Strategies Addressing Violence Against Children (VAC) Across the East and Southern African Region (UNICEF/ESARO)

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Catherine Maternowska
UNICEF consultant
VAC: Prevalent and Pervasive in Homes & Schools

**HOMES:**
- Regionally, 80 to 90 per cent of children suffer physical punishment in homes, with 30% more experiencing severe physical punishment resulting from the use of implements (UNSG Regional)

**SCHOOLS:**
- Botswana secondary school students, 67 percent of respondents, experienced unwanted touching, pressure for dates and other forms of sexual harassment
- Swaziland & T Tanzania < 50% of all children have suffered some form of physical abuse during their primary and secondary schooling year

1, References to studies in the next three slides can be found in *Eastern and Southern Africa Region, UNICEF Mapping & Gap Analysis of Violence Against Children and Women, 2011.*
VAC: . . .in Legal Institutions & Labour

• LEGAL INSTITUTIONS:
  – Zimbabwe, the age of criminal responsibility is 7, children who commit crimes, particularly boys, are subject to corporal punishment and imprisonment.

• CHILD LABOUR
  – 1 in 3 children are involved in child labour with boy/girl comparisons as follows—Ethiopia (59% boys and 46% girls), Rwanda (36% and 35%), Somalia (45% and 54%), Uganda (37% and 36%) and Tanzania (37% and 34%).

2. Ibid, 2011
VAC . . . through social norms, health³

• EARLY MARRIAGE:
  – Malawi and Mozambique over 50% girls, now 20-24, were married before the age of 18.
  – Kenya and Zambia HIV infection rates among married girls are 48 to 65 percent higher than among sexually active unmarried girls.

• HEALTH:
  – Studies suggest that HIV/AIDS and violence against children (VAC) have a dangerous, complex relationship and may each increase the risk and impact of the other.

3. Ibid, 2011
Emerging Trends in ESAR

- At least one in three female children experience sexual violence
- Men/boys, boyfriends, husbands and male relatives are primary perpetrators
- Exposure is associated with STDS, unwanted and pregnancy complications, and depression
- Physical violence from parents and authority figures is common experience—homes and schools are high-risk & dangerous
- Under-reporting—children don’t know what is/isn’t violent
- Inadequate or non-existent service access
UNICEF/ESAR0:
VAC Prevention, Response & Child Protection

Community

Health

Social Welfare

Education

Police & Justice
UNICEF/ESAR0
VAC Prevention & Response Framework

- Builds on a national response system focusing on Child Protection writ large
- Requires multi-sectoral planning and implementation
- Links essential child-friendly and accessible services through a strong referral system
- Nat’l help lines
VAC Prevention & Response
Referral System

Prevention
- Community mobilization
- Behavioural change
- Social norms
- Awareness raising & advocacy
- ‘Safe space’ promotion

Referrals

Response
- Police child friendly (CF) services
- Courts & CF victim units
- Health CF care & treatment
- SW risk assessments & re-integration
ESAR: Addressing VAC

• Eight (8) ESAR countries are focusing on VAC:
  – Swaziland, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique and Uganda

• ESAR partnerships:
  – CDC, ECSA-HC, PEPFAR, UNAIDS, Population Council

• ESAR regional leadership:
  – Mapping of programme experiences & evidence
  – Regional funding strategies for prevention & response that build on existing infrastructure and partnerships
  – Regional TA for research and planning
2011 : Building Evidence of VAC & Systems Response

• CDC/UNICEF VAC Study
  – Completed: Swaziland (2007), Tanzania (2009)
  – Planned: Malawi (2012)

• Alternatives to large scale VAC Studies
  – Pop Council Adolescent Data Guides
  – Joint smaller studies: OSC
  – Literature reviews

• Improved impact and outcome-oriented evaluations in both prevention and services

• Social norms participatory and action-oriented research
VAC Prevention & Response: Emerging ESAR Models

- Sector-by-sector organic development: Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Malawi

- Media and social norms focus: Mozambique & Uganda

- Developing a national CP/multi-sectoral response: Tanzania
Challenges to ESAR

- National coordination, building State institutions, inclusive of public & private sector
- Building on & integrating VAC with the Region’s HIV/AIDS superstructure
- Expanding GBV infrastructure/practice to include child sexual abuse
- Tackling social norms: defining, understanding their dynamics and applying findings in prevention and service
- Integrating child-friendly services across all sectors