Improving Formal and Informal Services for Survivors of IPV in Tanzania:

Results from a Study in Iringa, Mbeya, and Dar es Salaam Regions

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Tanzanian Context

- 44% of ever-married women have experienced physical and/or sexual IPV
- 2011 National Policy Guidelines for the Health Sector Prevention of and Response to GBV
- 2011 National Management Guidelines for the Health Sector Response to and Prevention of GBV
- MCDGC prioritizing multi-sectoral attention to GBV
- 1998 SOSPA criminalizes various forms of GBV but excludes marital rape.

Methods

- **104 key informant interviews (KIIs)**
- **12 participatory focus group discussions (PFGs)**
  - *48 men (18-24 years, 25+)*
  - *48 women (18-24 years, 25+)*

- Sampling
  - District: in consultation with GoT representatives, regional Community Development Officers
  - Respondents: through CSO partners and health providers; snowball sample

Key Findings

1) Many acts of violence are considered socially acceptable
2) Help seeking from any source is very low
3) Survivors are expected to rely on the family for help
4) Help seeking frequently follows a circuitous pathway
5) Help seeking patterns depend on age, marital status and the type of violence
6) Adequate care, support and justice is impeded by socio-cultural and structural barriers

Findings: Violence is socially accepted

Figure 1: Community Definitions of Gender-based Violence

Findings: Violence is socially accepted

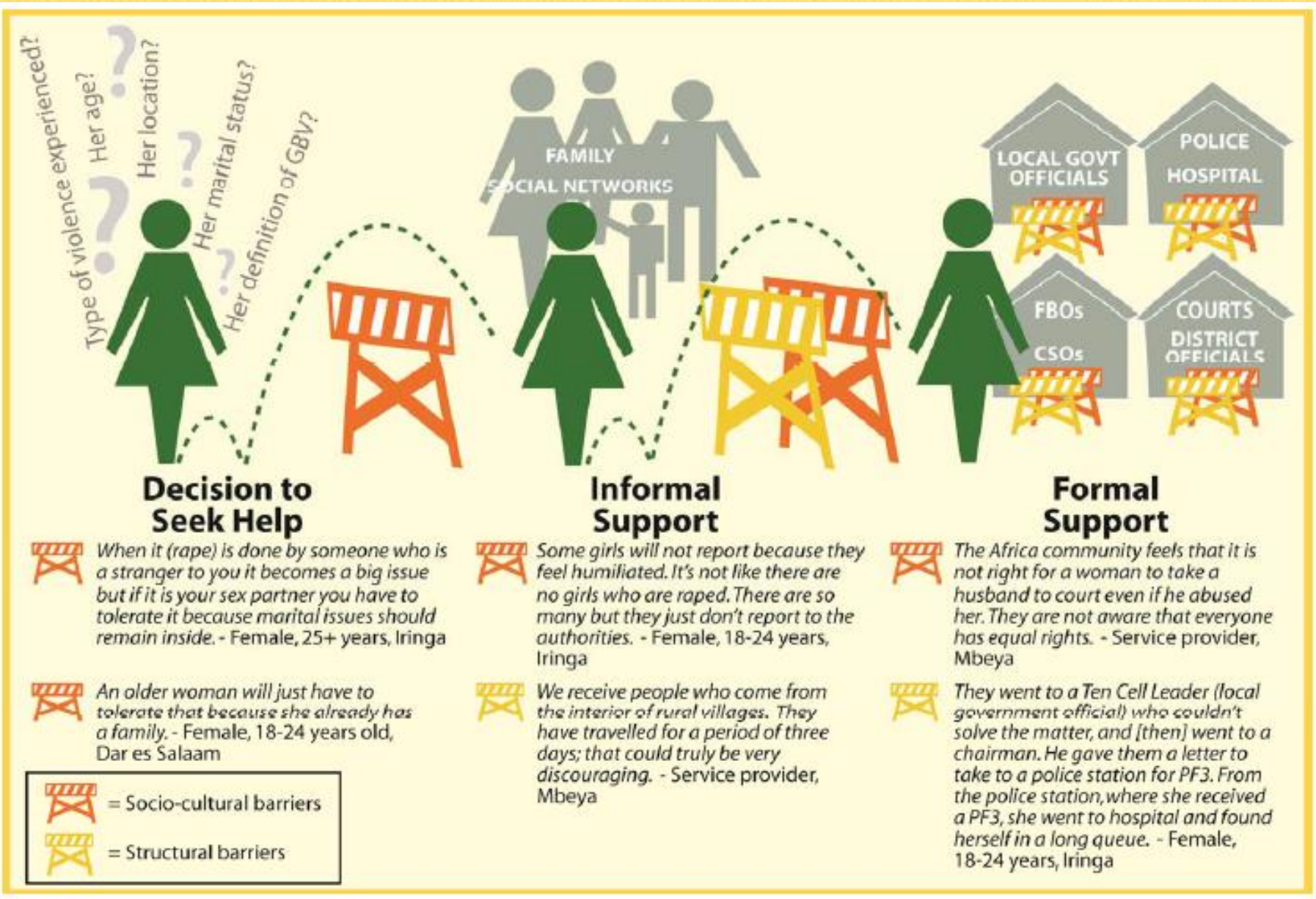
Yes, it's normal, being beaten, yelled at. If you tell (anyone), your peers will ask you 'is this your first time to be beaten?' Some of us are used to it just like the way we are used to eating ugali.

Female, PFG, 25+, Mbeya

If you are forced to have anal sex that is not ok. Even your parents will tell you to ask for a divorce immediately and go back home, and they will stand by you all the way through.

Female, PFG, 25+, Dar

Help-seeking follows a circuitous pathway



Decision to Seek Help

When it (rape) is done by someone who is a stranger to you it becomes a big issue but if it is your sex partner you have to tolerate it because marital issues should remain inside. - Female, 25+ years, Iringa

An older woman will just have to tolerate that because she already has a family. - Female, 18-24 years old, Dar es Salaam

= Socio-cultural barriers

= Structural barriers

Informal Support

Some girls will not report because they feel humiliated. It's not like there are no girls who are raped. There are so many but they just don't report to the authorities. - Female, 18-24 years, Iringa

We receive people who come from the interior of rural villages. They have travelled for a period of three days; that could truly be very discouraging. - Service provider, Mbeya

Formal Support

The Africa community feels that it is not right for a woman to take a husband to court even if he abused her. They are not aware that everyone has equal rights. - Service provider, Mbeya

They went to a Ten Cell Leader (local government official) who couldn't solve the matter, and [then] went to a chairman. He gave them a letter to take to a police station for PF3. From the police station, where she received a PF3, she went to hospital and found herself in a long queue. - Female, 18-24 years, Iringa

Common Barriers to Help Seeking

… they are not married yet, therefore if you find her with another man and because your relationship is not yet recognized… there is not any other decision you can take rather than beating.

Male, PFG, 18-24, Mbeya

Some girls will not report because they feel humiliated. It's not like there aren't girls who are raped, there are so many but they just don't report to the authorities.

Female, PFG, 18-24yrs old, Iringa

For example; a woman might be required to file a report at the police station but that is very far from here…. It is 26 kilometers. We would only give her a letter but we do not escort her.

Service Provider, Iringa

Barriers to Services for GBV survivors: Specific barriers by type of provider

- **Family and Social Networks:**
  - norms related to shame and the privacy of family matters
- ***Local Government Authorities:**
  - Hierarchy, referral system leads to frustration and fatigue
- ***The Legal and Justice Sector**:
  - Corruption
- ***Health sector:**
  - quality of care jeopardized by lack of payment/corruption
- **Civil society:**
  - survivors receiving inappropriate services

*Limited access outside of Dar es Salaam

Key Recommendations

1) Address socio-cultural barriers to help-seeking by survivors of IPV

- Messaging around:
  - power, acceptance, blame and stigma
  - encouragement to speak out, report, support, and advocate
  - demanding accountability
  - availability of services

Key Recommendations

2) Address structural barriers to help-seeking by survivors of GBV

- Bringing services closer to survivors
- Reducing the number of steps in the help-seeking process
- Eliminating corruption and bribery from the service provision system

Key Recommendations

3) Improve quality of care for survivors of IPV

- Providers and duty bearers
- Dissemination and application of new national guidelines
- More supportive attitudes, not shame and blame
- Refreshers on technical and legal aspects of care
- Build capacity for screening for IPV

Key Recommendations

4) Increase access to justice for survivors

- Scale up SOSPA advocacy efforts
- Reconsider the requirements for the PF3
- Address cost as a barrier to legal support
- Remove structural challenges to evidence in rape cases
- Increase efforts to provide GBV-specific training to WRCs

Help-Seeking Pathways and Barriers for Survivors of Gender-based Violence in Tanzania

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http://www.engenderhealth.org/our-work/major-projects/champion.php

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