Baseline Assessment Report on

*Gender Based Violence in*

(Sebina, Ghanzi, Kasane and Ramotswa)

2013
List of Abbreviations

AIDS  Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AACC  All African Conference of Churches
WHO  World Health Organization
CEDAW  Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
SADC  Southern African Development Community
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
CYWE  Children, Youth and Women Empowerment
CPO  Country Programme Output
PCI  Project Concern International
OVC  Orphans and Vulnerable Children
FELM  Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
EU  European Union
GBV  Gender Based Violence
VDC  Village Development Committee
HIV  Human Immuno Virus
KSWS  Kagisano Society Women`s Shelter
MERP  Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan
NGOs  Non Governmental Organizations
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
DSP  Department of Social Protection
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Acknowledgement

The baseline assessment tour was undertaken with the support of Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) through its partnership with Kagisano Society Women’s Shelter (KSWS), on the project “Reaching out to Communities to Strengthen Their Response to GBV, Harmful Practices and HIV and AIDS”

KSWS would like to thank communities and stakeholders in Ramotswa, Sebina, Kasane and Ghanzi for the provision of insightful information for the preparation of the baseline data in order to shape the intervention in these respective areas.

KSWS also wishes to thank the local implementing partners; Department of Social Protection (DSP) in Sebina, Botswana Family Welfare Association (BOFWA) in Kasane and Humana People to People (HPP) in Ghanzi for their pledge to host KSWS Community Mobilizers and for the provision of logistical support during the assessment and consultative tour. Last, but not least the community leaders for their enthusiasm and commitment during the consultative tour.
Foreword

It is with great pleasure to produce this report, which maps out perceptions related to norms fueling gender based violence in Sebina, Kasane, Ghanzi and Ramotswa as baseline for intervention.

In 2013 Kagisano Society Women’s Shelter (KSWS) and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), entered into a three (3) year partnership to curb gender based violence in Botswana. This came as a response to the startling figure of the prevalence revealed by the 2012 Indicators’ Study on Gender Based Violence.

The two (2) organizations have partnered for a project entitled “Reaching out to Communities to Strengthen Their Response to GBV, Harmful Practices and HIV and AIDS”. The project seeks to significantly raise awareness and empower communities on gender based violence, through social dialogues on core human rights values and inter-linkages of these to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), and HIV and AIDS.

The implementation of activities for the project is geared towards behavior change in order to entrench a culture and norms that respect the sanctity and dignity of people, irrespective of gender.

In this regard, the baseline assessment was meant to set the stage and tone for the development of a comprehensive gender based violence intervention strategy for KSWS in the new areas.

Lorato Moalusi Sakufiwa
Director
Kagisano Society Women’s Shelter
Context and Purpose of the Assessment

Women and girls in Botswana have had to bear the brunt of gender based violence as a result of male dominance entrenched in cultural practices. This exacerbates violation of socio-economic and political women’s rights such as property ownership, equity and decision making on issues that affect their lives including marriage, access to education, access to information especially, reproductive health, and HIV and AIDS among others.

This report presents the process and output of a participatory consultative tour for a baseline assessment, which was conducted between 16th October to 30th October, 2013 in three (3) identified sites (Sebina, Kasane, Ghanzi and Ramotswa), for the FELM-KSWS project – “Reaching out to Communities to Strengthen Their Response to GBV, Harmful Practices and HIV and AIDS”. The baseline assessment was aimed at obtaining relevant and adequate data on knowledge, attitude and practices including perceptions and beliefs associated with gender based violence.

Studies carried out on gender based violence emphasize the description and condemnation of the violence, and the aspect of the violation of the human rights of women. There was need for KSWS to identify and analyze the socio-cultural causes and motivations leading to gender based violence in the selected areas. This called for KSWS to map out the existing structures through a baseline data as well as demonstrate the gaps that KSWS seeks to fill.

This baseline assessment on gender based violence made it possible to: provide an overall understanding of the problem in the new operational areas; and facilitate the preparation of appropriate strategies for combating gender based violence.

Therefore, information generated was expected to form the basis for project planning and provide benchmarks for project monitoring and evaluation.

The specific objectives of the baseline assessment were:

a) To gather baseline information on attitudes and beliefs about gender based violence;
b) To identify the community strengths and resources that exist to prevent and to respond to violence.
c) To identify intervention strategies for prevention based on these community strengths and resources.
Definition Of Gender Based Violence
**Definition of Gender Based Violence**

Violence against Women and Girls is any act of gender based violence that violates their decency, dignity and privacy in public or private places (AACC, 2002). Such acts may be physical or psychological and include spousal battering, sexual abuse, rape, incest, indecent assault, harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting or mutilation. The violence could be domestic, cultural, socio-economic, and even structural.

Many communities in Botswana have used culture to justify discrimination against women and girls which in practice tends to dehumanize them, stifle talents and inspirations and in some cases be a threat to survival.

Gender based Violence is an umbrella term used to describe any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females (WHO, 2002). Around the world, gender based violence has a greater impact on women and girls than on men and boys. The term "gender based violence," often used interchangeably with the term “violence against women,” highlights the gender dimension of these types of acts; in other words, the relationship between females' subordinate status in society and their increased vulnerability to violence.

"Gender based violence takes many forms and includes rape, sexual exploitation, sexual assault and abuse, forced sex and other types of sexual violence, domestic violence, trafficking of women and girls, forced prostitution, sexual harassment and discrimination, and denial of rights. It also encompasses forms of violence that are specific to cultures and societies, (WHO, 2002”).

Thus, the term (gender based violence) is used to distinguish common violence from violence that targets individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender.

**UN Definition of Gender based violence** *(based on Articles 1 and 2 of the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) and Recommendation 19, paragraph 6 of the 11th Session of the CEDAW Committee)*

“... gender based violence is violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.... While women, men, boys and girls can be victims of gender based violence, women and girls are the main victims.”
Gender based violence is a result of one gender exercising their power over the other, more often than not women are the victims. According to the UNDP (2009) report, patriarchy allows men to intimidate and brutalize women with impunity. While perpetrators of gender based violence could either be male or female, studies across the globe have shown that women make up the majority of the victims.

**Table 1. Health effects of gender based violence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Violence</th>
<th>Reproductive, Behavioural and Social Health Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Childhood Sexual Abuse</strong> (For adolescent and adult victims)</td>
<td>Gynaecological problems, STDs, HIV/AIDS, early sexual experiences, early pregnancy, infertility, unprotected sex, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, re-victimisation, high-risk behaviours, substance abuse, suicide, death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rape</strong></td>
<td>Unwanted pregnancy, abortion, pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, STDs including HIV/AIDS, suicide, death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Violence</strong></td>
<td>Poor nutrition, exacerbation of chronic illness, substance abuse, brain trauma, organ damage, partial or permanent disability, chronic pain, unprotected sex, pelvic inflammatory disease, gynaecological problems, low-birth weight, miscarriage, adverse pregnancy outcomes, maternal death, suicide, death.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: A practical guide to GBV, UNFPA, 2001*
Gender Based Violence in Botswana

Statistics on the prevalence of sexual and gender based violence in Botswana are startling and impossible to ignore. According to the “gender based violence Indicator Study conducted in 2012, over two thirds of women in Botswana (67%) have experienced some form of gender based violence in their lifetime including partner and non-partner violence. A high proportion of men (44%) admit to perpetrating violence against women. Nearly one third of women (29%) experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the 12 months to the prevalence survey that formed the flagship research tool in this study.

In contrast, only 1.2% of Batswana women reported cases of gender based violence to the police in the same period. Thus, the prevalence of gender based violence reported in the survey is 24 times higher than that reported to the police. This suggests that levels of gender based violence are far higher than those recorded in official statistics and that women have lost faith in the very systems that should protect them as well as offer redress. The 2012 National indicator study on gender based violence further breaks statistics related to gender based violence.

• Eleven percent (11%) of women experienced and 10.7% men perpetrated non-partner rape in their lifetime.

• Only 15% of the 188 analysed political speeches referred to gender based violence, of these, only 6% had gender based violence as the main topic.

• Of those interviewed, 46.2% of women and 42.5% of men said they had heard about the Domestic Violence Act.

• The most commonly reported form of gender based violence to police is physical followed by sexual, emotional and lastly economic.

• Only 36% of gender based violence cases before courts in 2011 resulted in prosecution. Thirty one percent of the cases before courts resulted in convictions. Six percent of gender based violence cases before courts resulted in acquittals.

• Less than half of the sample, 47.9% of women and 48.6% of men heard of events or prevention campaigns to end gender based violence. Women (62.8%) and men (51.3%) who heard of gender based violence campaigns found them empowering.
The Botswana Police Service national gender based violence statistics (2012) also indicate that femicide increased by 17% between 2009 and 2010, where a woman was murdered every week (i.e., from 87 to 102 murders). Rape cases increased from 1754 in 2009 to 2073 in 2012. For the same period, defilement of girls less than 16 years rose from 487 to 534.

The Botswana Police Service national gender based violence statistics (2012) also indicate that femicide increased by 17% between 2009 and 2010, where a woman was murdered every week (i.e., from 87 to 102 murders). Rape cases increased from 1754 in 2009 to 2073 in 2012. For the same period, defilement of girls less than 16 years rose from 487 to 534, as in Table 2.

Table 2. Sexual offences in Botswana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offences</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>1754</td>
<td>1865</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>2073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defilement of Girls u/16</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defilement of Embeciles</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Assault on Boys u/14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incest</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passion Killings (femicide)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Botswana Police Service

According to the World Bank, 20 percent of female learners in Botswana were reported to have been asked by male teachers to engage in sexual relations.
Efforts to Eradicate Gender Based Violence In Botswana
Efforts to Eradicate Gender Based Violence in Botswana

Since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, Botswana committed to preventing and eliminating gender based violence and violence against women. The Government has put in place different legal, policy and institutional frameworks to ensure the attainment of the conference’s resolutions for the respect of human rights in general, and the promotion of gender equality in particular.

Violence in homes is recognized under Botswana law (Domestic Violence Act, 2008) as domestic violence. Though the law recognizes this form of violence, it remains widespread and a major challenge in the country. The Domestic Violence Act on the other hand is recognized as a milestone in reducing cases of violence, as it adds to the criminal law by providing civil remedies to enable survivors of violence to have greater protection under the law while they await the criminal justice system to take its course.

The SADC gender and development protocol (2012) observes that though data on violence in homes is not well documented, media reports suggest that it is still rampant. The Abolition of Marital Power Act (2004), abolished the common law principle of a husband’s marital power and replaced it with equal powers of spouses. This move recognized that factors contributing to gender based violence include but not limited to unequal gender relations, unequal decision-making powers in the household but also to women’s economic dependency.

The Public Service Act (2008) recognizes sexual harassment as misconduct at the work place. The other limitation of the Act is the confinement to the public service, creating room for violence in the work place. Though the Act recognizes this, data to support sexual harassment in the public service is very limited.

The country has made progress in terms of the domestication of the Convention on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, review of the Children’s Act, 2009. However, Violence against children continues against the inaction of the legislative, e.g., 534 girls under 16 were abused (Botswana Police, 2012). The challenge on the legislation is often blamed on the weak prevention and treatment of cases of violence against children; weak system of reporting cases of abuse, including sexual abuse of children; and sexual exploitation and abuse of children (KSWS SOP, 2013).
Botswana has a National Action Plan for 365 Days to End Gender Based Violence. The National Action Plan recognizes that despite the constitutional and legal gains made by the country since the Beijing conference in 1995, violence against women has been escalating in the country and this violence continues to manifest itself in various forms.

“According to the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS) of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, one of the major obstacles to the prevention, reduction and eradication of gender based violence is that it remains largely invisible and those going through it are largely silent, due both to a wide socio-cultural acceptance of the violence, as well as the stigma attached to the victims of gender based violence”.
Molepolole Borakalao ward Cultural Dialogue meeting
Sebina Training Gender Committee
KSWS consulted with the DDC in Kasane
KSWS Director takes notes as the Chief narrates on GBV in Kasane

KSWS Interventions
KSWS Community Interventions

a) Intervention Framework

In the seventeen (17) years of community and grass-root work, KSWS has learnt that community involvement remains key to the success of a community intervention; apart from raising awareness, it brings about community ownership and results sustainability. KSWS has devised committees at community level, for gender, known as Community Gender Committees. At present, two (2) committees have been established in Lekgwapeng and Borakalalo communities in Molepolole. This is an initiative that KSWS wishes to roll out to new areas of operation.

Cultural dialogues have since played vital role in forging way forward for community interventions and preparation of relevant interventions. The strategy takes the realisation that communities are better placed to identify and thus solve their problems at grassroots level. Thus, committees established were aimed to enhance community capacity to prevent and respond to gender based violence. The strategy can as well be viewed as rights based approach to programming, holding community responsible as duty bearers is integral part to facilitating delivery of services to women whose rights have been violated.

The gender committees` role is to coordinate and support the different activities and provide leadership for their respective communities, and serves as community contact point with local, and government staff involved in gender and gender based violence work.

KSWS has further learnt that community gender committees can also facilitate broad community participation that may be difficult to achieve with outsiders. The committee are expected to engage with their leadership on identifying priority interventions on the response to gender based violence and HIV/ AIDS. A review of the literature on gender based violence has clearly indicated a correlation between gender based violence and HIV susceptibility.

“KSWS interventions aim to challenge the underlying gender inequalities that persist in society which are key barriers to the elimination of sexual and gender based violence and building capacity for communities to curb violence.”

“NGOs providing services to survivors of gender based violence in Botswana are few, not widespread and predominantly based in urban areas making them less accessible to people living in remote, rural parts of the country (UNDP, 2009)”
KSWS engages with other structures found in the community: The schools, Churches, VDC’s, VHC’s, youth structures; in particular out of school. Partnership with other service providers cannot be overemphasized. These creates a festive opportunity to leverage resources and resource sharing, as well creating opportunity for GBV integration in programmes.

b) Partnerships in the Intervention

KSWS/UNFPA - KSWS with the financial and technical support from UNFPA conducts a number of activities for the CYWE planned activity - “Capacity building for gender based violence implementing partners”. The activities are aimed at strengthening KSWS organizational and human resource capacity so that the organization is better able to accomplish its mission and strategic goals of preventing and responding to gender based violence. This activity contributes to the CPO “Institutional mechanisms developed to promote accelerated prevention and response to gender based violence”. The activities undertaken are aimed at improving the provision of shelter and counseling services for survivors of gender based violence, awareness raising, and sustainable resource mobilization.

KSWS/PCI - This partnership is for the project that contributes to OVC and Gender Project in Botswana, the project is termed ‘Tsela Kgopo (TK) OVC & Gender Project’ and spearheaded by PCI. The focus of KSWS is to address the role which gender variables play in gender based violence. Through this project, KSWS aims to strengthen gender based violence prevention, and improve institutional responses to incidences of gender based violence in Botswana. Through the project, KSWS further seeks to raise awareness on gender based violence and support community members to not only respond to gender based violence but also prevent it from occurring, by examining issues such as power imbalance between men and women.

KSWS/EU – KSWS is implementing the project under the EIDHR. The project contributes to the objective of the Call for Proposal as outlined in the EIDHR. The issues (gender based violence) being addressed by the project are aimed at ensuring that women gain their fundamental human rights, as gender based violence is the violation of one’s rights. The project also contributes significantly to “advocacy and promotion of political and social dialogue on core human rights values.” Involving the community on addressing gender issues and creating platform to enhance public participation is the main aim of this project.

KSWS/GeAD – The Domestic Violence Act (2008) provides that government should provide shelter to survivors of gender based violence. To this end KSWS has been receiving an annual grant from GeAD for the maintenance and sustenance of the shelter.
### Table 3: Elaboration of the KSWS Gender Based Violence Ecological Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Analysis of the problem</th>
<th>Interrelation of levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Biological and personal history factors among both survivors and perpetrators of GBV may lead to low self esteem, physical harm, aggressive behaviour and emotional ills.</td>
<td>An individual who has witnessed or experienced GBV might end up tolerating and perpetuating GBV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>Proximal social relationships, mostly those between intimate partners have resulted in IPV which was 29% in Botswana, 12 months before the Gender Based Violence Indicators Study (2012). There has been incidences of marital rape which resulted in unplanned pregnancies as well as sexually transmitted infections. Due to the social norms in the communities, domestic violence escalates.</td>
<td>A history of violence in the perpetrator’s or victim’s family of origin (including IPV and child abuse) may lead to perpetuation of gender based violence in the future. Dysfunctional families may lead to families breaking down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Botswana is a patriarchal society, mostly; women are responsible for the private sphere of the family, while men are in control of the public sphere of politics and decision making. Men are social and cultural heads of their households. These social norms have been a fertile ground for gender based violence. Despite the availability of the Abolition of Marital Power Act 2004, the community still believe that men have the right to control and dominate the life of women and girls (Situational Analysis on Gender Based Violence in Botswana, 2009)</td>
<td>Due to community beliefs and norms which regards men as superiors there is weak community sanctions against gender based violence. This has given men platform to continue abusing their counterparts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society</td>
<td>Botswana has not endorsed all treaties which address gender based violence and even those which have been signed they are not enforced effectively. This provides room for gender based violence to continue spreading, as even the law enforcement personnel do not have instruments to back them and some they do not comprehend.</td>
<td>Ineffective in enforcement of laws gives the community a stage to perpetuate gender based violence. Survivors end up not reporting incidences of gender based violence; as a result the communities end up perceiving gender based violence as an acceptable practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study
Methodology
Study Methodology

Primary data collection (Community conversations, interviews and Stakeholder engagement) and desk review methods were employed to collect qualitative data to establish the gender, cultural and social norms influencing gender base violence in Sebina, Ghanzi, Kasane and Ramotswa. 66 members of the community, including the Chiefs were engaged through community conversations and stakeholder dialogues. Seven (7) in-depth interviews were conducted with the District Commissioners, District AIDS Coordinators, Assistant Council Secretaries, and Chiefs. In addition, relevant documents such as previous studies on gender based violence in Botswana and BIAS III report were reviewed. The Qualitative data obtained was analyzed through content analysis by data reduction and data display methods.

Key Challenges during the Assessment

• Inadequate overall period for the consultative tour to conduct baseline assessment.

• Inadequate community mobilization in Ghanzi and Kasane due to insufficient time.

• Limited budget and time to design questionnaires for quantitative data and data collection.

Baseline Assessment tour Participants

In the execution of the baseline assessment, the following provided key information needed to compile the report.

a) Sebina
   Community conversation with
   • Village Chief
   • Village Headman
   • Representative from the DSP.
   • Village Librarian
   • Village elders
   • Representatives from the VDC.
   • Village Councillor
b) **Kasane**
   i) Interviews
   - District Commissioner
   - Senior Assistant Council Secretary
   - District AIDS Coordinator
   - Kasane – Chief and Headman
   - Kasane/Plateau – Chief
   - Ditshwanelo (Human Rights Centre) – Director, Kasane Branch.
   - Chairperson - District Gender Committee.

   ii) Dialogue
   - Special District Development Committee- DDC (Chaired by Assistant District Commissioner)

   c) **Ghanzi**
   i) Interviews
   - District Commissioner
   ii) Dialogue
   - District Development Committee (DDC)

   d) **Ramotswa**
   (i) Dialogue
   - Deputy Chief
   - Gender Committee
Operational Context
Operational Context

a) Kasane

i) Context

Kasane is where four countries almost meet, i.e., Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The population of Kasane was 9,008 in 2011 census. The influx of people from the other three (3) countries increases the risk of cross-border HIV spread and exacerbates violence against women. There has been reports that, the long overdue Kazungula Ferry Bridge has led to teen girls being violated by truck drivers waiting to cross the border into Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Botswana AIDS Impact Survey III (BAIS III) shows HIV prevalence at 23.0% for both sexes in Kasane.

The town has minimum service facilities a survivor of gender based violence requires: Department of Social Protection, Government Primary hospital and private clinics, Police stations, and the Magistrate court. However, there are no service points for gender based violence information and services, except for the GeAD.

ii) Social ills

The Chobe District Commissioner described gender based violence as an underserved challenge in Kasane, and Chobe at large. Polygamous marriages, incest, cohabitation, intergenerational relations, parent-child neglect, financial neglect, extra affairs (including in marriages) were pointed as issues of concern and fuelling both gender based violence and HIV.
It was reported that workplace violence is among the rampant form of violence, though often ignored. On the law enforcement, it was mentioned that police are slow to react to cases of gender based violence and at times they dismiss them.

Parents are reported to be at the forefront in concealing cases of child sexual abuse. Property grabbing from widows and children was one other issue that needed redress.

The Commissioner affirmed full support to work around gender based violence in Chobe. The Chief of Plateau, in Kasane added that women are being abused and the (women) are ignorant of gender based violence and available legislation.

At times, women report cases only to have them withdrawn. The suspicion to this is their dependency on men. Men however, are reported to be abused financially, by women demanding money which is not even there, through partner comparison to other men.

“Gender based violence underreporting in Botswana is further exacerbated by several factors among which lack of clear referral mechanism, fear of being stigmatized by members of the community and livelihood dependency of the victim to the perpetrator coupled with few gender based violence service providers (UNDP, 2009)”.

b) Ghanzi

i) Context

At the time of the 2011 census, there were 12,167 people living in the township with another 861 in nearby villages. Its western border is shared with Namibia. Ghanzi being used as a cooling station into Namibia and also a stop-over point for travellers wishing to visit the Okavango Delta has made women vulnerable to both violence and HIV and AIDS.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS according to BAIS III was 13.5% for both sexes. Ghanzi as a town has a Government Primary hospital, Police, and a Magistrate court. However, there are no service points for gender based violence information and services, except the presence of the GeAD.
ii) Social ills

The DDC acknowledged gender based violence cases to bestarling, pointed to IPV, and femicide
to be common in Ghanzi. They however, noted that the KSWS name is feministic and men may feel
challenged to participate in activities.

c) Ramotswa

i) Context

The population was 27,760 in 2011 census. The village Paramount Chief is a woman. The proximity
of this village to the city puts women of Ramotswa at the risks of violence against them, as well as
contraction of the HIV virus.

KSWS is to capitalize on the leadership of the Kgosi being women to drive its mandate to curb the
two scourges. The HIV prevalence as noted by the BAIS III is 13.3% for both sexes in Ramotswa.
Ramotswa has most facilities and information on gender based violence, and its proximity to Ga-
borone is an added advantage.

ii) Social ills

According to the Deputy Chief, gender based violence exist mostly amongst the youth in intimate
relationships. It was explained that high unemployment rates among youth led to young girls stay-
ing in violent relationships for financial gain.
Furthermore, it was noted that men have a tendency to move in with their in-laws prior to build-
ing their own homes. This according to the interviewers meant that men had little or no control in
these household thus leading to them being financially abused by their in-laws and wives.

d) Sebina

i) Context

It’s a village west of Francistown, with a vibrant and growing economy and hence high morbidity
between Francistown and Tutume (Sub region). “Sebina cross” has been cited as a risk factor con-
tributing to the social ills for the village. This serves as stopovers for truck drivers enroute to Zam-
bia and Zimbabwe, thus bringing out susceptibility of residents to risks of gender based violence,
including rape and HIV/AIDS.
Sebina, being off main road and being a small village is further disadvantaged on information availability and access to services related to gender based violence. The village had a population of 4,000 people in 2011 census.

There are NGOs in Sebina, Batanani NGO for Poverty Eradication and Housing, and the Catholic Relief Service which is implementing a programme on OVCs through PCI. Sebina has an office for the DSP, an upgraded clinic (offering maternity and HIV facilities) and a police station, library, guest lodges and night club.

**ii) Social ills**

The VDC revealed that there were high cases of gender based violence, in particular violence against women, incest and passion killings (femicide). There are high cases of pregnancy for teenagers in primary and junior secondary schools. The youth are willing to work but employment opportunities are limited leading to high unemployment, coupled with high alcohol consumption. Gender based violence was described as endemic.

"Kgokgontsho e setse e le bolwetsi mono"
"Violence has become a disease in our community"...comment from participant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4. Survivors’ experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What a perpetrator communicates to the survivor</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I hit you because I love you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The abuse is your fault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No one will love you like I do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is for your own good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You don’t own your body, I do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No one will believe you if you tell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A practical Approach to GBV, UNFPA, 2001
Summary of Key Findings

Primary causes of gender based violence identified (Community Perceptions)

According to the WHO (2002), the following have been supported by evidence to be critical causes and risk factors:

- Traditional gender norms that support male superiority and entitlement
- Social norms that tolerate or justify violence against women
- Weak community sanctions against perpetrators
- Poverty and dependence on perpetrators.
- High levels of crime and conflict in society more generally.

Gender Based Violence, Perceptions, Beliefs and Effects

Cultural and social norms have been defined as rules or expectations of behaviour within a specific cultural or social group. According to Durlauf and Blume (2008) norms are often unspoken, these norms offer social standards of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, governing what is (and is not) acceptable and co-ordinating people interactions with others.

During the community conversations and interviews it became evident that the participants believed that;

a) The power and dominance of an individual person, contributed to violence when they can con-
trol resources. Information gathered from the community conversations also revealed that, in most cases men are responsible for the violence within and outside the family.

“Because the men pay bride price to the wife’s parents, the men have the feeling that they have ‘bought’ the women and therefore tend to mistreat them, and think women have no right to refuse sex. There is a belief that marriage is all about sex and if the man says no to his sexual advances then she has wronged him”...comment from participant.

However it was also noted that in some cases the violence was also committed by women, particularly those who hold the power or have control in the household over their husbands.

b) In one interview it was revealed that some of the girls are socialized for marriage right from a tender age, with the belief that they will get married to a man who will then provide for the family. In these circumstances community leaders and Chiefs seemed not to know steps to address these kinds of issues, as are deemed private.

“Kasane is a mixture of all types of cultures; some school girls are married off while in school, an example is an Indian man who impregnated a girl and was let loose?”...participant commented

Equally, cultural acceptance of violence, including sexual violence, as a private affair hinders outside intervention and prevents those affected from speaking out and gaining support (Hussain and Khan, 2008). The result of these pre-marriages is a psychologically absent girl child at school, for they perceive school as a “waiting place” before they are married.

“Kana dilo, ke dilo tsa batho !...a participant in an interview”...implying that some issues are private and can only be dealt with by those concerned.
b) Community conversations further revealed that, parents, in particular those living with their daughters perpetuate violence against them. An examples from the participants described parents who encouraged their daughters and female relatives to become involved in hidden or open or forced prostitution to earn income to support the family.

“Parents condone and encourage their children to be sexually exploited by men who bring plastic bags full of grocery”...Participant at a community conversation.

c) The participants acknowledged that, the patriarchal culture had put men as the main power holder with all rights and access to education, employment and dominant in the decision making of all aspects of life. This notion seemed to be shared by most women, as they mostly nodded in agreement.

They further pointed out that a girl child, from time immemorial was considered less worthwhile to the family than their male counterparts, as she was destined for other families through marriage. Women have therefore been considered as subordinate to men.

“I wanted to become a Police Officer, but my father decided only my brother should go to school”...comment from a community conversation.

Pic 4: Elders discussing how gender norms fuel GBV, and HIV.
It was evident that the patriarchal culture, assigned different roles to women and men, leading to women being responsible for domestic affairs with limited chances to get access to education, employment and in decision making including the rights to family property and inheritance.

b) Most participants acknowledged that gender roles play a significant role in raising the girl and boy child. However, participants failed to realise the link of gender roles to gender based violence.

Masculinity was mostly emphasized in boys through out their upbringing, including at traditional or initiation schools (Bogwera). That notwithstanding, there is need to capitalize on their acknowledgement of the importance of gender roles, bearing in mind that norms can protect against violence, but they can also support and encourage the use of it.

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**According to the WHO (2002), cultural acceptance of violence, either as a normal method of resolving conflict or as a usual part of rearing a child, is a risk factor for all types of interpersonal violence.**

"At initiation schools, men were taught how to be men, not wife barterers"...Chief during a community conversation.

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d) there is a lot of stigma, shame and disgrace for abused women and men, due to myths and beliefs held in the community about people who are survivors of gender based violence. This is demonstrated in the derogatory and fault-finding language used to describe people who have experienced gender based violence.

“Basadi ba mono le bone ga ba utlwe, ba nna le batswakwa ba ba tletseng mono”. (“Women here are hard-headed, they live with abusive foreigners”…) Participant during community dialogue.

“People believe that abused men are sissies (Dikopa)”…comment from participant.
Perceptions on the Police

Overall, most of the participants in the interviews and community conversations pointed to their suspicions around the police capacity to handle cases of gender based violence.

a) There were statements implying gaps with police to handle gender based violence cases. Survivors are said to fear re-abuse by the police at the community service centres, in particular men survivors of gender based violence fear to be mocked upon reporting cases.

b) It was also indicated that the majority of the gender based violence survivors reported their cases to the police.

KSWS noted that, it was the only convenient option for survivors as gender based violence service points are non-existent in these areas, and that gender based violence has been made synonym to physical beatings – therefore an indication of limited knowledge on gender based violence.
c) There were complaints about lack of privacy in the police stations; despite that the gender based violence Ministry of Health SOP’s provides for such. This translated to inadequacy of knowledge on handling gender based violence cases among the police officers. Further, an observation of the police charge office at Sebina portrayed inadequate space and facilities.

d) The perception of most participants, and in particular men, is that the police are more concerned with arresting gender based violence perpetrators and thus in most cases victimise men. The case is even made worse when foreign men are involved.

To this end this translates to men recognising gender based violence against them by women. This calls for a closer look into gender based violence, and as well as capacity building of the police to handle gender based violence cases.

Additionally, male survivors were said to be reluctant to access gender based violence services due to the perceived and actual stigma related to the abuse.

“Banna ba swela ka ha teng, ntswa ba kgokgontshiwa”...comment from participant in an interview... implying “men do not seek help, but choose to live with gender based violence wounds”.

Pic 7: The Deputy Chief making a point during the discussions
Men have the same psychological needs as women, and should be encouraged to receive post trauma care and follow-up. This calls for counselors who understand the realities of male sexuality or masculinity. According to Ganju (2004), men rarely seek legal redress, due to the stigma attached. The mitigation of this issue rests in enhanced sensitization programmes to address the stigma associated with gender based violence.

e) Although the statistics published by the Botswana Police Service show the extent of gender based violence cases reported, it is not clear how many cases were investigated and prosecuted and there are no reports on such.
Conclusions & Recommendation
Conclusions and Recommendations

In view of the baseline assessment, gender based violence is deeply entrenched in cultural practices that have been carried out for ages in the communities. With this in mind, there is need to promote holistic development interventions that will not only increase peoples knowledge levels but also influence them to change attitudes, core values and behaviour. Therefore KSWS intervention need to address three (3) critical needs:

• Community mobilization;
• Behaviour change ; and,
• Service delivery;

The community mobilization programmes should focus on mobilizing community groups and other stakeholders like faith based organizations, schools, the police, and others NGOs to increase effort towards curbing gender based violence.

The behaviour change programmes are critical in addressing beliefs and norms that exacerbate gender based violence in the community, with materials developed in local languages, e.g., Sekgal-agadi, Sesubiya and Sekalaka.

The service delivery programmes are pertinent in identifying gender based violence cases, and providing care to the gender based violence survivors, with emphasis on the police as law enforcers, office of social protection and hospitals. Such programmes are important in documenting information critical in providing court evidence for redress.

Furthermore, in this regard, the following recommendations are considered tenable:

Community engagement

• Promote training that targets community leaders on gender based violence, laws and handling gender based violence cases. This will help demystify the myths, beliefs, and prejudices different people have about women.

• Mobilise and support local leaders who thoroughly understand the existing norms, attitudes as well as social dynamics as agents of change. These should be used as entry-points to community process of unlearning. It is important that such leaders comprise of representatives of vil-
lage based committees (Community Gender Committees and Child Protection Committees) that would be used to lobby for change.

**Behaviour change**

- There is need to re-orient communication strategies from awareness raising to behaviour change intervention approaches, and bust myths reinforcing gender based violence, and cease once-off activities.

- Develop appropriate behaviour change training manual for use by Outreach Officers and Community Mobilizers. This would not only ensure increase of knowledge on gender based violence but also influence people’s attitudes, perceptions and beliefs around gender based violence, as well as ensuring standardized trainings.

**Enhanced awareness raising**

- Raise awareness for both men and women on gender based violence and its relation to reproductive health for informed and responsible parenting.

- Design and undertake community mobilization strategies for awareness creation and gender based violence education amongst youth in schools, including children rights and churches, as a Faith Based Approach.

- Community Mobilizers to form coalition with Child Protection Committees to establish community based lobby support groups (in schools, and villages to ensure that child abuse practices are monitored.)

**Life skills**

- In collaboration with Ministry of Education and Skills Development, train young girls and boys in primary schools as well as out of school youth in life skills to enable them to develop their self-confidence, assertiveness necessary in making choices in life. This would go a long way to ensure children are not so much vulnerable to abuses. KSWS to resource mobilize for the envisaged “Gender based Violence Ambassador” to assist in reaching out to schools.

Children are particularly susceptible to sexual violence due to their relatively weak social position,
economic dependence and lack of political protection (WHO, 2001). Child sexual abuse has extensive emotional and physical repercussions. It is evident that people who experience sexual abuse during their childhood, are more likely to commit abuse against others (WHO, 2001).

**Access to Litigation**

- It was clear that most of the gender based violence survivors sought their first help from the police, and from the Village Chief, thus making the Chief’s offices a very instrumental referral point for gender based violence survivors. KSWS should leverage on working with the Chief’s office, and the police.

- Additionally, there is some reliance on community members for arbitration and help for those cases not reported, in particular by men. This calls for increased awareness campaigns by KSWS on the steps that gender based violence survivors need to take including health care and police service targeting the general community.

**Monitoring and evaluating KSWS interventions**

A critical challenge of evaluating the KSWS gender based violence intervention in these new areas will be how to attribute change in the new areas in the light of sporadic activities being implemented by different institutions, and in other areas where numerous activities are being implemented by other institutions.

In this regard, KSWS needs to invest strongly in an M & E system that utilizes strong quantitative evaluation designs. This calls for the need to collect data and subsequently measure indicators systematically and longitudinally.

The greatest challenge in monitoring gender based violence mainly originates from the limitation of under-reporting. KSWS needs to acknowledge the widespread nature of gender based violence to mitigate the under-reporting problem by reinforcing on its community mobilization strategies, in particular the home visits (Door-to-door) campaigns.
References


