



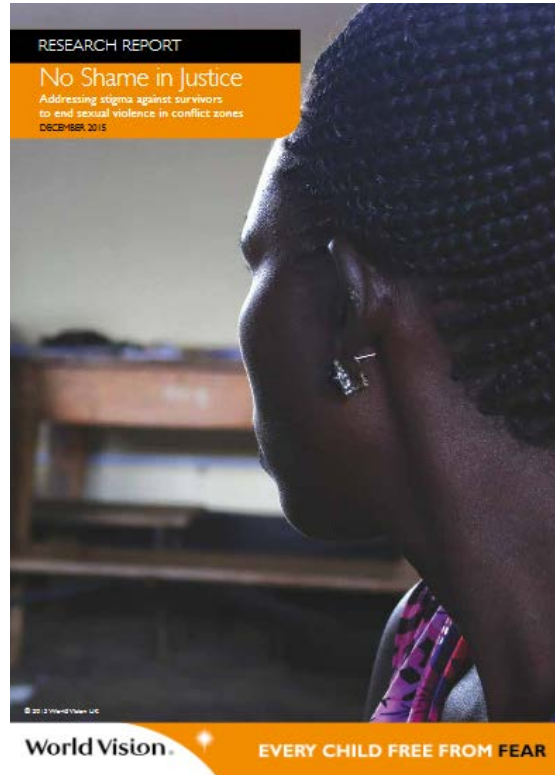
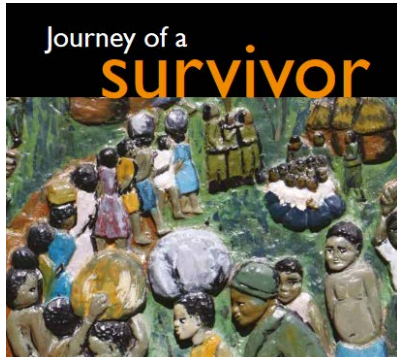
**Combating stigma linked to  
sexual violence in armed conflict**  
The role of faith leaders and youth

Erica Hall

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# Background



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

The Magna  
Carta Fund for  
Human Rights  
and Democracy



# 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 a man; you cannot be raped”*

*“I was no longer supposed to exist”*



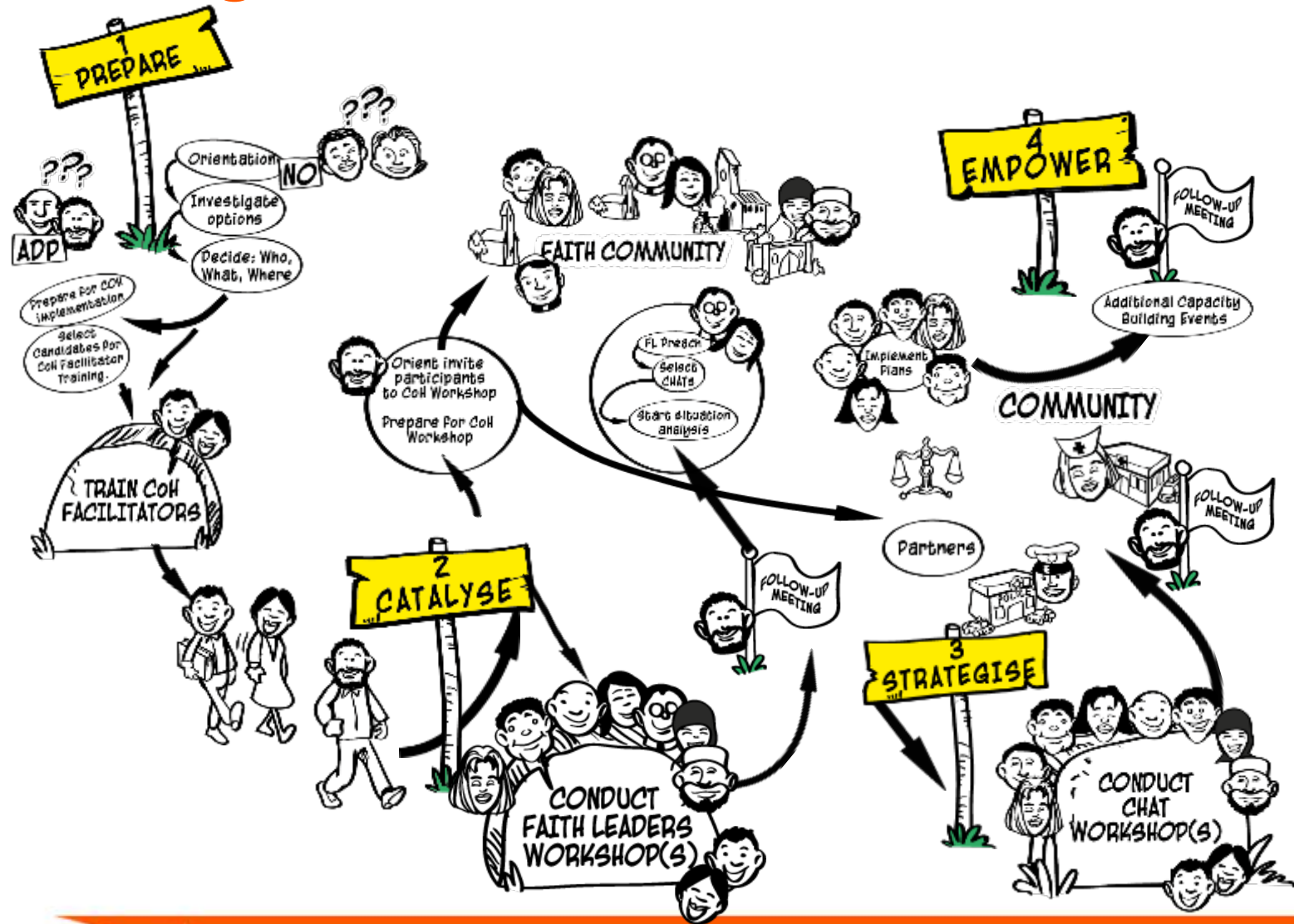
# The many forms of stigma



- Individual/self stigma
- Interpersonal stigma
- Community/societal stigma
- Institutional/structural



# 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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