

Follow up of the Study of violence against children in Swaziland

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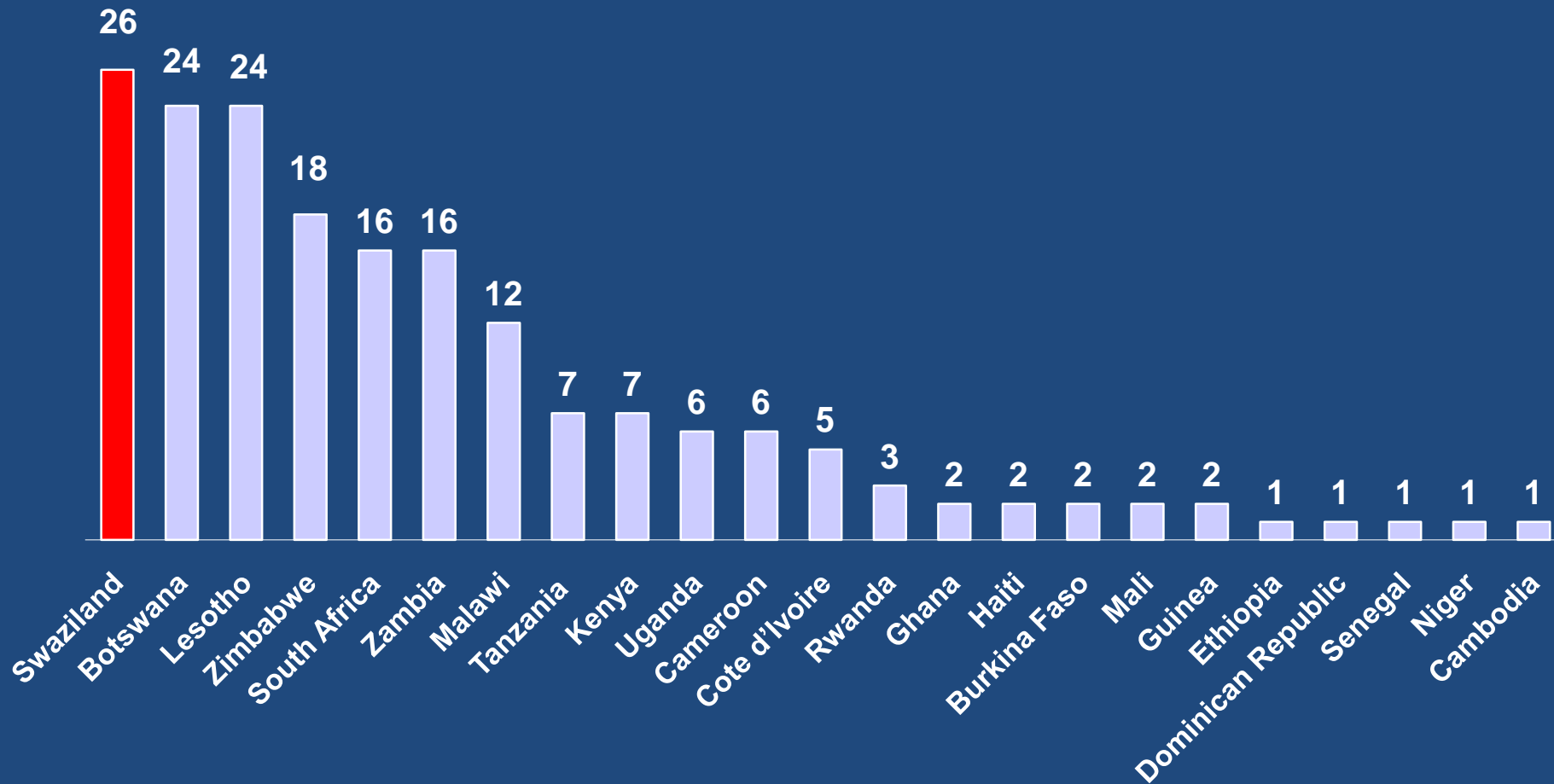
Scope of the presentation

- Background
- Follow up of study recommendations
 - 3 immediate
 - 6 medium term
 - 5 long term
- An example of a response from a sector
- Conclusions

Background - Swaziland

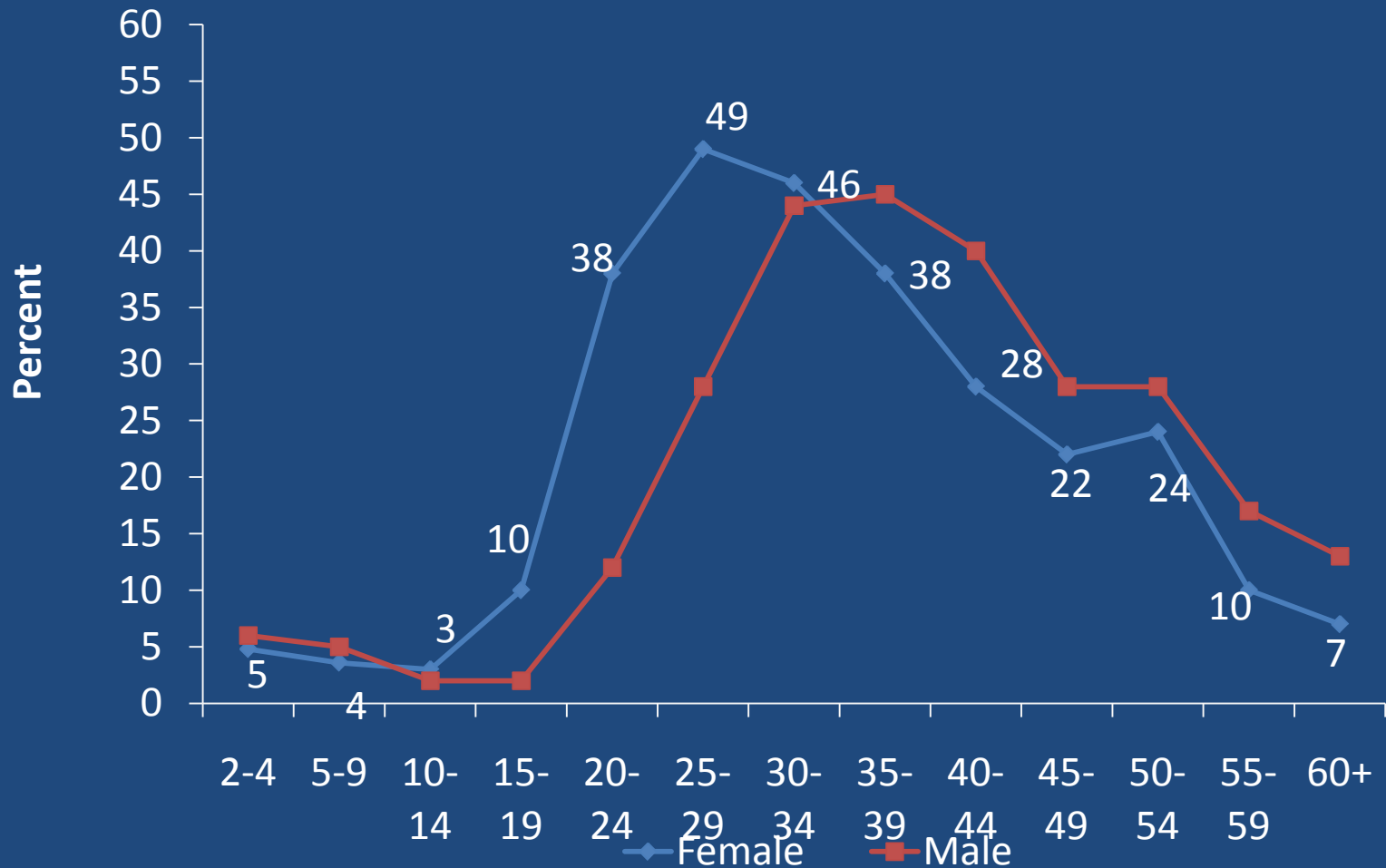
- Challenges
 - Poverty
 - Food insecurity
 - HIV burden
- Opportunities
 - Country stable and has good road access
 - Population is homogeneous
 - Swaziland has current data on violence
 - National leadership has been supportive

HIV Prevalence Rates in Selected Countries, Swaziland Demographic Health Survey 2007



Percent HIV positive among population age 15-49

HIV Prevalence among Population Age 2 and Older by Age and Sex, Swaziland 2006/7



Swaziland DHS 2006-07

Study recommendations Implementation summary

Short term	Medium Term	Long Term
✓ Local dissemination of findings	✓ Public information campaign	✓ Capacity Building for key government, NGOs
✓ Lead agency	✓ Strengthen legal system	✓ Share experience
✓ Further analysis	✓ Integrate SV messages into school programs	○ Surveillance system
	○ Evidence-based intervention	▪ Communication for social change
	○ NPA - violence prevention	▪ Follow up studies
	○ Shelter, counsel victims	

Tick mark denotes task done, open dot means task started but not completed, and solid dot indicates task that has not started

Update on immediate term recommendations

Recommendation	Update
Local dissemination of findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Launching of study findings ; role of Deputy Prime Minister✓ Separate briefs for parliamentarians, civil society organizations, church groups, teachers, staff of government ministries, police, school children, community child protectors,
Lead agency to coordinate prevention, response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Children's Coordination Unit, DSW. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Further analysis of the data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ EIS presentation (2008)✓ Lancet article (2009); other papers✓ Preparation of 10 point brief in Siswati

Update on medium term recommendations

Recommendation	Update
Public information campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Annual campaign since 2007, 2008, 2009 Weekly Children's radio, newspapers articles
Strengthening legal action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Bill ✓ New legislation on trafficking ✓ 1st Child-friendly court established in Mbabane ✓ 76% of police stations have child-friendly spaces
Integrate sexual violence message into school programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Message incorporated in DAC, Life skills education, sports , peer groups , Cage Givers, Lihlompe Lukalela
Evidence-based intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on schools, violence prevention one of six pillars of a school-based intervention called SCCS
NPA on violence prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial consultation
Safe shelter, counseling for victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter is lacking. ▪ Initial steps in counseling victim

Update on long term recommendations

Recommendation	Update
Human, operational capacity of government agencies, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Domestic Violence Sexual Offenses Unit in Directorate of Public Prosecutor's Office, Police ✓ Dept of Social Welfare , Children's Coordination Unit in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ✓ NGOs (SWAAGA, Save the Children) ✓ Ministry of Education and Media
Share experience with other countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nairobi conference 2007, 3rd Global Congress on sexual exploitation of children in Brazil in 2008 ✓ Findings presented to all UNICEF representatives in Africa. Tanzania and Kenya to replicate study
Injury surveillance system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation on a national surveillance system on violence and abuse successfully concluded
Communication strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conceptual stage
Follow up studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No

An example

Education sector

- School-based interventions
- School and community collaboration
- School supervision
- Case reporting and toll free line
- Case investigation, counseling, and retrieval
- Measures taken to redress the situation

Response to abuse in schools

Swazi Observer special investigation

13 teachers fired for sexual abuse

By Faith Vilakati
Manzini

OVER 100 teachers in the country are being investigated by the ministry of education for having sexual relationships with pupils, it has been revealed.

Nkhaba High School, with 16 teachers, has the highest number of teachers going through investigations, followed by Velebututu and Sornjokose High schools with 11 and eight teachers, respectively.

Other schools are Emlangeniweni where six teachers are being investigated and

Ntshabini where only five are under investigation. In total, 113 teachers are being investigated while 20 have already been fired from the profession.

The Shiselweni Region has the highest number of reported abuse cases with 45 teachers under investigation while seven have already been dismissed and five were discharged due to various reasons.

Second is Ekhobho region with 41 teachers under investigations and only one has been expelled so far. Manzini and Lubombo regions have 21 and 16 teachers under investigation, respectively, while seven were expelled in Manzini and only one in the

Lubombo region.

Principal Secretary in the ministry of education Pat Muir confirmed that they were having problems with the abuse of pupils in local schools. However, he could not confirm the figures.

"It is a pity that I am not in the office so it would be hard for me to confirm the number but I can say that a number of teachers are being questioned on abuse," he said.

A source within the ministry said pupils were flocking to the ministry's offices even during the holidays where they gave evidence to the ministry's investigating team. It is worth noting that even primary school pupils

gave evidence about being abused by their teachers.

"It would be better if the parents could come in and help the ministry in its quest to end this evil practice. It is unfortunate that a majority of them (parents) prefer to treat such issues as a secret just their children's future is being ruined," said the source.

The source added that the ministry was all out to fight such practices by the teachers because it was wrong for a teacher to have relationships with their pupils.

Further, the source said if teachers continued to have such relationships, the parents would lose confidence in them.

Stop making pupils your wives - PS warns teachers

PRINCIPAL Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training Pat Muir has pleaded with teachers to stop treating pupils like their wives.

He said teachers must bear in mind that parents had entrusted the teachers with their children with whom they spend the whole day.

Muir said the toll-free lines introduced at the ministry for children to report abuse are now bearing fruits because more pupils make use of them.

He explained that after receiving the information from the pupils their investigation officers then took the matter up.

They have four investigators specifically dealing with sexually abused pupils from both Primary and High Schools.

Muir said the investigators were males and females so that both boys and girls could be comfortable when discussing abuse with a person of his/her sex.

He said he was not in a position to say how much the ministry spends dealing with such matters. However, a highly placed source within the ministry revealed that a quarter of the ministry's budget is spent catering for such issues every year.

The source said by taking the abuse issues up, the ministry helped a lot, adding that in the past the teachers were reported to the Regional Education Officer (REO) but they would continue with their evil deeds.

"Even if there are financial constraints, the ministry tries to attend to all the matters so as to protect the young souls," she said.

She added that the money catered for the transportation of the pupils to and from the investigation place and transport for the investigators, amongst other things.

The investigators follow the reported abuse by the pupils and report through the toll-free line.

"At times, depending on the

abuse that particular child went through and the reaction of the parents when questioned about the allegations, the ministry is forced to remove the children from the area and from family members.

The ministry will then have to cater for his/her maintenance amongst other things and that money is taken from the budget," the source added.

The source also revealed that at times, some pupils were enrolled in another school to be protected from the same teacher, colleagues and even community members.

In the case where the abused pupil does not have a relative, the ministry then takes him/her to a secret houses where they are kept and fed pending the finalisation of the investigations.

Muir said they always made sure that the child was not taken from the area if there was no one to take care of her.



Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Training Pat Muir.

Ekutsimeleni teacher (53) abuses girl (15)

A 53-year-old teacher of Ekutsimeleni Primary School has allegedly sexually abused a 15-year-old pupil from the same school.

The teacher, holding a senior position, is said to have sneaked the minor into one of the neighbouring countries in an effort to conceal evidence.

Education

He has since been reported to the ministry of education and to the Teaching Service Commission (TSC). "On noting that he might be fired, the teacher decided to give the child to one of his relatives who stays outside the country so that the ministry's investigators could not get hold of her," said a source close to the matter.

Gathered

It was reliably gathered that the matter was supposed to be heard over the holidays but it had to be postponed due to the unavailability of the girl. It was also gathered that the matter had since been reported to the police.

Police Public Relation Officer (PRO) Superintendent Vusi Masuku confirmed the matter saying Mliba Police were investigating.

...Five principals, lecturer face axe for sexual abuse

FIVE Principals and a lecturer will, before the end of the soon-to-begin term, be axed for having sexual intercourse with pupils in their respective schools.

The five are yet to appear before the ministry's team of four investigation officers, it has been revealed.

One of the teachers is based in one of the popular Manzini Schools and is well known while the others are little known.

Amongst the investigated headteachers is one who impregnated a Form Five pupil who later gave

birth to twins.

Swaziland Principals Association Chairman Benedict Bennett came down hard on the headteachers, saying having relationships with any of the pupils was against the profession's principles.

Repent

"We still hope that one day those teachers will repent and realise that what they are doing is wrong. It is against the teaching profession and moreover not what they were taught at the college," he added that they were also

worried as an association if there were such reports going on in the country but were not sure which step to take.

culprit

Muir said they treated such matters equally, regardless of whether the culprit is a headteacher or not.

"It matters not to us the status one holds. After gathering the information, we attend to it as soon as possible," he said.

Asked what would be the situation if the ministry had not intervened in addressing such issues, he said he shrugged to think what it would be.

Teacher who forced pupil to abort being sought

A Ntshabini High School teacher is being investigated by the ministry and Teaching Service Commission for allegedly impregnating a pupil and forcing her to abort.

It has been reliably gathered that the teacher gave the pupil money to abort because he feared that he would be embarrassed by what he had done. A pupil from the school said the teacher was also reported to the police and the Regional Education Officer (REO).

"When we closed for the festive holidays, she was no longer coming to school and everyone knew that she was pregnant, even the community members.

We were all surprised when we saw her with a flat tummy later on just when we thought she would

give birth.

We are not sure if anyone within the school and even at her home ever questioned her," said one of the pupils. It was also said that the pupil no longer stayed at her parental home.

On another matter, an Ekutsimeleni High School teacher, a foreigner, was fired for impregnating a Form Five pupil.

He is said to have appeared for questioning before the ministry and Teaching Service Commission where, after a string of investigations, was found guilty of abuse.

At the same school, another teacher is being investigated for engaging in sexual intercourse with a number of pupils from the school.

Conclusions

- Study findings stimulated national dialogue on a sensitive topic. Swaziland is now past the denial phase
- Study provided informed draft legislation and policies and created some urgency to finalize these instruments
- The experience of Swaziland has relevance for other countries concerned about violence against children and young women
- Violence prevention and control calls for broad partnerships – i.e. individuals, institutions, and sectors
- Collaboration of CDC and UNICEF, two agencies with different skills and resources, has moved the agenda forward



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