Measuring gender-based violence

ESCAP-UNODC Webinar series on Measuring Gender-based Violence in Africa

Biruk Tessema/Fredrick Okwayo
Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Program

May 2023

BACKGROUND

- GBV is a developmental concern because it threatens the achievement of SDGs that promote gender equality and women empowerment.
- At household level, GBV limits women's choices, productivity, and bargaining power with their intimate partner. (World Health Organization, 2013).
- Consequences of GBV is wide ranging – individual/community:
    - Human rights, health crisis & impedes development; Injuries, pain and trauma; Lose of reproductive organs, develop fistulas; Unwanted pregnancies – communal rejections for victims, etc

BACKGROUND…

- GBV and SDG

Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Caveat—focus only on women and girls.

("IPV") Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group

("SV") Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by age group and place of occurrence

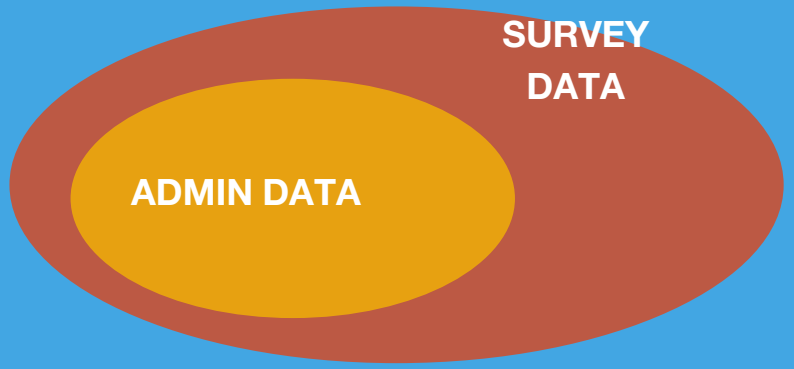
INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA

INDICATORS

- Several dimensions of violence are considered, namely physical, sexual, economic, and psychological.
- A harmful practice, especially child and forced marriage, is also considered
- These indicators are further disaggregated based on other factors, including geography (i.e., residence, state, counties, etc.), marital status, displacement status, age, severity of violence, perpetrator, how long one has experienced violence, and frequency (i.e., how often one experiences violence).

GBV DATA SOURCES

- Administrative records: Often inadequate
- Population based surveys (Dedicated specialized surveys such as DHS, etc) :often time bound and not real-time; relatively cheaper; limited in settings; more of magnitude, etc



INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA …

- Major data sources on VAWG in sub-Saharan Africa include
  - Nationally-representative surveys conducted at the household level
    - ✓DHS – major support from USAID
    - ✓MICS – major support from UNICEF
    - ✓VAW – major support from WHO
    - ✓PMA – major support from BMGF
  - Specialized surveys focusing on specific sub-groups or geographic areas
    - ✓VACS – major support from CDC and Together for Girls
    - ✓GSHS – major support from WHO and CDC
    - ✓Small-scale quantitative and qualitative studies – support varies by study

INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA…

- Major data sources on VAWG in sub-Saharan Africa
  - Administrative records/GBVIMS
    - ✓Health facility records e.g. on number seeking GBV-related
    - ✓Justice and legal systems e.g. on GBV-related cases
    - ✓Community-level structures for reporting GBV cases
  - Other secondary sources
    - ✓World Bank gender data portal
    - ✓WHO Global Health Observatory
    - ✓UN Women data portal
    - ✓Global Database on Violence Against Women
    - ✓United Nations Statistics Division
    - ✓UNFPA Data Portal

INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA…

- Intimate partner violence: current status measure (DHS)
  - Proportion of women and girls who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months preceding the survey
- Intimate partner violence: life-time experience (DHS)
  - Proportion of women and girls who ever experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence from an intimate partner
- Non-intimate partner violence: life-time experience (DHS/MICS)
  - Proportion of women and girls who ever experienced physical or sexual violence from someone other than an intimate partner

INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA…

- Childhood violence: life-time experience (VACS)
  - Proportion of young people 18-24 years who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence prior to age 18
- Childhood violence: current status (VACS/GSHS)
  - Proportion of young people who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence in the past 12 months preceding the survey
- Child marriage (DHS/MICS/VACS)
  - Proportion of young women 18-24 years married prior to age 18
  - Proportion of young women 18-24 years married prior to age 15

INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA…

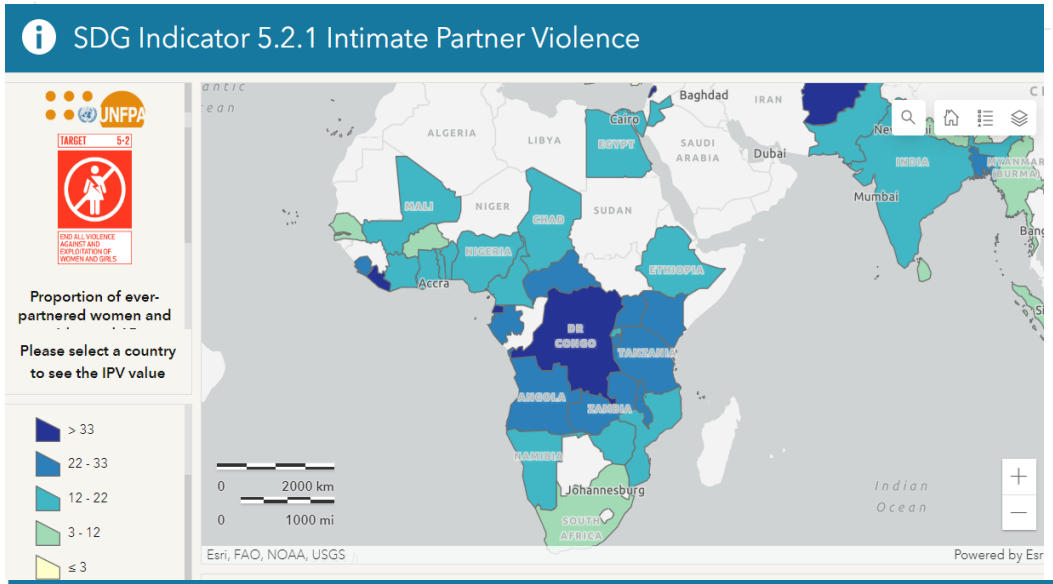
- Child labour (MICS/VACS)
  - Proportion of children <18 years who were involved in economic activities or household chores that were beyond the threshold for their ages or those involved in hazardous work
- Child neglect (VACS)
  - Proportion of children <18 years whose biological mother or father lived away from them for 6 months or more
  - Proportion of young people 18-24 years whose biological mother or father lived away from them for 6 months or more prior to age 18

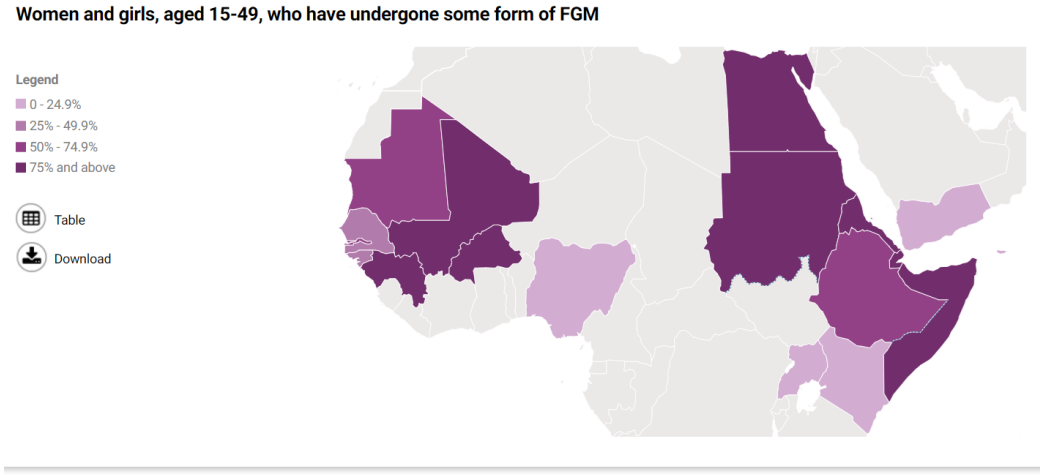
INDICATORS & SOURCES OF DATA…

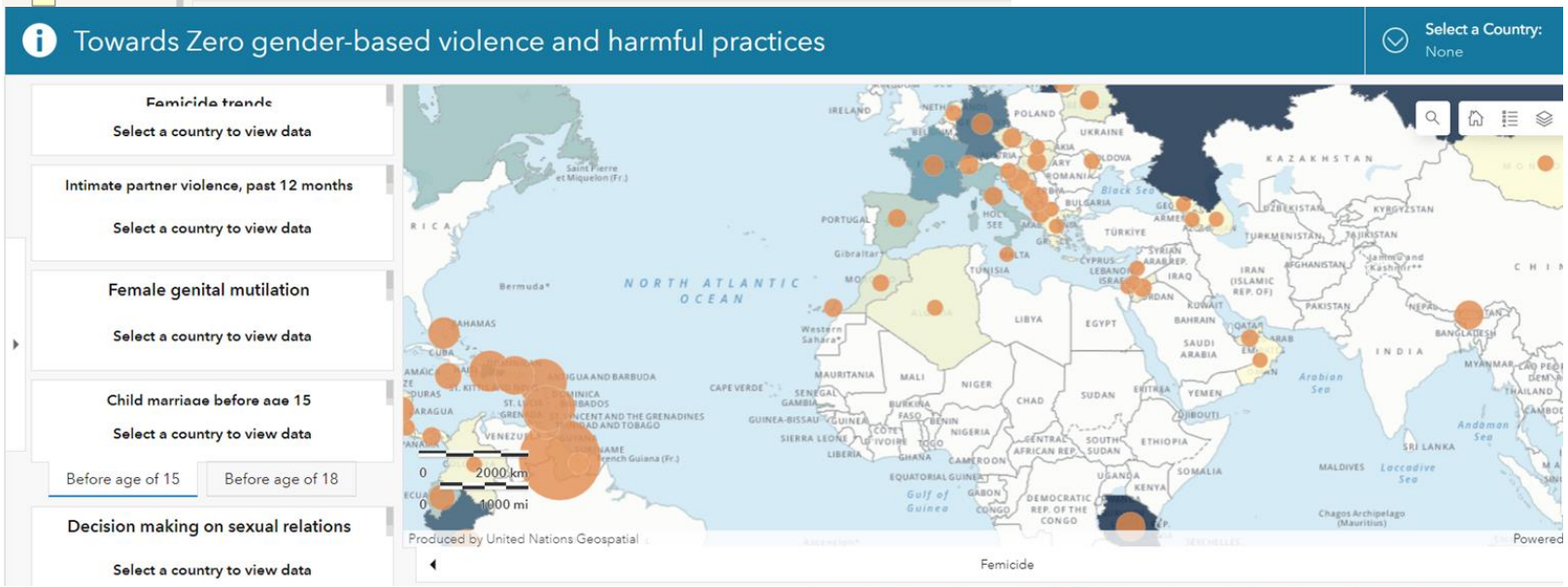
- Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C)
  - Proportion of women and girls 15-49 years who were circumcised/cut
  - Proportion of girls 0-14 years whose mothers report that they were circumcised/cut
- Other indicators captured in surveys
  - Knowledge, beliefs or attitudes towards VAWG
  - Perpetrators of VAWG
  - Place and time of occurrence of VAWG
  - Consequences of VAWG; and Help-seeking for VAWG

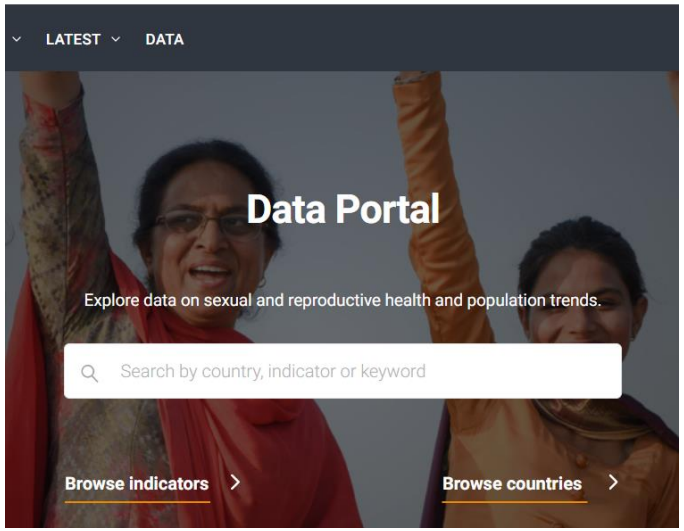
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Spotlight Initiative



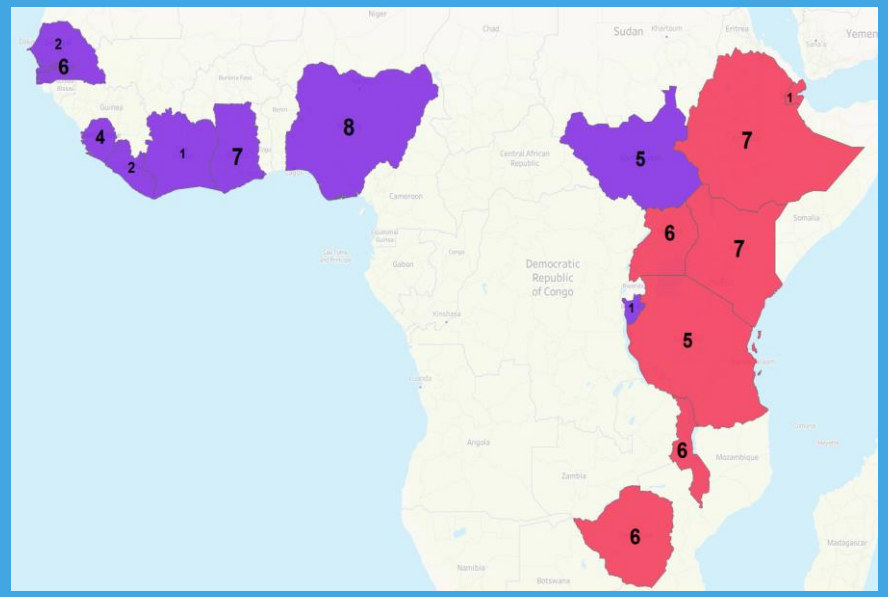






KEY ACTIVITIES

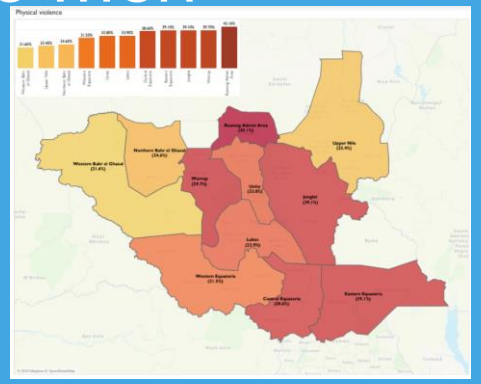
- VAWG curriculum development – offline and online
- Capacity Building and research protocols preparation workshops– CSOs, CO, NSO, Regional institutions, IPs
- E-learning hubs (What we envision?)
- KM platforms and documentation; and sharing

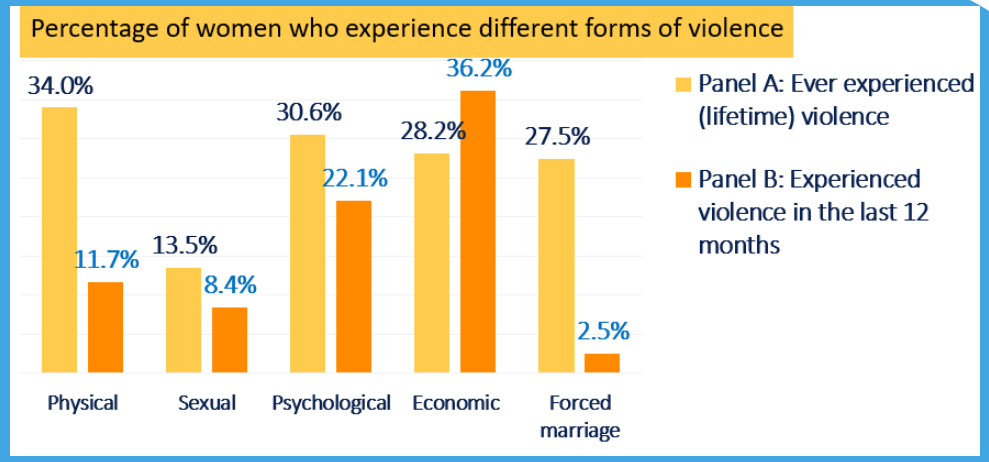


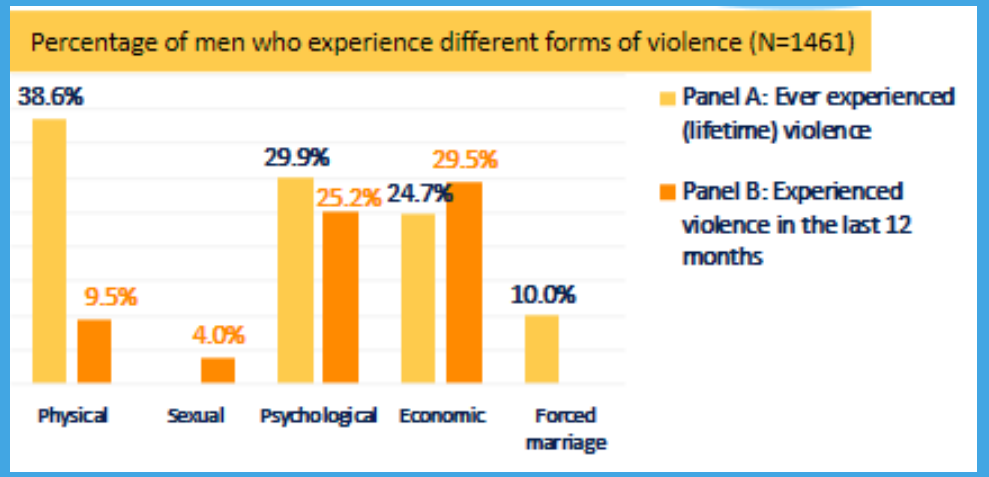
KEY ACTIVITIES ….

- Researches – Positive masculinity and male engagement
- Secondary data analysis
- National Surveys: South Sudan
  - 3746 Women; 1406 Men

Selected Findings



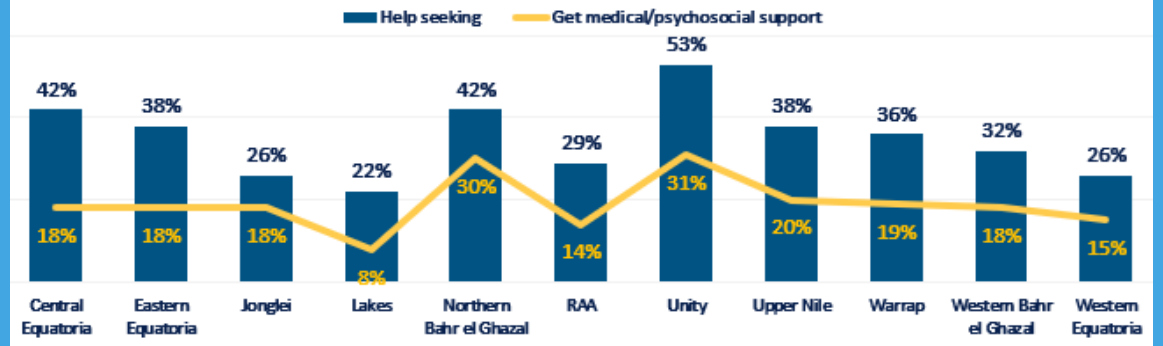




KEY FINDINGS ….

Spotlight Initiative

National
- Help seeking =34%
- Received support=18%

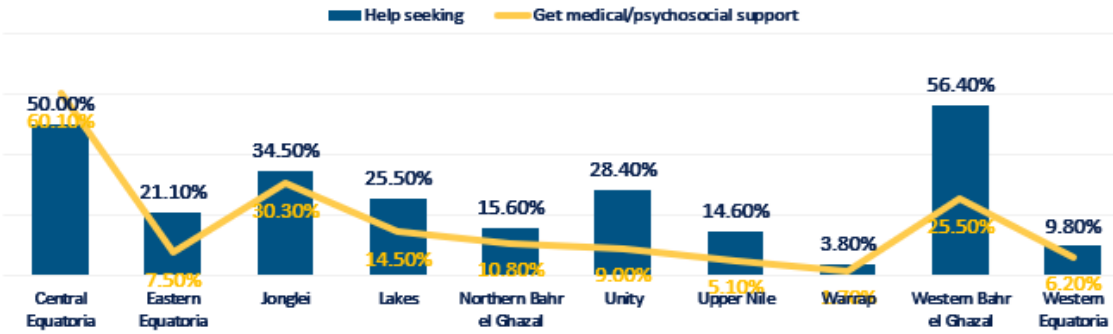


Helper

Family	Friend	Doctor	Neighbor	Chief	Police	Others
58%	22%	7%	18%	12%	7%	18%

WOMEN

National
- Help seeking =29.4%
- Received support=25.3%



Helper

Family	Friend	Doctor	Neighbor	Chief	Police	Others
68%	36%	4%	6%	14%	11%	4%

MEN

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- Opportunities for comparison across countries and over time
  - Surveys uses standardized modules across countries, e.g.,
    - ✓ Domestic violence and FGM/C modules
  - Surveys targets similar population groups over time, e.g.,
    - ✓ Women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in the case of DHS/MICS
    - ✓ Children and young people 13-24 years in the case of VACS
  - Surveys uses standardised sampling methodology across countries over time, e.g.,
    - ✓ Produces nationally-representative estimates of VAWG

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- Challenges for comparison across countries and over time
  - Changes in the way questions are asked may limit comparison of indicators over time
  - Modules on VAWG are optional in surveys where they are add-ons
    - ✓ Missing data points may limit comparison over time or across countries if excluded from some surveys or countries
  - Focus on different population sub-groups may limit comparison across different surveys, e.g.,
    - ✓ Women 15-49 years in DHS/MICS and children and young people 13-24 years in VACS

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- Administrative data
  - Standardized tools
  - Standardized system
  - Capacity gap
  - Integrating all actors
- Data triangulation: Surveys and all sources
- Data literacy for program use
  - Variety Actors
- Resources (Integration with development partners)

Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls