CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN ZAMBIA UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

THE ONE STOP CENTRE

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African Regional SGBV Network Partner’s Meeting
Zambia lacked an adequate system to deal with cases of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) effectively. This was compounded by lack of recognition of CSA as a public health problem requiring both medical and social interventions. With increase in HIV infection and the risk to infect children through sexual abuse, there was a need to develop comprehensive interventions to protect and manage sexually abused children.
University Teaching Hospital

- Tertiary Hospital located in Lusaka
- Houses the only medical school in the country but includes the schools of Registered Nurses and Midwifery. Most of the highly trained professionals (lawyers, magistrates, police officers etc) are to be found in Lusaka
- Therefore multidisciplinary management of CSA had to be commissioned in Lusaka in order to succeed
Overall Goal of UTH One Stop Centre

- Improving the integration of services for the prevention, care and management of sexually abused children in Zambia

Other Specific objectives:
1. Conduct training
2. Research
3. Develop protocols
Steps Taken

Prior to the opening of the One Stop Centre

- Support of stakeholders (policy makers, members of the legal and medical fraternity, and the community) was sought.

- Consultative meetings were held with NGOs involved in the welfare of children.
Multiple levels of trainings were conducted mainly for medical, psychosocial, police, legal and media personnel.

A comprehensive database has been developed.

One Stop Centre was established in 2006 which houses a clinician, psychosocial counselors and police.

All personnel at the centre have been trained in trauma management.

Focal persons (lawyer and media) are consulted as and when needed.
Defilement Cases

Increase in number of cases being reported
Defilement Cases By Age Group 2006-2010
Proportion Completing 28 day course of PEP

- 2006: 42%
- 2007: 57%
- 2008: 55%
- 2009: 62%
- 2010: 60%
Conviction rates - Audit of medical forms delivered to 3 VSUs in Lusaka between April and September 2009
Training of professionals tasked with the protection of children

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Community Sensitization

- Target
  - Community Leaders
  - Women’s Groups
  - Community based NGOs
  - Clergy
  - Teachers and pupils

- Two- three day Sensitization Workshops
- Markets
- Schools
- Bus Stations
Accomplishments

- Almost 100% of children who report to the centre within 72hrs are started on PEP
- 60% complete 28 day course of PEP.
Challenges

- Follow up of children beyond 3 months
- 40% of children are still not completing 28 day course of PEP
- Poor conviction rates
- Shortage of personnel dedicated to CSA
- Transport constraints
Way Forward

1. Prevention of CSA
   - Community Awareness
   - Education programs in schools

2. Improved investigation, prosecution resulting in ‘appropriate’ conviction rates

3. Serve as a center of excellence for the care and treatment of child sexual abuse in Zambia; and eventually serve as a national resource to disseminate this clinical, legal and service delivery expertise throughout the country through training.
Community Sensitization

Location: Chawama Market
Targeted Audience: men, women, children
Community Sensitization

Location: Kulima Tower Bus Station/market
Targeted Audience: Bus drivers, Taxi drivers, women
Community Sensitization

Community Leaders – Kabwata
Community Sensitization cont...

School Debate – Woodlands A Secondary School