



Measuring Gender Based Violence: A case of Zimbabwe on Life Experiences of Adolescents:

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Presentation Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Household surveys conducted
- ▶ The Implementation of the NBSLEA
- ▶ Outcomes of the NBSLEA
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Introduction

- ▶ Violence against children, has gained increased worldwide attention as a far-reaching and multifaceted societal problem.
 - ▶ It results devastating short and long term consequences on the health, development, and mental well being of boys an girls
 - ▶ In addition to its effects on the individual child, violence undermines national efforts in public health, social welfare and human rights and economic development
- ▶ Therefore, to respond to violence against children in our communities, it is necessary to understand the extend of the problem and its influencing factors.

Surveys conducted

- ▶ In Zimbabwe, household surveys have been conducted that collected information on violence:
 - ▶ Such surveys have not been specialised on violence, questions on violence have been taken on board as a subsection of the survey questionnaire
 - ▶ Such surveys have at times solicited for the respondent's perception in terms of violence, and not what they have experienced
 - ▶ Other surveys on violence have been limited in their coverage (only covered certain geographical areas), rendering the results scientifically incorrect

Surveys conducted (cont'd)

- ▶ DHS rounds- have asked questions on the different forms of violence but left out some important aspects such as reasons for not seeking help after surviving violence
- ▶ Multiple Indicator Monitoring Survey- conducted in 2009. Asked questions primarily on perception on violence, and left out a lot of dimensions of violence uncovered.
- ▶ **The National Baseline Survey on the Life Experiences of Adolescents (NBSLEA)**- primarily designed to collect information on experiences by adolescents

Implementation of the 2011 NBSLEA

- ▶ Commissioned in 2010 by the Gvt of Zimbabwe
- ▶ Is part of the multi-country Violence Against Children Survey initiative which sought to provide comparable national population based estimates on violence
 - ▶ Kenya, Swaziland and Tanzania
- ▶ Primary objective of the survey was to collect information on the magnitudes of sexual, physical and emotional violence (life experiences) affecting children

Implementation of the 2011 NBSLEA

- ▶ Specific objectives included:
 - ▶ Identify potential risks and protective factors contributing to these life experiences and problems;
 - ▶ Assess help seeking behaviour for these problems;
 - ▶ Stimulate debate on adolescents' issues and concerns relating to their physical and mental well-being.

Conducting the NBSLEA

- ▶ Fully Government led
 - ▶ Implemented by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
 - ▶ Coordinated by multi-sectoral Steering Committee
- ▶ Ethical considerations
 - ▶ Approved by Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe and CDC Atlanta IRB
 - ▶ Specific methodological considerations (consent, interviewing, follow up)
 - ▶ Voluntary referrals to Department of Social Services for vulnerable children
 - ▶ Process now informing other national surveys
- ▶ Sensitive nature of the survey
 - ▶ Split sample approach

Conducting the NBSLEA

- ▶ The NBSLEA targeted 13 to 24 year old females and male.
 - ▶ The target group was further divided into two sub groups for analysis: 13 to 17 and 18 to 24
 - ▶ Victimization Rates (past 12 months) were based on responses from respondents aged 13 to 17 who reported experiencing a form of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, and
 - ▶ Childhood Prevalence Rates were based on respondents age 18 to 24 years who reported experiencing any form of violence prior to age 18.

Important Findings

- ▶ Among females and males aged 18-24 years, a third of the females and 9 % of males experienced sexual violence prior to age 18
- ▶ Slightly over a third of either sex who had been sexually abused knew where to get professional help, and less than 4 percent knew where to get the professional help and only 2 percent were successful in accessing professional help
- ▶ Almost two thirds of females and three quarters of males aged 18-24 years experienced physical violence prior to age 18
- ▶ Boyfriends and Girlfriends were the main perpetrators of sexual violence among males and females aged 18-24 years.

Survey Limitations

- ▶ Representativeness of survey
 - ▶ *Sample was only big enough to provide estimates at national level*
- ▶ Information was only collected on the first and last incidents of each of the 3 types of violence; If a respondent experienced more than two incidents of a particular form of violence, information on these additional incidents were not collected
- ▶ It is likely that prevalence figures may have grossly been underestimated, for example due to recall of events since childhood and fear to disclose by some of the abused children

Best Practices

▶ The Referral System

- ▶ Strategies were employed to cater (support) for participants who required specialised assistance as a result of participating in the survey
 - ▶ Strategies were based on the Children's Act, the National Multi-Sectoral Protocol on the Management of Child Sexual Abuse, among other things
- ▶ Were a respondent was deemed to be at risk and required immediate support, interviewers would refer such cases to the DSS.

Outcomes of the NBSLEA (cont'd)

- ▶ Following the launch of the NBSLEA results,
 - ▶ a Cabinet Interministerial Committee (IMC) on Rape and Sexual Abuse was established. The IMC is composed of:
 1. Ministry of Woman Affairs, Gender and Community Development (Chairperson of the Committee)
 2. Ministry of Health and Child Care
 3. Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
 4. Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ▶ The IMC launched a national campaign against Rape and Sexual Violence on 19th June 2014
- ▶ The IMC developed a National Action Plan to end rape and sexual abuse

Outcomes of the NBSLEA (cont'd)

- ▶ Response by the IMC is basically premised on the fact that investing on the girl child will have a significant impact:
- ▶ For example, the Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey (2011-2012) found that:
 - ▶ The child mortality rate is lower in families where the mother understands that family violence is never justifiable
 - ▶ Women who participate in household decision making are more likely to receive services that support a safe pregnancy
 - ▶ Girls who finish secondary school are less likely to marry whilst they are still a child
 - ▶ Women with more than a secondary education are more likely to be employed

Conclusion

- ▶ Using Household survey to measure gender based violence is a process that is taxing due to the sensitive nature of the survey
- ▶ Other forms of violence, e.g. wife beating are actually regarded as part of every day life in other communities, therefore, getting information from respondents is not easy
- ▶ For results of such a nature to be used, it is important to get the buy-in of political leaders.

<http://www.zimstat.co.zw/dmdocuments/NBSLEA.pdf>

Thank you