

THE POLICE'S ROLE IN AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO VAW SURVIVORS

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Pathfinder International's concept of VAW

Violence against Women as a manifestation of human rights violations and power disparities at the societal and household levels, intricately linked with SRH



VAW: Serious Public Health issue
Health as a right and the right to health



Primary and secondary prevention and comprehensive services for survivors



Integrated concept for a comprehensive approach since the onset

Background

- VAW is experienced by 54% of women in Mozambique *(UNIFEM and Forum Mulher. Violence Against Women in Mozambique. November 2007)*
- Mozambique is characterized by a patriarchal society and traditional gender norms that contribute to VAW
- At least 1 out of 4 women experience some form of sexual assault during their life and up to 21% of youth have already experienced some form of sexual coercion/violence *(KAP studies conducted under the Geração BIZ program, 2007)*
- A study of women screened for VAW in the emergency units of 7 Maputo health facilities found that of those surviving VAW, 90% reported that the perpetrators were intimate partners or family members *(UNIFEM and Forum Mulher. Violence Against Women in Mozambique. November 2007)*
- Civil rights not upheld
- Girls drop out of school

Our Project

Name

- Enhance women's sexual and reproductive rights to reduce VAW

Integrated approach

- New multisectoral approach: health services, psycho-social, legal and judicial → offer women different entries to the system of care

Participative model

- Involvement of traditional leaders, community courts, community health councils, partners and government sectors

Sustainability

- Ensure sustainability through project ownership by government and integration of interventions in provincial and district annual plans

Sites

- Implementation in 25 communities in Chokwe and 5 in Xai-Xai City over 3 years (through Aug. 2013)

Goal

- Overall goal to reduce gender inequality, violence against women and its effects through a concerted multisectoral effort in Gaza Province

Mapping of the determinants of VCM and Baseline

- Mapping exercise with community leaders to map the determinants of VCM in Gaza
- Baseline applied in a sample size of 750 households in rural and more urban communities of the 2 implementation sites
- Additional maternal and reproductive health indicators were assessed including parity, antenatal care, postnatal care, birth attendance, contraceptive use, and HIV testing.
- Based on international standardized indicators from the Gender Equitable Men (GEM) scale and the WHO Multi-Country Study on Domestic Violence, the survey assessed the following in relation to background characteristics of women such as age, marital status, education, and religion:
 - 1) Belief that a man is justified in beating his wife
 - 2) Belief that a woman has the right to refuse sex
 - 3) Belief that rape can occur between a husband and wife
 - 4) Belief that a man can be held responsible for controlling his sexual behavior

Mapping of the determinants of VCM and Baseline

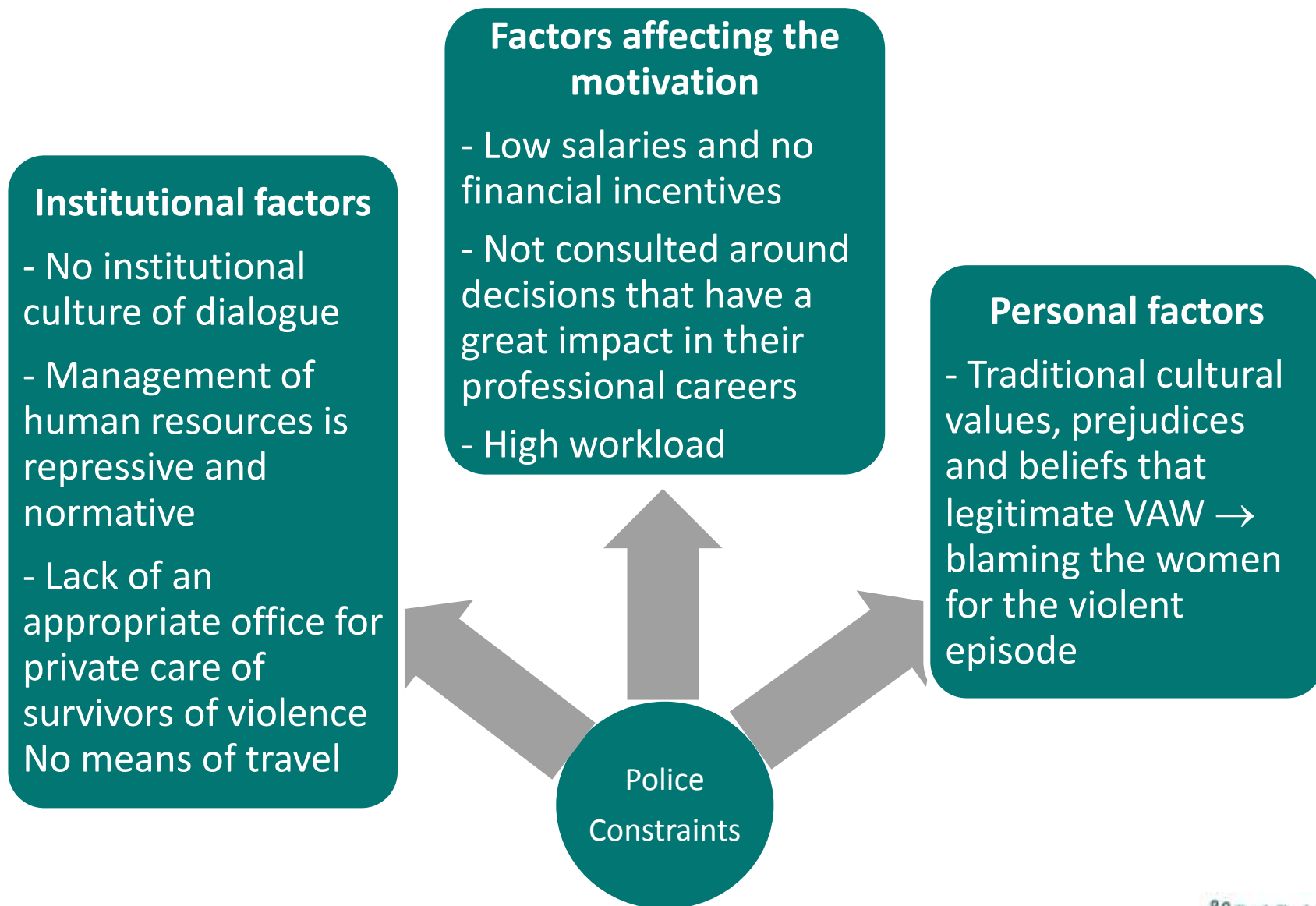
Conclusions

The situation of VAW is going through a transition period

However women still have little knowledge around the causes of VAW

A little over the half of the women interviewed already recognize question related to forced sex by their partners as a violation of their sexual rights

These causes are related to a naturalization of the 'men's needs



Working with the police - Trainings

Methodology

Centered on challenging and change police's perceptions on VAW, rather than only focusing on the 'traditional approach' of concentrating on knowledge of laws and the legal system

Approach

Deconstruct beliefs, prejudices and re-evaluate police's behaviors and attitudes towards the survivor

Objectives

- Identify myths that legitimize violence against women, gender inequalities, the impact of violence against women in their health and psychological consequences of violence against women.
- Identify the socio-cultural causes that permeate VAW
- Understand the impact of violence against women in their health.
- Understand the role of the police assistance to survivors to improve integrated services.
- Ensure various factors (socio-cultural, professional and personal) adversely affect the assistance for survivors of violence.

Working with the police - Evaluation of the trainings

Objective

Audience

Methodology

To assess the impact that training generated in the performance of the police and the services provided to victims

Objective

Audience

Methodology

9 trained police officers and 8 not trained interviewed

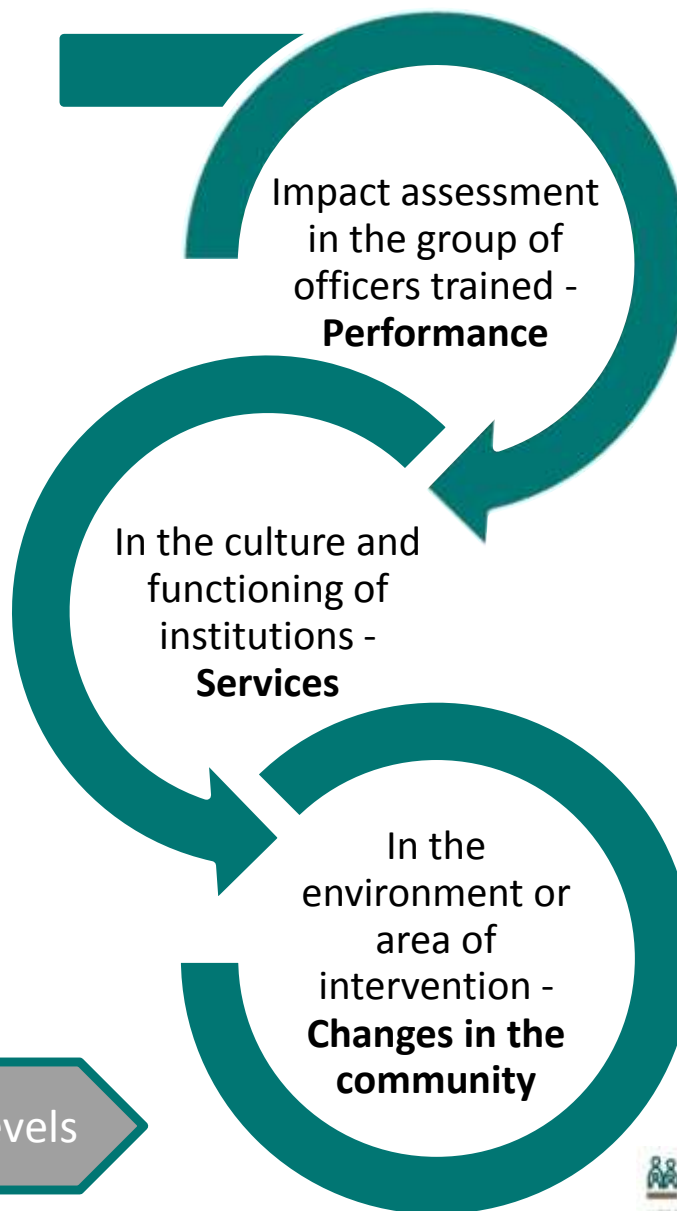
Objective

Audience

Methodology

Qualitative – tool: semi-structured questionnaire applied to the 2 groups

The evaluation system was based on three levels



Working with the police - Evaluation results

Training

Contents and procedures were good.

Knowledge and Skills

Trained

- Good theoretical and practical domain
- Able to recognize what has changed in their approach, as well as their way of perceiving VAW
- In terms of impact on personal changes, changes were quite substantial . This was noticeable by their speech, more gender sensitive and less based on their values and prejudices.

Not trained

- In Xai – Xai (more urban), the levels of knowledge and skills were acceptable and in some cases good.
- Their perception of the phenomenon of VAW and amplitudes in the socio - health and were acceptable.
- In Chokwe (more rural), the sexism and biased attitudes are presented without shame
- The interventions are quite skewed their prejudices.

Police officers recognize that trainings have improved the quality of their approach and intervention

Lack of general material conditions in the offices to guarantee privacy for survivors

High workload that makes it difficult to maintain an acceptable level of attention and patience, and consequently result in a considerably lower quality of care.

In Chokwe, the Commander has been mobilizing communities to use the police and report cases of domestic violence and in particular VAW in all his public interventions

Quality of services

Suggestions from the police

Provision of food to police officers who work long hours and survivors of VAW

Improve internal coordination to avoid having just one person to care for survivors

Regarding the following questions, "what is the police's role ... and what is your perception of VAW..." there were some difficulties in providing a responses still showing personal difficulties and barriers that call for more work with them (training, support group for themselves...)

Improved communication between judges and police

Improvement of institutional relations between the police and the courts, when it comes to issues of domestic violence and particularly violence against women


Need of a greater involvement of activists in community awareness about domestic violence

Way forward

Integrated community-level interventions with health, legal, psychological and justice services supporting women's rights

Focus on improvement of services, in terms of human resources trained and infrastructures and involvement of key stakeholders (frontline advocates, government bodies and community networks) to ensure sustainability

One stop center – client centered approach including health, psychosocial, and legal support services, a referral flow chart, a standardized checklist and trained community activists



Comments and questions are very welcome now or after, please send me an email at mmguerra@pathfinder.org

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