The Violence Prevention Research Process: ZIMBABWE

Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW), Department of Child Welfare and Probation Services (DCWPS), Zimbabwe Statistical Agency ZIMSTAT and UNICEF-Zimbabwe

Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2015
Special Session II
17 September 2015
Overview of VaC in Zimbabwe

Physical abuse *Physical violence is the most prevalent type of reported violence against children in Zimbabwe.*
- ~$\frac{2}{3}$ females and $\frac{3}{4}$ males aged 18-24 years experienced physical violence prior to 18 years
- Mostly perpetrated by parents and teachers

Emotional abuse *This is the most varied and complex risk factor for males and females.*
- ~$\frac{1}{3}$ males and females aged 18-24 years experienced emotional violence by an adult prior to turning 18
- Perpetrated by parents, family members and neighbours

Sexual abuse
- Lifetime prevalence, reported sexual abuse by 18-24 year olds for males: 8.9% and for females: 32.5%
- Partners and parents were most likely to be the perpetrators
Factors leading to Zimbabwe’s involvement in the ‘drivers’ research process

• National baseline survey on life experience of adolescents in Zimbabwe (NBSLEA, 2011) and MICS (2014)
  – Data on the scope of the problem, but no indications of WHY

• Strategy development and agenda setting underway for 2016-2020 (and beyond):
  – Roll out of the National Case Management System
  – Formative strategies for National Social Protection, Education and Health Sectors by Ministry of Public Service

A critical moment for Violence affecting Children to be on everyone’s agenda! An entry point for systemic change!
Lessons learned in Zimbabwe by the end of Stage 1

• Inclusiveness is critical to the research process from children/young people, frontline practitioners to high-level policy makers

• The research and programming environment are not static but fluid: “Watch Out” for changing risk & Protective Factors!
  – Continuing economic decline (impact on households) – changing coping mechanisms and dynamics
  – Population movement – within and across borders, with rapid urbanization and magnet effect of “growth points” across the country

• Importance of monitoring of the local situation (patterns and trends) for real time changes—the research is already generating change
Changes created by the ‘drivers’ process in Zimbabwe thus far

- Agreement to do the first ever secondary analysis of VaC data—on Zimbabwe territory
- Rich qualitative community data on children’s rights and protection under analysis for the first time ever
- Junior researchers engaged in high level dialogue for social change using their innovative applied research skills and analysis
- Facilitating data linkages between ZIMSTAT and Childline building on Zimbabwe’s rich research capital
Thank You!