

including parent separation, parent and child separation, the new responsibilities of women, and changes in men's traditional status, violence against women also occurs in the family

(Vickers,1993:30). Refugee Women in Development (RefWID), a non-profit organization in Washington, has documented the following types of violence against women refugees;

multiple and/or gang rapes; abduction; trafficking, and forced prostitution of women and children; the demand for sexual favours in exchange for food, relief assistance, and documentation; sale of children; domestic violence; murder; torture; and forced childbearing. Forced childbearing is prevalent in refugee and displaced communities, as refugee women - though malnourished and heavily traumatized - are expected to bear numerous children to replenish male populations lost to war (cited in Wali,1995:337).

Women Somali refugees fleeing across the Kenyan border between 1991 and 1993, are but one group who were recently subject to sexual assault. According to Human Rights Watch, Somali women were repeatedly attacked by bandits surrounding the camps, by former Somali military men, as well as Kenyan police officers.

Somali women as old as fifty years of age and girls as young as four have been subjected to violence and sexual assault. Most of the women whose cases we investigated were gang-raped at gun-point, some by as many as seven twice or three times in the camps. In the vast majority of cases, female rape survivors were also robbed, severely beaten, knifed or shot. Those who had been circumcised often had their vaginal openings torn or cut by their attackers (Human Rights Watch,1995:121).

### **Land Mines**

Land mines pose an additional threat to the lives of women and children during times of armed conflict and in the aftermath of war. At present there are more than 100 million anti-personnel land-mines scattered in 64 countries globally. Because it is most often women who till the fields and carry out the majority of the productive work in the families of the developing world, women are particularly at risk to injury and death..