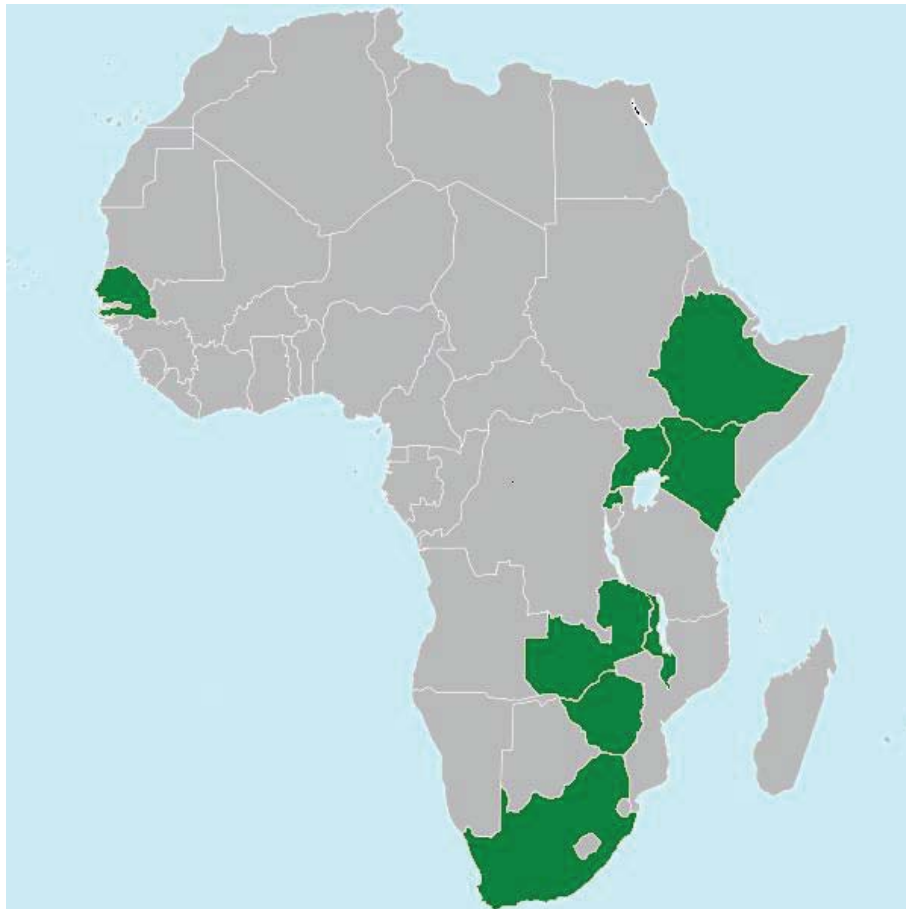


An overview of lessons learned on SGBV in Africa

The African regional SGBV network



Goals of the SGBV network

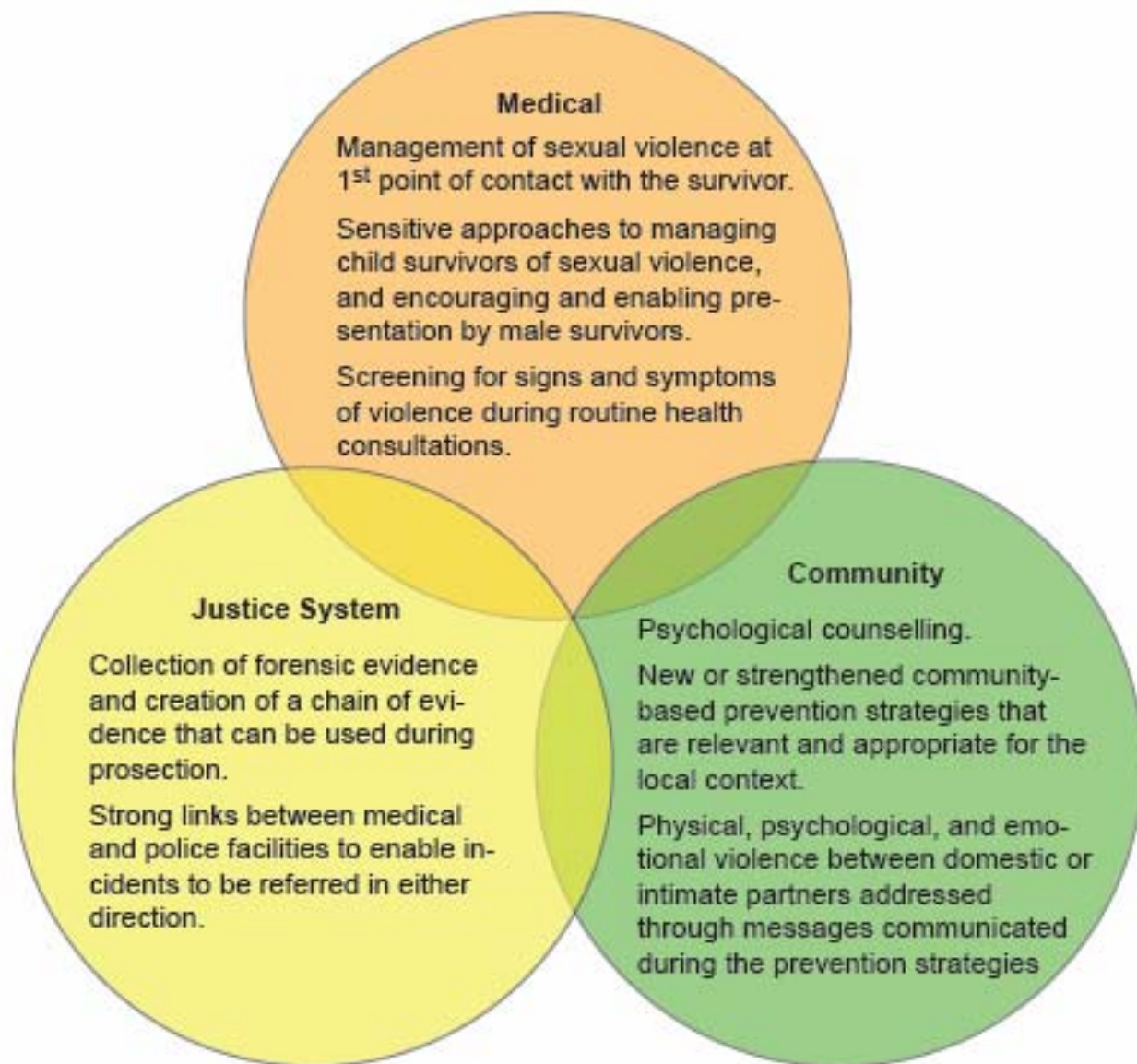
- Strengthen comprehensive treatment services for survivors of sexual violence.
- Produce and document lessons learned to strengthen programs throughout the region

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
IN AFRICA:
KEY ISSUES FOR PROGRAMMING



- Review of all literature on SGBV in Africa
- Focus on:
 - medical management
 - Police and legal issues
 - Community engagement
 - Psychosocial care
- Key programming booklet intended as a resource for programmers

Framework of Comprehensive Care



Lesson 1

Standardized, multi-sectoral frameworks, guidelines and protocols are essential for ensuring comprehensive care.

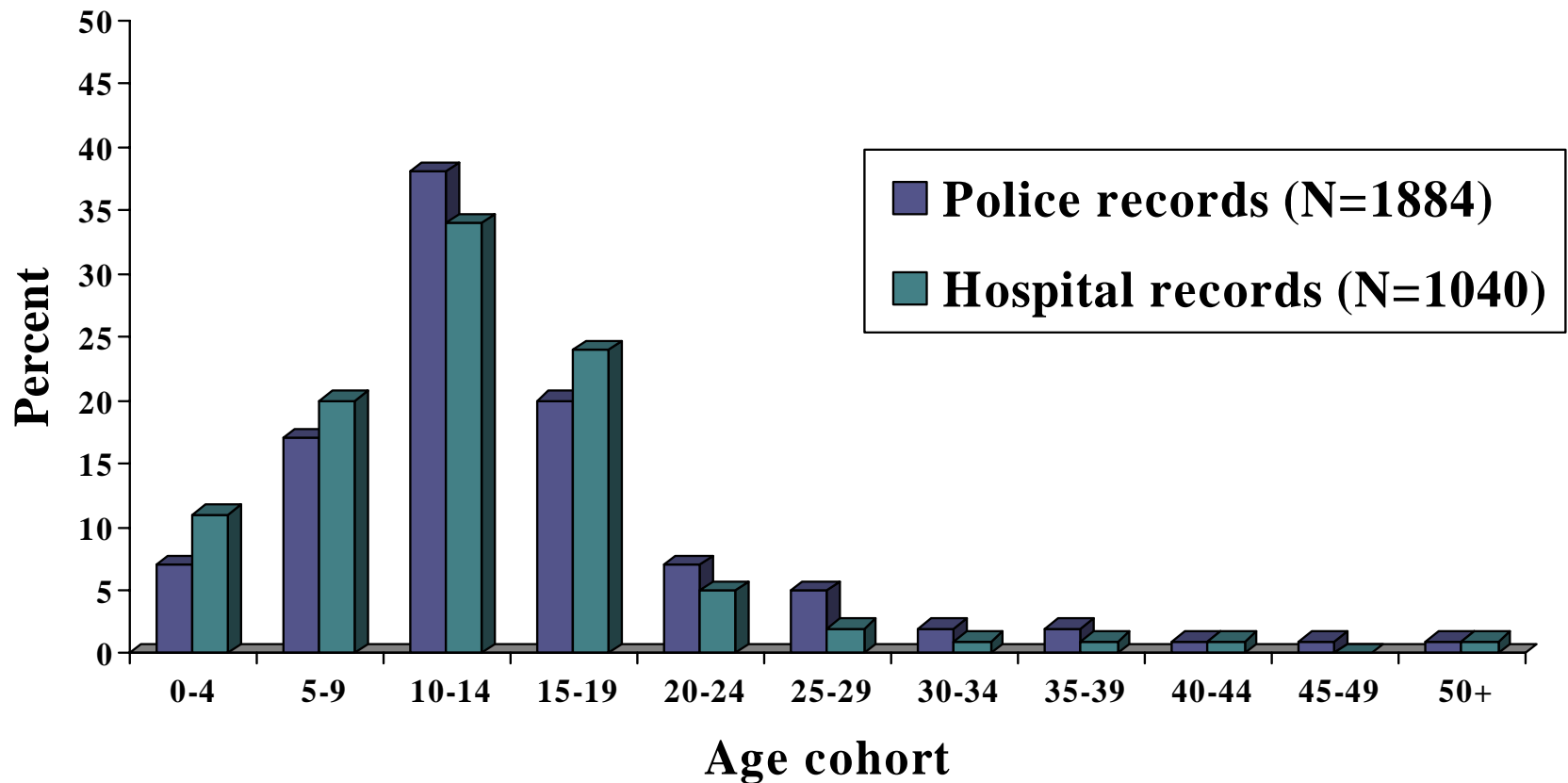
Partner activities

- In Zambia, the Population Council is collaborating with government bodies to develop national protocols for medical management and police responses to SGBV.
- In Kenya, LVCT is developing an evidence base to inform national procedures on forensic evidence collection and utilization.
- In South Africa, TVEP and TLAC are developing innovative models to implement existing guidelines

Lesson 2

The special needs of child survivors are under-addressed in police, medical, legal and long-term care settings.

Majority of Reported Cases are Children (Zambia, 2000-2004)



Lesson 3

Enabling access and utilization of the full range of medical (and medico-legal) services remains a core challenge of SGBV programs.

Barriers to seeking medical care

FPC may be a non-medical institution.

- Most often police.
- Referrals are inhibited by limited knowledge and linkages.
- Transportation costs may act as a disincentive to visiting a second point of contact.

Once at health facilities, quality of care can be compromised by:

- Low provider awareness of necessary procedures and treatments, including the provision of PEP.
- Numerous referrals across hospital departments.
- Incomplete collection of forensic evidence.

Partner Activities

- South Africa's TVEP program and Thuthuzela Care Centers (TCCs) offer innovative models for minimizing the attrition between points of contact.
- Network partners are testing different approaches to overcoming these barriers,
 - One-stop-shops for post-rape care (ESOG, TCCs)
 - Integrated services within hospitals (TLAC)
 - Linking rural health centers and police stations (Zambia)

Lesson 4

Training and capacity building of service providers is necessary for increasing quality of care and improving provider attitudes.

Lesson 5

Specialized police units, or Victim Support Units, are key to strengthening medico-legal responses.

Partner Activities

- In Zambia, VSU officers successfully provide EC and referrals to survivors
- In Malawi, sensitization of VSU officers and communities creating greater awareness of SGBV concerns
- Understanding why survivors seek police support and legal redress (TLAC)

Emerging model for medico-legal responses

- Clear protocols and forms that outline linkages between police and health workers in regard to:
 - 1) referrals between facilities;
 - 2) forensic evidence collection procedures.
- Community and civil society engagement on the policy and program levels.

Still much to learn....

- **Medical**
 - When DNA testing is not available, should national guidelines still include it as a potential resource?
 - What cadre of health care provider can give evidence in court?
- **Legal**
 - What is the nexus between formal and traditional courts?
 - In the African context, what type of forensic evidence is most useful in securing prosecutions?
- **Social**
 - What is 'justice' for survivors, and how can programs best ensure that?

Next steps for the SGBV network

- Enabling technical exchanges and information-sharing between network members.
 - Maintaining a current and accessible database of SGBV resources.
- Identifying and documenting emerging best practices.
 - Developing core indicators to monitor and evaluate progress of regional SGBV programs.
- Engaging in policy dialogues to promote evidence-based interventions.