Combating stigma linked to sexual violence in armed conflict
The role of faith leaders and youth

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Background
Why focus on stigma?

“They wounded our soul, but people stepped upon our wounds”

“The key to succeed in life is to hide who you are”

“You are a man; you cannot be raped”

“I was no longer supposed to exist”
The many forms of stigma

- Individual/self stigma
- Interpersonal stigma
- Community/societal stigma
- Institutional/structural stigma
Working with faith leaders: Channels of Hope
Working with faith leaders: the impact

South Sudan: murals with anti-SGBV and stigma messages at health facilities, schools, the prison

DRC: All 92 trained faith leaders have organised trainings in their churches and are integrating gender topics in sermons

Uganda: Day of Prayer for children born of rape, ‘Accept Me as Your Own Child’ hosted by the Catholic Bishop, with top religious leaders in the District all participating, as well as 560 children born of rape and over 1500 community members.
Youth engagement to address stigma

Uganda: 32 Youth Group Action Plans, including community engagement sessions using drama, poems and traditional dances.

DRC: Community sensitisation includes root causes, enabling factors, and consequences of SGBV and stigmatization & information about the GBV law.

South Sudan: a girls’ football tournament & public advocacy on SGBV and stigma.
Questions?

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