National Rape Prevention Policies: A Regional Overview
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Background

- **MDGs 2015:** Reduction of sexual and gender based violence
- Profound and sustained impact on health / well being of survivors
- Long term impact on economy/ progress – ripple effect
- Policy and guidelines critical for national SGBV programmes
- Extent to which countries across the world and in the African region have policies - unknown
Aim

- Identify and critique best practice in rape prevention policy globally
- Current presentation focuses on national policies from the African region
Methods

- Total Countries Reviewed: 192
- Policies Found after Literature Search: 173
- Excluded for not meeting inclusion criteria: 49
  - Immediately excluded (irrelevant): 31
  - Included Policies: 93 from 80 countries
    - Sexual Violence: 7
    - Domestic Violence: 17
    - GBV: 27
    - Gender Equality: 42
    - Policies addressing rape: 32
- Titles scanned against inclusion criteria: 142 from 110 countries
Regional Review

- Of the 33, 19 policies are from African region:
  - 9 = Gender Equality
  - 8 = Gender Based Violence
  - 1 = Domestic Violence
  - 1 = Sexual Assault (rape specific)
- 6 of the 19 policies addressed rape as a clear issue of concern
- **Countries:** Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia
Each policy was analysed using a structured questionnaire (guided by WHO/LSHTM, 2010):

- Policy Focus
- Sector driving plan
- Level of Prevention (Primary, secondary, tertiary)
- Action Plan
- Identified effective programmes
- Training needs identified
- Budget plans
- Monitoring and evaluation plans
Results

- **Sectors driving the policies:**
  - 5 policies = Gender Divisions
  - 1 policy = Dept of Health (SA)

- **All** policies had a Plan of Action, with a description of activities

- 4 Countries had timeframes attached to activities

- 3 Countries had budget plans & specific/general allocation of funds

- Rwanda & Zambia: M&E plans with indicators
Prevention Strategies

• Primary Prevention:
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia**: Efforts to improve women’s economic empowerment & reduce poverty
  - **Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia**: Community peer education programmes, promoting positive cultural values / behavioural change
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Zambia**: Engaging media for prevention
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Zambia**: Public & school-based awareness campaigns on THP, FGM, elimination of GBV
Prevention Strategies

- **Secondary Prevention:**
  - **Liberia:** GBV service integration into PHC
  - **Liberia, Tanzania:** Free legal services for vulnerable women
  - **Zambia:** Assess relevance of traditional court systems in adjudication of GBV cases at local level
  - **South Africa:** Vicarious Trauma prevention for service providers; Accreditation of service providers
  - **Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia:** Gender sensitive legislation/ training for communities, police & justice
  - **Liberia, Zambia:** Safe houses for GBV survivors
Prevention Strategies

- **Tertiary Prevention:**
  - Overall tertiary prevention was not well addressed
  - **Liberia, Zambia:** Strengthening of corrective centres; support for perpetrators to prevent re-offending
  - **South Africa:** Victim rehabilitation (after-care through help-line)
Discussion

- Only one-third of policies discussed rape – similar to global review
- Primary prevention receives little attention, mainly secondary prevention strategies
- All policies situated in Women’s Directorates except for SA—health focused
- Absence - targeted plans of action for CSA
- Prevention of burnout/management of vicarious trauma missing (only South Africa)
Recommendations

- Advocacy for the inclusion of rape prevention needed
- Develop & disseminate operational definitions
- Identify, evaluate & build on promising practices*
- Policies must include comprehensive M&E
- Needs of survivors must take priority, & service providers supported & mentored
- Ensure prevention interventions guided by the evidence & developed multi-sectorally
- Great work is being undertaken in the region to respond to SGBV—take forward to garner support for countries to create effective policies
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Thank You

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