and don'ts of recording, Bruno knew that a demonstration would be more effective and engaging. He drew on issues we've had in the past and selected volunteers to roleplay background noisemakers- all of a sudden we had children playing, people talking, and even goats and chickens lending ambience to the practice interview! We all learned important tips for getting the best quality audio, and, best of all, we laughed a lot!

## Day 4: Museum exhibit

Day 4 was planned to be a half day. We started our day with a presentation by Isabelle Masson on museum exhibits. She briefed the participants on the ongoing plan by CSiW to create a temporary exhibit on survivors of abduction for forced marriages at the

Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Canada. The museum will display experiences



of abduction and forced marriage by the Lord's Resistance Army. CSiW partners and researchers Grace Acan and Evelyn Amony shared their stories of abduction, captivity, and forced marriage in the LRA, and these experiences will be presented to museum visitors through audio, video, and other visual methods. The museum will start with Grace's and Evelyn's stories of abduction and forced marriage from Uganda, but Ms. Masson also encouraged other partner organizations to think of ways to use the exhibit to create community dialogues in their own countries to share these important experiences in many different contexts.

## Field trip to the genocide memorial museum

The latter half of Day 4 was reserved for a field trip to the Genocide Memorial Museum in Kigali. The time spent at the museum was a sobering reminder of the violence that occurred in Rwanda 25 years ago, an important reaffirmation of the ongoing needs of survivors, the necessity of work bringing attention to survivor experiences, and support for intergenerational trauma that endures long after conflict formally ends.

The 2019 CSiW workshop in Kigali brought together partners from seven different countries to share knowledge, build skill sets, and strengthen relationships across organizations. SEVOTA closed our week with a powerful display of friendship and hospitality, leaving us feeling appreciative of the time we spent working and learning at Centre Saint Paul. We left Kigali with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed commitment to our research and our collaboration, already looking forward to the next time we can all come together again.