



Disclosure, reporting and help seeking among child survivors of violence

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Motivation

- Disclosure and help seeking is **low**:
 - UNICEF Hidden in Plain Sight (PV/SV): 32-69% of girls 15-19 years **did not disclose or seek help**
 - South Africa (EV/PV/SV): 20% disclosed/sought help & 14% received help
 - VACS (SV): 2.7%-24% of women and 0.4% - 6.6% of men received services for violence prior to age 18
- Several **gaps** in help-seeking literature with direct implications for service provision and programming

Objectives

TWO-PART STUDY USING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS

I. Examine **patterns of risk** across countries for different types of violence, including polyvictimization for girls and boys, separately, aged 13-17 years

II. Examine **patterns of help-seeking** among those who experienced physical and/or sexual violence, across countries by age groups 13-17 years and 18-24 years

Cambodia (2013)

Haiti (2012)

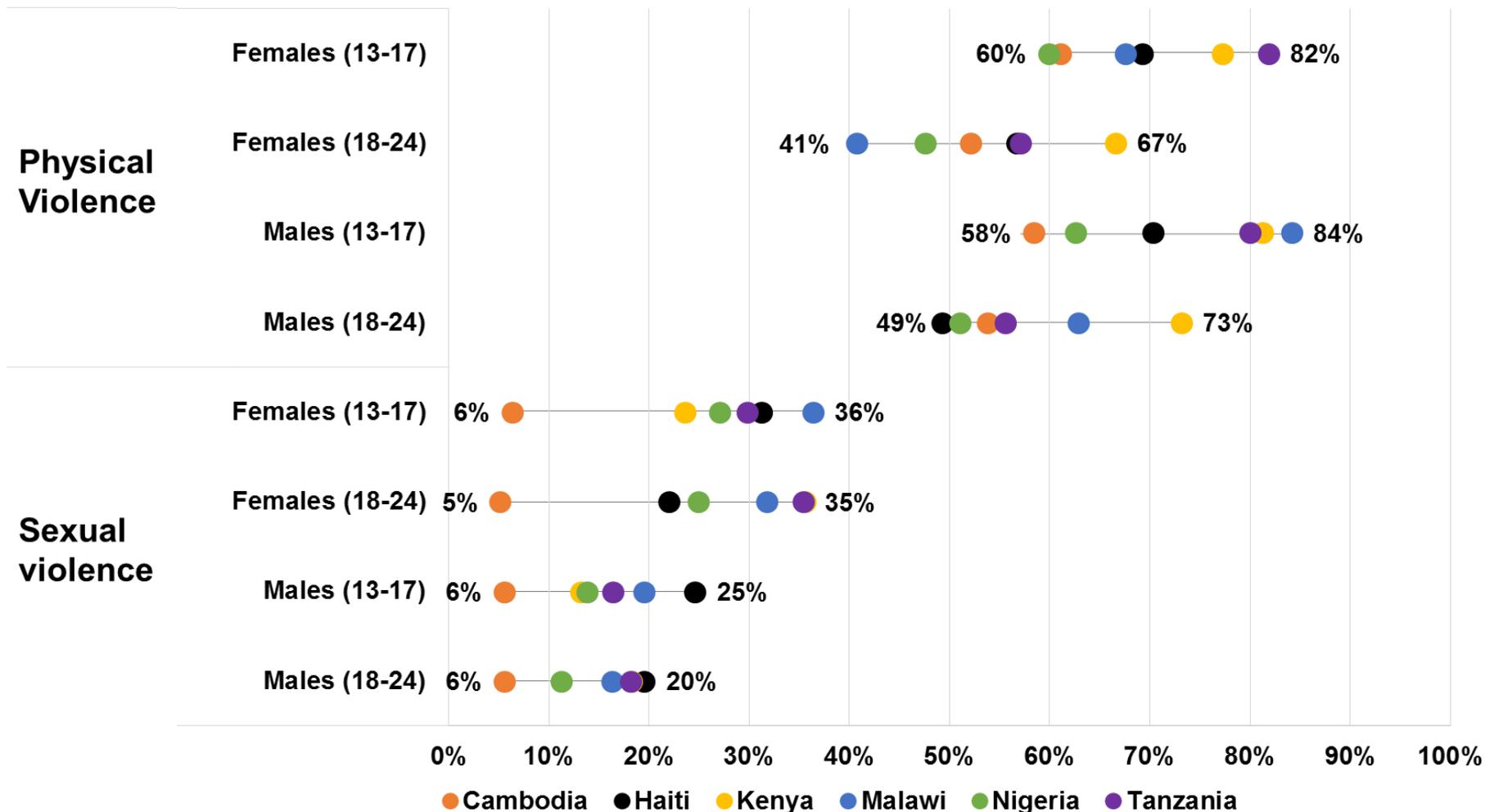
Kenya (2010)

Malawi (2013)

Nigeria (2014)

Tanzania (2009)

Prevalence of violence by gender & age group



Typologies & definitions of help seeking

Indicator	Question	Responses
Informal disclosure	Who did you tell about these experiences of violence?	Own family; husband's/partner's family; current/former husband/partner; current/former boyfriend; friend; neighbor
Knowledge of where to seek formal help	Did you know a hospital/clinic, police station, social worker, teacher, child protection network, NGOs or FBOs to go for help?	Yes/No
Formal disclosure or help seeking	Who did you tell about these experiences of violence?	Religious leader; doctor/medical personnel; police; lawyer; social service organization
	Did you try to seek professional help for any of these incidents?	Yes/No
Receipt of formal help	Did you receive any help for any of these experiences from a hospital/clinic, police station, social worker, teacher, child protection network, NGO or FBO?	Yes/No

Determinants of help seeking examined

Multivariate logistic regression analyses including the following risk factors:

HH socio-economic status and location

- Wealth quintiles (poorer, middle, richer, richest)
- Urban
- Regions (Tanzania)
- Camp areas (Haiti)

HH level demographics

- Not living with biological mother
- Not living with biological father
- # of children in the HH
- # of adult females in the HH
- # of adult males in the HH
- Female head of the HH

Individual level characteristics

- Male
- Age in years
- Currently enrolled in school

Age groups:
13-17 and
18-24
years

Males and
females
combined

PV &/or SV
combined

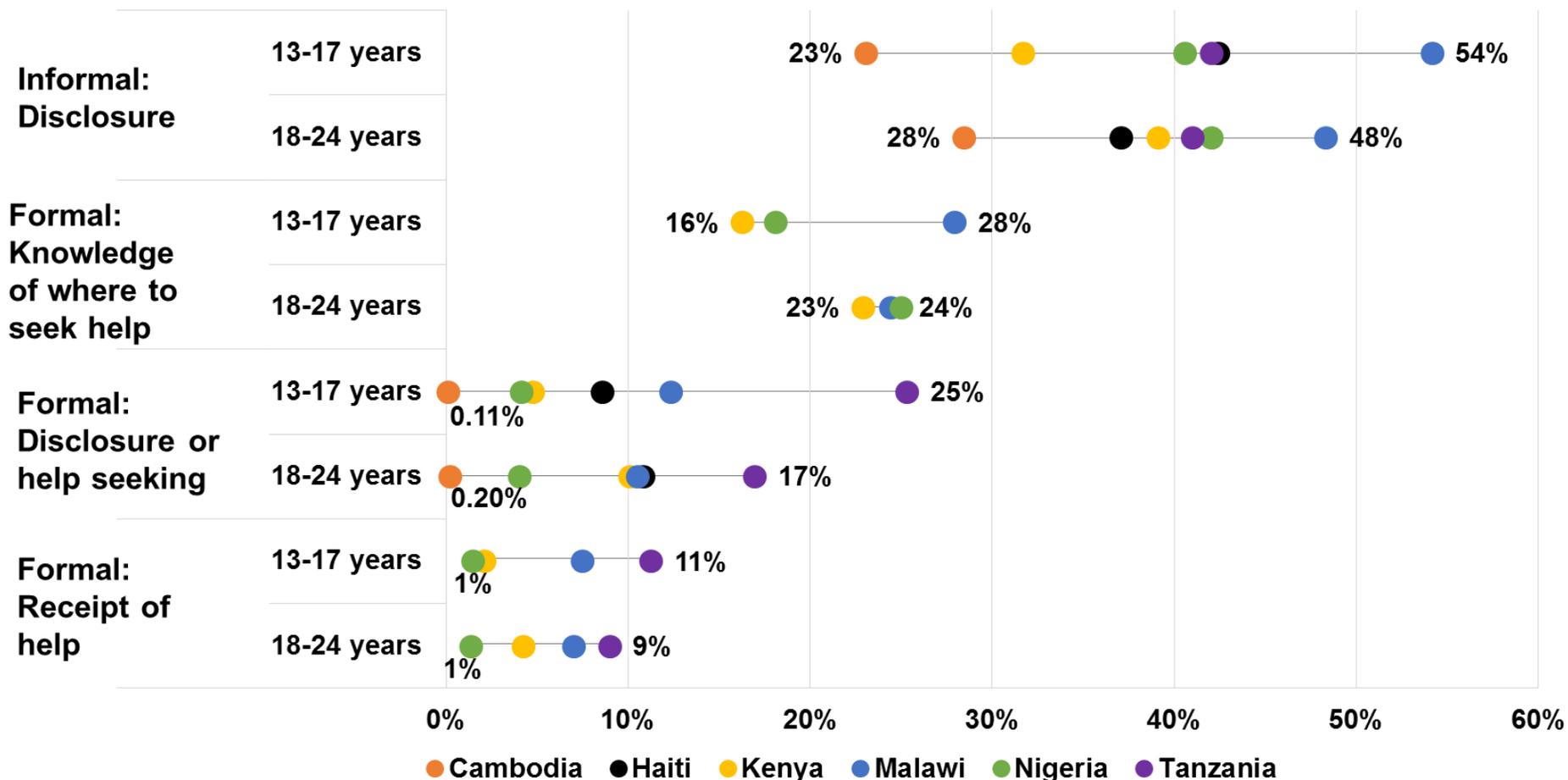
Informal:

- Disclosure

Formal:

- Knowledge of where to seek help
- Disclosure to or help seeking
- Receipt of help

Means of help seeking outcomes

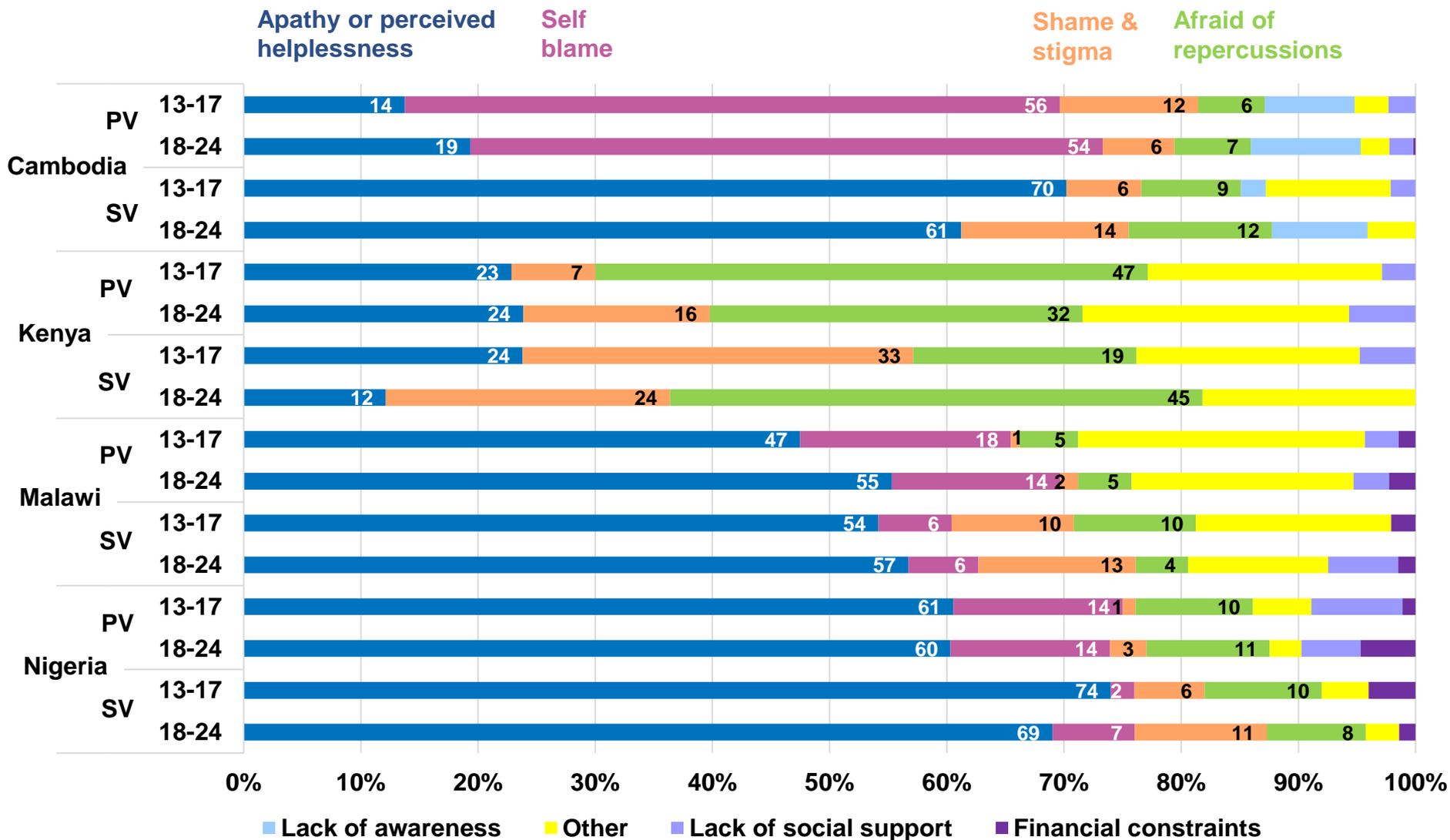


Among those who reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence

Highlights from results

- **Difficult to see clear patterns across countries**
- **Males** were **less likely** to informally disclose experience of violence compared to females
 - 13-17 years: Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania
 - 18-24 years: Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria
- Number of **adult females in HH increased** disclosure and help seeking
 - 13-17 years: Tanzania (informal disclosure), Nigeria (knowledge of where to seek formal help), Malawi (formal disclosure or help seeking)
 - 18-24 years: Cambodia and Malawi (Informal disclosure)
- **Not living with biological father increased** disclosure and help seeking
 - 13-17 years: Nigeria (knowledge of where to seek formal help), Tanzania (formal disclosure or help seeking)
 - 18-24 years: Tanzania (Informal disclosure)
- No clear patterns in wealth quintile or urban residence

Main reasons for not seeking help



Research implications

- Assess **depth versus breadth of questions**
 - Push for inclusion of socioeconomic measures, parental characteristics, access to services (community-level information)
- Collection of longitudinal and qualitative data; inclusion of children who do not live in traditional household structures
- Assess tradeoffs between standardization and adaptation to local contexts

Program & policy implications

- Lack of clear patterns across countries potentially points to the **importance of context** in understanding violence & informing programming
- Disclosure & help seeking extremely low = first 'responders' are **informal networks**
- Low formal help seeking could indicate role of stigmatizing social norms, apathy, helplessness; target norms to increase access
- Improve service quality & work towards a **'whole systems' approach**

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