Building the Violence Prevention Infrastructure: Globally, Nationally and Locally

Challenges of adapting Stepping Stones materials

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Context

Two proven holistic, gender-transformative programmes:

**Stepping Stones** (1995, 2016)
- Working with older adolescents and adults
- Recognised to reduce IPV and HSV-2 (Jewkes et al 2008)
- Recommended by many organisations eg WHO, USAID
- Widely used around the world

**Stepping Stones with Children** (2016)
- Working with children and younger adolescents living with HIV and their caregivers.
- Shown to increase body weights and CD4 counts (Holden et al 2018)
- Significant increase in caregivers choosing to tell children about their HIV status
- Children markedly happier
Intended measures & adaptations

- We reviewed and analysed our many years’ of experience supporting *Stepping Stones* practitioners around the world.

- We also surveyed our pool of *Stepping Stones with Children* trainers, who live in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. 23 of them responded.
Challenges to adaptation

1) Political context
2) Focus on girls and young women
3) Funding pressures
4) Mostly done without involvement of the originators of the *Stepping Stones* materials
Findings

1) Censorship

2) Exclusion

3) Quantity over quality
Recommendations

✓ Support and defend the right to accurate gendered-, rights-based, inclusive & age-appropriate information;

✓ Involve all sectors of the community in social norms change;

✓ Resist the drive for short-term results of quantity over quality;

✓ A child-centred, human-rights approach should also be holistic;

✓ Above all, ensure ethical and effective programming.
Thank you

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