



HERE TO STAY

Home-grown solutions to
violence against children



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to violence against children



AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (APEVAC)



APEVAC is a Pan-African platform established to promote an Africa-wide movement and conversation; and to contribute to global, continental, regional and national agenda on ending violence against children (VAC). It was also born of the need for a continental collective platform for innovation and cross-learning.

APEVAC draws from the opportunities and challenges of Africa, hence prioritises entrenching the VAC agenda within the AU and Pan-African child rights mechanisms. Anchored within African values and reality, and as a platform initiated and led by Africans, APEVAC provides scope for joint programming and complementarity amongst actors and creates synergy with existing partnerships on children in Africa.

APEVAC also draws its legitimacy from its recognition by the AU, the ACERWC, the RECs and global and national players as a credible voice of African organisations and as a movement that can advance the violence prevention agenda in Africa.

www.endviolenceinafrica.info

AFRICAN CHILD POLICY FORUM (ACPF)

The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) is an independent, not-for-profit, Pan-African institute of policy research and dialogue on the African child. ACPF was established with the conviction that putting children first on the public agenda is fundamental to the realisation of their rights and wellbeing, and to bringing about lasting social and economic progress in Africa. ACPF's work is rights based, inspired by universal values, informed by global experiences and knowledge, and committed to Internationalism. Its work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other regional and international human rights instruments.

ACPF aims specifically to contribute to improved knowledge on children in Africa; to monitor and report progress; to identify policy options; to provide a platform for dialogue; to collaborate with governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society in the development and implementation of effective pro-child policies and programmes; and to promote a common voice for children in Africa and elsewhere.



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ACRONYMS

| | |
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| ACPF | Africa Child Policy Forum |
| ACRWC | African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child |
| APAD | Association pour la Promotion de l'Autonomie et des Droits de la Jeune Fille/Femme (Association for the Promotion, Participation and Rights of Women and Girls) |
| APEVAC | Africa Partnership to End Violence Against Children |
| CAR | Central Africa Region |
| CAVP | Church-based Anti-Violence Programme |
| CBOs | Community Based Organisations |
| CDF | Children's Dignity Forum |
| CDF | Constituency Development Fund |
| CFI | Child Friendly Index |
| CLMMS | Child Labour Monitoring and Mediating System |
| CCK | Communications Commission of Kenya |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| DFID | UK Department of International Development |
| ECD | Early Childhood Development |
| ECMEN | Ending Child Marriages Network |
| EVAWC | Ending Violence Against Women and Children |
| FBOs | Faith Based Organisations |
| FGM/C | Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting |
| GSS | Good Shepherd Sisters |
| HGI | home-grown Initiative |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| KMG | Kembatta Mentti Gezzimma |
| LL | Liholmbe Lekukhalela ("A shoulder to cry on") |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| NAR | North Africa Region |
| NGO | Non-government Organisation |
| NPA | National Plan of Action |
| RFA | Rain Forest Alliance |
| SAR | South Africa Region |

| | |
|---------|--|
| SC | Save the Children |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SGBV | Sexual Gender-Based Violence |
| SNNPR | Southern National and Nationalities Peoples Region |
| SOS CVI | Societas Socialis (social society) Children's Villages International |
| SRHR | Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights |
| TECMEN | Tanzania Ending Child Marriages Network |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCRC | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| VAC | Violence against Children |
| VAW | Violence against women |
| VAWG | Violence against Women and Girls |
| WAR | West Africa Region |
| WASH | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |

PREFACE

This report, entitled *Here to stay: Home-grown solutions to violence against children*, is one of the few continental reviews of home-grown violence prevention efforts in Africa. It comes at an opportune moment in the history of child rights in Africa. This is a time for taking stock of progress advancing child rights in the 25 years since the adoption of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Data and information influence policy, and therefore good quality information is indispensable to policy development. So too is good access to relevant evidence about successful interventions. Better statistical data and more effective analysis are the first steps towards influencing policy and changing it for the better. Conducting studies to build the knowledge base on an issue and disseminating the results as widely as possible are pivotal in the policy advocacy arena.

This report documents promising initiatives in preventing violence against children that are initiated, conceived and run by Africans, including members of the communities they are designed to serve. The good practices documented in this report benefit from community ownership, local relevance, local leadership, indigenous models of care and protection, and reliance on local capacity.

The report echoes and re-echoes what others have reiterated in the past: sustainability can be assured when local models and initiatives are prompted, supported and scaled up.

Expressing my sincere thanks to the various partners who contributed to its preparation, I humbly present this report for use in formulating legislation and policy and developing programmes, as well as for advocacy and public sensitisation.

Dr Joan Nyanyuki
Executive Director, ACPF
Chair, APEVAC, Executive Council



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The African Partnership to End Violence Against Children (APEVAC) and End Violence share a common vision: “to create a world free of violence against children.”

Both partnerships are engaged in mobilising continental and global movements and action to support governments and civil society organisations in achieving the violence-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and particularly Target 16.2: “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

APEVAC is also well positioned to promote the African Union Agenda 2063 (in particular Aspiration 6: “An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children”) and Africa’s Agenda for Children 2040 (Aspiration 7: “Every child is protected against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse”). Through these activities, APEVAC augments the efforts of End Violence on the African continent.

Framework of collaboration between APEVAC and End Violence, outlines collaboration between the two partnerships to strengthen the movement to end violence against children (VAC) and to ensure that efforts to address VAC at national and pan-African level are harmonised and complementary, thereby improving the overall coordination and synergy of all efforts and interventions.¹

The level of violence against children in Africa is alarming and continues to rise. Although much has been achieved across the continent, there is still much to do to end VAC. A very good starting point is to identify and document home-grown African initiatives that reduce risk factors and promote protective factors to prevent VAC in Africa. This APEVAC-commissioned, ACPF-supported study is the first of its kind, and will provide much-needed information on grassroots initiatives that can be scaled up and referred to for learning and dissemination.

A total of 15 case studies have been documented in this report. They were sampled from 10 countries across all five regions on the African continent: Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe. These home-grown initiatives varied from country to country, but all had three things in common: they had the ability to address root causes of violence; they reduced risk factors for violence; and they promoted protective factors. Some were very small and individually-led, others were community-led, and others were created and developed at national level. A list of enabling factors for the further development of these home-grown practices has been documented, as have the barriers faced by the founders and other implementers. No matter how small, each of these initiatives has had visible outcomes and impact on the targeted beneficiaries.

Summary of findings

The findings reveal that the most at-risk category of children targeted by home-grown initiatives were those aged between 5 and 17 years. The most prevalent types of violence addressed by the initiatives in this study were sexual gender-based violence (child sexual abuse and exploitation), followed by physical violence (corporal punishment, child trafficking, children doing hazardous work, and violence affecting children on the move) and negative social norms. The majority of the case studies came from the Eastern African Region (EAR).

Most of the home-grown initiatives reviewed in this study implemented primary prevention of VAC. The others implemented secondary and tertiary prevention of VAC and/or some combination of the three types.

A majority of the home-grown initiatives (18.1%) focused on negative social norms; 18.1% on community knowledge; 15% on gender-based violence; 8.8% on corporal punishment; 12% on child sexual exploitation and abuse; 10.5% on household poverty; and 15.1 on unsafe environments.

Enabling factors that support home-grown initiatives to have sustainable impact at individual, family, community and societal level

At individual level, home-grown practices helped build the confidence and self-sufficiency of boys and girls. The findings revealed that children targeted by these interventions were less vulnerable to the risk factors that contribute to VAC. Due to the adaptability of home-grown practices,

they prioritize the needs of girls and boys and promote protective factors.

At family level, protective factors as a result of home-grown practices include addressing intimate partner violence, facilitating healthy relationships, and providing parenting programmes and household economic strengthening.

All the home-grown promising practices have demonstrated a high degree of intersectionality. Multiple interventions have been implemented showing good results. Social protection systems have contributed to the economic strengthening of households.

At community level, social protection schemes engaging men and boys have given voice to women who were facing gender inequalities because of harmful traditional practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

At societal level enabling factors include political will, strategic partnerships, adequate funding, and institutional strengthening. These assisted in community mobilization and strong movement building at a community level, and in some cases at national level as well.

Barriers to scale-up and sustainability of home-grown initiatives

Child and adolescent youth participation are inadequate: Ensuring and promoting children's voices is key to addressing violence at home, in school, and in communities. However, children's accounts of their experiences and interests are often ignored. Children themselves are often viewed as helpless members of society, and therefore have limited resources to influence prevention measures, and limited spaces in which to do it.

Limited access to funding: Long term investments are required to address underlying drivers of violence, such as poverty. There is a need for strong financial incentives to address violence and exploitation of children, especially girls (who are particularly vulnerable to child sexual abuse and exploitation/CSAE, early marriages and prostitution). Access to international funding is near impossible for home-grown initiatives, so community-based grant-making models and approaches need to be trialled and scaled up.

Poor coordination between local actors and a limited understanding of intersectionality across various projects and initiatives have resulted in micro-level home-grown initiatives being overlooked for scale-up and policy uptake.

Fragility: multiple crises extending over long periods of time (such as droughts, conflict, forced displacement, etc.) erode gains in VAC prevention and predispose children to multiple risks of violence.

Weak community support systems and family-focused services: in several of the case studies it was found that even though the initial setup of response services was good, they lacked government support to ensure sustained outcomes—makeshift child rescue centres being one such example. There are no working tools and other resources, and there is shortage of staff and/or adequate leadership to keep these centres afloat.

Deep rooted cultural and societal attitudes and practices that enforce power over women and girls continue to perpetuate inequalities. As a result, home-grown initiatives—and, indeed, other interventions too – run the risk of “taking one step forward and two steps back” if this is not taken into account.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning: interventions are sometimes subject to complicated rigours of project design and implementation that can threaten the authenticity and simplicity of home-grown practices that have proven to be effective, sometimes despite a lack of cutting-edge project management tools.

Research and policy uptake

Academic institutions in Africa are slow in catching on to and redesigning pedagogical frameworks for social welfare practitioners. There are few innovation laboratories for social action and change where home-grown ideas can be incubated and documented in a chronological way (such as, for example, the Prevention Collaborative at the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in the Institute of Social Studies, University of Cape Town (UCT)). Academia is more theoretical across many institutions in Africa, marginalizing individuals and community members who have great ideas on VAC prevention but who do not have the capacity or know-how to do implementation research.

Under-researched promising practices. Children are often subject to multiple risk factors that expose them to violence; but the underlying factors contributing to the incidence of VAC in different settings remain under-researched and poorly understood.

Documentation: Not all home-grown initiatives reviewed in this study had adequate capacity to research and document their initiatives. This was particularly a problem for the newer ones. This gap needs to be addressed in order to ensure that initiatives are able to capture their ideas-to-action process and teach others to do the same. This may promote organic scale-up and learning at micro level.

Policy uptake: The findings of this report reveal limited and sometimes entirely lacking data related to VAC. All countries have some prevalence data, but policy uptake is not always fast-paced. National Plans of Action (NPAs) and responses to the recommendations in VAC surveys are impeded by lack of funding, uncoordinated structures at national and subnational level, and corruption. Election campaigns sometime hijack well-meaning advocacy initiatives in most African countries, and VAC prevention is excluded.

Summary recommendations

Continued protection of high-risk groups: special attention should be given to children in emergencies and those with disabilities, due to their particular vulnerabilities in harmful and risky contexts. Not much is being done in the area of violence against children with disabilities, and home-grown initiatives are scarce in this regard. Children in residential care are another high-risk group, and despite efforts by SOS Children's Villages International and other organisations, grassroots initiatives are not focusing on their needs. There is a need to support the development of home-grown short-term childcare approaches and models that are affordable, as per the UN Alternative Care Guidelines. The best interests of the child should always be the driver for reducing their vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation.

Emerging risks such as online child sexual abuse and exploitation require concerted efforts from all VAC prevention stakeholders. This kind of tertiary prevention needs to occur at national level, cascading down to and

connecting with other home-grown initiatives using simple technology such as chatbots, mobile phone apps, SMS and community radio.

Localization of aid and funding is highly recommended. Community-based grant making and re-granting mechanisms are the best way of reaching promising grassroots practices for scale up.

Monitoring and learning: APEVAC should create platforms and avenues to link home-grown initiatives for shared learning and advocacy. Implementers of home-grown initiatives will benefit greatly from training, support and mentorship, especially if they are fledgling initiatives. Research and in-depth reviews of home-grown monitoring systems can be carried out and new methodologies documented for scale up; such systems need to be easy to apply and should not require advanced monitoring tools and capacities.

Continuum of care: It is recommended that at-risk children and families be supported by strong community-based structures that are flexible, simple and effective in preventing VAC. Home-grown early childhood development (ECD) programmes are effective when combined with parenting programmes and economic strengthening activities.

Research and development: APEVAC is well-placed to convene and collaborate with academic institutions around Africa through research and learning platforms such as the Prevention Collaborative, in order to create a community of practice for home-grown initiatives.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and justification

The African Partnership to End Violence against Children (APEVAC) is an Addis Ababa-based African umbrella coalition that brings together like-minded national, regional, and international organisations for collective action to end violence against children in Africa.

In 2014 the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) developed an African Report on Violence against Children, in response to a joint request by the UN Special Representative to End Violence Against Children and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) for country-specific evidence on VAC in Africa. As a follow-up to the 2014 Study, a regional multi-stakeholder consultation to commit Africa to action to end VAC took place in September 2016 in Addis Ababa. The consultation had 106 participants from 32 countries in Africa and beyond, and unanimously endorsed the establishment of the African Partnership to End Violence against Children. The Partnership was officially launched on September 30, 2016.²

APEVAC then decided to find ways of documenting home-grown best practices to end VAC in Africa. A continental study was commissioned to capture promising grassroots initiatives that could eventually be scaled up and referred to for cross-learning purposes. This study was intended to contribute to APEVAC's overarching priorities and approaches, which include:

- building political will for action at Pan-African and national levels;
- catalysing cross-country and cross-regional collaboration and learning; and
- promoting accountability, monitoring and reporting on progress made to end VAC in Africa³.

The term “home-grown” might bring to mind words and phrases such as “doing things our way;” “an idea born and bred in someone’s backyard;” “our very own idea;” “original;” and “organically grown” – to mention but a few.

For the purposes of this research, a promising home-grown initiative on violence prevention is defined as:

An initiative that is conceived and implemented with the knowledge of social norms, values systems and practices, anchored in contextual realities, hence enjoying local relevance and ownership. These initiatives are embedded within existing organic, community-based structures and have demonstrated measurable results in prevention and reduction of violence against children.

In other words, home-grown initiatives are those that are originally designed and germinated at a micro or national level, which then evolve into an intervention or combination of interventions that have measurable and sustained impact.

To avoid repetition, this report does not include the good practices in preventing violence against children documented in the INSPIRE report⁴.

The home-grown good practices documented in this report are yet to be subjected to rigorous, experimental studies to amplify their scalability.

1.2 Overview of statistics on violence against children in Africa

Despite progress and improvements in legal and policy frameworks to address it, Africa has some of the highest rates of VAC: every second, an African child reaches out to child helpline services to report abuse and violence. Over 60% of children experience physical punishment from family members and caregivers in many countries in Africa. One in four children experiences sexual violence. Each year three million girls are at risk of genital cutting in Africa. Five million more girls are married every year, with 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa married before their 18th birthday. Four out of 10 boys in residential care institutions suffer physical violence, while two in 10 experience sexual violence of one form or another. Violent and degrading punishment of children has been documented in care settings and penal institutions in many countries. Child trafficking is increasing: Sub-Saharan Africa reports the highest share of child trafficking in the world, with girls and boys more or less equally affected.⁵

1.3 Objectives of the study

The overarching objective of this continental study was to catalyse the replication of good practices across Africa. The specific aim of the assignment was to document and analyse initiatives and strategies that

have successfully addressed the risks and drivers of physical, emotional and sexual violence, resulting in measurable reductions in violence.

The study documents promising initiatives and practices that have proven to be effective and locally relevant and which have the potential to be scaled up sustainably to prevent violence against children. It highlights the elements within those initiatives that contribute to reducing risk factors and drivers of violence, and those elements that promote protective factors. The study also identifies enabling factors, at local and national levels, that determine the success and effectiveness of home-grown initiatives in violence prevention.

1.4 Selection criteria

The documentation set out to capture violence prevention initiatives and strategies that have had clear, measurable impact in the following areas:

- Initiatives and strategies that effectively address the risk factors for violence – i.e. individual, relational, community, and societal factors that heighten the risk of a child being exposed to violence.
- Initiatives and strategies that effectively address drivers of violence – i.e. institutional and structural conditions and contexts in which violence is more likely to occur.
- Initiatives and strategies that build on protective factors and/or leverage the skills, strengths, resources, support and/or coping strategies that a child has, individually or in relation to her/his family, community or society, which protect the child and reduce his/her exposure to risk of violence.

1.5 Sampling

Promising home-grown initiatives were selected for this study from ten countries: Cameroon, DRC, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. These countries were selected using purposive sampling to ensure a representative sample of countries from all five African regions. Other criteria included the countries' Pathfinder status (see Chapter 2) and their national ratings on the ACPF Child Friendly Index (CFI). Contextual factors were considered to ensure the selection included a representative spread of context-specific issues such as protracted conflict, political stability or lack thereof, and other socio-economic factors (economic status, socio-cultural aspects, etc.).

1.6 Methodology

Desk review

The primary source of information for this study was a desk review. Examples of promising home-grown practices were collected from websites, evaluations, journals, project documents and other case studies. Case study analysis was used to assess whether or not a given home-grown initiative was a promising practice, how it was aligned to the ending violence objectives, and whether or not it was scalable. Potential for policy and research uptake was another criterion for selection. The

decisive factors that were used to come up with a final selection of home-grown case studies included resilience, local leadership and agency, political will, scalability, innovation, community buy-in, community capacity and sustainability. Some of the initiatives chosen did not exemplify all these features with the same weight, but exhibited one or more of these features and/or showed remarkable evidence of ideas that were put into effective actions.

Primary data collection

A total of 12 targeted key informant interviews informing this report responded to an online survey. The online survey targeted four categories of individuals across various fields of expertise:

- representatives of international organisations, UN agencies, and institutions;
- senior management of INGOs, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, CSOs, Alliances, Networks, Coalitions;
- programme/sector leads; and
- community/faith-based organisations.

Initially, a total of 57 case studies were sampled in this study. Using the alignment/impact (ALIM) matrix, these were ranked according to the selection criteria listed above, and a total of 15 home-grown practices were selected and documented.



CHAPTER 2: FRAMEWORKS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN AFRICA

The following frameworks together provide a structural and policy context for violence prevention in Africa.

2.1 Global frameworks

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC or CRC)

Specific provisions in the CRC that provide reference points for this study include Article 19, which is one of the core provisions for addressing and eliminating all forms of VAC. The Committee on the Rights of the Child – in its General Comment No 13 and in the articles identified as the four principles of the CRC⁶ – emphasises that implementation of Article 19 must be positioned in the context of Article 5, which gives parents centre stage in child development; and Article 9, which stresses that a child should not be separated from his/her parents. Articles 19 and 27 guarantee the right to a standard of living good enough to meet children's physical and mental needs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SDG Target 16 aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

Target 16.1 aims to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.”

Target 16.2 aims to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.”⁷

The INSPIRE framework

The INSPIRE framework is an evidence-based technical package comprising seven strategies for ending VAC. It was designed to support countries in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children aged between 0 and 17 years. The package includes the core document describing what the INSPIRE strategies and interventions are; an implementation handbook providing details on how to implement them; and a set of indicators to measure the uptake of INSPIRE and its impact on levels of violence against children.

The Pathfinding initiative

Since its launch in July 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children has promoted the concept of “pathfinding,” which aims to raise awareness, stimulate leadership commitment, galvanize action, and establish a standard of national violence prevention throughout the world. Today, 30 countries have joined the partnership as Pathfinders, spreading the initiative's reach to every continent.⁸ Three of the 10 countries selected for this study – Zimbabwe,

Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire – are Pathfinder countries.

2.2 Continental frameworks

This study references key regional frameworks including but not limited to the following treaties/conventions or elements thereof:

- Paragraph 53 in the **African Union Agenda 2063**, which states that “the precursor to having people-driven development is in the full implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)”
- **ACRWC Agenda 2040 Aspirations** 4 (“every child survives and has a healthy childhood”) and 5 (“every child grows up well-nourished and with access to the basic necessities of life”).
- Article 16 of the **ACRWC**, which enforces protection against child abuse and torture, and Aspiration 7, that “every child is protected against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse.”⁹

Africa's Agenda for Children: Fostering an Africa Fit for Children

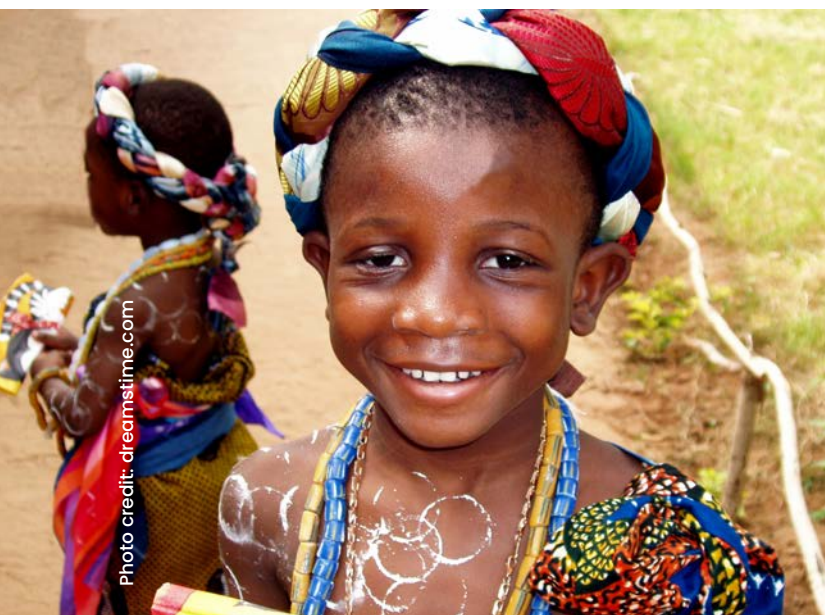
The Agenda lays out a 25-year vision of a continent where the rights of Africa's children are firmly protected, with full effect being given to the priorities in this Agenda. Aspiration 7 of the Agenda is that “every child is protected against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse.”

The Agenda envisions that by 2040:

- No child is exposed to any form of violence, including gender-based violence, in the public or private sphere.
- Children are free from physical and psychological abuse, sexual violence and exploitation, and sex trafficking.
- Harmful practices (such as breast ironing, female genital mutilation or cutting and child marriage) have been ended.
- No child is exposed to sexual exploitation and/or used for child pornography.
- Harmful child labour practices and child trafficking for forced labour are eliminated.
- No child is subjected to corporal punishment.

2.3 National frameworks

National VAC surveys provide governments and implementing partners with national prevalence data for VAC. This has given rise to movement building to end violence and has been foundational to the development of National Plans of Action (NPAs) to end violence.



CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS

3.1 Introduction

Based on data from interviews and secondary sources, over 50% of examples shared by experts came from the Eastern African Region. Over 40% of examples were from Tanzania,

and over 15% from Kenya. Twenty-four examples were shared by key informants, and 28 were obtained from secondary sources, totalling 52 potentially promising home-grown practices.

FIGURE 1: Geographic coverage of examples in this report

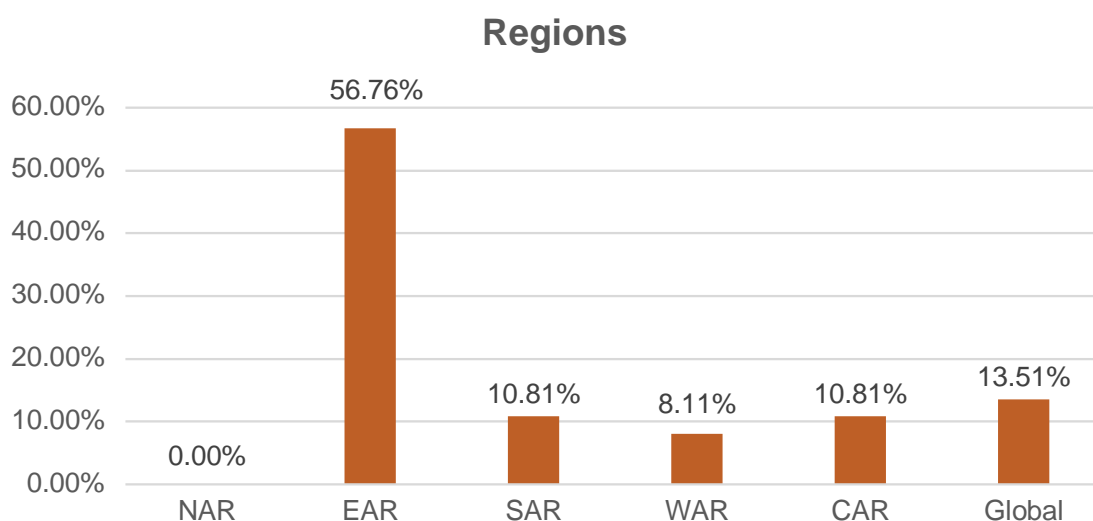
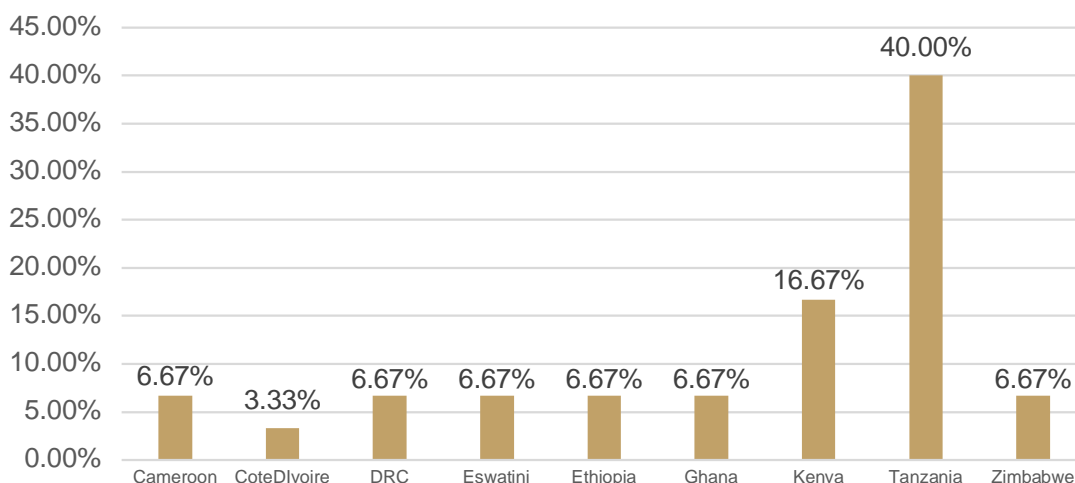


FIGURE 2: Case studies recommended per country by respondents



Initiatives by age of their target groups

It is interesting to note that only one initiative was identified in this study that targeted children in the 0–6 age group. The two most common target populations were the 6–12 and 13–18

age groups. Only two of 24 initiatives (8%) shared by respondents focused on early childhood development (ECD), a fact worth noting in the context of future narratives on the continuum of care and protection of children right up to adulthood.

FIGURE 3: Analysis of initiatives by targeted age groups



Age categories and perceptions of most at-risk groups

The category that was most at risk according to respondents was the 13–18 years age group, and this was later validated from the sampled case studies. The respondents noted that this group becomes increasingly vulnerable to all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse as they grow older, some leaving home in search of better living standards and others becoming children on the move, trafficked children, and/or domestic workers.

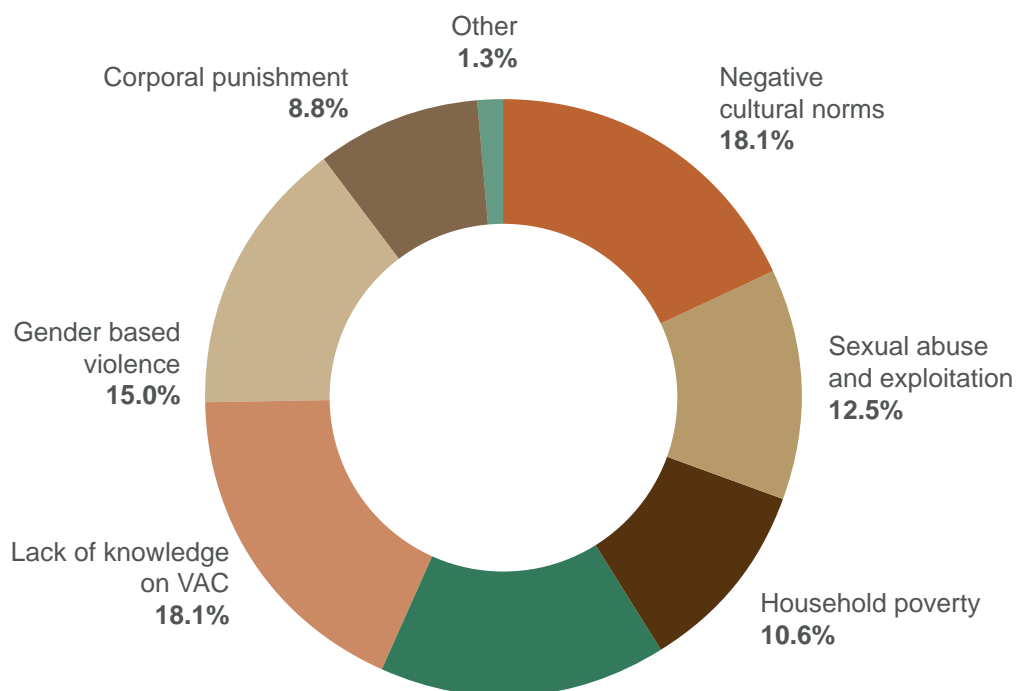
From the desk review of the case studies it became clear that majority of the interventions (38%) targeted an

age category of 5–17 years. Only one addressed children aged 0–6 years. Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes were not a priority for most of these initiatives.

3.2 Drivers of violence

The findings revealed that the key drivers of violence (Figure 4) were perceived to be negative social norms and lack of knowledge around VAC (18.1%), followed closely by gender-based violence (gender norms propagating unequal power structures between men and women that perpetuate violence) (15%); unsafe environments (15.6%); sexual abuse and exploitation (12.5%); and household poverty (10.6%).

FIGURE 4: Perceptions of key drivers of violence



3.3 Types of prevention

The majority (48.8%) of the home-grown initiatives in this study focus on primary prevention, 30% on secondary prevention, and about 20% on tertiary prevention (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5: Types of prevention

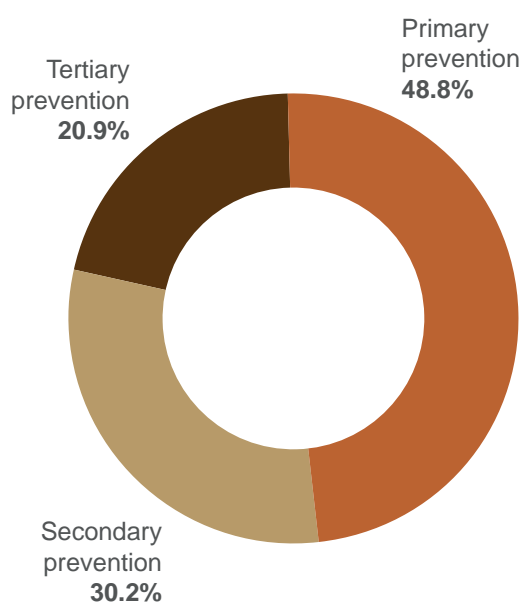
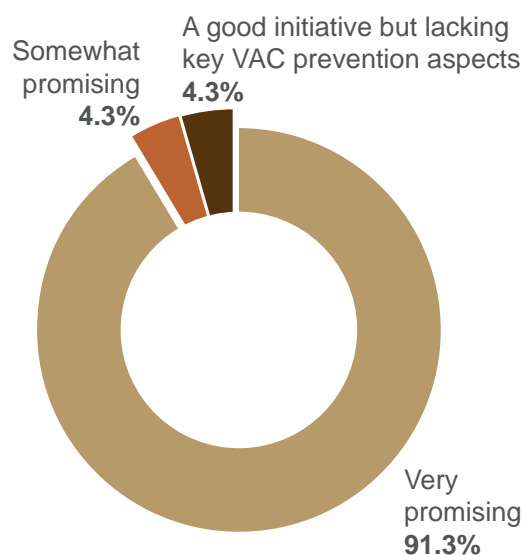


FIGURE 6: Respondents' ratings of the initiatives



91.3% of respondents rated their selected home-grown initiatives as “very promising” (Figure 6). Interestingly, the case studies showed similar results, and a clear account of what made them promising will be reflected in the analysis section of this report.

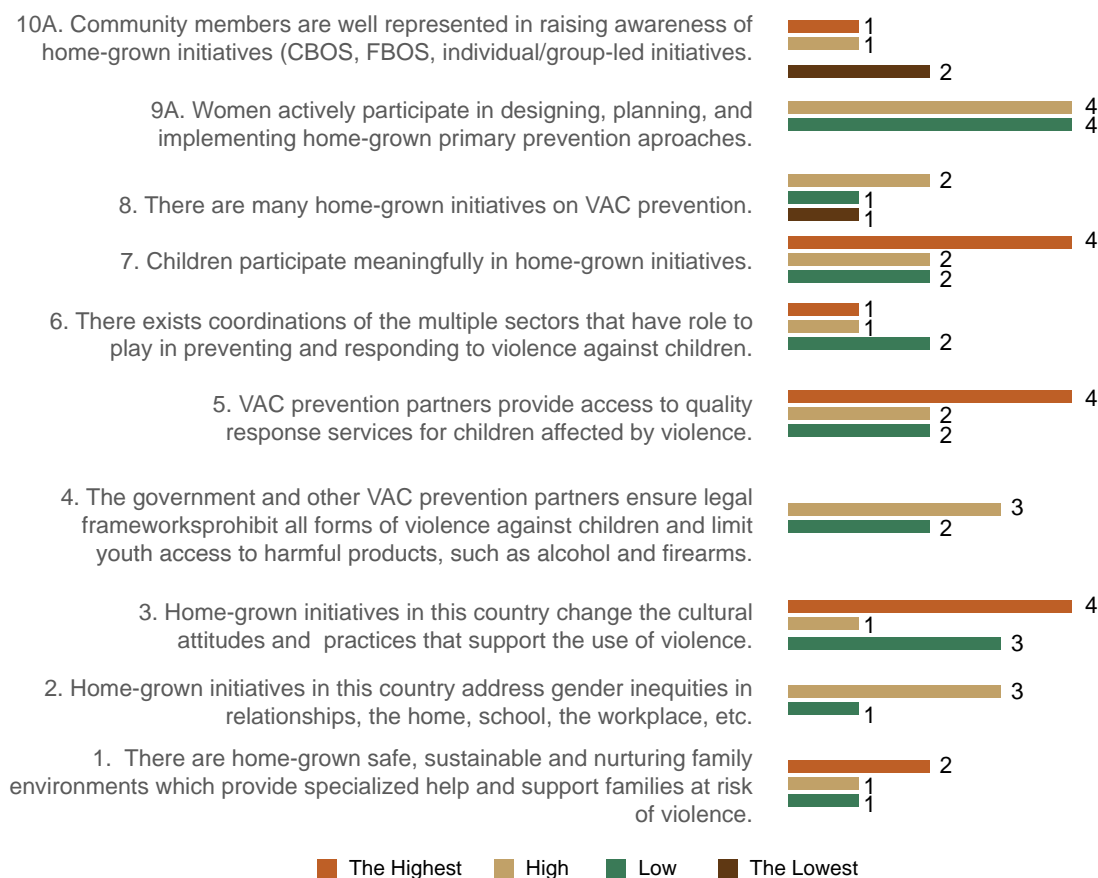
3.4 Perception of INSPIRE mapping by respondents

Only four respondents completed the score card for this metric, so these findings may be skewed. The INSPIRE framework comprises seven strategies, but there are additional enabling factors that support VAC prevention – including children’s and women’s ability to participate in key decisions affecting their lives, the availability of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, and strong community uptake. Figure 7 shows an overview of respondents’ perceptions of country interventions in the context of the INSPIRE framework.

Figure 7 shows that there is still much to be done in relation to women and men participating actively in VAC prevention—the area given the lowest rating. Respondents also believed that there are not many home-grown initiatives, and not much is being done to address the issue of unsafe environments.

The Y axis in Figure 7 contains descriptors reflecting one of the INSPIRE pillars, with additional fields that assisted the researcher to get a wider understanding of factors contributing to VAC prevention outside the INSPIRE framework. The X axis is the ranking per question according to the respondent’s understanding and perception of that descriptor.

FIGURE 7: Scorecard rating of INSPIRE strategies and other approaches




3.5 MAJOR FINDINGS: COUNTRY PROFILES AND CASE STUDIES

3.5.1 Case study summary inventory

Using the definition of a home-grown initiative cited earlier, 15 case studies have been selected following a rigorous review to assess their uniqueness, originality, efficacy, scalability and degree of innovation. These were assessed according to

the criteria listed in the methodology section as some of the most promising home-grown practices on the continent. Key deciding qualities influencing their selection included resilience, leadership and agency, political will, community ownership, building local capacity, and sustainability.

3.5.2 Case studies

| | |
|---|---|
|  | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) |
| Country overview | |
| Geographic location: Central African Region | Child labour: 26.5% |
| Overall population: 89,561,000 | Birth registration: 24.5% |
| GDP per capita: 1098 USD | Teenage pregnancy: 27% |
| Child population: 46,929,000 | Child marriage: 37% |
| Under-five mortality: 70 per 1000 live births | Stunting: 42% |
| Rate of poverty: 76.6% | Score in violence prevention efforts: 26.4 |
| | Prevalence of sexual violence in schools: 46% |

CASE STUDY 1: The Good Shepherd Sisters' (GSS) programme

The problem being addressed: sexual abuse and exploitation, child labour and illiteracy

Background and purpose

The Katanga region encompasses 497,000 square kilometres (49,700,000 hectares). Farming and ranching are carried out on the Katanga Plateau, while the eastern part of the province is a rich mining region that produces cobalt, copper, tin, radium, uranium, and diamonds. The region's former capital, Lubumbashi, is the second-largest city in DRC.¹⁰

Due to high levels of poverty in Katanga, families and children (referred to by the community as "cobalt children") are vulnerable to exploitation by private sector extractive companies, and particularly Chinese companies that mine cobalt and other minerals and export it raw to China for processing. The mines are harsh environments and a number of miners have died due to collapsed mine structures. Malnutrition, sexual abuse and exploitation of children and women are further problems affecting the community living in eastern part of the Katanga region.

In light of these challenges, the Good Shepherd Sisters Programme was conceived in 2012 by a group

of Catholic Sisters in Domain Marial, Kolwezi, DRC. Their main focus was to support primary and secondary prevention for children in the local mines: supported by Founder Bishop Kolwezi, the Sisters made it their mission to remove children from hazardous conditions in the mines. The programme started small and gained momentum.

Target age group: community women and children from 5 to 14 years old

Strategy: Meetings initially started in the homes of the community members, something unique to this project.

The Sisters were keen to address drivers of violence by promoting women's and child rights campaigns, and have since drafted a five-year strategic plan. This plan is community-rooted, designed to build momentum over time.

The following link (<https://youtu.be/rb0a0t8JJnc>) directs to a video shot in Katanga province, DRC, where the GSS operates and where it has assisted many children in abandoning child labour and hazardous conditions and finding alternative lifestyles. Children are removed from the mines and placed in a school that GSS has built, where a nutrition project has been developed to ensure that the children do not faint from hunger during class. The GSS school is the area's only free school, and provides daily meals for 1,100 ex-child miners.¹¹



"If we don't come to school for two weeks, they [the Good Shepherd Sisters and staff] come find us at home."¹²

Outcomes of the initiative

Education: The video linked above is evidence that GSS have made an effort to document these promising practices. There are now over 1,000 students protected in the GS child protection centre, and their lives are improving.

Economic strengthening: The GSS has trained girls and women in tailoring, allowing them to generate income and make major contributions to sustaining their families. This activity has reduced the vulnerability of these girls and women. The women whose young children now go to the GSS school have seen this as a good opportunity to learn new skills.

Food security has improved. Some women and children now work on the farm called 'Maisha association farm' to enhance their income and food security. Between 2014 and 2016, the farm became a sustainable corporate, yielding up to 1,000 kilograms of produce per harvest. 1,500 fish were harvested, accumulating USD 1,900.

Response services: The GS child protection center has now become a makeshift referral mechanism to report all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: The Good Shepherd Sisters were united and determined to come up with their own solutions to a mounting crisis. This is the kind of determination that leaves a mark on communities. They were tireless in their efforts and the impact is now evident.

The Programme was born out of a growing and widespread need to rescue children from life-threatening exploitation in the mines, and there is clear community buy-in to the

“Life changes for the people involved with these projects... Administrators, staff personnel and programme participants look to a life outside the mines. They speak of a life in which they can feed their children and where violence towards women has ceased. They shine a light on specific alternatives that deny the inevitability of status quo power and that restore communal bonds and create new identities that nurture children’s dreams of education.”¹³

programme. Sister Catherine Mutindi, the Programme Director, gave an interesting account of how the community has now embraced a new way of life:

Political will: Local government authorities have shown some interest in promoting protective factors, and it is important to see how public-private partnerships can be created between the government and the private sector for primary prevention. Otherwise, political will remains a challenge due to rampant corruption and lack of human capital and public funds.

Building local capacity and sustainability: Through various trainings targeting women, young girls and boys, the GSS has succeeded in raising the capacity and skills of individuals, and has prepared a cadre of women, girls and boys who are now supporting others in the fields of agriculture and development of micro-enterprises. There is the only education centre in the community, and it has taken time to build local capacity. In addition to the immediate support provided to children in the form of food and access to education, the Programme has also adapted a mechanism for these children to continue supporting their families, providing them with training that enables them to engage in decent income-generating activities. This is critical, because most of these children initially entered work in the mines in order to sustain their families.

Opportunities for scale up

- This project is unique and can be scaled up across the DRC and other countries trying to address child labour and child abuse and exploitation. It addresses the driving factors of violence (poverty, lack of individual agency and community knowledge). There can be some cross-learning between the Côte d’Ivoire cocoa plantation initiatives and this one: the Côte d’Ivoire initiatives have made headway in that the government has now instituted strict measures prohibiting child labour. The international community imposes similar measures through national and international associations and treaties that prohibit child labour and other forms of violence.
- The GSS has documented its findings and achievements, a practice that other home-grown initiatives can replicate using simple technology and basic training via mobile phones (SMS).

Challenges

- This initiative has had a profound transformational impact at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Because of its focus on women’s and children’s rights, the private sector is now being reviewed more closely. But, at the same time, the private sector generally is not paying much attention to improving conditions

- that are exploitative to children.
- Corruption is rampant in DRC and the enforcement of laws is not prioritized. Perpetrators in the mining sector are not prosecuted. Impunity is a major challenge.

Recommendations

- It is important for home-grown projects to be scaled up to national level for movement building – and, in this case, primary and secondary prevention of child labour, exploitation and abuse. This will also help address issues of corruption and end impunity.
- Advocacy and Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for returning children can be further integrated into this programme, which is already a good example of intersectionality in a violence prevention approach, in that it also addresses education, livelihoods, communication and food security.
- GSS should continue to document these promising interventions and thereby eventually raise the profile of their work in national, regional, continental and international platforms.
- GSS can identify local private partners who are interested in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities in close collaboration with the community and its children.





ETHIOPIA

Country overview

| | |
|---|---|
| Geographic location: East African Region | FGM: 65% |
| Overall population: 114,964,000 | Child labour: 48.5% |
| GDP per capita: 2,220 USD | Proportion of 8-year-olds subject to violent discipline: 38% |
| Child population: 53,790,000 | Proportion of 15-year-olds subject to violent discipline: 12% |
| Under-five mortality: 81 per 1000 live births | Stunting: 37% |
| Rate of poverty: 31% | Primary school enrolment: 88% |
| Birth registration: 3% | Secondary school enrolment: 31% |
| Teenage pregnancy: 21% | Score in violence prevention efforts: 29 |
| Child marriage: 40% | |

CASE STUDY 2: Prevention of unsafe movement of children in the Southern Corridor

The problem being addressed: Child sexual exploitation and abuse and trafficking among children on the move in Southern Ethiopia.

Background and purpose

Due to abject poverty in many regions in Ethiopia, there has been a notable rise in the numbers of children on the move from the Southern corridor (point of origin) to the Northern corridor (Addis Ababa, Eritrea, Asmara and beyond). The majority of these children leave their homes in search of income to support families at home. But this has been a treacherous route, and many children end up abused and exploited along the way. This project was implemented in selected areas of origin, transit and destination to prevent children's exposure to unsafe movement. It offers a safe environment for children on the move and provides them with services including return and reintegration.

The Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE), previously known as the Forum on Street Children – Ethiopia, is an indigenous, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation established at the end of 1989 by

a group of social development professionals to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children – especially those forced to live and/or work on the streets of Ethiopia's major cities and towns. It was funded by Oak Foundation for over five years. Started by founder Mr Dereje Girmachew, it remains community-led, with support from national and international funders.

The overall goal of this project was to prevent exposure of children on the move to abuse and exploitation in the Southern National and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR).

Target group: This project targeted boys and girls between the ages of eight and 17. Parents and educators were secondary beneficiaries.

Strategy: The main approach in this home-grown initiative has been to find locally-led solutions (both prevention and response) to the issue of increasing numbers of children on the move and their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation, with the aim of reducing the risks faced by the children from point of origin to destination. Key protective factors include strengthening child protection systems at woreda level. Multi sectoral engagement with government and other actors has been a key entry point.

Activities: The following activities were planned¹⁴

- Establishment and strengthening of community-based multi-stakeholder child protection structures.
- Organisation of community action events such as drama shows, role plays and school level competitions
- Development of various information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
- Facilitation of regular community conversations on different issues, done by trained facilitators in all intervention kebeles.
- Provision in fathers' and mothers' groups of training of trainers and awareness raising activities for positive parenting skills.
- A planned school level campaign on prevention of unsafe movement, child abuse and exploitation at six schools in three woredas, in collaboration with district education authorities and offices of women's and children's affairs in the intervention areas.
- Facilitation of regular community conversation sessions in each targeted area.
- Economic strengthening: over time, the project has provided access to decent employment for 240 initially destitute families.
- Community conversations are an innovative aspect of this home-grown initiative: after training sessions targeting health workers and parents, 10 fathers' groups were created in 30 intervention kebeles.
- A schools media club was facilitated and provided with simple media equipment (a flash disk, a microphone, a mixer and a stabilizer) to create awareness on child trafficking.
- Response services: as recently as 2019 a coordination office was set up in Wolaitta Sodo, Adama, and Butajira in the Southern Corridor to rescue children at risk of trafficking. A total of 107 children (68 boys and 39 girls) were accommodated in a shelter and provided with necessary supplies. These safe homes can be called one-stop centres, because of the variety of different services they provide to children. These include medical and psychological care, non-formal education, skills training and support for income-generating activities.

Outcomes: benefits

- Community knowledge enhanced: this initiative has elements of primary and secondary prevention. Community and other implementers focus on reunification and provide training on the harmful effects of unsafe movement of children.
- During the time of reporting (March 2017 to February 2018), the reporting structure had been strengthened and 11 community-based multi-stakeholder child protection structures had been established in Bonke.¹⁵
- Community members were trained on the harmful consequences of child abuse and unsafe movement in 20 districts.
- FSCE has also founded a Child Resource Development and Database Centre that provides information on commercial sexual exploitation and other child protection issues. The Database Centre organises data forwarded by Ethiopia's Child Protection Units in order to compile quantitative information on children in conflict with the law, abused and trafficked children, and perpetrators of related crimes. This information is available for use by researchers, policy makers, child rights advocates, programme managers and others. This is scalable action that can be replicated in other regions – especially the Northern corridor

- that experience risks of child trafficking, exploitation and abuse.
- **Enforcement of laws:** FSCE also undertakes family tracing and reunification and works closely with local authorities, such as police and public prosecutors, to investigate sex crimes against children and prosecute offenders. Also significant have been a number of school-based programmes focusing on girls' empowerment, as well as livelihood projects targeting disadvantaged female-headed households.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: FSCE founder Mr. Dereje Girmachew is an energetic and optimistic individual who has “kept the fire burning” in this programme. He has built the leadership capacity of his team, and over the years, other local leaders have benefited from its well-structured training programmes. Children and parents from high-risk categories are now feeling safer and more empowered to make decisions that reduce the risk of VAC.

The FSCE leadership believes that:

“Our integrated and holistic multi-stakeholder community-based child protection structure, established at *kebele* level, is the best way for collaboration and partnership of the community in the protection of children and also to ensure sustainability of the intervention.”¹⁶

Grassroots movement-building and ownership are key to the sustainability of this initiative.

Political will: FSCE has worked successfully with the government at community level (*kebeles* and *woredas*). The government has been positive and has accepted the need

to develop community-based child protection response structures, which have been functional until the time of writing. This multi-stakeholder structure has enabled the government and other key actors to support reunification of trafficked children, and to identify ways of returning these children to school.

Building local capacity and sustainability: The community conversations/dialogues provide a safe space for parents, teachers, and other community members to share progress and concerns during the trainings. This has developed the capacity of community members and has helped this project remain successful.

Opportunities for scale-up: After project evaluations were conducted and gaps identified, this initiative began to scale up. There are about five similar home-grown initiatives targeting the Southern Corridor, so there are organic linkages between actors in this area. Other countries could learn from these efforts to protect children on the move using a scalable, clustered approach. FSCE is a well-known organisation that has gained expertise over the years, and there may be opportunities for them to mentor and coach other home-grown initiatives similar to theirs, and to share lessons learned along the way.

Funding for the programme ended in 2019 and a sustainable resource mobilization drive may be explored by FSCE, targeting the Ethiopian diaspora, the private sector, and government funds.

Challenges

- One challenge faced by the implementers of this initiative was the evolving mandate of government, which went so far as to dictate the administrative overheads per project in a given locality. These limitations forced FSCE to re-design

the project to fit the government's requirements.

- Children on the move are highly prevalent in Ethiopia (as they are in other countries across the continent) and due to their high numbers, home-grown initiatives are limited in their capacity to reach all families. The scope of such interventions is usually small, and impact is localized.
- Sexual exploitation of children has only recently begun to be addressed in Ethiopia, and the country is still building the expertise required to tackle the problem effectively. There is also limited information and research available to assist effective responses to child sexual exploitation.
- Multiple risk factors enable child sexual exploitation, including but not limited to early marriage, sexual abuse and rape, female genital mutilation and abduction. For example, research carried out in 2005 established that most victims of commercial sexual exploitation found on the streets of Addis Ababa had been married before they were 15 years old. The generally low level of awareness of child sexual exploitation, especially in rural areas, remains a significant challenge. Due to poverty, families usually receive financial or other compensation in return for giving daughters away for marriage, a traditional practice that leaves girls vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Child traffickers in Ethiopia are typically local brokers, relatives, family members or friends of the victims.
- Structures set up to tackle the commercial sexual exploitation of children include the National Committee on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and the NPA focal point based in the Mothers and Children Department of the Ministry of Women,

Children and Youth Affairs. Better coordination between governmental organisations, NGOs, and community-based organisations (CBOs) is needed.

Recommendations

- Holistic approaches that address the underlying drivers of VAC, such as sexual exploitation, are required in order to make significant achievements in terms of prevention. This initiative is a good example of a wraparound prevention programme that has intersectional approaches across different activities, and an interesting “laboratory” of innovative ideas that can be scaled up.
- The engagement of CBOs is crucial, as they have traditionally played an important role in mobilising and supporting communities in Ethiopia.
- The organisation has grown from humble beginnings and strengthened continuously since 1989. This process should be properly documented as part of a deep-dive study to understand the enablers of, and barriers to, the successful, sustained growth of home-grown initiatives.

CASE STUDY 3: Kembatti Mentti Gezzimma (KMG)

The problem being addressed: harmful traditional practices and negative social norms that oppress the rights of women and girls.

Background and purpose

Kembatti Mentti Gezzimma, which means “women of Kembatta working together,” has been cited as a key example of a successful community-focused FGM/C prevention programme¹⁷. KMG works in Ethiopia's Southern Nations, Nationalities and

People's Region (SNNPR), where its facilitation of effective community dialogues has led to the near-total eradication of the practice in the target area.

The programme, founded by a local women's rights campaigner, aims to address the root causes of violence against women and girls as a result of the perpetuation by patriarchal societies in Ethiopia of the harmful traditional practice of FGM/C. It works through community dialogues, engagement with men and boys and pushing for legislative reform, and is based on the principles of listening to and respecting the community, learning from local experiences and taking a gender transformative approach. The programme engages men and boys as active agents of change and supports them to disseminate information and implement sanctions for those who continue the practice of FGM/C. Community conversations are held to educate men and women about the harmful effects of FGM/C and the benefits of abandoning it, and traditional circumcisers are provided with alternative income-generating opportunities.

Strategy: engagement of men and boys through active community dialogue and movement building at grassroots and national level.



*"KMG Ethiopia envisions a society in which women are free from all forms of discrimination and violence. We strive to create an environment where the whole personhood, values and rights of women are recognized and their talents and wisdom are nurtured."*¹⁸

Target group: girls and women

Activities: key KMG activities include community dialogue sessions targeting men; raising awareness of the harmful effects of FGM/C; addressing negative social norms by engaging boys; and advocating for legislative reform related to girls' and women's rights.

Outcomes: benefits

- Norms and values: A qualitative study found that the programme was successful, with all participants stressing that FGM/C had been almost completely eradicated in Kembatta zone, along with other harmful practices such as bride abduction.
- The study pointed out that the programme had led to a shift in social norms as boys and men now preferred to marry uncut girls and women, with many citing maternal mortality as the key reason for this change of view.
- After a decade of KMG's work, only 3% of elders wanted their daughter to be cut or for their son to marry a girl who was cut. In 2008, UNICEF reported that KMG had reduced FGM/C in Kembatta from 97% in 1999 to 4.7% in 2008¹⁹ (Stern and Anderson, 2015).
- A UNICEF review also identified that among the most important aspects of the programme's success were the credibility and trust it had earned among local people, its ability to provide them space for reflection, and its judicious application of public pressure (e.g. through celebrating women's weddings). In many African cultures, social issues are better addressed at social gatherings that unite individuals, families and communities under unwritten societal norms, so this approach was innovative and effective.

- Implementation and enforcement of laws: successful strategies used by KMG included promoting a progressive interpretation of existing laws, playing a major role in persecuting circumcisers, and encouraging role models to speak out.
- Mobilizing multiple stakeholders: KMG has successfully involved churches, schools and other community-level institutions, organising sensitisation workshops²⁰ in an initiative that has evolved from a localised home-grown idea to an internationally-recognised best practice. This can be attributed to its strong primary and secondary prevention approach, which clearly promotes prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG).



“In the long run, stronger women create stronger communities, stronger women create a stronger nation, and stronger women create a stronger Africa.”

– Boge, founder of KMG²¹

- The quote above by KMG founder Boge underlines the most significant change of this programme: strengthening communities at the individual level first, then eventually changing society. This socio-ecological impact is reflected in several other home-grown initiatives addressing FGM/C in Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia.
- Engaging men: The successful involvement of both men and women as part of a community-wide approach to shifting deep-rooted norms is critical for the abandonment of FGM/C; but there is limited research exploring how

and why men engage in processes of abandonment of FGM/C and how this relates to shifts in gender relations within private and public spaces. KMG Ethiopia uses community conversations as the primary vehicles for change, and as a means by which to enhance communities' capacities to solve issues relating to FGM/C.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: individual and collective agency is well-described by the leadership and members of this organisation as follows:

“When we proclaim “WIMETTA - I am Whole,” we testify to the truth that each woman, at every age and strata of life, is a singularly unique and valued individual, innately deserving of a full and productive life that offers her opportunities to be educated, healthy, and socio-economically independent. A woman cannot truly be whole if she is dismissed to a lower stratum of society, without access to an education, financially dependent on a father or husband, and otherwise treated as an object. This phrase originated from celebrating brave girls who refused to be subjected to female genital mutilation in the target areas. These young women reject customary practices that violate their human rights out of a commitment to their dignity and freedom. We pay tribute to their courage with the gift of a silver pendant inscribed with the phrase, ‘WIMETTA.’”²²

The late founder Boge, who died in 2019, was a great example and model for women and girls and showed great resilience in the face of stiff opposition

from men in her community. KMG recently recruited a new board and are actively looking for a new Executive Director, so succession planning is underway, an indicator of good governance. What was started by Boge and her sister in 1997 has been sustained and has gained momentum within and outside Ethiopia.

Political will: Boge became a public figure, and this aided political dialogue and influence. Outcomes over the years show that KMG has made progress in challenging some of the legislation related to the right of women and girls to protection. UNFPA-funded projects are now underway in four Woredas of Wolayta and Hadiya Zones and SNNPR, and government support has been crucial in achieving this.

Building local capacity and sustainability: behaviour and attitude change training targeting boys, girls, women and men has yielded, and continues to yield, lasting results. KMG is rolling out at least seven ongoing projects and programmes with the overall objective of transforming society at individual and collective level.

Opportunities

This initiative has built individual, family and community agency in a way that can be replicated and scaled up within and outside Ethiopia. The tenacity, raw drive and resilience of the founder was noteworthy, and she has left a strong legacy. Due to her good educational background, exposure, and capacity, this initiative has been well-documented and can therefore be a learning opportunity for other women's and children's rights activists.

Challenges

- Behaviour change interventions need the active involvement of major groups of community stakeholders if they are to transform old customs, practices and attitudes.
- Deep rooted sociocultural practices and norms continue to sanction FGM even in the presence of legal and policy frameworks that prohibit the practice. Community members, especially mothers, fathers and religious leaders, play a significant role in the continuation of FGM.

Recommendations

- Ensuring that women, men and key community leaders (such as elders and religious leaders) are engaged in FGM/C eradication efforts is important to drive change and long-term impact.
- This is one of the strongest VAWG prevention programmes identified in this study, as it addresses issues at both the individual and the societal levels. It addresses primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, focusing on the root causes of harmful social norms. It is scalable and can be used as an example of good practice in learning/research fields at community level.
- Advocacy at regional/continental level is possible when two or three very strong grassroots initiatives come together, learn from one another and scale up/replicate their practices.



KENYA

Country overview

| | |
|---|--|
| Geographic location: East African Region | FGM: 21% |
| Overall population: 53,771,000 | Prevalence of sexual violence against children: 15.6% among girls, 6.4% among boys |
| GDP per capita: 4330USD | Prevalence of physical violence against children: 45% |
| Child population: 24,449,000 | Prevalence of emotional violence against children: 33.4% |
| Rate of poverty: 37% | Stunting: 26% |
| Under-five mortality: 41 per 1000 live births | Primary school enrolment: 80% |
| Birth registration: 66.5% | Score in violence prevention efforts: 53.8 |
| Teenage pregnancy: 23% | |
| Child marriage: 23% | |

CASE STUDY 4: Korogocho Community Radio (KOCH FM)

The problem being addressed: the residents of Korogocho, Nairobi's largest slum, identified high crime rates, gender based violence, and loopholes in the legal justice system as key problems needing urgent attention.

Background and purpose of the initiative

Koch FM was founded by young human rights activists from Nairobi's Korogocho slums and registered as a community based organisation (CBO) in 2006. It was granted a broadcasting license by the then Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to operate a non-profit community radio station, and a broadcast frequency from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK). The conception of Koch FM was somewhat accidental: the young men and women involved had originally planned to make a series of short documentaries depicting the lives of people in Korogocho and capturing their daily realities and struggles. In so doing, the programme sought to tell Korogocho stories from a positive, fair perspective, countering the discrimination that people living in Korogocho had been facing for many

years because of the area's negative portrayal in the media. The Korogocho slum²³ used to be infamous for its high crime rate: gangs of youth dominated the area, and boys felt they had to belong to a gang or they would not be considered "real" men. Rape and defilement cases were rife. Shoot-outs between the police and criminals were not uncommon. Hailing from Korogocho carried the stigma of being a "bad person" in the eyes of the wider world. Some residents considered what could be done to change this state of affairs, and the idea of a community radio station was mooted as a means to mobilise residents, especially the youth, into constructive pursuits.

The cost of establishing a radio station appeared manageable, and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) was successfully approached for funding. This intervention was selected as a promising home-grown practice because it is located in a disadvantaged slum area where a local radio station could potentially help redress some of the area's rampant social ills.

Strategy: the radio station's mission is to provide a platform for the community to address their issues through information sharing, education and communication, with the aim of promoting the social, political and

economic wellbeing of the Korogocho community and the general listenership. This is done through radio programmes, and through acting as a community conversation forum.

Target group: adolescent boys and girls

Activities: the station transmits 24 hours a day, but at night it only plays music. A two-hour children's programme is aired from 10–12 am, giving voice to children and sometimes bringing in entire school classes for discussion – interspersed with music – on issues like water and sanitation, health, sexual and gender based violence and child labour. An afternoon programme focuses on women's issues and rights, including debates on how to address negative social norms and curb the practice of FGM/C. This is the main prevention element of this initiative, as those listening and/or calling in are able to learn and share from one another, promoting a peer-to-peer platform for behaviour and attitudinal change. The most popular programme is called “Just a Moment,” and hosts call-ins and questions for discussion mixed with music.

Community Conversation Forums:

Koch FM drew its inspiration from similar projects elsewhere, especially Radio Favela, founded in a slum in Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest city. Like Radio Favela, Koch FM aims to be a point of reference for mobilizing community action through other channels²⁴: for example, the young team of activists that founded the station has subsequently developed community conversation forums where advocacy and policy influence can take place.

Outcomes – benefits

Strengthened social accountability

mechanisms: The station helps organize periodic public forums. These

are usually held in the community hall — or, if they are too large, in the square in front of it — and address particularly pressing issues. One prevalent concern is the use of the money allocated by the government to Korogocho through a decentralized Constituency Development Fund (CDF).²⁵ This advocacy has borne fruit, in that leaders who were not delivering services have effectively lost their positions as Members of Parliament, and it has provided a platform to influence parliamentarians in favour of initiatives to reduce adolescent and youth risks such as GBV and FGM/C.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local

leadership and agency: Through local radio the community has been able to advocate for social change at individual and community level, advancing the issue of preventing VAC. The individual and collective voices of children and women in this impoverished community have been prioritized by the radio call-in approach, which provides a safe environment in which they can contribute ideas that will later lead to action.

The youth started the radio programme to target youth, continued to develop it, and have owned the process right from the beginning. “Edutainment” is a key word in the project and is inscribed on the station's front door, aptly summarising the impact this project has had on the community. There is strong community buy-in and a shared will to see this platform develop further.

Political will: the recent launch of the national VAC survey and response plan in Kenya has revamped political resolve to ensure that violence against children is prevented. This detailed report and action plan clearly stipulate the government's mandate to end violence through a multi-sectoral approach led

by the Department of Child Services, which has worked tirelessly for years in the service of this agenda.

Building local capacity and sustainability: Although the target group is the wider community, Koch has given children a voice and allowed them to participate in debates on issues affecting them. Priority issues addressed in the radio programmes include: governance (corruption, the management of local funds such as the Constituency Development Fund, the School Bursary Fund, and the Local Authority Transfer Fund); insecurity (theft, robbery and harassment); rape, which was a too-common occurrence; FGM/C; and prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS.

Opportunities for scale-up

- A study by Internews Europe assessed how the power of media and communication can play a role in efforts to fundamentally and sustainably shift the protection of child rights in different contexts, including in Kenya. Community radio in particular plays an important role in promoting awareness and understanding of child rights issues and children's day-to-day experiences. The involvement of children in the radio programmes has been instrumental in amplifying their voices in a society that often limits the space for children's participation in matters affecting their daily lives.
- Radio is the most popular, influential and trustworthy source of information for Kenyans. Most of Kenya's children and youth listen to radio entertainment, especially music and sports shows. In rural areas information is accessed through the few national radio stations broadcasting in English and Swahili, as well as a large number of radio stations

broadcasting in other African languages. Parents and guardians in rural areas rely largely on radio for information, listening to news and radio call-ins discussing issues including politics and religion. Radio therefore has immense potential to promote children's voices and those of expert advocates on policy issues, contributing to wider efforts to improve the environment for protecting and promoting the rights of children.

Challenges

Raising awareness about the protection of children and the promotion of children's rights remains a challenge for Kenyan media. Common problems when it comes to media coverage include stereotyping, portraying children as helpless victims, a lack of children's voices and stories, and complete omission of child- and youth-generated content in programming.

Recommendations

- Korogocho FM is instrumental in shaping ideas into action through this one channel, but there are opportunities to support and collaborate with other local radio stations so that VAC prevention achievements are amplified.
- Social media platforms such as Shujaaz Inc. (see below) can collaborate with local radio stations and compile stories and documentaries capturing transformative local actions, for policy uptake.
- ACPF and APEVAC may consider conducting a mapping survey of local home-grown radio stations and convening learning/sharing platforms either online (through webinars) or in local communities and national fairs.

CASE STUDY 5: Shujaaz Inc. (Kenya and Tanzania)

The problem being addressed: *increased vulnerability of children and youth to various forms of violence, notably sexual exploitation, due to socio-economic disempowerment.*

Background and purpose

Shujaaz is an International Digital Emmy Award-winning monthly comics magazine and radio show that was launched in Kenya in February 2010. Shujaaz (which means “heroes” in Kiswahili) uses print, radio, and SMS media to get educational and empowering messages out to the youth of Kenya.

Rob Burnet, social entrepreneur and CEO of Shujaaz, says,

“We use multiple-media communications to inspire and motivate an audience of some five million young Kenyans to take action to improve their lives and engage with urgent issues that shape their future. This is done through stories following the lives of four fictional young Kenyans.”

The lead character is Boyie, a 19-year-old who finished secondary school but couldn’t find a job (nor could any of his friends) and is left wondering what to do. Boyie has a secret: he has an FM radio station in his bedroom, where he hacks into the frequencies of other radio stations and broadcasts his show, Shujaaz FM, as “DJ B.” His radio show is all about what it means to be a hero, encouraging people to step up and think about what they can do. The other characters in the Shujaaz comic are listeners of his show.²⁶

The programme encourages and enlightens at-risk children and youth to break employment barriers and engage in job creation and meaningful economic empowerment, including by extricating themselves from risky habits.

Strategy: the initiative has a wide reach of up to 7.5 million youth. Young people are trained and helped to believe in themselves, in their context and in ways that they can understand.



“...There’s a lot standing in their way, from disempowering internal narratives to restrictive social norms, to an economic system that excludes them altogether.

We are Shujaaz, Inc. We break down barriers so that young people can take control of the future.”²⁷

– A representative of one of the 60 young professionals who started Shujaaz magazine.

Target group: out-of-school children and youth

Activities: A team of 60 young East African researchers, creatives, strategists and producers design and run three unique programmes derived from youth surveys and interactive sessions designed to maintain the authenticity and purpose of their work.

“It works like this; we talk to young people about their lives, the changes they want to make and the barriers that are standing in their way. Then, we invite our community of 7.5 million Shujaaz (heroes) to tell us if they’re facing the same challenges, and how they break down those barriers in their lives.”²⁸

Outcomes: benefits

- Social transformation through communication: Shujaaz started because its creators felt that there was a lack of positive, youth-focused media or platforms for young people to share their ideas with each other. They wanted to create a world that was very much like the real world, a place that the readers could identify and connect with.²⁹ This is what makes this such a good example of a promising practice: it is youth-led, youth-owned and youth-run.
- Peer-to-peer influence: "We have an audited regular audience of more than five million. More than 30% of the audience report having taken action based on stories they found in Shujaaz. A similar number have talked about Shujaaz ideas with friends, further widening and deepening the reach."³⁰ Measurements of scale-up and significant change indicate the success of this home-grown approach.
- Education and life skills: Education Quality Improvement Programme – Tanzania (EQUIP-T) partnered with Shujaaz magazine in 2017 to engage children and youth in designing a comic series about prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Coca Cola then entered into a tri-partite agreement with Shujaaz and EQUIP-T to distribute these magazines through their existing distribution channels to all primary schools and kiosks in rural and urban areas in Tanzania. Through the EQUIP-T programme, which was supported by the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the readership reached 5,196 school clubs known as "JUU" (meaning "up/confident") in nine regions across the country.
- Economic strengthening: addressing the underlying root

causes of risky behaviour amongst teenagers is central to Shujaaz's objectives. Shujaaz has noted that teens are often trapped in compromising situations that give rise to transactional relationships or "sextortion," and that poverty further compounds the problem. Schools and colleges are fraught with painful stories of teenage boys and girls having sex in exchange for good grades, better lifestyles and more "promising" futures.



*Teenagers are strange and unusual creatures. We've all been there but each generation struggles to understand the next. Yet, understanding young people is crucial, if like us, you want to help them make life better. So, we spend a lot of time listening and taking notes and we've come up with an oversimplified concept to try and sum it all up: #SexMoneyFun."*³¹

– Shujaaz youth management team

In Kenya, #SexMoneyFun happens after sunset. Between 6pm and 10pm you will find almost half of Kenya's 15-24-year-olds online, twice as many as at any other time of day. Why? Mainly money, but also sex and, of course, fun.³² This is the vulnerable window that increases risk factors for sexual exploitation and abuse both online and offline. Shujaaz's multi-media approach has helped reach over 7.5 million of these children and youth in Kenya, their reach increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Job creation and skills development:

Through the Shujaaz initiative many young people are learning new skills in media fields (e.g. as data capturers,

radio presenters, comic book graphic designers, etc.).³³ The Programme uses its “Ground Truth” research methodology, which uses interactive, gamified activities to capture the needs, aspirations and concerns of young people and help them break away from their own personal challenges as well as social and economic barriers. It also undertakes digital conversations in which messages around employment-related issues are sent to thousands of young people every week.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: This project has been designed, developed and run by 60 young people. The level of self-confidence and agency is high, and the resolve to keep pushing the bar upward is impressive. A multi-talented team of youth leaders has made Shujaaz Inc. what it is today, and its influence has captured a wide audience across East Africa.

Political will: The Government of Kenya has demonstrated political commitment to Shujaaz by providing information and capturing youth issues related to VAC risk factors. This is an opportunity for policy uptake at national and East African regional level.

Young people constitute a broad section of society in East Africa; but it is quickly apparent that youth are sold on the idea of Shujaaz. They look forward to receiving the magazine. The characters portray reflections of themselves, and they can understand and relate to the issues raised on this multimedia platform. As a local initiative set up and run by youth for youth, this Programme has enjoyed a great deal of local community ownership.

Building local capacity and sustainability:

The Shujaaz online platform is fast becoming a community

of practice that has great buy-in from youth in the East African region. Funding has now been secured through public and private sources. This is a home-grown youth project that will have great impact in the future.

Opportunities for scale-up

- Scale-up at regional and continental levels is possible because of the wide audience and the great influence this initiative has had on adolescent youth.
- Shujaaz has created a platform for developing talent among young people, and offers many opportunities to learn new media skills.
- Primary, secondary and tertiary learning curricula can be tailor-made to target youth interested in media and mass communications. Youth conversation and dialogue and training vignettes can be developed through community theatre based on Shujaaz’s story lines, in order to maximise impact.

Challenges

- Despite successful individual programmes and innovations, a bulging youth population in a context of increasing financial volatility, hunger, boredom, and risky behaviour is a crisis waiting to happen.³⁴ This challenge is a consideration for all VAC prevention practitioners across Africa and the world.
- This initiative assumes that all target populations can read.
- Even through the award-winning Shujaaz radio station, not all locations can be reached.
- Shujaaz is currently in English only. A Kiswahili version may be considered, thereby accessing a potentially wider readership if scaled up in Eastern and Central

African countries with a Kiswahili dialect.


- It has taken a long time for Shujaaz to achieve the current level of success, and there may be challenges if further funds are not forthcoming.

Recommendations

- Identify a wider platform where children and youth can freely share their ideas and concerns using online media (Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat) using the Shujaaz approach. This would encourage peer-to-peer learning and mentoring across different countries in Africa on how they
- can protect themselves, and be protected, from violence and exploitation. There is also potential to capitalize on the Shujaaz FM radio station and scale it up to other countries for wider listenership.
 - Translate the Shujaaz magazine into different languages (e.g. French and Kiswahili) for wider readership across the continent.
 - Engage policy makers and researchers in Africa to create momentum around economic and social development of at-risk children and youth, through meaningful participation of youth in socio-economic/political platforms.



Photo credit: dreamstime.com



CAMEROON

Country overview

Geographic location: Central African Region

Overall population: 26,378,000

GDP per capita: 3653 USD

Child population: 12,937,000

Under-five mortality: 112 per 1000 live births

Rate of poverty: 24%

Child labour: 39%

Birth registration: 66%

Teenage pregnancy: 28%

Child marriage: 31%

Prevalence of sexual violence against girls in schools: 38.7%

Proportion of children aged 1-14 subject to violent discipline: 85%

Stunting: 31.5%

Primary school enrolment: 97%

Secondary school enrolment: 46%

Score in violence prevention effort: 28.9

CASE STUDY 6: Association pour la Promotion de l'Autonomie et des Droits de la Jeune Fille/Femme (APAD)

The problem being addressed: child marriage and limited access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) for young girls.

Background and purpose

The Association pour la Promotion de l'Autonomie et des Droits de la Jeune Fille/Femme (APAD) is a youth-led organisation based in Maroua, Cameroon, the membership and leadership of which consists entirely of survivors of early and forced marriage.³⁵ Since 2001 APAD has been spearheading efforts to prevent child marriage and support married girls in the country's extreme north region, where nearly 80% of girls are married before the age of 18. Many of the girls are therefore denied the right to education and are put at risk of domestic violence, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and life-threatening pregnancy-related complications such as fistula.

Strategy: The approach is to promote the rights and autonomy of young mothers and survivors of early and forced marriage in Maroua, Cameroon,

and to empower these women and girls to share their experiences and support other victims.³⁶

Target group: teenage girls

Activities

APAD has focused on building the agency and dignity of young girls at risk of early marriage. Through income generation programmes the organisation has trained adolescent young girls in micro-enterprise skills such as sewing and embroidery as well as on human rights and gender equality. Traditional leaders have played pivotal roles in addressing negative social norms at community level, and have been an integral part of community dialogues targeting parents in the community. The issues of early marriage that impact high-risk families in Maroua have been amplified through local radio, theatre and information, education and communication (IEC) materials.

Outcomes

- **Peer-to-peer mentorship:** led by survivors of child marriage, APAD has had a strong influence in empowering other survivors in the region to break from the cycle of early marriages. Using their

own experiences and platforms to share their stories, not only are survivors empowered, but their real-life accounts can also serve as powerful means by which to reach other vulnerable girls and mobilize change from key decision-makers. The survivors of child marriage have continued to speak out actively against the practice across northern Cameroon.

- **Community knowledge and uptake:** since its inception APAD has trained more than 150 survivors of early and forced marriage to speak out against the practice. Beyond awareness raising and advocacy on child rights, APAD also provides training for income generating activities and mentorship programmes to empower survivors of early and forced marriage to be economically independent and lead autonomous lives, encouraging girls in particular.
- **Engagement of key decision makers:** APAD has also ensured strong engagement with key community figures such as elders and traditional leaders, in an effort to influence cultural attitudes and beliefs in their communities. Over the years APAD has built strong relationships with traditional and religious leaders in Maroua who have become champions for APAD's work by educating parents about the consequences of early and forced marriage; encouraging parents to keep their girls in school; and informing girls in neighbouring towns about APAD discussion groups. The programme has also worked to promote healthy relationships between children and their parents, for example by supporting workshops on positive mother-daughter relationships. Parents are also encouraged to invest in, and see the benefits of, their girls' educations and good sexual and reproductive health,

in hope of a productive economic future life.

- **Education and life skills:** The use of public education, particularly mass media including radio, banners and pamphlets, has helped raise awareness of the need to prevent human rights abuses and other issues faced by young girls and women, such as early and forced marriage, FGM/C and sexual and reproductive health issues.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency:

the founder of this home-grown initiative, Sike Bille, has played a critical leadership role that has provided a positive influence for the young girls who are members of this organisation. These are young girls who married young and have since been abandoned by their husbands, for whom this initiative has stepped in and provided an emotional safety net that gives them a chance, and some confidence, to start their lives again. Bille has walked a journey with 150 survivors of forced marriage and has left an indelible footprint in the minds and hearts of these girls, many of whom now look up to her as their "saviour" and mentor.

This is an initiative in which the membership and the leadership are made up of survivors of early and forced marriage. Traditional leaders have strongly supported APAD from the outset, as the initiative identified and helped a high-risk category of adolescent girls who had almost lost hope. Their involvement has helped the organisation deliver response services to young teenagers, and parenting programmes have contributed to increased protection.

Political will: The National Policy Document for Child Protection identifies shortcomings which hinder child

protection. It is designed to establish a societal basis for child development³⁷ by putting in place a system to ensure that every child benefits from holistic protection of his or her development. Prevention of VAC is high on the political agenda in Cameroon, and a multi-sectoral approach is being implemented to that effect. On 5 January 2017, members of the National Commission for Childhood in Moral Danger, Delinquent or Abandoned (NCCMDDA) met to examine and validate a draft national policy document on the protection of children in Cameroon.

A national VAC survey is yet to be conducted to decipher the prevalence of violence, so this is a necessary next step for the government.

Building local capacity and sustainability: this programme trains young girls in income generation and in how to adapt to an ever-changing socio-economic landscape. The local capacity of traditional leaders harnesses home-grown, community-based solutions that can now be sustained and scaled up.

Opportunities for scale-up

- This is a wraparound initiative that has strong intersectionality between SRHR, advocacy for gender equity for young girls facing forced marriages, and supporting health benefits for this high-risk group.
- This initiative is replicable and scalable because the issue of child marriage is highly prevalent in many African countries – including most of the countries in this study.

Challenges

- Child marriage is supported by deep-rooted sociocultural beliefs and practices that discriminate against girls. These girls often remain in poverty because they

leave school to marry and thereafter have no access to income-generating opportunities. They suffer in many ways: they are more likely to be victims of domestic and sexual violence; they are highly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections including HIV; and they face high risk of complications, even death, during pregnancy and childbirth. Existing high rates of poverty further fuel economic incentives that reinforce the tradition, as parents view their girls as a source of wealth from marrying them off.

- Organisations such as APAD bring a wealth of personal experience and stories to foster change, but like many small and local organisations they face constant challenges of inadequate funding. There is a need to invest further in building the capacity of local organisations, making transformative changes for wider impact and long-term development.

Recommendations

- ACPF and APEVAC can consider further development of innovative avenues and easily accessible platforms of many different kinds (e.g. webinars, Chabot technology, radio sessions and policy briefs) to amplify young girls' voices and contribute to the African Union's efforts to end child marriage.
- Documentaries and films are strong media platforms that can increase public awareness of the inequalities faced by young married brides, contributing to policy uptake.
- The Girls not Brides organisation should consider mentoring and supporting home-grown initiatives like this one across Africa. There are strong parallels between the work of APAD and that of KMG and other organisations tackling negative social norms.

- The Africa chapter of the Ending Child Marriage Network (ECMEN) can conduct in-depth case studies of home-grown initiatives and amplify their achievements at regional and continental level.

CASE STUDY 7: Reach Out Cameroon (REO): Adolescent and Teen Clubs

The problem being addressed: Increased vulnerability of young girls as a result of limited knowledge of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.

Background and purpose of the initiative

Reach Out Cameroon (REO) is a women- and youth-centred not-for-profit organisation started in 1996. The organisation was founded by a group of medical doctors, gender specialists, social workers, nurses, community relay agents and agronomists concerned with the plight of rural people, especially those in hard-to-reach-areas and vulnerable communities³⁸.

One of Reach Out's key issues is the high rate of unwanted pregnancies among young girls. An estimated 5% to 33% of girls aged 15 to 24 years who drop out of school in Cameroon do so because of early pregnancy or marriage. In Cameroon about 12% of all births are to adolescent mothers, giving Cameroon the highest rate of adolescent births in both Central and West Africa.

Adolescent pregnancy is higher in rural communities as compared to urban cities. Reach Out aims to help under-privileged girls aged between 10 and 18 learn about their sexual and reproductive health rights, take steps to protect themselves from abusive sexual relationships, and avoid teen pregnancy.

Strategy: Using participatory approaches and advocacy, the organisation supports under-privileged groups in activities around issues including health, wealth creation, capacity building and knowledge management.³⁹ In other words, Reach Out takes a holistic, responsive approach, containing elements of prevention, with a view to causing lasting impact in the South-West region in Cameroon. This home-grown initiative targets single mothers, displaced women and their families, female school drop-outs and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Target group: young girls and youth between the ages of 10 and 18.

Activities:

- Reach Out Cameroon facilitates separate spaces to allow for sexual education lessons, and provides boys with lessons on responsible fatherhood and positive gender roles, an area often neglected due to a prevalent strong focus on girls' issues.
- Teen clubs have been formed (peace and gender parity clubs) in which members are trained in SRHR, child protection and life skills.

Outcomes: benefits

- Reach Out Cameroon has established teen clubs for young girls and boys aged 10-18 who are identified through schools and door-to-door visits and/or referred by community stakeholders. The clubs implement a number of programmes providing life skills to build knowledge and reduce risky behaviour, and helping build skills that enable girls and boys to engage in productive economic activities. To engage the most vulnerable girls and boys, Reach

Out identifies club members with the help of institutions including schools, churches and local community bodies such as women's groups, youth groups, and traditional authorities.

- This approach is different in that it targets children in school as well as those who have dropped out, who are often the most vulnerable. The clubs' initiatives are not limited to classroom lessons, but also use art and plays to engage children. The participation of boys and girls in arts and crafts as well as economic activities such as beekeeping and snail farming has reinforced the sustainability of the clubs, producing funds to help to keep them running.
- In 2015, Paediatric Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) launched a two-year REACH pilot model of health care integrating young people living with HIV as peer supporters into 20 health facilities across Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia. Key findings from the pilot offer preliminary evidence that young peer supporters can contribute towards adolescent-friendly health services, establishing a firm foundation for scaling up the model.
- Since 2017, Positive Action has supported PATA to implement REACH in 16 health facilities across Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, with embedded regional learning. This learning is being used to inform the development of a suite of tools for implementing and scaling up the model in low-resource settings.⁴⁰

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local

leadership and agency: Ms. Esther Omam, initiator of this home-grown grassroots organisation, has armed young girls and women with strong self-

belief and confidence. She has worked tirelessly to develop the organisation and has gained support from other key actors, mobilizing a deep-seated drive to reach high-risk girls and families that has contributed to VAC prevention and response in South-west Cameroon. After a period of mobilization and sensitization, the Youth Engagement Programme (YEP) began on 13 August 2015 in Tole, a neighbourhood in the Buea municipality of the South-West Region, staffed by REO's committed volunteers and interns.⁴¹ The community in Tole are willing to continue supporting REO with their ideas, human resources and backing.

Political will: Ms. Omam was instrumental in driving the women's participation agenda during elections in Cameroon in 2015. She advocated effectively for women's rights and emancipation, and there was a subsequent increase in the number of women on the electoral register. Ms. Omam has government backing to continue her work to reduce vulnerability and risk for adolescent girls.

Building local capacity and

sustainability: this initiative has taken on a life of its own, morphing into an establishment with lasting impacts on its target population. The strong drive and resilience of the organisation's leader has ensured that its multi-sectoral approach of linking health and economic outcomes yields sustainable long term results.

Opportunity for scale-up

Reach Out Cameroon is well-linked and well-placed to continue partnering with the health sector.

Challenges

Evidence shows that young peer supporters can contribute towards

adolescent-friendly health services and health seeking behaviours, but this programme does not address the underlying social and economic factors that lead to risky behaviours.⁴² It is important that boys and girls and their communities are educated and sensitised about sexual and reproductive rights, and that they recognize the need to provide opportunities for building life skills and for economic activities that reduce risky behaviour among young adolescents⁴³.

Recommendations

- Explore ways in which visual and performing arts can raise the voices
- of children and young people to convey key messages that increase protection for these high-risk groups.
- Raise the agency and confidence of young girls in Cameroon and elsewhere by scaling up this home-grown initiative to other parts of the country and across Africa using social media.
- The health community and health practitioners are at the forefront of providing SRHR to this high-risk group: continued efforts should be made across Africa to reform policy in order to ensure they are well-trained in primary, secondary and tertiary VAC prevention.



Photo credit: dreamstime.com



ESWATINI

Country overview

Geographic location: Southern African Region
 Overall population: 1,160,000
 GDP per capita: 8688 USD
 Child population: 514,000
 Under-five mortality: 67 per 1000 live births
 Rate of poverty: 24%
 Child labour: 48.5%
 Birth registration: 50.51%
 Teenage pregnancy: 17%
 Child marriage: 5%

Proportion of girls aged 13-17 years subject to sexual violence: 28%
 Proportion of children aged 1-14 years subject to violent discipline: 88%
 Prevalence of experience of physical violence among girls 13-17 years: 28.1%
 Prevalence of experience of emotional violence among girls 13-17 years: 33.3%
 Stunting: 26%
 Primary school enrolment: 82%
 Secondary school enrolment: 42%

CASE STUDY 8: Lihlombe Lekukhela (LL) – “A shoulder to cry on”

The problem being addressed: child abuse (emotional and sexual) and exploitation

Background and purpose

Lihlombe Lekukhela (LL) is a community-driven, grandmother-led child protection initiative that was established in early 2000 and later endorsed by the government of Swaziland (Ministry of Regional Development and Youth Affairs) and other non-governmental organisations (UNICEF, 2014).⁴⁴ By the time LL was established, the child abuse situation in the Kingdom of Eswatini was worsening. This initiative, with about 10,000 members – all grandmothers – achieved great and immediate impact partly because of the trustworthiness and nurturing and enduring attributes associated with grandmothers.

Lihlombe Lekukhalela, a SiSwati phrase meaning “a shoulder to cry on,” was introduced by youth during community-level engagements and considered for the wider adoption by children. The initiative seeks to provide a continuum

of care for high risk boys, girls and youth in order to reduce vulnerable factors contributing to VAC.

This home-grown initiative has been selected as a promising practice because it is a trustworthy system with a high level of community uptake, often used as a resource by community child welfare programmes. It provides child survivors of abuse with counselling and other treatment services, breaking down walls of alienation and reintegrating them back into society. Lihlombe Lekukhalela discusses the issue of child abuse at community centres to raise awareness and offer guidance to children (UNICEF, 2014).

Strategy: LL is a community-based child protection initiative that utilizes child protection committees (which are very accessible to children in communities) to prevent abuse, violence and the exploitation of children and provide care and support to abuse survivors. What started at community level has scaled up substantially and there are now approximately 10,000 LLs (community-based child protection committee units) currently working in all four regions of Swaziland.

Lihlombe Lekukhalela has addressed and continues to address a range of emotional, psychological, and psychosocial factors caused by parental neglect or the death of parents (often due to AIDS). To address these, LL provides services to children in their homes, enabling them to continue their normal lives, attending school and engaging with friends. LL also addresses the nutritional, physical, educational and psychological needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Target age group: this initiative targets high-risk children of school going age.

Activities

Key activities include provision of services to children in their homes (psychosocial, nutritional, physical and educational support); provision of a continuum of care for children in residential facilities; provision of legal aid and support to children who are survivors of violence, neglect and abuse; and provision of safe environments in which children can grow up healthy and in which their agency is increased.

Outcomes - benefits

- Implementation of laws: due to the LL programme many legal cases have come to light that have moved the government to take a legal stand on VAC. For example, children's courts have been established in which cases of children can be heard in child-friendly settings, through the use of intermediaries and CCTV connections to the Children's court.
- Behaviour change: the government and its partners are working with LL to strengthen the availability and coverage of local level outreach services through policy creation and enforcement to combat AIDS

(which is mainly driven by a high degree of mobility, polygamy, and a breakdown of traditional norms and values). Community members tend to feel that LL volunteers provide children with a healthy and peaceful atmosphere that can help people change their abusive and aggressive behaviours.⁴⁵

Response services

- Lihlombe Lekukhalela has been able to assist 75% of the children under their care through responsive or preventive measures. Many LL volunteers have gone through training to help them respond to the needs of the children in their communities.
- The trained volunteers now address community crises with confidence because they have the right knowledge, skills and attitudes to combat issues facing the community.⁴⁶

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: this initiative has capitalized on the founding members' drive and resolve to ensure that girls are empowered and that they can speak for themselves. Constituted and led by community members, this initiative has enjoyed considerable local ownership and community buy-in. Many members of the communities in which LL operates have expressed the opinion that LL is an effective initiative that provides safe and peaceful environments for children.

Lihlombe Lekukhalela is a home-grown practice that was formed on the back of the HIV/AIDS pandemic response. Wraparound projects like this prove that multi-sectoral interventions are most effective when a range of actors provides much needed support and guidance to grassroots initiatives.

Political will: The Eswatini government has been keen to find ways to address the underlying root causes and risk factors that contribute to VAC. The government has made a concerted effort to collaborate with and support this home-grown initiative in order to improve policy and the protection of children affected by HIV/AIDS. Outreach services have been increased, contributing to secondary and tertiary VAC prevention. Eswatini is also about to conduct a second VAC survey, further demonstrating political resolve to end violence against children.

Building local capacity and sustainability: this initiative adopted a peer-to-peer model that proved successful. Once the initiative got off the ground, the community recognized that their children now had safer and more peaceful environments in which to survive and thrive.

Opportunities for scale-up

- Lihlombe Lekukhalela's unique approach makes it scalable (it has already scaled up to 10,000 members) and particularly well suited to combating issues affecting young children in primary schools and nursery schools.
- Lihlombe Lekukhalela should develop online platforms to keep its initiatives relevant, help raise greater awareness, and attract donors.
- Lihlombe Lekukhalela should work with the youth to manage its website and social media platforms and help raise awareness. Young people can also offer ideas to help make LL's work more effective.⁴⁷

Challenges:

- Some cultural views, norms and practices in communities pose hindrances to the goals that LL and other initiatives are trying to achieve. Corporal punishment has not yet been banned in Eswatini, for example, and discussing the issue with teachers has been challenging.⁴⁸ LL volunteers have noted that children are hesitant to report violence because of fear and shame and – in some cases – because such reporting later causes those children to be threatened or punished.
- Travelling long distances to do their work without proper facilities and/or funding has affected the performance of some volunteers.
- Lihlombe Lekukhalela has very limited amount of information available online, making it difficult for those interested in its cause to learn more or offer any assistance.⁴⁹

Recommendations:

- Cross-provincial learning and dissemination of information may be promoted through school drama and empowerment clubs at this level.
- This home-grown initiative should be further researched and reviewed by other organisations. For example, their model might be of interest to Societas Socialis Children's Villages International (SOS CVI), because SOS CVI are currently experimenting with home-based care models rooted in communities.



GHANA

Country overview

| | |
|---|---|
| Geographic location: West African Region | Child marriage: 21% |
| Overall population: 31,073,000 | FGM: 4% |
| GDP per capita: 5413 USD | Prevalence of violent disciplining: 94% |
| Child population: 13,455,000 | Prevalence of sexual violence (indecent assault): 39.4% |
| Under-five mortality: 56 per 1000 live births | Prevalence of sexual violence (defilement): 17.9% |
| Rate of poverty: 13% | Stunting: 19% |
| Child labour: 20% | Primary school enrolment: 85% |
| Birth registration: 70.5% | Secondary school enrolment: 57% |
| Teenage pregnancy: 18% | |

CASE STUDY 9: The Child Protective Social Drive Initiative: Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA) – “there is always another way”

The problem being addressed: gender based violence and child sexual abuse

Background and purpose

The Child Protective Social Drive Initiative, also known as Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA), was set up to protect children and adolescents from abuse. It was initiated by the Second Lady of Ghana, Mrs. Samira Bawumia, in November 2017. Partners of the programme include the Department of Community Development under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Government and Rural Development. Supporters include UNICEF, World Vision, KOICA (the Korea International Cooperation Agency), USAID, Canada, and End Violence against Children. GACA is a dynamic framework in line with the 2030 agenda for the SDGs, and is a major component of the implementation process of the Ghana Child and Family Welfare and Justice for Children policies.

The objective of this initiative is to end all forms of violence against children (VAC), an ongoing challenge in Ghana, and to reduce the acceptance of social practices that have negative impact on the child protection. This is done by establishing a critical mass of people capable of promoting the adoption of behaviours favourable to the protection of children and adolescents.⁵⁰ The innovative aspect of this initiative is its use of community theatre coupled with advocacy campaigns. Issues addressed include – among others – child trafficking, corporal punishment, teenage pregnancy and child neglect. The programme has become the first port of call for responses to cases of child abuse and a crucial link for children’s issues between communities and municipal assemblies.

Target age group: the target group is not specified, but GACA addresses violence against children of school going age.

Strategy: the main approach is to roll out primary and secondary prevention through community engagement and sensitization around factors that reduce the likelihood of various risks occurring in children’s lives.

Outcomes: benefits

Communication advocacy: more than five million people have been reached with campaign messages. Over two million were reached via GACA's digital platforms, and over three million were engaged through community mobile theatre and dialogues, including messaging on billboards across Ghana.

In the year preceding the research for this report, approximately 70 districts across all 10 regions in Ghana carried out activities and events related to the GACA campaign, touching over 1,000 communities⁵¹. The programme has proved successful in addressing the root causes of violence in schools, including corporal punishment, sexual harassment and bullying. GACA's promotion strategy has touched a wide variety of audiences to ensure that the messaging has a wide range of impact. In addition to working for children and against gender-based violence, GACA has also used its platform to encourage safe practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic and to help ensure that children are kept safe.⁵²



"I'm optimistic of a leap in our country's human development, if the momentum generated is sustained and scaled up."

– Honourable Minister for Local Government, Hajia Alima Mahama, GACA

Community knowledge: this programme has led to increased knowledge and awareness about VAC in targeted communities: what it entails and how to prevent it⁵³. Complementary policies have been put in place, including the National Social Protection Policy, the Child and Family Policy and

the Justice for Children Policy, all of which combine to create an improved environment for children in Ghana.⁵⁴ 2,327 pledges have been made to support and promote GACA until it achieves its mandate. Miss Hajia Alima Muhama, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, has also committed to the cause by ensuring regular engagement with communities and families.⁵⁵

Education: addressing corporal punishment has led to improved student performance in schools and reduced absences. Transformations are taking place within schools as teachers put positive discipline into practice rather than corporal punishment⁵⁶.

Funding: Since its inception GACA has continued to garner financial and other resources from various supporters at grassroots level, the government, and international funders.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: the then first lady of Ghana saw an opportunity to raise awareness about child abuse, especially corporal punishment in schools, and was instrumental in driving GACA campaigns across the country. This built the agency and resilience of girls and women over time because they knew they had her backing. This initiative has revealed that the effects of having the backing of a high-profile national figure and consequent national interventions can be felt and enjoyed at grassroots level.

Political will: there is a high prevalence of corporal punishment in Ghana. Since this was identified as an issue by all stakeholders the government has been supportive in responding. After GACA was founded, the government contributed to its development and rapid growth.

Building local capacity and sustainability: GACA's capacity building interventions for school children are now a national movement that has grown over the years, providing an opportunity for policy and legislative interventions.

Challenges

- Like other initiatives, GACA has had to put up with the fact that violence against children, especially physical punishment, is culturally accepted in Ghana. As Miss Djaba, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social protection, has stated: "violence [is culturally accepted] as a usual part of nurturing a child, in the name of discipline."⁵⁷
- Cultural beliefs cannot be addressed at the surface; they must be addressed from the roots. Although GACA has worked tirelessly to combat violence against children, the practice remains prevalent.⁵⁸ The fact that GACA set out to address 11 pillars⁵⁹ of VAC has meant its efforts have been thinned out across different priorities, limiting capacity to bring about lasting change in certain areas. This broad scope is ambitious and could lead to inadequate delivery of services due to resource limitations.

Opportunities to scale up

GACA is scalable because it addresses the major issues facing children across Africa in a non-evasive and adoptive way. GACA currently uses a range of different media outlets to raise awareness, enabling it to stay current and connected to its audience. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance and power of this approach: the pandemic saw an increase in the use of social media as many found themselves passing a lot of time watching videos⁶⁰. GACA can

capitalize on its online presence to build further awareness, hold online workshops and webinars and create hashtag movements. All these can be very impactful, especially in a time where everyone is listening, watching and sharing; people want to be a part of something bigger than themselves, something that changes lives.

Recommendations

- ACPF and APEVAC should consider convening a First Ladies' Forum in which First Ladies from across Africa could meet to discuss achievements and challenges in the field of VAC prevention.
- Success stories should be further disseminated for policy uptake in the regional bloc.
- Member States of the African Union that have signed and ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) should advocate for closer monitoring of countries that need to address VAC.

CASE STUDY 10: ARK FOUNDATION

The problem being addressed: Child sexual abuse and violence

Background and purpose

The Ark was officially registered in Ghana in 1995, but became operational in 1999, by its Executive Director Angela Dwamena-Aboagye, a lawyer and women's empowerment advocate. The Ark Foundation is an advocacy-based human rights NGO in Haatso that has been supported by core staff, volunteers and interns from national and international educational institutions.⁶¹ The initiative seeks to address the drivers of sexual and gender-based violence and abuse by promoting the human rights of women and children.

Strategy: this intervention, which targets both children and women, has promoted primary and secondary prevention through a collaborative approach between key stakeholders. Response mechanisms have been put in place to provide rehabilitative services to survivors of violence. Through its Crises Resistance Centre (CRC) project, the Ark Foundation provides services including counselling, medical support and assistance, legal counsel and representation, temporary shelter, small capital assistance and rehabilitation for survivors of violence. Ark also runs a Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC) and a Church-based Anti-Violence Programme (CAVP)⁶².

Target age group: this initiative targets children and women.

Outcomes: benefits

- Education and life skills: in the field of public education, across classrooms, markets, streets, churches, hospitals and other public spaces, Ark has served more than two million people in rural and urban communities, in particular through its initiative protecting women and children from violence. This initiative has been successful in helping school-age rape victims enrol in schools.
- Implementation of laws: using policy and legislative advocacy, training and education strategies, Ark has played a leading role, in partnership with like-minded organisations, in supporting legislation and policies to address issues such as domestic violence, FGM and VAC prevention.⁶³
- Economic strengthening: victims of domestic violence (which is sometimes exacerbated by domestic financial stress) have been engaged in business and skills training before returning to their families.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: 80% of victims have been provided with counselling services that have largely empowered them to solve most of their problems on their own. Victims have reported that they have been given sufficient knowledge and skills to resist abuse and to seek redress immediately. Another area in which Ark's programmes have been effective is through offering legal services to clients: all the victims who benefited from this programme acknowledged Ark's efforts in this regard.

Political will: the government has collaborated closely with Ark to review and reform legislature in favour of girls and women. Some key statutes and laws being revisited include those addressing domestic violence and FGM. Legal reform cannot happen without political will, and so this has been an enabling factor for violence prevention in Ghana.

Based on survivor feedback, Ark has identified the drivers of sexual violence that it seeks to eradicate: poverty, unemployment, drunkenness, societal expectations and heightened testosterone contributing to sexual frustration, confusion, and disrespect. Ark Foundation Community Awareness Programmes are directly geared towards sensitising at-risk households on the drivers of sexual and physical violence in the home setting.

Building local capacity and sustainability: Counselling services, coupled with community knowledge, are an important part of this intervention. Legal and other forms of victim support ensure that survivors of violence are not re-victimized. This ensures community buy-in, because the capacity of community members is built to such an extent that they are later

able to serve as Ark ambassadors in turn.

Opportunities for scale up

- Ark Foundation received 100,000ghc from Vodafone during the Covid-19 pandemic to assist the organisation's general mandate⁶⁴ and provide transit shelter for its projects.⁶⁵
- There are opportunities for policy uptake and legal reform in Ghana with regards to VAC.

Challenges

- Social attitudes towards VAC are a challenge for all organisations working in the field. Social standards embrace and promote the use of abuse as an appropriate means of controlling children's actions in classrooms, homes and other establishments, and these

norms determine how communities respond to the initiatives. In some cases, the initiatives are met with resistance.

- Some of the laws in Ghana allow adults to use "fair" discipline against children.
- There are insufficient funds for mitigation and response programmes.
- Principal government actors such as social services, the police, prosecutors and courts show a general reluctance to respond to violence against children and women.⁶⁶

Recommendations:

Through funding and partnerships, Ark Foundation can scale up and strengthen its work to combat the abuse and violence prevalent in Ghana and neighbouring countries.





ZIMBABWE

Country overview

Geographic location: Southern African Region
 Overall population: 14,964,000
 GDP per capita: 2836 USD
 Child population: 7,245,000
 Under-five mortality: 73 per 1000 live births
 Rate of poverty: 34%
 Child labour: 48.5%
 Birth registration: 27.5%

Teenage pregnancy: 24%
 Child marriage: 34%
 Stunting: 23.5%
 Prevalence of violent disciplining: 65%
 Percentage of women aged 18-24 whose first sexual experience was forced: 41%
 Prevalence of emotional violence: 8%
 Primary school enrolment: 80%
 Secondary school enrolment: 49%

CASE STUDY 11: Shamwari Yemwanasikana (SYS) Initiative: “Amplifying the voice of the girl child”

The problem being addressed:
corporal punishment, gender based violence and sexual abuse

Background and purpose

Shamwari Yemwanasikana (SYS) was started by Ekenia Chifamba as a response to her passion to see girls liberated and uplifted. SYS is a private, voluntary, community-based organisation operating in the provinces of Mashonaland East, Harare Metropolitan, Masvingo and Manicaland that works in partnership with government agencies and communities, media houses and other NGOs. The Initiative was established with a commitment to holistic empowerment of the girl child addressing the drivers of violence in families and communities.

Target age group: this initiative primarily targets girls aged 0-18. Its secondary targets are boys, men and women in communities.

Strategy: SYS has four core pillars: child protection; sexual and reproductive health rights; advocacy/influencing; and sustainable livelihoods.⁶⁷

Outcomes - benefits

In its pursuit to liberate girls from every form of abuse, SYS has taken advantage of every available platform to raise awareness and challenge negative norms. For example, the following link (<https://youtu.be/wWG0-uN5KkQ>) features videos of three girls, SYS ambassadors, addressing the issue of corporal punishment. SYS has also involved the male voice, which is paramount to ending the vicious cycle of abuse: in this link (<https://youtu.be/NqFxr9aXzww>) two SYS members discuss issues of gender-based violence as part of an ongoing video series.

SYS has reached approximately one million people through programmes broadcast on numerous radio stations, including Capital FM, Radio Zimbabwe, Zi FM and National FM, in which a range of conversations on child sexual exploitation, pornography, drug and alcohol misuse, backyard abortions, and borehole misuse have taken place between SYS Human Rights Ambassadors, team members and members of its Community Development Committee. Social media networks have played a critical role in strengthening programme visibility and acting as information sharing platforms:

for example, Facebook has been a key outlet that SYS has used to advocate on emerging social issues. The forum gave the girls a place to speak out as they had press conference reaching an audience of 89,489 until 31 December 2019.⁶⁸

“I learnt about my rights and responsibilities. I am now a fully equipped Child Rights Ambassador who has been able to train other children in my village about their rights. I am now bold enough to stand for other children’s rights. I have engaged traditional leaders and trained them about gender equality and children’s rights. This year myself and two other Child Rights Ambassadors attended the annual World’s Children’s Prize award ceremony in Sweden, where we shared our experiences of the work we engage in training children, parents and fraternal leaders about children’s rights, Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality.”

– Kimberly Mandiozva, a child rights ambassador at Shamwari Yemwanasikana

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: this programme is led by girls, putting them in the driving seat as change-makers. Through this programme they speak out about their experiences and sensitize communities to violence and its effects. SYS has held a successful fundraiser around economic empowerment of grassroots women to support girl’s education, and, by engaging the government and society at large, has taken preventive steps against violence in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

With girls acting as their own advocates and champions, SYS has been able to harness locally-led solutions in families and communities that have increased community ownership. Community dialogue and social accountability have been enabling factors in ensuring that communities are well-informed, empowered and able to contribute meaningfully to this initiative. The programme also engages with traditional, church and religious leaders, reaching out through existing community-based structures.

Political will: SYS has partnered with other initiatives promoting similar messages. For instance, this link (<https://youtu.be/eQSrIMw7XpE>) is to an awareness-raising documentary on child prostitution in which victims speak out about their experiences, how they got into their situation, and their dreams and aspirations. SYS has made it a point of duty to reach out in every way on this issue, including by addressing government policy. Girls are speaking out at symposiums (#OurVoiceOurPower) and engaging in advocacy and influencing policy. Combined with government work to improve response services, Zimbabwe is showing considerable political will in this area.

Building local capacity and sustainability: with a proactive approach to emancipating girls from abuse and exploitation, SYS has been able to raise awareness and get many people on board with their agenda. The youth, as seen in the videos linked above, speak out confidently against violence.

Opportunities for scale-up

- Movement building: Shamwari Yemwanasikana has scaled up substantially from a small

initiative in East Harare to a multi-platform initiative doing outreach in numerous communities. This initiative has the capacity to scale up further in other countries in Africa.

- With its online presence SYS can use girls' voices to send powerful messages, even on issues outside those of its main focus. SYS impacted the lives of many girls and encouraged them to speak out about pressing issues and stand up for their own rights across Africa and all around the world.
- Synergies may exist between SYS and Shujaaz, Inc. in Kenya. This age of online meetings during COVID-19 has highlighted opportunities for closer – if initially remote – collaboration between these two home-grown initiatives.

Challenges:

- SYS' mandate is very large and requires funding to match.
- The government must not only create policies, but also enact and enforce those policies. Harmful practices still need to be prohibited and criminalized.
- Cultural stereotypes about girls can be a big challenge: gender-discriminatory, patriarchal perspectives remain part of children's upbringing, for both boys and girls. The fight to liberate the girl child is a constant fight⁶⁹.
- Violence against children is a major issue that requires a holistic, multidimensional approach – and this is what SYS has adopted to combat it.

Recommendations:

- SYS and other like-minded grassroots initiatives should consider adding positive parenting and healthy relationships to their approach, thereby addressing the

root causes of VAC. This would address issues contributing to children's vulnerability at family level, such as intimate partner violence (IPV).

- Zimbabwe is a pathfinder country that has made headway in recent years in promoting protective factors. The country should continue to build a movement around raising the voice and agency of young girls, with the active support of Zimbabwe's Child Helpline and other response mechanisms.
- Response services could be strengthened if SYS partnered with organisations promoting mental health and wellbeing for young girls who face trauma and abuse.





TANZANIA

Country overview

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|---|---|
| Geographic location: East African Region | Child marriage: 31% |
| Overall population: 59,734,000 | Prevalence of sexual violence against children: 27.9% for girls, 13.4% for boys |
| GDP per capita: 2660USD | Prevalence of physical violence against children: 72.6% |
| Child population: 30,030,000 | Prevalence of emotional violence against children: 25.6% |
| Under-five mortality: 78 per 1000 live births | Stunting: 34.5% |
| Rate of poverty: 49% | Primary school enrolment: 81.5% |
| Child labour: 24.5% | Secondary school enrolment: 26.5% |
| Birth registration: 26.5% | Score in violence prevention efforts: 56.5% |
| Teenage pregnancy: 22% | |
| FGM: 10% | |

CASE STUDY 12: TATU TANO initiative

The problem being addressed: reducing children's vulnerability to VAC caused by poverty and other family level risk factors.

Background and purpose

TATU TANO was started over ten years ago as a child-led organisation created by a small NGO called KwaWazee (Kiswahili for "older people"). KwaWazee works with grandparents in a remote rural area of Tanzania that saw some of the worst impacts of HIV/AIDS, including very high numbers of orphans, many of whom ended up being looked after by grandparents. KwaWazee began in 2003 as a cash transfer and social support project for grandparents looking after grandchildren.

At the request of the grandparents, the organisation began to facilitate dialogues between older people and their grandchildren. Later, the children asked for the meetings to be regular, and the TATU TANO organisation was born. The initiative aims to protect and empower children to be able to survive

and thrive in challenging contexts, reducing their vulnerability to all forms of violence and exploitation. As a first step, KwaWazee staff consulted over 100 children, asking them why they wanted regular meetings. The children said they wanted the groups for friendship and so they could do income generation work together. Many of them were very poor, as their grandparents were too old to earn an income. This poverty led to widespread discrimination against children at school and in communities. Small groups of three to five children (TATU TANO means "three five" in Kiswahili) were formed. They were small because the children suggested that it would be best to work with children who lived nearby.⁷⁰

Target group: children (age group not specified)

Strategy: TATU TANO applies the ideas-to-action approach. By building children's capacity for self-protection, the initiative has ensured primary prevention of violence against children, focusing on building the self-sufficiency and agency of children in the community and thus reducing vulnerability to risk factors contributing to VAC.

TATU TANO provides training activities for children on how to beat poverty through saving towards starting a small income-generating activity. The initiative also provides mentorship to children to help them advocate for themselves and eventually set up village child protection committees.

Benefits:

Community-based child protection structure: KwaWazee, which has been mentoring the TATU TANO organisation, has identified a gap when it comes to secondary prevention strategies addressing the issue of revictimization. They prepared a simple advocacy approach targeting local government authorities and set up the very first Child Protection Committees (CPC) in each village within each ward. It is refreshing to note that this is a home-grown idea devised by a community group that took matters into their own hands to reduce the risk of VAC in their community.

Another reason why this initiative is promising is because the children formed their groups first, and the CPC structure was put together later, after they assessed the need for a social accountability mechanism that would give voice and agency to individual children. All other structures formed by external organisations begin by setting up the CPCs ahead of the community interventions, sometimes with limited or no understanding of existing home-grown capacities in this regard.

At present, there are 233 CPCs, almost one for each TATU TANO group. Thirteen cases were reported and followed up on in the course of last year.

CPC members acknowledge that the volunteer work they do is not always easy.⁷¹

Economic strengthening: At present there are 330 small groups that come together with neighbouring groups once a month in cluster meetings run by the children.

Education and life skills: KwaWazee runs trainings on group dynamics, leadership, life skills, sexual and reproductive health and agriculture, as well as running a loans and savings system so the groups can start income generation projects.⁷² This is one of the biggest successes of this home-grown initiative, because the children themselves came up with their own income-earning ideas.



"I just feel I am weak because I am wandering around and begging, because I should be depending on my gran, but she is depending on me. But I have no ability to do the work that can earn me an income of more than 100Tsh (0.045USD). The work I can do is sweeping, weeding and that cannot bring us an income so I will always be weak."

– A girl child when she first joined the TATU TANO group

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency: this is one of the most successful child-led organisations identified in this study, with great potential for uptake and replication within Tanzania and other African countries. In this initiative, children decided to start something of their own and were not deterred by outside pressure or circumstances. They initiated the concept, decided to develop it, and only then sought support from KwaWazee, an adult-led community group. This approach is

exemplary and worth following up over time so that lessons can be showcased as a successful model. The KwaWazee group partnered with TATU TANO, showing a high level of community-led coordination and ownership. There is limited outside influence on the project, and the community have fully owned the process and worked hard to ensure that VAC prevention is prioritized through economic strengthening.

Political will: the government of Tanzania has been a key enabling factor in national VAC prevention. There is a Tanzania Junior Council, which has sub-national presence, and in 2019 the Prime Minister opened the very first national “Ending Violence Against Children” conference, held by local and international NGOs. District level NPA guidelines are now being rolled out and contextualized. Grassroots child protection committees are being strengthened by Village Executive Officers, which has provided a good environment for nurturing home-grown initiatives.

Building local capacity and sustainability: the active participation of children at individual and family level is key to VAC prevention, helping build children’s agency and capacity to beat poverty and inculcating the seeds of entrepreneurship at early age. In so doing, this initiative has not only prioritised prevention but also paved the way for sustainability. It is worth noting that these children participate in and lead village cluster meetings and make their own decisions.

Challenges:

Child participation can be a challenge when sensitive issues are raised. In these cases children’s ideas and creativity can be blocked by political interference, especially during election periods.

Recommendations:

- The initiative could be expanded to address intimate partner violence at family level.
- Connection can potentially be made with school clubs and other prevention mechanisms at community level.
- External support should not tamper with existing home-grown approaches, but instead find ways to form strategic alliances for movement building and policy uptake.

CASE STUDY 13: Mobilising Action to Safeguard Rights of Girls in Tanzania

Problem being addressed: FGM/C and early marriage

Background and purpose

The Children’s Dignity Forum (CDF) is a voluntary non-profit child rights organisation that works to promote and reinforce the rights of vulnerable children by placing children’s legal and human rights on the public agenda. CDF was founded in Tanzania in 2006 with its headquarters in Dar es Salaam and two offices in Tarime District, Mara



“My parents did not want me to continue my school. When I was nine and in primary school, they wanted me to be cut and get married. Though I didn’t want that - they forced me into it. I was ignorant, I didn’t know where to go and seek help to stop it, and I went on refusing while at home with no success.”

Two months after going through FGM, Kurwa was married off, and that ended her education.⁷⁴

Region and Mpwapwa District, Dodoma Region.⁷³ The initiative aims to empower girls and women by addressing the drivers of violence, including community social norms.

Strategy

A three-year partnership in three districts in Mara Region set out to mobilise multiple stakeholders to promote the rights of girls and young women, make them safe from FGM and child marriage, and enable them to access education. Child marriage and FGM gained national attention during the project phase, resulting in an increase in actors and actions addressing these issues.

Target group: girls and adolescent females

Key activities include training traditional leaders and circumcisers on the harmful effects of FGM and child marriage; facilitating community dialogue that engages men and boys to address the unequal power dynamics that perpetuate these harmful practices; promoting child participation through school clubs and adolescent youth community centres; and advocating for legislative reform to combat FGM and child marriage.

Outcomes: benefits

Addressing harmful norms and values:

firstly, girls who have participated in project activities have developed core skills in leadership, self-confidence and economic independence. Secondly, there has been a shift in engagement with traditional leaders, breaking the silence surrounding FGM, child marriage and girls' rights. This has brought with it a shift in social norms and practices.

Addressing risk factors facing young girls:

young girls have formed network clubs in which they are able to share ideas and concerns and map ways forward for themselves, increasing their agency at individual level. They have been trained in various income generating activities and have been given access to micro-credit facilities. These girls now confidently claim their rights and have the assertiveness they need to demand services and other entitlements. They are also now financially independent and able to fend for themselves, which further protects them from entering into abusive relationships and other compromising situations.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency:

the management team and leadership of CDF have made significant contributions to the success of this home-grown initiative. The organisation started very small in Dar es Salaam but has grown exponentially. CDF was at the forefront of organizing the first-ever national "Ending Violence Against Children" Conference in 2019. They have a strong presence in the Mara region, where FGM and early marriage are highly prevalent, and they have been able to build girls' agency through child participation and community dialogue.

In the Mara region, CDF has left a strong footprint with regard to ensuring community ownership. FGM and early marriage are highly prevalent in this region, and CDF has been able to make strong inroads into community structures, influencing traditional leaders, opinion makers, families and young girls alike. Education has been promoted, and a large number of young girls who were at the risk of being married young have returned to school.

Political will: CDF, the government and other actors have worked hand in hand to contribute to the reduction and eventual elimination of FGM and early marriage. CDF has in the past taken the lead as the Chair of the Africa chapter of the MenEngage Network, and the government has supported these efforts at national and sub-national levels. In 2019 the government, through its line ministries, committed to ensuring that district NPA guidelines are contextualized and rolled out at sub-national level. An NPA communication strategy has since been drafted and will be used to raise awareness about the NPA at all levels.

Building local capacity and sustainability: This project is unique because it brought development practitioners together in the project region. Impact was measured over a three-year period. This is important because measuring change is normally a challenge for home-grown initiatives.

Visibility and capacity: CDF has good visibility through their work to increase protective factors and addressing the underlying root causes of VAC in Tanzania. They co-convened the first-ever conference on ending violence against children in Tanzania in 2019, and they have good technical capacity and ability to deliver their objectives.

Documentation and M&E: CDF's home-grown initiatives are well-documented and they have a strong culture of monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Opportunities for scale-up

- Engaging the media: the media has played a key role in amplifying the profile of this high-risk group. Coverage of related stories circulated a few years ago caused

an uproar among the Tanzanian public.

- Movement building: CDF is now an active member of the Tanzania Ending Child Marriages Network (TECMN), a movement that has gained momentum over the years.
- Enforcement of laws: CDF has made a series of engagements with law enforcement officials, and through this project the judiciary and police have been trained on the harmful effects of FGM and child marriage. Partly through this advocacy, the Sexual Offences Act of 1998 has been amended to include clauses that penalize perpetrators of FGM and child marriage.
- Engaging men and boys: CDF has already adapted a strategic approach of engaging men and boys in combating negative social norms. They have also leveraged their leadership role in the MenEngage global network (African Chapter) to advance the agenda.

Challenges

- Limited funding is an issue for many local home-grown NGOs in Tanzania and elsewhere, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. CDF was a three-year project that has now come to an end, but the issue of FGM still persists. It has been said that some communities that practice FGM are now bribing nurses in district hospitals to circumcise new-born babies. The problem has gone underground and funders and other implementers need to find sustainable solutions to this problem.
- There is still a high rate of impunity amongst perpetrators, who are usually family members of these vulnerable girls. The patriarchal


attitudes and practices that continue to exist among the Maasai and the Kuria ethnic groups in Tanzania further compound this issue.

Recommendations:

- CDF should continue to support movement building towards ending FGM and child marriages in Tanzania. The possibility of linking CDF with KMG in Ethiopia should be explored with a view to cross-learning and scaling up their respective home-grown approaches.
- Even though CDF has benefited from bilateral donor support, they should consider exploring local funding initiatives by engaging corporate sector foundations that support thematic areas such as gender equity, education and protection (e.g. the Vodacom Foundation and DHL)
- CDF can do more to leverage their unique position in the MenEngage and the ECMEN networks for policy uptake at national, regional and continental levels.



Photo credit: dreamstime.com

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|  | EGYPT | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Country overview</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Geographic location: North African Region</p> <p>Overall population: 102,334,000</p> <p>GDP per capita: 11763USD</p> <p>Child population: 39,988,000</p> <p>Under-five mortality: 30 per 1000 live births</p> <p>Rate of poverty: 3%</p> <p>Child labour: 5%</p> <p>Birth registration: 99.5%</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy: 7%</p> </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>FGM: 87%</p> <p>Child marriage: 17%</p> <p>Prevalence of violent disciplining: 90%</p> <p>Prevalence of emotional violence in Alexandria: 72%</p> <p>Prevalence of emotional violence in Cairo: 76%</p> <p>Stunting: 21%</p> <p>Primary school enrolment: 98.6%</p> <p>Secondary school enrolment: 83%</p> <p>Score in violence prevention efforts: 32</p> </td></tr> </table> | | <p>Geographic location: North African Region</p> <p>Overall population: 102,334,000</p> <p>GDP per capita: 11763USD</p> <p>Child population: 39,988,000</p> <p>Under-five mortality: 30 per 1000 live births</p> <p>Rate of poverty: 3%</p> <p>Child labour: 5%</p> <p>Birth registration: 99.5%</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy: 7%</p> | <p>FGM: 87%</p> <p>Child marriage: 17%</p> <p>Prevalence of violent disciplining: 90%</p> <p>Prevalence of emotional violence in Alexandria: 72%</p> <p>Prevalence of emotional violence in Cairo: 76%</p> <p>Stunting: 21%</p> <p>Primary school enrolment: 98.6%</p> <p>Secondary school enrolment: 83%</p> <p>Score in violence prevention efforts: 32</p> |
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CASE STUDY 14: Hope Village Society (HVS) - “A Little hope on the streets”

Problem being addressed: risk factors that contribute to the vulnerability faced by street children living and/or working on the street

Background and purpose

Hope Village Society (HVS) is an Egyptian non-profit organisation founded in Cairo in 1988. Its role is to care for young street mothers and children in difficult circumstances and those deprived of family care. HVS provides care and shelter to children living and/or working on the street, and runs day care centres, short-term shelters and long-term residential centres. They have received support from national and international organisations, and the government has noted the impact they have had on at-risk children and families.

The Initiative aims to provide care and shelter to children until they are able to provide for themselves, and to rehabilitate, integrate and train them socially, psychologically, behaviourally and vocationally.

Target group: adolescent mothers without parental care

Strategy: Primary prevention is promoted through economic strengthening and the response to VAC is done through rehabilitative processes. HVS looks after children in difficult conditions, neglected orphans and those deprived of family, particularly those on the street. HVS seeks to ensure that all children enjoy the right to childhood in healthy, permanent and nurturing environments free from hunger, abuse and exploitation.⁷⁵ The Society also receives young mothers living and/or working on the street who are victims of sexual and physical exploitation and abuse.

Under the initiative, skills training for income generation activities is given to the high-risk category of young girls. The initiative also provides psychosocial support and rehabilitation services to help them integrate back into “normal” lives. Equally importantly, civic education training is provided to community social workers, parents and the young girls in order to build their agency and resilience.

Outcomes - benefits:

- **Protective factors:** HVS provides social and economic support to disadvantaged children and helps them develop promising futures. It also works by changing the way society views children living and/or working on the street in order to give them opportunities for better lives.
 - **Psychosocial support:** HVS rehabilitates, incorporates and educates children emotionally, mentally, behaviourally and professionally; conducts scientific studies on issues related to children living and/or working in the street; offers technical assistance and instruction to other NGOs through a department of research and training; offers small loans to street mothers, girls and children's families; and gets children back into society. Methods of rehabilitation also include working through art and sports like football. In 2014, HVS led an Egyptian delegation of children living and/or working on the street to the Rio Child World Cup.
 - **Research and learning:** HVS conducts scientific research on children living and/or working on the street and provides technical help and training for other NGOs through a research and training department. HVS also has a mission to network and exchange experiences with other associations and organisations inside and outside Egypt.
 - **Economic strengthening:** HVS has implemented a project called "Reintegration and protection of the social, health and legal rights of young women and street children in Greater Cairo Governorate," financed under the third phase of the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Programme. The HVS centre in the Mokattam area of Cairo hosts about 25 girls and young mothers. In three years the project has succeeded in reaching out to more than 25,000 children and young mothers, offering them psychological and medical services and vocational courses in soap making and sewing. HVS has provided microcredit loans for 489 mothers of children at risk for a total of EGP 1,917,000.⁷⁷
-
- "My father would beat me every day after he returned from work, even though I was doing everything around the house," says Adel. "He always came home in a bad mood and would hit me with anything that came to hand. In the end, I couldn't take it anymore."*⁷⁶
- Adel, a child living on the street in Cairo
- **Continuum of care:** HVS ensures that all young mothers and children enjoy the right to a childhood in a safe, permanent and caring environment, free from gender discrimination, poverty, violence and exploitation.

Key enablers of success

Community ownership, local leadership and agency:

HVS provides education and professional training on civic education and other skills to empower young women and girls, thus strengthening their individual agency and resilience. What is promising about this home-grown practice is that since the inception of HVS in 1988, community-led solutions and community uptake have been the hallmarks of the project.

Political will: The Egyptian government has adopted a collaborative structure to prevent VAC. Over the years it has supported grassroots and national initiatives like these, with promising results. Social welfare programmes are structured and well-supported by the government in Cairo, and reunification and reintegration of high-risk children with their families is a key priority.

Building local capacity and sustainability: HVS built long-lasting local capacity at the individual and family levels that has proved to be effective. They started rehabilitating just a few girls, but eventually provided much-needed support to high-risk families in a sustainable way because the community understood the need to reduce the risk factors facing abandoned young mothers. This is a prevention and response initiative that has had a positive wider effect.



Opportunities for scale-up

- HVS is focusing on primary and secondary prevention as it targets the most vulnerable children and young mothers. Because of its national coverage, wider impact over time has been felt due to intersectionality between various interventions including economic strengthening, holistic response services, advocacy and community knowledge and uptake. This is scalable and sustainable due to community uptake and government support.
- This initiative has done well to address the underlying risk factors of violence at individual and family levels; this is important because, as shown by the VAC prevalence statistics, violence occurs mainly at home and in schools.

Challenges

- Funding has been consistent over the years, but multiple wider stakeholders seem slowly to be taking over this programme, and it may lose its grassroots focus over time.

Recommendations:

- APEVAC may consider convening a Northern Africa Regional virtual conference so that more regional data and information is shared on VAC prevention. This effort can be supported by scaling up home-grown practices and using them as examples of primary and secondary prevention.
- Considering the risk factors of early marriage and teenage pregnancies, HVS is well-placed to partner with similar home-grown initiatives elsewhere (e.g. KMG in Ethiopia and CDF in Tanzania) and to become a hub for learning and dissemination of good practices.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Country overview

Geographic location: West African Region
 Overall population: 26,378,000
 GDP per capita: 5238USD
 Child population: 12,731,000
 Under-five mortality: 96 per 1000 live births
 Rate of poverty: 28%
 Child labour: 29%
 Birth registration: 72%
 Prevalence of sexual violence against girls: 19%

Prevalence of physical violence against girls: 47%
 Prevalence of emotional violence against children: 15.8%
 Teenage pregnancy: 25%
 FGM: 37%
 Child marriage: 27%
 Stunting: 21.5%
 Primary school enrolment: 90%
 Secondary school enrolment: 40%
 Score in violence prevention efforts: 34.7%

CASE STUDY 15: Advocating for the protection of children from the worst forms of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire

Problem being addressed: Children living in hazardous conditions, trafficking, and children on the move

Background and purpose

Given the alarming prevalence of children engaged in the worst forms of labour, the Côte d'Ivoire government took the initiative to collaborate with the private sector to address it. The private sector has taken a number of steps to tackle child labour, including setting up the Child Labour Monitoring and Mediating System (CLMMS) and, together with the government, setting up a foundation to implement corporate social responsibility (CSR) objectives. This foundation has also engaged suppliers along the supply chain that have provided resources to mining companies. This initiative is unique and innovative, and addresses the challenges faced by children at individual, family and community level.

Target group: Children between the ages of seven and 17 (a rough estimate).

Benefits

This initiative provides a home-grown Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme and community schools at grassroots level. Communities build schools with locally-available materials and with money collected from parents; identify and recruit teachers; then link the schools with local government authorities. This kind of localised education should be integrated into the mainstream education system, using education inspectors to gain support, skills and capacity. These community schools are also supported by pedagogical counsellors.

The aim of these schools is to give opportunities to all children. It is expected that they will be recognized and registered by the government as this programme gathers momentum. This project is contributing to increased enrolment of girls and boys in schools, increasing their agency and skills at a young age.

Response services: the government has set up a tracking system for children in hazardous labour. Although not addressing eradicating the problem, but private sector initiatives are assisting in responding to high

rates of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire. The private sector is very committed: companies lose their certification if there are no punitive measures for perpetrators. In the past, if one case of child labour was found, the corporation lost their certification, but this was not as successful as hoped. New standards are now in place and from next year each corporation **must** install a monitoring system or it will lose its certification if not compliant. A child centre has been built in the cocoa-growing area of Côte d'Ivoire as a safe space for trafficked and exploited children.

A grassroots child protection referral system: child protection committees have been now set up at grassroots level. The ministry responsible for children, women and families is in charge of monitoring the committees and setting them up where they do not exist. The mandate of these committees is not only to protect children from corporal punishment but also from all forms of abuse. Communities sensitize others and share their findings on VAC with other basic service providers responsible for providing protection (e.g. the police, health centres, social services, etc.). There is a referral system, but it is quite informal. Key responders are trained in child protection issues.

Economic strengthening: private companies are integrating the tracking system within their own enterprises, empowering communities through livelihoods (e.g. through skills and training). Farmers are provided with social protection (schools fees, for example) so that the children do not get involved in child labour.

Implementation and enforcement of laws: in 2019, Côte d'Ivoire made moderate advancements in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. The government initiated 143

prosecutions related to the worst forms of child labour, and the Ministry of Justice issued a circular instructing police and the judiciary to fine, arrest, and/or prosecute perpetrators of child labour. In addition, the government officially adopted the National Action Plan for the Fight Against Trafficking, Exploitation, and Child Labour, which was developed in 2018.⁷⁸

Key enablers of success

Resilience, local leadership and agency: The examples given in this case study stemmed from the community, from the ground up. They are a combination of national and community-led initiatives that have yielded positive results. Children's agency has been built through community-led child protection structures and the ECD programme, and child labour has been tackled through the incessant efforts of the government to curb all forms of hazardous labour in the cocoa industry.

Political will: being a Pathfinder country, Côte d'Ivoire enjoys strong political will that has contributed to VAC prevention. UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire works in partnership with the government, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society, religious groups and other partners to deliver emergency humanitarian supplies to affected populations and to advocate for the protection and respect of children's and women's rights.⁷⁹ In the future, it will be interesting to follow up on any progress made by the government after making these commitments. Similar to the Ghanaian GACA initiative, the anti-child labour movement in Côte d'Ivoire has enjoyed strong backing from the First Lady, who has led this initiative with resolve and great tenacity over the years.

Community ownership: at the individual and family levels the ECD programme is proving to be a good

example of a promising home-grown practice, because the community themselves set it up, developed it and ran with it. At societal level, the national anti-child labour movement has complemented grassroots efforts well. This kind of community buy-in is an enabling factor for success.

Building local capacity and sustainability: Community social accountability mechanisms (child protection structures) are being developed that put the protection and wellbeing of children at their centre. Strong political will, through trained community members responsible for protecting children at risk of being co-opted into hazardous labour, is an enabling factor.

Opportunities for scale-up:

- Now that this collaboration exists, public-private partnerships can be strengthened and scaled up at community and national levels.
- The child labour monitoring mechanism is being implemented in a sectoral partnership and will be scaled up in all countries through the Rain Forest Alliance (RFA), which will provide coaching and support.
- Across Africa, presidents' wives have been notably committed to ending child labour and empowering women. The success factor of this commitment has not been well monitored and so is not yet very evident, but there has been a great deal of sensitization that can be capitalized for movement-building and policy uptake.
- The government system for monitoring and observation in Côte d'Ivoire has not been able to identify individual cases and follow the concrete measures taken against child labour.

- The private sector reports to the government on progress, but public access to these reports is not possible and there is little transparency.

Challenges

Children in Côte d'Ivoire engage in the worst forms of child labour, including in the harvesting of cocoa and coffee, sometimes as a result of human trafficking. A lack of financial resources and personnel may have hindered labour law enforcement efforts. In addition, labour inspectors are not authorized to assess penalties.⁸⁰

Recommendations

- Once children are inducted into the community-based/community-led ECD centres in different provinces, provision of a continuum of care and parental programmes can be added as interventions to support child survival and development, thus reducing children's vulnerability to all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse.
- APEVAC should consider a collaborative forum on ending all forms of child labour targeting governments (including high level officials such as Presidents/ Ministers and their spouses) and the private sector. Promising initiatives like this one can be shared along with learnings from other countries (e.g. the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Kolwezi, DRC).
- APEVAC should explore/strengthen partnerships with organisations like Rain Forest Alliance that are at the forefront of work to end all forms of child labour globally, supported by the International Labour Organisation and civil society.



CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS

4.1 Opportunities: why these home-grown initiatives are promising

Ability to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors at individual level

Resilience and leadership: at the individual level, the founders and initiators of these interventions had strong resolve to see their ideas in action, and for them to bear fruit. What stood out in this study was their tenacity, drive and belief in the specific core values of these home-grown initiatives. Several started their initiatives on the principle that “we will do what we can with what we have.” Some initiatives were started by individual women, others by children, and others by the community. Even as they matured and scaled up, they remained true to their calling to protect children and families from violence and abuse.

The initiatives that tackled negative social norms (such as FGM/C and early marriage) were effective because they built or re-built the **confidence and agency** of young girls who were either at risk or already abused and exploited.

Other practices are addressing the power imbalances and structures that contribute to VAC and which are disempowering for girls and boys (as well as and youth and adolescents). School clubs and other out-of-school models (such as youth centres) create safe environments for meaningful child participation and peer-to-peer mentorship. Through economic strengthening, girls and boys have become **more self-sufficient and**

less vulnerable. They have been emancipated, and in turn they have contributed to family incomes. The provision of safe spaces, coupled with home-grown response mechanisms, helps reduce revictimization (i.e. provides secondary prevention) in both the non-conflict and conflict areas.

Adaptability: Some of the initiatives in this report may have started with one or two specific primary interventions, but eventually added other activities and implemented secondary and tertiary prevention later. It is interesting that some of the organisations started as long ago as 1988 and have continued to find success using the same VAC prevention approaches from then until now. They may now be collaborating with other partners, and have become more adaptable to changing times and socio-economic and political situations, but they have remained true to their core principles.

Ability to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors at family level

Intersectionality: interventions that took holistic, intersectional approaches were very effective at family level. For example, activities around reinforcing healthy relationships, engaging men and boys and economic strengthening at the household level yielded good results by **reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors.** In the humanitarian context, lasting outcomes were produced by interventions focussed on family reunification, parenting programmes, a learning centre and psychosocial support.

Social protection schemes have been able to address underlying drivers of VAC, such as household poverty, and to promote protective factors that reduce the risks of VAC. Social protection programming can also, if properly designed with inbuilt child protection conditionalities, improve the capacity of families to protect their children from violence and abuse. They, however, have less success in reducing harsh discipline practices, improve positive discipline, or reduce the risk of children being exposed to violence within the home.

Ability to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors at community level

At community level, promising practices had two things in common: institutional partnerships and movement building. Some of the initiatives relied heavily on social media and mainstream (radio and print) media to galvanize their ideas into action. Others focused on advocacy and policy influence with the support of governments, UN agencies and/or civil society organisations (CSOs) at community level, with sustained outcomes. Over 60% of the studies were implementing response services such as child helplines, child rescue centres, psychosocial support, case management (for trafficked children and children working in hazardous conditions) and home-grown child protection structures.

The successful **engagement of men and boys** as part of community-wide approaches to shifting deep-rooted norms is critical for the abandonment of many forms of VAC, such as female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), early and forced marriage, and child prostitution and exploitation.

Community ownership and buy-in has created opportunities for local

initiatives to take root and scale up due to strong community linkages, even without additional external resources. Community networks have demonstrated the ability and capacity to mobilize rapidly on their own to address protection concerns; the fact that they have existing mechanisms on the ground makes them effective.

Community-based mechanisms have also facilitated access to extremely marginalized and hard-to-reach vulnerable groups, particularly in fragile contexts, promoting acceptance for ostracized members such as child combatants and children with disabilities (CWDs). The need to be anchored in community structures has been a hallmark of home-grown initiatives in areas that have had experienced protracted conflicts.

Ability to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors at societal level

At the societal level, tertiary prevention was evident in several of the initiatives, because they tackled issues related to impunity and/or ineffective implementation of laws and policies. Harmful traditional practices and norms were tackled by several interventions that addressed the root causes of harmful cultural beliefs.

Political will: In several of the case studies, it was evident that political will and support enhanced and accelerated VAC prevention. In two of the case studies, presidents' wives were at the forefront of secondary and tertiary prevention: they were well-positioned to raise issues at political/policy level, meaning that policy and legal reform was fast-tracked. In other cases, traditional leaders and local government authority figures played key roles in enabling home-grown initiatives to survive and thrive.

Government responsibility and active leadership is an important prerequisite for protecting children's rights and supporting sustainable home-grown initiatives. In countries where the government has demonstrated ownership and political will to address VAC, there has been significant positive impact on the wellbeing of children and families/communities. Strong legal and policy frameworks and systems, along with adequate allocations of funds from national budgets, are important for creating a culture of prevention of violence against children.

Strategic partnerships: In several of the case studies, one key theme that emerged was the importance of sustained support from faith-based organisations (FBOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs). These bodies have the advantage of already being rooted in communities, with a history of addressing moral and ethical issues, and with strong influence on the community. As the new initiatives grew, new partnerships were formed and the collective voices and participation of children, men and women were facilitated, bringing about good results.

Religious/faith-based actors play a pivotal role in developing, supporting and enhancing home-grown initiatives in Africa. Wraparound projects that include livelihoods, education, community knowledge and movement building are providing strong foundations for primary and secondary prevention in countries including Zimbabwe, DRC and Tanzania.

Funding: The **private sector** is revisiting its approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR); a better term for this in recent years is "social impact investment." In Eastern Africa, private foundations such as those of MasterCard, IKEA, Tigo Reach for Change, Vodafone/Vodacom and Safaricom have been innovative in

ensuring that they support home-grown initiatives and ideas. They have done this by funding award schemes and grants that promote social change and transformation at grassroots level. They have also carried out competitions for innovative design, an enabling factor for home-grown initiatives and potentially an alternative source of funding. Mining companies and other conglomerates are following suit to ensure CSR provides real social change and transformation, not just increased visibility for profit-making purposes.

Local and international support:

Several of the initiatives in this report were identified and scaled up with the support of UN agencies, private foundations and international organisations (for example UNICEF and other UN organisations, World Vision International, Save the Children, Oxfam, Care International and others). These organisations have supported home-grown initiatives at grassroots and national levels.

Home-grown funding mechanisms:

A good practice that has been identified in this study is the use of home-grown funding opportunities such as local village savings and lending associations (VSLAs) that are well-rooted in the communities and which are community-led. Ownership of these micro-lending mechanisms by local children, youth, men and women is a sustainability factor that supports economic strengthening at individual and family level. Some such organisations evolved organically, and others have been supported by local banks and micro-finance institutions.

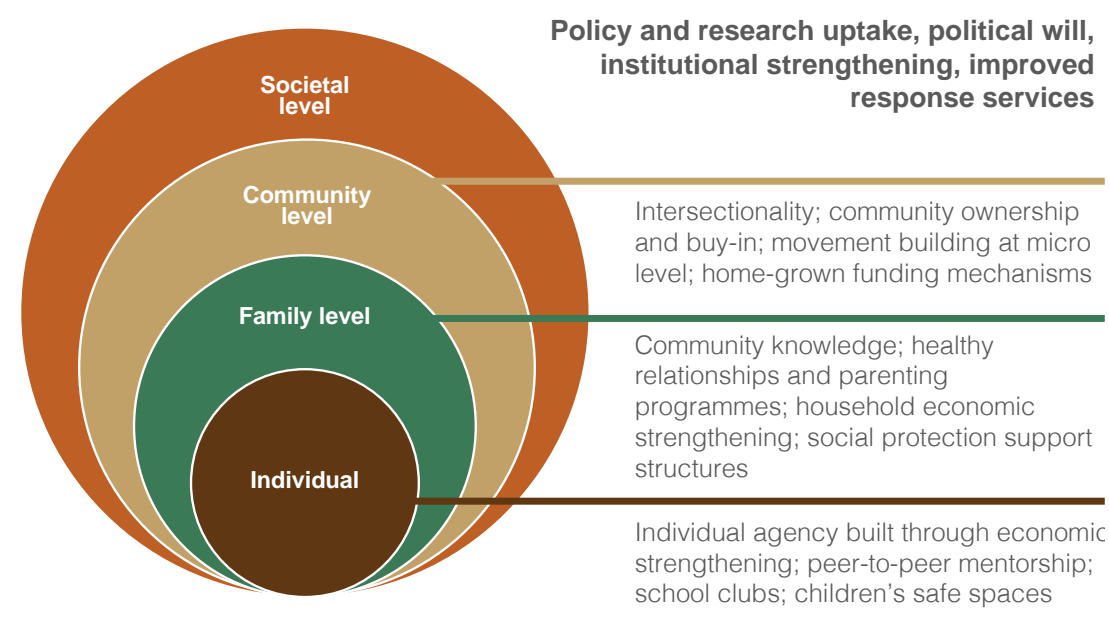
Women Fund Tanzania is a home-grown funding intermediary supported by Wellspring Philanthropy Fund that has an interesting model targeting home-grown initiatives in Tanzania. Child Rights Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF), based in Uganda, is supported by Oak

Foundation and targets grassroots initiatives for small grants. Institutional capacity strengthening is a key output for these types of grants, and these models could potentially be a widespread and effective grant making mechanism in the near future.

Institutional strengthening: There is a cadre of initiators of promising practices who are well educated and conversant with international

and global advocacy and project management. Others have come up with “makeshift” but workable monitoring and evaluation systems which, however crude, can be effective. International organisations, private foundations and UN agencies have all impacted the organisational development of home-grown initiatives that did not necessarily initially meet rigorous external requirements for project planning and management.

FIGURE 8: Analysis of the success factors that have contributed to VAC prevention using the socio-ecological framework



4.2. Barriers to scale-up and sustainability of home-grown initiatives

Child and adolescent youth participation are inadequate: Ensuring and promoting children's voices is key to addressing violence at home, in school, and in communities. However, children's accounts of their experiences and interests are often ignored. Children themselves are often viewed as helpless members of society, and therefore have limited resources to influence prevention measures, and limited spaces in which to do it.

Limited access to funding: Long term investments are required to address underlying drivers of violence, such as poverty. There is a need for strong financial incentives to address violence and exploitation of children, especially girls (who are particularly vulnerable to child sexual abuse and exploitation/ CSAE, early marriages and prostitution). Access to international funding is near impossible for home-grown initiatives, so community-based grant-making models and approaches need to be trialled and scaled up.

Poor coordination between local actors and a limited understanding of

intersectionality across various projects and initiatives have resulted in micro-level home-grown initiatives being overlooked for scale-up and policy uptake.

Fragility: multiple crises extending over long periods of time (such as droughts, conflict, forced displacement, etc.) erode gains in VAC prevention and predispose children to multiple risks of violence.

Weak community support systems and family-focused services: in several of the case studies it was found that even though the initial setup of response services was good, they lacked government support to ensure sustained outcomes—makeshift child rescue centres being one such example. There are no working tools and other resources, and there is shortage of staff and/or adequate leadership to keep these centres afloat.

Deep rooted cultural and societal attitudes and practices that enforce power over women and girls continue to perpetuate inequalities. As a result, home-grown initiatives—and, indeed, other interventions too – run the risk of “taking one step forward and two steps back” if this is not taken into account.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning: interventions are sometimes subject to complicated rigours of project design and implementation that can threaten the authenticity and simplicity of home-grown practices that have proven to be effective, sometimes despite a lack of cutting-edge project management tools.

Research and policy uptake

Academic institutions in Africa are slow in catching on to and redesigning pedagogical frameworks for social welfare practitioners. There are few

innovation laboratories for social action and change where home-grown ideas can be incubated and documented in a chronological way (such as, for example, the Prevention Collaborative at the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in the Institute of Social Studies, University of Cape Town (UCT)). Academia is more theoretical across many institutions in Africa, marginalizing individuals and community members who have great ideas on VAC prevention but who do not have the capacity or know-how to do implementation research.

Under-researched promising practices. Children are often subject to multiple risk factors that expose them to violence; but the underlying factors contributing to the incidence of VAC in different settings remain under-researched and poorly understood.

Documentation: Not all home-grown initiatives reviewed in this study had adequate capacity to research and document their initiatives. This was particularly a problem for the newer ones. This gap needs to be addressed in order to ensure that initiatives are able to capture their ideas-to-action process and teach others to do the same. This may promote organic scale-up and learning at micro level.

Policy uptake: The findings of this report reveal limited and sometimes entirely lacking data related to VAC. All countries have some prevalence data, but policy uptake is not always fast-paced. National Plans of Action (NPAs) and responses to the recommendations in VAC surveys are impeded by lack of funding, uncoordinated structures at national and subnational level, and corruption. Election campaigns sometime hijack well-meaning advocacy initiatives in most African countries, and VAC prevention is excluded.



CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Recommendations: enabling factors supporting home-grown initiatives

Research and documentation

APEVAC is well-placed to convene and collaborate with academic institutions around Africa through research and learning platforms such as the Prevention Collaborative, in order to create a community of practice for home-grown initiatives.

This report makes the following recommendations for this field of research:

- A home-grown initiative (HGI) mapping survey similar to the INSPIRE mapping survey should be developed, along with supporting tools, and tested in the pilot countries in this study.
- APEVAC and End Violence should explore the possibility of creating HGI labs for learning and incubating ideas.
- Accompanying research should be promoted in pilot projects selected from this pool of case studies.
- Local institutions should be mentored by international academic institutions in how to conduct implementation research and other methodologies. Local institutions can partner and collaborate with national and international

research facilities that focus on VAC prevention (e.g. at the Universities of Oxford, Cape Town and Edinburgh, and the Prevention Collaborative)

- As home grown initiatives develop they tend to harness different strategic partnerships at various stages of their development; this process should be documented.
- An in-depth review of all Pathfinder countries in Africa should be conducted to identify progress, challenges and recommendations for in-country research.
- Community-based strategies and models should be developed, tested and scaled up in the field.

Resource mobilization and management

External funding mechanisms

The Humanitarian Private Sector Partnership Platform (HPPSP) – launched in March 2016 – will enable systematic long-term partnerships in challenging humanitarian contexts in East Africa, with an initial focus on Kenya. The HPPSP, the first of its kind in East Africa, is a platform that brings together businesses, governments, NGOs and UN agencies to improve information sharing, communication and coordination to identify gaps and catalyse cross-sector partnerships in disaster management. The platform will facilitate networking, collaboration and other partnering opportunities to address humanitarian needs

(beyond philanthropic and ad hoc engagements) through innovation and shared-value creation. The HPPP will improve information sharing, communication and coordination through an online information management system.⁸¹

Several of the initiatives in this report had started preliminary discussions to explore social impact agreements that would provide much-needed funding for their interventions. The HPPP platform is an interesting avenue that could support such initiatives in East Africa, allowing them to scale up to other regions in Africa. It is recommended that APEVAC follow up with the HPPP lead to help home-grown initiatives explore opportunities for scaling up with corporate and private foundations.

Community-based funding mechanisms

Community-based funding mechanisms should be reviewed more closely and scaled up. The TATU TANO micro-lenders model should be scaled up in two or three other locations in Tanzania and in one more East African country. Cross-country learning should be promoted and contextualized to other parts of Africa.

Community-based grant mechanisms should be promoted to ensure communities initiate ideas, implement them, and see them through.

Communications (dissemination strategies)

It is recommended that all relevant information on home-grown initiatives should be communicated to funders, stakeholders, governments and the private sector. It is also recommended that APEVAC design a simple, easy to follow online resource to showcase home-grown initiatives. Social media is also very effective in this regard.

5.2. Conclusion

Violence against children is influenced not only by individual factors but also by contextual factors such as the quality of family relationships, community social norms, the quality of formal institutions such as schools, social services, the police and judiciary, and the commitment of those institutions to child protection.

Community knowledge and active engagement have been contributing factors to the development of home-grown initiatives in the countries reviewed in this study. There are a number of accelerators to violence prevention efforts; this study suggests that promising home-grown, community-based practices are examples of such fast-tracking mechanisms.

Scaling up home-grown initiatives is good, but in attempting to do it VAC prevention practitioners need to ensure that the authenticity of their initiatives is maintained. It is feasible, if several small home-grown initiatives are currently beginning to scale up, that a tried and tested model for ending violence may be possible in the future – even in the wake of increasing natural and man-made challenges such as COVID-19, climate change and other such external stressors.

Promising organic, home-grown practices should be sustained and replicated: community approaches are accessible for community members who understand their language, opportunities, and challenges better than any outsider. Home grown initiatives may prove to be the most sustainable effective model for violence prevention for years to come.

This study will hopefully garner more interest from high level forums and help precipitate dialogue between the global

south and the global north. The nature of that dialogue needs to change, and violence prevention partners need to showcase the transformative power of home-grown initiatives to help bring about that change. The power and support need to shift to where the transformation is really happening. It is befitting to end on a colloquial

phrase that describes how “experienced” professionals should perceive and support community-led solutions:

***“They are alright
They are on their way
They may just need a helping hand
But they are here to stay.”***





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