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Moving from Research to Action: Tanzania's Experience ‘Post National Violence Against Children Survey’

Mpoki M Ulisubisya, MD
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children,
Tanzania

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Tanzania Country Statistics

- In Eastern Africa.
- Population about 45 million (census 2012)
  - 51% female, 49% males
- 50% of population is under 18 years of age
- Life expectancy – 62 years, GDP growth 7%
- Agriculture is the backbone of the economy
- A beautiful country with popular tourist attractions:
  - Mount Kilimanjaro
  - National parks
Key Health Statistics - 1

- Total Fertility Rate – 5.2 live births per women
- One in four (27%) girls aged 15-19 years have begun child bearing
- 32% of women use modern contraceptive methods
- Infant mortality rate 43 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Under-5 mortality rate 67 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Neonatal mortality 25 deaths per 1,000 live births
- Maternal mortality ratio 432 per 100,000

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Key Health Statistics-2

• 44% of 15–19 year old women have experienced physical or sexual violence since age 15 by a spouse/intimate partner
  • 10% had their first sexual intercourse forced against their will
• 3 out of 10 girls and 1 out of 7 boys have experienced sexual violence before age 18 years
• 75% of females and males have experienced physical violence by a relative, authority figure (such as teachers), or intimate partner before age 18 years
• 15% of women have experienced genital cutting, of which 32% occurred before age one year
The Violence Against Children Survey
The Violence Against Children Survey

- (with support of UNICEF and CDC) Tanzania was a second country in Africa to undertake a national study on violence against children in 2009
- August 2011, launched the Violence against Children Survey (VACS) report highlighting
  - sexual, physical and emotional violence against children as a serious public health, human rights and social problem.
Violence Against Children Survey findings: informing policy

- Key ministries came together to:
  - Publicly acknowledge extent of violence against children in the country
  - Make concrete commitments to tackle the problem

- Government prepared
  - One year action plan “From Commitments to Action” (2012/2013)
  - Three year National Plan of Action to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children (2013-2016) (included actions for each sector to prevent and respond to the problem)

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Multisectoral approach

- National Multisectoral Task Force (MSTF), including:
  - Health,
  - Social welfare,
  - Education,
  - Justice (led the prevention and response interventions).
- MSTF meets quarterly to oversee implementation of the plan
- New implementation plan underway which includes key actions to prevent violence against women and children

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Policies and Laws - 1

  - National legal and regulatory framework to protect children and its regulations for implementation

- Social welfare
  - Developed regulations implementing the act

- Police
  - Developed standards and trained officers on child protection
Policies and Laws - 2

• Health sector
  • Developed guidelines and trained health care workers on provision of services to victims

• Education Sector
  • Reviewed Teachers Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics

• Circular No. 24 of 2002 on corporal punishment
  • Reviewed towards eliminating such punishment and focusing on alternative forms of discipline
Policies and Laws - 3

- **Prisons Service**
  - Prepared Child Protection Policy and Procedure to uphold international and *national standards on protecting children and child rights in prisons*

- **Justice sector**
  - Drafted Legal Aid Law to *prioritize provision of legal aid for children*
  - Finalized *Juvenile Court Rules*, developed a training programme for magistrates and court officials, and designated Juvenile Courts in priority districts.

- **Legal Sector Institutions**
  - Established Gender and Children Desks to address child abuse and gender-based violence

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Social Protection-1

- **Police**
  - Gender and Children Desks established in all police stations
  - Officers trained on child protection and dealing with victims in a sensitive manner
- **Social Welfare**
  - Established Child Protection Teams to monitor, prevent and respond to child protection issues at district and ward levels
    - health, legal/justice, social welfare, and community leaders

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Social Protection-2

- **Health Sector**
- **Spearheaded development of “One Stop Centres” in health facilities**
  - Police, social welfare officers, and medical practitioners in one health facility
  - Some 10 Centres to date
- Health care providers and social welfare officers trained in responding to acts of violence
Changing Norms and Values

- Community development sector (including volunteers, CBO, religious and political leaders)
- Interventions to change norms around masculinity,
- Increase awareness, and improve couple communication
  - Couples Connect
  - Men as Partners curriculum
  - Families Matter
New Implementation Plan 2017 - 2021: Informed by INSPIRE

Implementation and enforcement of laws
Norms and values
Safe environments
Parental and caregiver support
Income and economic strengthening
Response services
Education and life skills
New Implementation Plan 2017-2021: Three thematic areas

- **Prevention:**
  - Parenting family support and relationships;
  - Social norms and Values;
  - Safe environments; and
  - Education and life skills.
- **Response:**
  - Household economic strengthening;
  - Implementation and enforcement of Laws;
  - Response and support services.
- **Cross-cutting theme:**
  - Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
Country Challenges

• Inadequate funding to implement plan comprehensively
• Low intervention coverage as most activities depend on donor interests
• Limited coordination of key actors as organizations have different mandates
• Deeply rooted cultural norms and practices
Thank you!

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