

# National Rape Prevention Policies: A Regional Overview

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# Background



- MDGs 2015: Reduction of sexual and gender based violence
- Profound and sustained impact on health / well being of survivors
- Long term impact on economy/ progress – ripple effect
- Policy and guidelines critical for national SGBV programmes
- Extent to which countries across the world and in the African region have policies - unknown

# Aim



- Identify and critique best practice in rape prevention policy globally
- Current presentation focuses on national policies from the African region

# Methods

Total Countries  
Reviewed:  
192

Policies Found after  
Literature Search:  
173

Policies  
immediately  
excluded  
(irrelevant):  
31

Titles scanned against  
inclusion criteria:  
142 from 110 countries

Excluded for not meeting  
inclusion criteria:  
49

Included Policies:  
93 from 80 countries

Sexual Violence: 7  
Domestic Violence: 17  
GBV: 27  
Gender Equality: 42  
Policies addressing rape: 32

# Regional Review



- Of the 33, 19 policies are from African region:
  - 9 = Gender Equality
  - 8 = Gender Based Violence
  - 1 = Domestic Violence
  - 1 = Sexual Assault (rape specific)
- 6 of the 19 policies addressed rape as a clear issue of concern
- **Countries:** Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia

# Data Analysis



Each policy was analysed using a structured questionnaire (guided by WHO/LSHTM, 2010) :

- Policy Focus
- Sector driving plan
- Level of Prevention (Primary, secondary, tertiary)
- Action Plan
- Identified effective programmes
- Training needs identified
- Budget plans
- Monitoring and evaluation plans

# Results



- **Sectors driving the policies:**
  - 5 policies = Gender Divisions
  - 1 policy = Dept of Health (SA)
- **All** policies had a Plan of Action, with a description of activities
- 4 Countries had timeframes attached to activities
- 3 Countries had budget plans & specific/general allocation of funds
- Rwanda & Zambia: M&E plans with indicators

# Prevention Strategies



- **Primary Prevention:**
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia:** Efforts to improve women's economic empowerment & reduce poverty
  - **Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia:** Community peer education programmes, promoting positive cultural values / behavioural change
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Zambia:** Engaging media for prevention
  - **Ethiopia, Liberia, Zambia:** Public & school-based awareness campaigns on THP, FGM, elimination of GBV



# Prevention Strategies



- **Secondary Prevention:**
  - **Liberia:** GBV service integration into PHC
  - **Liberia, Tanzania:** Free legal services for vulnerable women
  - **Zambia:** Assess relevance of traditional court systems in adjudication of GBV cases at local level
  - **South Africa:** Vicarious Trauma prevention for service providers; Accreditation of service providers
  - **Liberia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia:** Gender sensitive legislation/ training for communities, police & justice
  - **Liberia, Zambia:** Safe houses for GBV survivors

# Prevention Strategies



- **Tertiary Prevention:**

- Overall tertiary prevention was not well addressed
- **Liberia, Zambia:** Strengthening of corrective centres; support for perpetrators to prevent re-offending
- **South Africa:** Victim rehabilitation (after-care through help-line)

# Discussion



- Only one-third of policies discussed rape – similar to global review
- Primary prevention receives little attention, mainly secondary prevention strategies
- All policies situated in Women's Directorates except for SA– health focused
- Absence - targeted plans of action for CSA
- Prevention of burnout/management of vicarious trauma missing (only South Africa)

# Recommendations

- Advocacy for the inclusion of rape prevention needed
- Develop & disseminate operational definitions
- Identify, evaluate & build on promising practices\*
- Policies must include comprehensive M&E
- Needs of survivors must take priority, & service providers supported & mentored
- Ensure prevention interventions guided by the evidence & developed multi-sectorally
- Great work is being undertaken in the region to respond to SGBV– take forward to garner support for countries to create effective policies

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<http://www.svri.org/GlobalReview.pdf>
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- SVRI Coordinating Group – for a list of our current members, visit: <http://www.svri.org/group.htm>

# Thank You



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