The number of people displaced in 2009 by conflict, violence or natural disaster worldwide rose to 27.1 million, 90% of which took place in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Ethiopia.1 During humanitarian crisis disruption of families, mass movement, breakdown of social and traditional protection system leave women and children vulnerable to sexual violence and human rights violation.2 Conflict related gender-based violence occurs at height during period of displacement and continues after conflict.3 Women and children comprise 80% of the displaced population and majority of them whose husband is missing or dead have to face constraints in obtaining food ration, information and resources.4 Under such conditions they may be forced to indulge in sex and prostitution for food or material goods.4 In Sudan, cases of sexual abuse were reported when displaced women gathered firewood.5 Violence against women is an important cause of morbidity and mortality though it receives a little attention as a public health issue but has profound effect on mental and physical well being of the affectees.6

“Every 5th woman in Europe has been subjected to domestic violence while, more than one 10th of all have become victim of sexual assault or rape”.7 A UNIFEM fact sheet on Afghanistan reported that 1,953 cases of gender-based violence took place in 2006, which included 612 forced marriages, 31 rapes, 250 beatings, 60 murders and 44 instances of self-burning.8 Study conducted among Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan shows that more than 50% of refugee women have experienced physical and emotional violence while sexual violence was the least common form of violence most likely to be under-reported.9 Despite progress in law and policy, majority of gender based violence is not reported to health facilities in displaced population particularly in DRC, India, Chad, Uganda, CAR, Somalia, Sudan, Nepal, Colombia, Iraq, Philippines, Liberia and Kenya.5 During 1994 genocide in Rwanda at least 250,000 - 500,000 women were raped.6,10 Majority of them got HIV/AIDS and an estimated 2000-5000 babies were born from these rapes. This left emotional scar on the victims but also high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, thereby devastating health, social, community and education.4

This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in sprawling Jalozai camp (District Nowshera), Pakistan from January to August 2010. Five percent of phase 1 population (1118 families) were sampled (n=62) based on systematic random sampling. Inclusion criteria were females in the reproductive age group 15-49 years. Gender-based violence was defined as physical, psychological and/or sexual instances perpetrated by male member inside or outside the displaced people camp. A pre-tested, customized structured questionnaire was administered to households. The second approach was used to collate the data collected from the health facilities working on gender-based violence. A semi-
We would like to express our gratitude to the administration of Peshawar Medical College (PMC), Dr. Saeed Anwar (Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, PMC) and Dr. Usman Ahmad Raza (Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, PMC) for their valuable input and providing us the opportunity to conduct this research study.

Special thanks to Mawa Mohmand, Uzma Javed, Hina Bashar, Quratul Ain and Nosheen, who took the time out from their busy schedules and helped us in collecting our data.

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