



STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN UGANDA

Baseline Report

International Justice Mission, Uganda



Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization that protects vulnerable people from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 33 program offices in 19 countries to combat trafficking and slavery, violence against women and children and police abuse of power. IJM's vision is to rescue millions, protect half a billion and make justice for the poor unstoppable. IJM has been in Uganda since 2004. Its vision in Uganda is to protect 24 million women and children from violence and contribute to the global efforts to measurably protect 500 million vulnerable people from violence. IJM Uganda will apply the IJM Protection Model to help strengthen the justice system to deliver justice to women and children. Protection is the array of benefits that accrue to vulnerable people through a strengthened justice system. The Protection Model is an evidence-informed, experience-based model of operation developed by IJM outlining the key steps of change (phases), the actions that will aid those changes (dimensions), and what those changes should be leading to (Protection).

IJM aims to restore survivors, strengthen the capacity of the justice system to identify and restrain offenders, and enhance local authorities' efforts to prosecute and hold offenders accountable. More specifically, IJM Uganda's Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Programme focuses on addressing issues related to both supply (the CJS in Uganda) and demand (community members). By addressing challenges on both sides of the spectrum, IJM believes it is possible to create a justice system that routinely enforces the law, empowers survivors to undertake the justice journey, and increases demand for protection of vulnerable women and children by key stakeholders and community actors.

This report presents findings from IJM Uganda VAWC baseline assessment conducted by International Research

Consortium (IRC), an independent consulting firm covering the current state of protection towards ending VAWC in Uganda. Through credible qualitative and quantitative data, the assessment measured four core protection domains:

- The **prevalence** of VAWC in Uganda
- Vulnerable people's **reliance** on the CJS
- Key stakeholders' **confidence** in the CJS
- The **performance** of the CJS

The programme's outcomes and overall impact will be measured against these initial findings at the conclusion of the programme in 2030.

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE

In order to ascertain the prevalence of VAWC in Uganda, the researchers focused on answering the question:

- How prevalent are Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Violence against Children (SVAC) in Uganda?

The team used survey tools tailored uniquely to women and children to capture both qualitative and quantitative data.

What was found in terms of **IPV** is that:

- **55% (1,224/2,225) of ever partnered women** experienced IPV (either physical or sexual violence or both) in their lifetime. **30.3% (675/2,225)** experienced IPV in the last 12 months.
- **47% (1,037/2,225) of ever partnered women experienced** an act of physical violence in their lifetime. **21.1% (469/2,225) of ever partnered women experienced** an act of physical violence in the last 12 months.
- **33% (732/2,225) of ever partnered women experienced** sexual violence in their lifetime. **19% (425/2,225) of ever partnered women experienced** sexual violence in the past 12 months.

Regarding the prevalence of **SVAC**, this assessment revealed that:

- **58.6% (660/1,126) of children** experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime. Close relatives and friends, including aunts, uncles, siblings, fathers, and peers were found to be the most common perpetrators of SVAC.
- SVAC was **3 times more prevalent in girls (77%, 565/733) than boys (24% 95/393)** and mostly affected children older than 15 years.
- SVAC was found to be **prevalent across all levels of education** and does not vary according to religion or income.

RELiance OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE ON THE CJS

IJM defines reliance as “the degree to which vulnerable people rely on the justice system for protection”. In order to assess people’s **reliance** on the Ugandan CJS, the researchers sought to answer the questions:

- To what extent is the vulnerable population reliant on the justice system for protection?
- How are women and children empowered and protected against violence?

The team used a household survey questionnaire tailored uniquely to women. The assessment measured women survivors’ reliance on the CJS in their lifetime by selected standardized indicators:

- **28%** of victims (340/1,224) acknowledged a willingness to report and use services available for victims of violence.
- Only **12% (142/1,224) of incidents** of physical and/or sexual violence involving women were reported to the relevant CJS agencies. About **16% (198/1,224) of incidents** were reported to Non CJS agencies.
- This means that **nearly 3-in-4 (72%, 884/1,224)** of all incidents of physical and/or sexual violence against women go unreported.

CONFIDENCE OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CJS

Confidence of stakeholders is the measure of perception of key stakeholders regarding the effectiveness, efficiency and fairness of the justice system to handle cases of VAWC. To assess key stakeholders’ confidence, we gathered perceptions from key stakeholders including police officers, judicial and prosecution officers, local government officials (districts administrators) leaders (LCC), survivors, civil society (CSOs) and development partners. Assessment of confidence in the Ugandan CJS sought to answer the question:

- What is the level of confidence of key stakeholders in the effectiveness, efficiency and fairness of the justice system handling VAWC cases?

A total of 68 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders and 14 In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted with survivors using a Stakeholder Confidence Questionnaire. What researchers discovered was that based on the overall stakeholder rating for Effectiveness:

- **18% (12/68)** of the stakeholders interviewed expressed confidence in the **Effectiveness of the Justice System**, based on the criteria of: system coordination, respect for rule of law, public support, and effectiveness in crime deterrence. **42% 29/68** were confident that the CJS coordinates effectively to secure justice for victims, **33% (23/68)** believed the system upholds the rule of law at all times, **24% (16/68)** believed that the CJS overall enjoys public support in tackling VAWC cases and **32% (22/68)** believe the CJS is effective in deterring violent crimes against women and children.

Stakeholders’ **Confidence in Efficiency** is assessed across four components: mandate independence, timeliness of service delivery, public access, and political support for each justice institution (i.e. police, judiciary and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).)

- **12% (8/68)** of stakeholders had

confidence in the efficiency of at least one of the CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC. 6% (4/68) of stakeholders had confidence in the efficiency of all three CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC.

- When disaggregated by institution, **only 6% (4/68)** believed the police were efficient in their handling cases of VAWC. Only **10% (7/68)** of stakeholders expressed confidence in the courts, and only **9% (6/68)** had confidence in the efficiency of the ODPP.
- Specifically, **28% (19/68)** of stakeholders believed there is mandate independence, **28% (19/68)** believed that police, ODPP and judiciary (courts) are independent in exercising their mandate. **7% (5/68)** believed CJS agencies provided timely services. **24% (16/68)** felt the CJS was accessible to the general public. **26% (18/68)** believed there is good political support for each justice institution.

Stakeholders' Confidence in **Justice**

System Fairness is measured through two components of non-discrimination (also referred to as Equality) and Respect for the Dignity of Persons. In terms of fairness:

- **25% (17/68)** of stakeholders believed in the fairness of at least one of the CJS institutions in handling cases related to VAWC. **16% (11/68)** believe in the fairness of all CJS institutions in handling cases of **VAWC**.
- Specific to institutions, the ODPP was perceived by stakeholders to be the fairest justice institution (**24%, 16/68**), followed by the judiciary (**22%, 15/68**), with the police seen as the least fair (**16%, 11/68**).
- Further broken down by the 2 measures of fairness of the CJS, **22% (15/68)** believed that all CJS institutions are non-discriminatory in their interactions and handling matters of VAWC, and **21% (14/68)** believed that all institutions treated all with respect and dignity when handling matters of VAWC.
- Overall, **84%** of the stakeholders hold the view that the CJS is not fair, across all the institutions.

PERFORMANCE OF THE CJS

To capture the CJS's overall performance, this assessment sought to answer the following questions:

- What are the legal framework and processes in place for handling cases of VAWC in Uganda?
- How well is the CJS performing in terms of case progression and trauma-informed care on cases of VAWC in Uganda?

Legal framework: From document reviews, there are several international and national legal frameworks in place to protect women and children from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, and to uphold their rights. These include:

- **Children:** The Convention on the Rights of Children, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC-2004), The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, The Prevention of Torture Act 2012, Children Act CAP 62, Children (Amendment) Act 2016, Local Council Courts 2006 and Local Council Regulations 2007, Domestic Violence Act 2010, The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010, Penal Code Act CAP 128, The Prevention of Trafficking in Person's Act 2009.
- **Women:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), UN level, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW Committee), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966 (ICCPR), The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, The Penal Code Act CAP 128, and National Policy Framework.

Case Progression

Furthermore, the assessment reviewed the CJS's performance by evaluating completed investigation (total N=410) case files at selected police stations and legal case files (total N=441) in the past two years at magistrate and high courts. Researchers found:

- In **92% (376/410)** of the cases files, official statements were collected from victims, key witnesses, and suspects.
- In **49% (202/410)** of the casefiles, potential non-testimonial evidence was properly collected for investigations by law enforcement officials.
- **58% (38/65)** of the case files had investigations in which forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence was completed in a timely manner.
- In **81% (331/408)** of case investigations, government officials independently followed up on all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry.
- In **98% (401/410)** of the cases files, investigations resulted in an arrest.
- Almost half (**49%, 201/410**) of the investigations into IPV and SVAC were filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court.
- The average time taken for investigations of IPV and SVAC cases to be completed was **81 days**.

Legal: The team assessed overall case outcomes through the review of legal files (total N=441) and discovered:

- A total of **460** suspects were formally charged with IPV and SVAC cases. (Note: some files had more than one suspect)
- **99% (455/460)** of suspects were held in pre-trial custody.
- In **64% (293/460)** of cases, the accused persons had the final judgement as a conviction and none were appealed.
- The average time for violence-related cases to move from formal sanctioning (charges are registered to court) to final judgment was **276 days**.
- **11% (53/476)** of the charges against the accused were definitively dismissed by court in which the prosecutor was unable to proceed.
- Nearly **two-thirds (63% (300/474))** of victims were accompanied by a victim representative during the criminal trial proceedings.

Trauma-informed care

In terms of trauma-informed interactions,

the researchers found that, of **1,224 women** that experienced IPV in their lifetime, **2% (25/1,224) had interacted with the CJS in the last one month**.

- **24% (6/25)** of victim interactions with the justice system were trauma-informed, based on victim interviews
- **80% (20/25)** of justice actors spoke to victims of intimate partner and sexual violence in a way that was easy for them to understand.
- **56% (14/25)** of victims were informed of their rights and options.
- **44% (11/25)** of victims felt comfortable that the information they shared would stay private or be safely disclosed.
- **72% (18/25)** of victims felt they were treated well when reporting the crime, and that justice actors adequately protected them during interactions.
- **52% (13/25)** of the victims had positive perceptions of the justice system.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results above, we can conclude that:

The **prevalence** of IPV and SVAC remains high in Uganda and more action is needed to adequately protect women and children from physical, sexual, and emotional violence. Currently, **almost half of all Ugandan women** have experienced an act of IPV in their lifetime, and **6 in 10 children** in Uganda have experienced sexual violence.

People's **reliance** on the CJS is low. Only **12% of incidents** of physical and/or sexual violence involving women were reported to relevant CJS agencies, 16% to non CJS agencies in the last 12 months. This demonstrates the huge reporting gap with the biggest percentage not reported anywhere and a higher reliance on non-CJS agencies.

Stakeholders' **confidence** in the CJS is low: **Only 18% (12/68)** of the stakeholders interviewed expressed confidence in the **effectiveness of the CJS**, **6% (4/68)** of stakeholders had confidence in the

efficiency of all the three CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC, with only 7% (5/68) believing CJS agencies provided timely services. Overall, 84% of the stakeholders hold the view that the CJS is not fair, across all the institutions. This highlights the urgent need for interventions that address these gaps leading to timely service delivery for IPV and SVAC cases.

The CJS' performance must be improved significantly if it is to uphold its mandate to protect women and children from

violence. For example, this assessment found that 48% of SVAC and IPV investigation files were either closed or inactive, with only 49% filed with the prosecutor's office. This means that close to half of all completed investigations into IPV and SVAC cases do not reach the prosecutor's office. If left unaddressed, women and children will remain unprotected from violence, and IPV and SVAC will continue to wreak havoc in communities across the country.

Acronyms

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	IJM	International Justice Mission
ACRWC	The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	ILED	Investigations and Law Enforcement Development
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	IRC	International Research Consortium
ASO	Assessment of Survivor Outcomes	JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
CAT	Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984	KII	Key Informant Interviews
CDO	Community Development Officer	LC	Local Council
CI	Confidence Interval	LCCA	Local Council Courts Act
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	LCFR	Legal Case File Reviews
CEDOVIP	Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention	LDC	Law Development Centre
CFPU	Child and Family Protection Unit	MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
CID	Criminal Investigations Directorate	MUREC	Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee
CJS	Criminal Justice System	NDP	National Development Plan
DCC	District Chain Link Committees	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
DCC/CCC	District/City Coordination Committees	ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
DCDO	District Community Development Officer	PEP	Post-exposure Prophylaxis
DEO	District Education Officer	PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
DEVAW	Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women	PSWO	Probation, Social, and Welfare Officer
DGAL	Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratories	SD	Standard Deviation
DQA	Data Quality Assurance	SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SDSP	Social Development Sector Plan
FIDA	Uganda Association of Women Lawyers	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
GBV	Gender-based Violence	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
GOU	Government of Uganda	SVAC	Sexual Violence Against Children
GPS	Global Positioning System	TIC-I	Trauma-informed Care Victim Interview
HSSIP	Health Sector Strategy and Investment Plan	UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	UNCST	Uganda National Council of Science and Technology
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
ICFR	Investigations and Law Enforcement Development Case File Review	UPF	Uganda Police Force
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)

IJM is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future that lasts.

For over 25 years, IJM has partnered with local authorities all over the world to help remove children, women, and men from situations of extreme violence. Currently, IJM partners with local authorities in 33 programme offices in 19 countries to combat trafficking and slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power. Its vision is to rescue millions, protect half a billion, and make justice for the poor unstoppable.

IJM has a proven track record for success, having reduced slavery and violence by 50–85% in nine different jurisdictions around the world—including Uganda, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, India, and more. Since 1997, IJM has worked with national partners to bring protection for 10,795,165 vulnerable people against violence.

1.2 IJM IN UGANDA

IJM began operations in Kampala, Uganda in 2004, with a project in Mukono focused on protection of widows and orphans from violent dispossession of their property. The programme expanded to Gulu in 2012. In 2017/18 the casework focus pivoted with a project on sexual violence against children in Fort Portal, Western Uganda, and a pilot project on intimate partner violence in Gulu, Northern Uganda. In 2017, IJM Uganda successfully closed the land theft project with an endline study finding a significant

decrease of nearly 50% in property grabbing among widows in Mukono County, as well as a drop in attempted land theft (more than 50%), and a decrease in land theft with violence (37%).

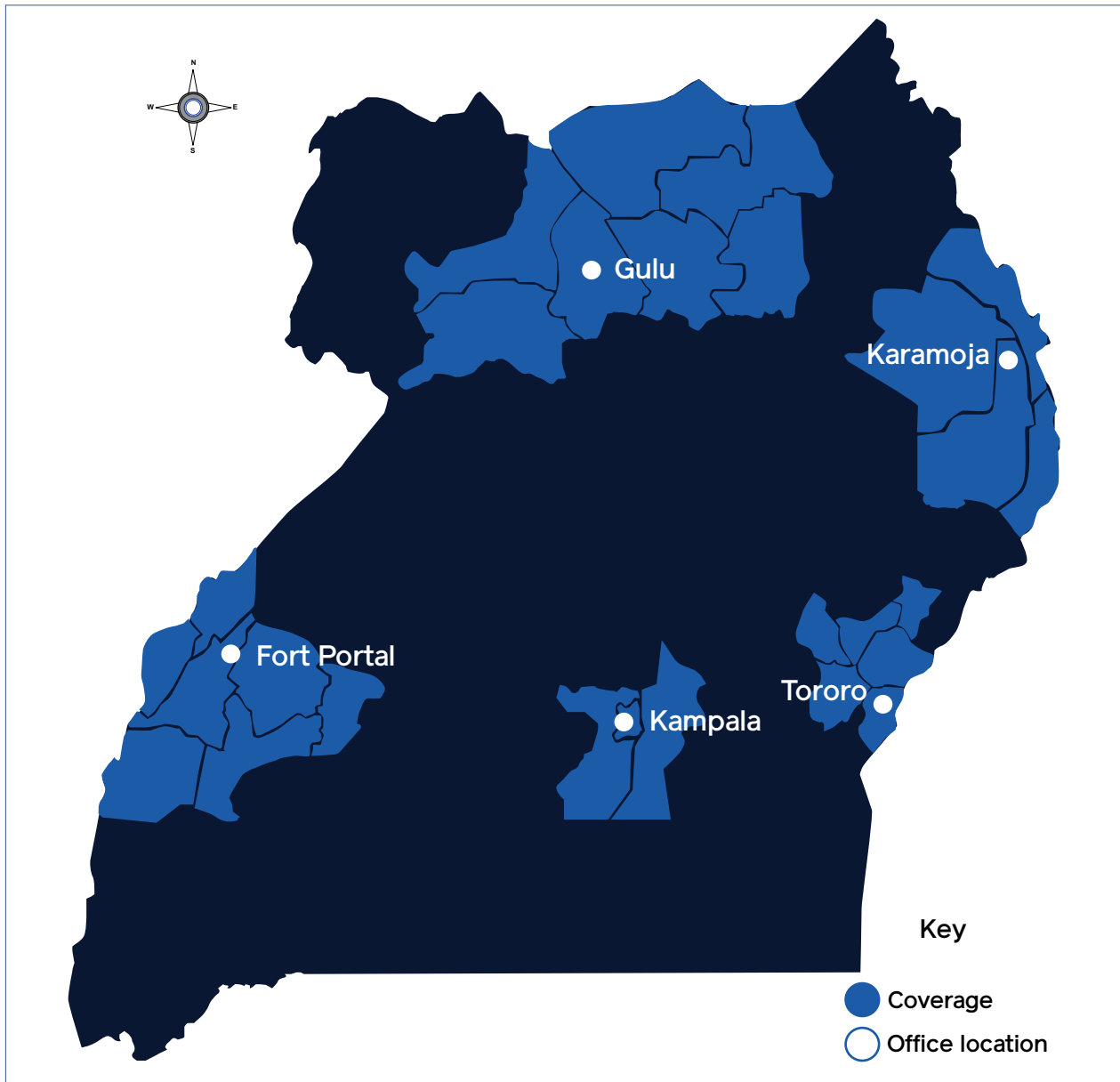
The IJM Uganda 2021–2030 Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Programme is to be implemented in 29 districts, in Northern, Western, Central, Eastern and North-Eastern Uganda. The programme casework focus is domestic violence and sexual violence against children.

IJM Uganda partners with criminal justice agencies to strengthen the justice system to respond to violence against women and children, to enforce the law, and hold perpetrators accountable, while supporting survivors to undertake the justice journey.

Additionally, IJM Uganda works to strengthen preventive and response mechanisms by equipping local, religious, traditional, and cultural leaders and communities to protect women and children; strengthening the capacities of the essential service providers; and engaging and empowering survivor groups and leaders.

In partnership with government entities, civil society partners and other key stakeholders, IJM's Uganda VAWC Programme seeks to implement a variety of scalable and sustainable interventions nationwide (as shown in Figure 1). By achieving this robust vision, IJM Uganda will demonstrate the value of improving justice sector services to other stakeholders in Uganda and contribute positively to IJM's global VAWC programming.

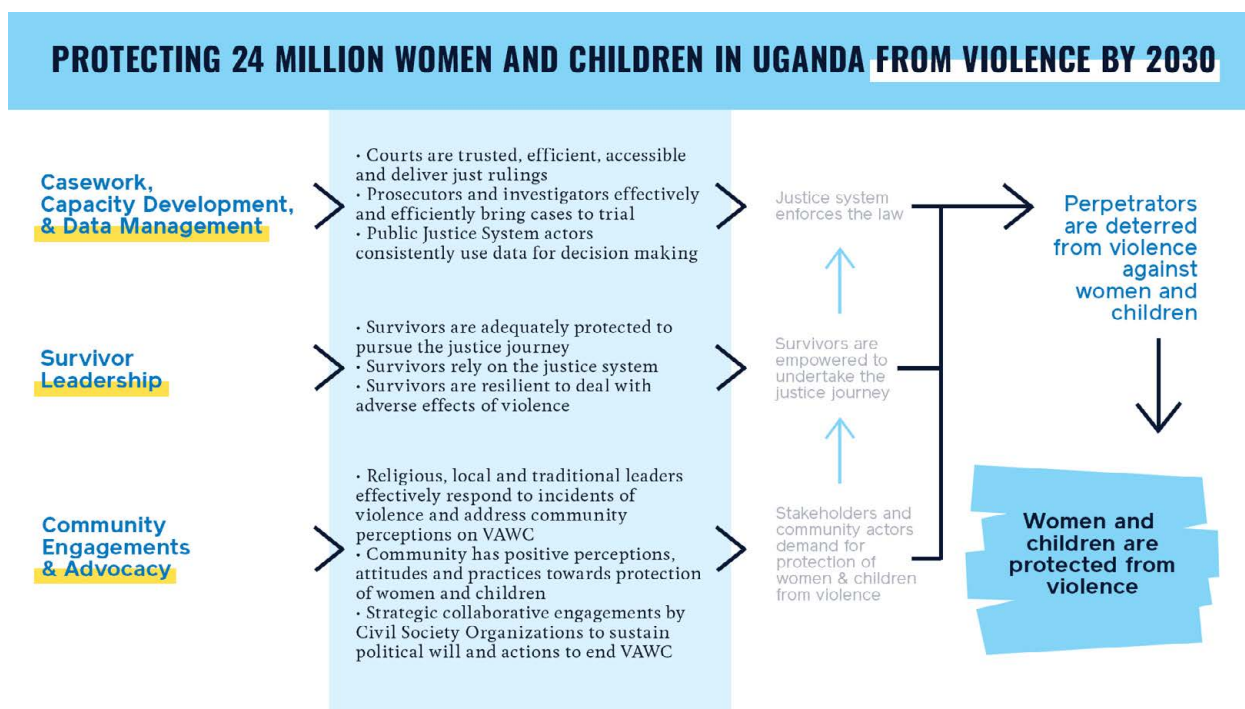
Figure 1: Map of Uganda showing IJM Uganda programme intervention areas



The Programme's Theory of Change (ToC) models how the programme intends to protect 24 million women and children in Uganda by 2030. Using IJM's Global Protection Measurement Domains—prevalence, reliance, confidence, and performance—IJM Uganda will focus on three major outcomes with sub-outcomes. These provide the basis for the measurement indicators across the four protection domains.

These programme outcomes address both the supply of and the demand for justice—the CJS sits on the side of supply while all actors acting outside of the CJS, including community members, sit on the side of demand. In order to achieve justice and protection of women and children from violence, it is imperative to address challenges on both sides of the spectrum.

Figure 2: IJM Uganda VAWC programme theory of change (ToC)



Four Protection Domains

Protection can be defined as the array of benefits provided to people in poverty through a strengthened justice system.¹ IJM measures four protection domains of change:

- **Prevalence** of VAWC: Prevalence is defined as the proportion of the population who have experienced a form of violence within a certain time period.
- **Reliance** of vulnerable people on the CJS: *Reliance* refers to the degree to which vulnerable people rely on the CJS for protection. The term “reliance” suggests that vulnerable people perceive the CJS as both useful and trustworthy in protecting them.
- **Confidence** of key stakeholders in the CJS to deliver justice: *Confidence* is measured as the level by which key stakeholders, defined as those holding significant power and/or influence, perceive the CJS to be effective, efficient, and fair in protecting people from IPV and SVAC. In other words, how well and willing is the CJS to protect people from violence?²

- **Performance** of the CJS: Performance is measured by the CJS’ demonstrated capacity and willingness to effectively protect people. Specifically, it measures how the CJS performs in terms of case progression and application of desired behaviors and attitudes of justice system actors. It focuses on measuring performance of three pillars of a robust and functioning justice system: law enforcement, legal/prosecution and judiciary, and aftercare (psychosocial support) for survivors.

Why these four domains? “Once we see that the **performance** of the justice system has increased, that the **confidence** of key stakeholders in the justice system is strong, that vulnerable people’s **reliance** on the system has improved and that the **prevalence of violence** has decreased, *then* we will be able to say that we have achieved protection.” (IJM Protection Model Workbook)

¹ IJM Protection model workbook 2.0, 2023.

² IJM Global Standardized indicators for measuring

stakeholders’ confidence, 2024.



2.0 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

2.1 THE ISSUE GLOBALLY

Violence Against Women and Children has long been recognized by the global community as a public health and human rights problem. It affects millions of women and children around the world. Although men, women, boys, and girls can all certainly experience violence, most of cases involving violence affect women and girls³. Those living in poverty are additionally vulnerable to a range of everyday forms of violence—including sexual violence and IPV.

Globally, more than 570 million women are estimated to be subjected to gender-based violence every year. Of these 570 million women, about 60% experience violence at the hands of their intimate partners.⁴ Nearly 736 million women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime,⁵ and approximately 1 in 10 girls under age 18 (approximately 120 million) worldwide have experienced forced intercourse or other unwanted sexual acts⁶—half of these instances happen before girls turn 16 years old.⁷ In 2021, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women estimated that 81,000 women and girls were killed that same year, with 56% of killings orchestrated by intimate partners or family members.

In Africa, women are more than twice as likely to be killed by an intimate partner—2.5 per 100,000 women compared to a global rate of 1.1 per 100,000 women.⁸ In fact, Sub Saharan Africa is one of three regions globally with the highest rates of lifetime IPV at 27%.⁹

³ World. Violence against women. S.I.: United Nations, 2020.

⁴ Women, World. Violence against women. S.I.: United Nations, 2020.

⁵ <https://www.ijm.org/our-work/violence-women-children>

⁶ Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Violence against Children in Uganda: Findings from a National Survey. Kampala Uganda : UNICEF, 2015.

⁷ <https://www.ijm.org/our-work/violence-women-children>

⁸ UNODC and UN Women. Global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere in 2021, 2021.

⁹ World Health Organisation. Violence against women prevalence estimates: global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence. Geneva : s.n., 2018.

Violence defined

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) occurs between people in current (or former) intimate relationships and may take many forms including physical, sexual, and/or emotional violence. Women exposed to IPV suffer from higher levels of poor physical and mental health, poor psychological health, depression, anxiety, and phobias, and are more likely to harbor thoughts of suicide and attempt suicide. The victims of violence may also experience adverse sexual and reproductive health problems, including sexually transmitted infections, negative pregnancy outcomes, and unwanted pregnancies.¹⁰

Sexual Violence Against Children (SVAC) relates to acts of sexual abuse and/or sexual exploitation involving children and may take many forms, including completed non-consensual sex acts, attempted non-consensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact, and the exploitative use of children for sex.

2.2 THE ISSUE IN UGANDA

Violence against women and children is a significant problem in Uganda, as confirmed by a number of earlier studies and reports. The Uganda Board of Statistics (UBOS) Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Survey 2020 found that 56% of women experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. This statistic is found to be the highest in the Acholi sub-region at 78% and the lowest in Busoga region at 22%. In regard to SVAC, 35% of girls (1-in-3) and 17% of boys had experienced sexual violence before their 18th birthday, significantly higher than the global average—while 25% were assaulted before their 13th birthday. Of the victims, 80% of girls and 93% of boys personally knew the perpetrators.¹¹

¹⁰ Effects of rural-urban residence and education on intimate partner violence. Maria Sarah Nabaggala, Tarylee Reddy, Samuel Manda. 2021, BMC Women's Health.

¹¹ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020. Kampala, Uganda.

Most cases of IPV and sexual violence still go unreported, and survivors infrequently seek help—whether from medical professionals or mental health services. In Uganda, only 37% of sexually related crimes were investigated and tried in court in 2023, resulting in minimal social, legal, or economic consequences for the perpetrators. Known reasons for this include victims' inability to access appropriate services, weaknesses within the justice system, a general lack of knowledge or awareness of essential services, the normalization of abuse, widely accepted societal and gender norms, and the stigmatization of victims from community or service providers.¹²

As in most sub-Saharan African countries, Ugandan women from rural areas and those less educated experience disproportionately higher rates of violence compared to urban, more educated women. There is also documented evidence that women who hold a tolerant attitude towards wife-beating—attributable to the normalization of violence—were more likely to experience IPV than those with a non-tolerant attitude. Finally, higher levels of alcohol consumption directly correlate to higher rates of IPV.¹³

The link between violence, poverty, and dependence is very evident. IPV is found to be more frequent in households under economic strain—a woman is more likely to stay in an abusive relationship when she is financially dependent on her abuser—while greater household wealth is associated with lower levels of IPV.¹⁴

Furthermore, perpetrators of violence benefit from impunity as a result of these gaps within the CJS while survivors face considerable obstacles in their pursuit of justice and struggle to recover from their abuse. In many cases, despite legislation in place, perpetrators of IPV are dealt with more leniently compared to perpetrators of similar violence with strangers, which continues to lower victims' confidence in

the justice systems.¹⁵ Additionally, like many African countries, the legal proceedings in Uganda are not trauma-informed.¹⁶ As such, the formality of court proceedings and the complications of court administration are intimidating and alien to the average person, much less those having to relive the trauma of their violent abuse.

IJM Uganda, in the strategic document for its Uganda VAWC Programme has identified **four key factors** contributing to the overall problem:¹⁷

1. Social and cultural norms and religious views—including held beliefs around wife beating, female submission, female sexuality, and gender roles—play a part in perpetuating violence and normalizing it for the next generation, too. All this prevents VAWC from being taken seriously or, in many cases, even being acknowledged at all.¹⁸
2. First responders—mainly police—are difficult to access and lack sufficient capacity and resources to deal with reported cases. IPV is generally higher among women living in rural areas where police services are less available or out of reach.
3. Legal proceedings are slow, poorly coordinated, and are not trauma-informed.
4. Survivors of violence are not adequately supported, and the absence of such support has a multiplying effect.

2.3 HOW IS UGANDA CURRENTLY PROTECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE?

The Government of Uganda (GoU) has made positive strides in its justice and social

¹² Uganda Police Force. *Annual Crime Report 2024*. Kampala: Uganda

¹³ *Magnitude and determinants of intimate partner violence against women in East Africa: multilevel analysis of recent demographic and health survey*. Kebede, Sewnet Adem, Weldesenbet, Adisu Birhanu and Tusa, Biruk Shalmeno. 74, 2022, *BMC Women's Health*, Vol. 22.

¹⁴ *Economic empowerment and intimate partner violence: a secondary data analysis* Heidi Stöckl, Anushé Hassan, Meghna Ranganathan and Abigail M. Hatcher. 2021, *BMC Women's Health*.

¹⁵ *Intimacy and Violence: Exploring the Role of Victim-Defendant Relationship in Criminal Law*. Dawson, Myrna. 4, s.l.: *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 2006, Vol. 96.

¹⁶ Amwiine, Earnest, et al. 2021, *Perceptions of females about trauma-informed services for survivors of sexual violence in south western Uganda- a qualitative study*. *BMC Public health*, 2021, Vol.

¹⁷ *International Justice Mission. IJM Uganda Program Concept Note: Strengthening the justice system to end violence against women and children, Uganda*. Kampala : International Justice Mission, 2022.

¹⁸ *Annual Crimes Report*. Kampala : Uganda Police Force, 2023.

service systems that add to the protection of vulnerable groups against violence. For example, a broad range of programmes have been implemented in various contexts, including primary care counselling, referrals to shelters, referrals to personal and vocational counselling, and justice system reform. Several interventions that address societal norms, attitudes, and behaviors have been successful—such as engaging men and boys in GBV prevention initiatives.

International and national laws and policies

There are several international and national legal frameworks that uphold children's right to protection from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Uganda has committed to SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), including SDG 5.2 (Eliminate violence against women and girls)¹⁹.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁰ which establishes legally binding standards for countries in relation to the rights of children, and provides a framework for states to form laws, policies, and practices that ensure the protection and promotion of children's rights. This includes their right to protection from all forms of violence.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC-2004)²¹ which outlines children's rights and defines universal principles and norms for the status of children across Africa.

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda²² is the supreme law of the land. It is comprehensive and includes provisions intended to protect vulnerable populations including women and children from violence, abuse, and exploitation. For example, the Constitution sets the minimum age for marriage at 18 and specifies that "men and

women are entitled to equal rights in marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution" (Article 31).

The Prevention of Torture Act, 2012²³

was enacted to further define and put into practice articles 24 and 44 of the 1995 Constitution. It is part of Uganda's obligation as a state party to the United Nation's Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It states that any form of torture, cruel, inhuman, and/or degrading treatment is prohibited under the law.

The Children Act CAP 59²⁴ outlines guiding principles regarding the welfare of children, with several provisions intended to mitigate violence against children, including:

- **(Section 7) Harmful customary or cultural practices: Defined as**, any customary or cultural practice that is harmful to his health, education, social, and/or economic development—such as child early marriages and female genital mutilation.
- **(Section 8) Harmful and/or hazardous work:** Prohibits the employment of children or engagement of children in any activity that may be harmful or hazardous to their health or physical, spiritual, emotional, and/or social development.
- **(Section 8A) Sexual exploitation:** States that no person shall engage a child in any work that exposes the child to activities of sexual nature, whether paid or not.
- **(Section 94(9)):** Prohibits any child from being subjected to corporal punishment.

Children (Amendment) Act 2016²⁵ is an amendment to the Children Act Cap. 59 and further adds to the protection of children by strengthening the provision for guardianship of children, improving the conditions for inter-country adoption, prohibiting corporal punishment, providing for the National Children Authority, repealing the National Council for Children Act, Cap. 60, and similar matters.

¹⁹ UN. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

²⁰ (<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>)

²¹ 36804-treaty African_charter_on_rights_welfare_of_the_child.pdf

²² Constitution -1995

²³ [ug-act-2012-3-publication-document.pdf](#)

²⁴ Children Act - ULII

²⁵ Children (Amendment) Act, 2016 - ULII

- **Section 4** provides a comprehensive list of children's rights.
- **Section 7** covers the protection of children from harmful customary practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- **Section 8** protects children from harmful employment and labor.
- **Section 106A** prohibits corporal punishment in schools.
- **Section 10** protects children from violence and provides a right to access child protection services.

The new Act also addresses sexual abuse and exploitation, child sacrifice, child trafficking, institutional abuse of children, and other forms of physical and emotional abuse. It provides for preventative and response services for victims of child abuse and neglect, and for mandatory reporting of child abuse by medical practitioners, teachers, and social workers.

Local Council Courts 2006 and Local Council Regulations 2007²⁶ establishes Local Council Courts (LCCs) as administrators of justice and defines the jurisdiction, powers, and procedure of the established courts.

- **Section 10(1) (d)** of the Local Council Courts Act states that it is the general duty of every local government council from the village to the district level to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within its area and to designate one of its members to be the person responsible for the welfare of children.
- **Section 10** of the Act further provides that, every local government council shall mediate in any situation where the rights of a child are infringed and especially with regard to the protection of a child.

Domestic Violence Act 2010²⁷ was enacted by Parliament in 2010 to provide protection and relief for victims of domestic violence and punishment for perpetrators.

The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010²⁸ was enacted in 2010 in order to fulfill Uganda's international

obligation as a state party to the International Convention on Human Rights. The Act prohibits female genital mutilation, outlines prosecution and punishment for offenders, and protects victims.

Penal Code Act CAP 120²⁹ outlines offenses prohibited under the law. In regard to children, it prohibits defilement, child-to-child sex, kidnap with intent to rape, and more. In regard to intimate partner violence, it makes provisions for the offenses of threatening violence, assaults, grievous harm.

The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009³⁰ prohibits the trafficking of persons, creates offences, and outlines punishment for offenders. Under the act, no person shall be subjected to exploitation, including: sexual exploitation, forced marriage, child marriage, forced labor, harmful child labor, use of a child in armed conflict, use of a person including a child in illegal activities, debt bondage, slavery or practices similar to slavery, human sacrifice, the removal of organs or body parts for sale for purposes of witchcraft, and any other harmful rituals or practices.

The Uganda Gender Policy 2007³¹ is in tandem with the National Development Plan II (NDP) (2015/2016–2019/2020), which underpins gender equality and the removal of GBV as the basis for development. The Policy gives legitimacy to other commitments such as the National Action Plan on Women (2007); the Uganda Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820; the Justice, Law and Order Sector Investment Plan; the Social Development Sector Plan (SDSP); and the Health Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (HSSIP).

The National Community Development Policy for Uganda 2015³² recognizes gender sensitivity as one of its guiding principles. It advocates for male involvement in reproductive health as well as utilizing a community dialogue approach to address GBV and other harmful cultural practices.

²⁹ THE PENAL CODE ACT. CHAPTER 120

³⁰ Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009 - ULII

³¹ Gender Policy Booklet.pmd

³² National-Social-Protection-Policy-uganda.pdf

The Equal Opportunities Policy 2006³³ focuses on gender-equitable access and comparison of resources and addresses negative cultural practices that limit opportunities for marginalized men and women.

The Uganda National Culture Policy 2006³⁴ seeks to promote community action on cultural practices that undermine human dignity.

The National Health Policy 2012³⁵ recognizes that domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse, and abuse of children is often related to excessive use of alcohol and affects the overall health outcomes of Uganda. The Policy is seeking to address this through health promotion and prevention.

Key actors in the Criminal Justice System

Judiciary as outlined in Article 126 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, states that judicial power is derived from the people and shall be exercised by the courts established under the Constitution in the name of the people, in conformity with the law, and with the values, norms, and aspirations of the people.

The Judiciary is constitutionally obliged to administer justice in civil (individual-and-individual) and criminal (state-and-individual) disputes; interpret and defend the Constitution and the laws of Uganda; promote the rule of law; promote human rights of individuals and groups; initiate, develop, and implement training programmes for the development of the Judiciary staff; contribute to the enforcement of law and order; and introduce modalities for alternative dispute resolution to reduce the burden of cases on the courts.

In 2022-2023, the government created specialized courts to handle criminal and family matters, resulting in more Judicial Officers, more high court circuits created, and more magisterial areas established

across the country for purposes of implementing more magistrate courts.

The court sessions are being conducted in conjunction with the Governance and Security Secretariat, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). These court sessions are in direct response to the urgent need to reduce the growing threat of SGBV offenses as well as fulfill Uganda's commitments to eradicate SGBV in the country. So far, UNFPA has given UGX7.7 billion over the last four years to fund these special sessions, which has enabled the handling of 38 sessions in High Court and Chief Magistrate Courts, and the disposal of 2,751 cases. Part of the funds have been used to create a compendium of resources for pre-session training, media engagements, and project reviews at the end of the sessions.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is responsible for upholding public confidence in the CJS' prosecution services. There are five departments under this office, including the Anti-Corruption Department; Department of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences; Land Crimes Department; Department of General Case Work; and the Department of Appeals and Miscellaneous Applications.

The Department of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences is a specialized department in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Directorate of Prosecutions. Its mandate is to handle Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and children-related cases through prosecution-led investigations, perusal and sanctioning of related files, and conducting related prosecutions. The department also handles gender and equity mainstreaming within the ODPP.

Its key objectives are; to provide legal advice to investigators in SGBV and children-related cases, to prosecute SGBV and children-related cases, to promote gender responsive strategies, and to maintain stakeholder collaborations.

Uganda Police Force is mandated to protect life and property, prevent and detect

³³ THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION ACT, 2007

³⁴ Microsoft Word - THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA 2006_signed copy_.doc

³⁵ Microsoft Word - National eHealth Policy 2016 today .doc

crime, keep law and order, and maintain overall security and public safety in Uganda. The Uganda Police Force collaborates with the ODPP at various stages of the legal process—from initial investigation through to the prosecution of cases in court. Police receive legal guidance from the prosecution during investigations, witness statements, searches, seizure protocols, and the admissibility of evidence in court.

Actors outside the CJS who play a key role in the protection of women and children against violence

The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD) is responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of the vulnerable population; addressing gender inequalities; ensuring cultural growth, labor, and employment; community mobilization; and empowerment efforts. The Ministry plays a fundamental role in creating demand for social services and laying a foundation for other sectors to improve their outcomes. MGLSD also provides psychosocial support services to survivors of VAWC.

Probation and Social Welfare Officers (PSWO) handle all child-related matters at the district level, especially in situations where there is conflict with the law or when children's rights are infringed upon. Probation officers make inquiries about child cases to enable the courts to make appropriate judgments.

Community Development Officers work at the sub-county level under the supervision of the District Community Development Officer (DCDO)—the government representative responsible for the planning, budgeting, monitoring, and implementing of development programmes at the community level. They are the primary link between communities and social welfare services and responsible for sensitizing communities to legislation on gender and child rights. They are responsible for five core functions: bottom-up participatory planning, community mobilization, social protection, gender mainstreaming, and linkages and networking for service delivery.

Health service providers are responsible for providing appropriate healthcare to the

victims of GBV. They are mandated to record detailed history of cases, perform physical examinations and investigations, provide appropriate treatment(s), collect forensic evidence, offer psychosocial support, and testify in the courts of law on their respective findings.

In cases of sexual violence, the victim is expected to be given post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) within 72 hours from the time of the sexual assault to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS. Emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) should be provided within 72 hours to guard against possible pregnancy.

Civil Society Organizations play an instrumental role in shaping and reinforcing the administration of justice in Uganda. They act as advocates, educators, and community watchdogs and can help the GoU and its governing bodies uphold justice for all, but especially for vulnerable groups.

Local Council Courts (LCCs) were established in 1997 under the Local Governments Act of 1997 and in accordance with the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, in an effort to decentralize the court system and establish local governing bodies. In the bid to further institutionalize local governance, the Executive Committees (Judicial Powers) Act—which initially provided for the Local Council Courts—was repealed by the Local Council Courts Act, 2006 (LCCA) under Section 50.

Religious and traditional institutions play an important role as many victims of GBV prefer to report incidents to local religious leaders and traditional institutions, such as clan elders and leaders, before reporting cases of violence to the local authorities. Therefore, these institutions have a responsibility as first responders to be aware of and to follow the justice process.

Conclusion

While Uganda's enabling environment includes many promising elements, significant progress is still required to achieve SDG 5.2 and IJM's goal of strengthening the criminal justice system to

end violence against women and children. The active presence of specialized civil society organizations, coupled with the openness of key government stakeholders to collaborate, presents a powerful

opportunity to drive meaningful and lasting change.





3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

This baseline assessment was conducted as part of IJM's Uganda VAWC Programme. It captures objective insights into the current state of VAWC in Uganda, efforts to address it, and their effectiveness. The baseline metrics captured in this assessment will be used to guide interventions within IJM's Protection Model, evaluate their impact, and measure outcomes across the four domains—prevalence, reliance, confidence, and performance—over the programme cycle (2021–2030).

Specifically, this assessment strives:

- To assess the baseline prevalence of IPV and SVAC.
- To assess the baseline status of victims' reliance on the CJS.
- To assess the baseline status of stakeholder confidence in the CJS.
- To comprehensively capture the legal framework and processes currently in place for handling cases of VAWC in Uganda and assess their performance.

These insights also help IJM's various stakeholders—government bodies, civil society organizations, other NGOs, and survivors of violence—understand the current climate and identify gaps in the system. Finally, IJM's commitment to baseline and endline assessments holds the organization accountable to delivering the improvements outlined for survivors and their communities.

This baseline assessment is the first data collection point and looks specifically at the supply and demand of justice in Uganda. To assess the strength of the CJS as experienced by those demanding justice, this assessment interviewed and evaluated women and children either directly affected by or vulnerable to VAWC, as well as general community members.

Women assessed were between 18–59 years and children between 13–17 years. To assess the strength of the CJS by those supplying justice, this assessment

conducted case file reviews for both completed investigations and legal casefiles, and interviewed justice system actors and duty bearers, including the Judiciary, ODPP, MOGLSD, and UPF.

3.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In line with its core objectives, this baseline assessment gathered relevant data across the four domains by seeking answers to the following questions:

- What is the prevalence of IPV and SVAC?
- To what extent is the vulnerable population reliant on the justice system for protection?
- What is the level of confidence of key stakeholders in the criminal justice system?
- What are the legal framework and processes for handling cases of violence against women and children in Uganda?
- How is the justice system performing in terms of case progression and trauma-informed care of VAWC cases in Uganda?

3.3 ASSESSMENT DESIGN

This assessment was the baseline data collection point for a quasi-experimental research design³⁶ using a mixed methods approach. Data was collected from both communities where IJM plans to implement its programme interventions (intervention areas) and those outside the targeted areas (comparison districts). This cross-sectional descriptive assessment allowed for a comprehensive understanding of VAWC in the target communities.

The mixed methods used in this assessment include:

- Secondary data collection and analysis through review of the existing legal framework and its application in dispensing justice. This was achieved through reviewing legal and investigation case files and identifying

³⁶ <https://opentext.wsu.edu/carriecuttler/chapter/non-equivalent-control-group-designs/>

- whether CJS actors used a trauma-informed approach in their handling of cases.
- Quantitative primary data collection using household surveys and interviews with women and children.
- Qualitative interviews with survivors and key CJS stakeholders, police, courts, prosecutors, duty bearers, local leaders, partners, etc.

Table 3.1 below shows the assessment's objectives aligned with the different protection domains and their respective data sources and tools. Annex B shows the different indicators for each of the four protection domains.

Table 3.1: Detailed description of data collection approach for the assessment

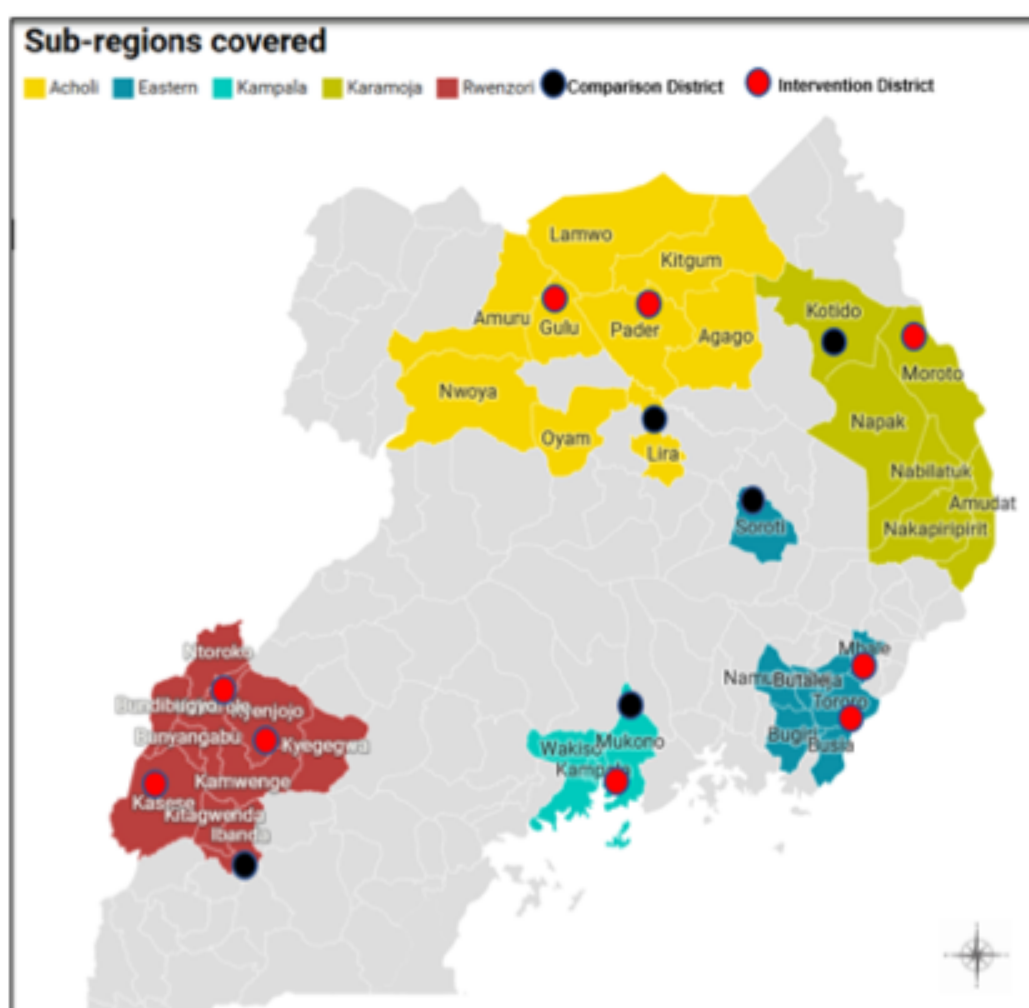
Domain	Objective	Research question	Data source and tools
Performance	To comprehensively describe and outline the legal framework and processes for handling cases of violence against women and children in Uganda.	To what extent is IJM's VAWC programme coherent and relevant to Uganda's landscape on violence against women and children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review of key documents • Key informant interviews (KII) guide • In-depth interviews (IDI) guide
	To assess the performance of the justice system in prevention and response to violence against women and children in Uganda, with an in-depth focus on the ability of the criminal justice processes to secure justice for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual violence against children	What is the performance of the justice system in prevention and response to violence against women and children in Uganda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal case file reviews (LCFR) • Investigations case file reviews (ICFR) • Assessment of survivor outcomes (ASO) – covered in the women and children's survey tool • Trauma-informed care interview (covered under the Women Survey tool) • Key informant interviews (KII) guide
Confidence	To measure changes in stakeholder confidence in the criminal justice system	What is the level of confidence of key stakeholders on the justice system?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key informant interviews (KII) guide that also include the Stakeholder Confidence Questionnaire • In-depth interviews (IDI) guide
Reliance	To assess the changes in reliance of victims / survivors of intimate partner violence and child sexual violence on the criminal justice system for redress	<p>To what extent is the vulnerable population reliant on the justice system for protection?</p> <p>What is the status of empowerment and protection of women and children against sexual and intimate partner violence?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Survey tool • Legal case file reviews (LCFR) • Investigations case file reviews (ICFR)
Prevalence	To measure change in the prevalence of IPV and SVAC	How prevalent is IPV and SVAC in Uganda?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Survey tool • Children Survey Tool

3.4 THE ASSESSMENT SETTING

IJM's Uganda VAWC Programme covers all four regions of Uganda—Central, Eastern, Western, and Northern Uganda. The assessment design and selection of intervention areas assumes that programme implementation will happen at the district-level. Direct implementation of IJM's programme will take place in selected districts across all four regions of Uganda. These are referred to as *intervention districts*.

Additional districts, where IJM will not directly implement the programme, are also included in the study in order to generate robust findings at the national level and for future comparative purposes. These districts, referred to as “comparison districts”, were selected based on matching criteria, i.e. the presence of comparable courts of law or judicial systems, cultural and socio-economic practices, population coverage, and location.

Figure 3: Map of Uganda showing the distribution of intervention and comparison districts for the study



3.5 THE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Enumerators were selected based on their proficiency in the local languages of the designated districts and their educational background. Individuals with at least a diploma in the field of humanities, social sciences, health sciences or another related field were considered for data collection. Under the supervision of the study's legal expert, qualified lawyers were selected for the legal and investigation case file reviews.

The study team engaged in a three-day training with practical sessions on the study design and methods, survey modules, ethics, data quality, and reporting using digital tools. In addition to the classroom training, the study team conducted a one-day field pre-test in the areas not selected for participation in the evaluation.

25 interviews were completed with 5 enumerators from different sub-regions. These were used to assess compliance with the protocol, tools, validation rules, feasible interview workload per day, and understanding of the tools. Minor adjustments to the translations and a few skip patterns were made to the tools based on the pre-test results.

The women and children surveys were carried out by 11 field teams, each comprised of five research assistants and one supervisor. Surveys were conducted over 25 days. The case file reviews were conducted by a team of 3 lawyers and 3 field assistants over a period of 16 days. The qualitative interviews were conducted by the study legal expert and 2 senior qualitative researchers over a period of 45 days.

Field teams were monitored by 5 quality controllers, specifically in relation to their ability to interview sampled respondents, build rapport, ask questions correctly, and implement the required ethical standards. Additionally, field supervisors conducted spot-checks on at least 2 surveys completed per day to identify inconsistencies. Supervisors were trained on how to review completed interviews on tablets without altering or losing any entries.

The supervisors also conducted spot-checks on the recordings of the qualitative interviews to ensure interviews were being done correctly and that interviewers were adhering to privacy and confidentiality guidelines. All data collected was downloaded and assessed daily. Any issues identified were sent immediately to supervisors for action.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The assessment team worked hard to

ensure the following ethical considerations:

Consultation

Study tools were developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including Judiciary, Police, ODPP, MoGLSD, CSOs and IJM staff, and assessment questions were aligned with Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and WHO standard tools.

Language inclusivity

All tools were translated into the relevant local languages - Luganda, Runyoro-Rutoro, Dhopadhola, Lumasaba, Ateso, Ngakarimajong, and Acholi/Lango.

Approvals

The evaluation protocol was approved by the Mildmay Uganda Research and Ethics Committee (MUREC)- MUREC-2023-231 (**Annex C1**) cleared and registered with the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST)-SS1980ES (Annex C2). Local administrative clearance was also obtained from the Resident Commissioners for the study districts/cities.

After the District approval, permission was also sought from LCs who were the entry points in the community. Working with the supervisors, the LCs supported the household listing exercise in the selected villages. Given the sensitive nature of the interviews, the LCs joined the enumerators during data collection.

Informed consent

Written informed consent was obtained from the respondents before each interview. Respondents were informed of the purpose of the study, the intended benefits, risks that might arise from participating, and how the research team would ensure that all their responses were kept confidential. The selection/sampling process was explained to respondents to avoid any misunderstandings, and respondents were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point. Caregivers consented for children to participate and then children were given the chance to give their consent before the interview process began.

Confidentiality and privacy

The study included a number of measures

to respect the respondents' confidentiality and protect their privacy. For example, personal identifiers were not collected from participants. Instead, unique study identifiers were used, which were not matched with study participants' identity and did not contain any identifying information. The study participants were only known and identified by study codes on the questionnaire, not names, and all interviews were conducted in a private area chosen by the participant.

Additionally, all study team members signed a confidentiality statement which confirmed their commitment to keep study information safe and confidential. Data collectors' contractual Letters of Agreement also explicitly stated that they had to uphold the confidentiality of all information collected and were required to not discuss it with anyone outside the study team.

Victim sensitivity and risk mitigation

Given the sensitive nature of the material discussed in the interviews, enumerators were trained in basic counseling and how to refer respondents to social services and justice actors. A physical referral sheet was provided to every enumerator. Field supervisors were encouraged to hold regular debriefings in which they could discuss disturbing information revealed during the interviews and process as a group to prevent secondary trauma.

Interviewers were also trained in how to deal with unexpected interruptions during interviews, such as a community or family member wanting to know details or take part. In this case, the interviewer was advised to change the topic by using a decoy questionnaire on health issues, for example. The respondents were forewarned about this option.

Compensation of participants

Each study participant was compensated with a gift-in-kind full bar of White Star laundry soap—for their time spent in the interview. This was in line with UNCST requirements for compensation of research participants, both direct and indirect beneficiaries.

3.7 STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Strengths

The assessment used rigorous methodology that integrates IJM standardized tools and national and international VAWC study tools and methodologies. This means that the data is highly reliable and comparable to other studies on VAWC. A benefit of this assessment is that it includes a justice measurement using IJM standard tools, which is not widely available elsewhere.

Another strength is that the study sample size (women=2,225 and children=1,126) is comparable to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) VAWC study, which included 2,683 women respondents. This assessment also included a thorough review of the legal framework in Uganda, which lays a strong foundation for programme design. Finally, the study employed mixed methodologies, which allows for triangulation of findings from one domain to another.

Limitations

Some of the custom tools and sampling criteria for reviewing the performance of the justice system were limited to completed investigation and legal files. This limited the ability to test key hypotheses regarding the performance of the CJS and creates pain points for intervention design.

Additionally, experiences of violence were self-reported by respondents, which introduces an element of cultural bias—for example, around the notion of disclosing violent incidents in the home and/or community.

3.8 METHODS BY PROTECTION MEASUREMENT DOMAIN

3.8.1 PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The assessment team used **Women's and Children's Survey tools** to assess the prevalence of IPV and SVAC in the selected

intervention and comparison districts, based on the following indicators:

- Proportion of women aged 18-59 who have ever experienced physical violence from an intimate partner (lifetime)
- Proportion of women aged 18-59 who have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months
- Proportion of women aged 18-59 who have ever experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner (lifetime)
- Proportion of women aged 18-59 who have experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months
- Proportion of children aged 13-17 years who have experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Estimated sample size for survey

The prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence from the Uganda VAWG survey 2020³⁷ was 34.6% in the past 12 months. This percentage was used to estimate the minimum sample size needed for this assessment

The sample size formula used is for 2 sample proportions for cluster interventions.³⁸ The sample size computation assumed 80% power of the study, 95% confidence interval, and an intra-cluster correlation coefficient of 0.05 that yielded a design effect of 1.5, in which:

$$n = \frac{2 * \left(Z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} + Z_{1-\beta} \right)^2 [P_0(1 - P_0) * P_1(1 - P_1)]}{\Delta^2} [(1 + (m - 1)\rho)]$$

Whereby:

- n is the sample size computed
- $Z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}$ represents the critical value, (Z) for the 95% confidence interval
- $Z_{1-\beta}$ represents critical value (Z) for the 80% power of study
- P_0 represents the proportion at time zero (baseline)
- P_1 represents the proportion at time zero (endline)
- mm represents the cluster size

³⁷ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020. Kampala, Uganda.

³⁸ How to design efficient cluster randomised trials. Hemming, K, et al. 358, 2017, BMJ (Online)

- ρ represents the intra-cluster correlation
- Δ represents the difference between P_1 and P_0

Assuming a minimum detectable difference of 7%, 80% power of the study, design effect of 1.5 to account for the clustering in the design, and 95% confidence interval, a minimum sample size of 1,087 per study group was estimated. Assuming a cluster size of 20 for the women survey and adjusting for a 95% response rate for the clusters, a total of 58 clusters/enumeration areas were considered per arm.

Thus, 20 women and 10 children were interviewed in each enumeration area. Overall, 580 children were targeted per arm, enabling the SVAC assessment to generate estimates that have the same power of 80% as the Women Survey. This assumes a 95% confidence interval and 1.5 design effect, but with the minimum detectable difference of 7%.

Sample selection procedures

The criteria for sample selection were informed by Uganda Bureau of Statistics' (UBOS) methodology used for the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020,³⁹ which contained three stages:

Stage 1: Grouping areas into strata based on the rural-urban classification at the district level. A sample of 58 areas for each arm was created using probability proportional to size (PPS) and worked for both the women and children survey modules.

Stage 2: In the 58 areas of study, the survey team created a complete list of households with at least one woman (18-59 years) and at least one child (13-17 years). The exact number of eligible women and children in each household were indicated. Based on this data, a random sample of 20 households was drawn for the women interviews and 10 households were selected for the children interviews in each of the 58 areas identified in Stage 1.

³⁹ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020. Kampala, Uganda.

Stage 3: Eligible⁴⁰ women and children were randomly selected based on the data collected in Stage 2.

Inclusion criteria

Selected households were included in the study if they:

- Contained a woman—defined as a female between the ages of 18 and 59 years—or a child, defined as a person between the ages of 13 and 17 years.
- Provided consent to participate in the study. Individual consent was required for the women and assent for the minors.

Data collection methods and tools

The Women and Children Survey: This assessment used the Women and Children Survey Tools to measure selected indicators under the prevalence domain (see Annex B for more information). This was done using the individual Women and Children Survey Tools.

These Women and Children Survey Tools covered variables including various sociodemographic characteristics, polygamy, age at time of first marriage, state of health, attitudes towards gender roles, current or most recent partnership(s), impact of violence on victims and victims' coping mechanisms, survivors' outcomes, survivors' confidence in the CJS, and the trauma-informed interview tool.

The survey tool measured the prevalence of IPV—defined widely as experience of physical violence, sexual violence or both. Specifically, IPV was defined as experience of physical violence, sexual violence, or both caused by a current or former intimate partner for both lifetime and in the last 12 months. “Ever-partnered women” were defined as women who were or had ever been married or cohabitated with an intimate partner.

SVAC was defined as all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation involving children, including: non-consensual sex acts, attempted non-consensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact, and the exploitative use of children for sex.

⁴⁰ Women and children who spent considerable time in the household and identified the household as their main home.

The assessment teams used the following definitions to measure violence:

- **Physical violence:** Was slapped, pushed, or shoved. Had an object thrown at oneself. Was hit with a fist or object. Was kicked, dragged, beaten up, choked, or burned on purpose. The perpetrator threatened to use or used a gun, knife, or other weapon against the victim.
- **Sexual violence:** Was physically forced to have sexual intercourse against one's will. Had sexual intercourse because of fear of repercussions for saying no. Was forced into a sexual act that was degrading or humiliating.
- **Emotional abuse:** Was insulted or made to feel bad about oneself. Was belittled or humiliated in front of other people. The perpetrator used tactics to intimidate or scare the victim, including yelling, smashing things, etc. The perpetrator threatened to hurt the victim's loved ones.
- **Controlling behaviors:** Perpetrator prohibited victim from having contact with family and friends, insisted on knowing whereabouts at all times, ignored or mistreated the victim, required the victim to ask for permission before seeking health services, was easily angered if the victim spoke with another man, or was frequently suspicious of adultery.

Severity scale used to measure level of violence

The questions on violence were divided into those related to “moderate” violence, and those considered “severe” violence⁴¹ (see below). The distinction between moderate and severe violence is based on the likelihood of physical injury.

Moderate violence: Respondent answers positively to one or more of the following questions:

- Has an intimate partner slapped you or thrown something at you that could hurt you?
- Has an intimate partner pushed or shoved you?

⁴¹Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. *Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020*. Kampala, Uganda

Severe violence: Respondent answers positively to one or more of the following questions:

- Has an intimate partner hit you with his fist or with something else that could hurt you?
- Has an intimate partner kicked you, dragged you, or beaten you up?
- Has an intimate partner choked or burned you on purpose?
- Has an intimate partner threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife, or other weapon against you?

Study tool development, programming, and in-house testing

Study tools were developed in consultation with IJM staff and aligned to the study questions. All tools were translated into relevant local languages, including Luganda, Runyoro-rutoro, Dhopadhola, Lumasaba, Ateso, Ngakarimajong, and Acholi/Lango.

The quantitative tools were programmed in SurveyCTO and tested in-house by IJM's programme teams. At programming level, validation rules were set to ensure that data entered into the data collection tools were consistent and within the expected ranges. For example, the questions were made compulsory to address the challenge of missing data, logical skip patterns were added to ensure that data collected was consistent, data types were defined for each variable to help avoid mistakes at entry, and a question that captured GPS coordinates was added to ensure that research assistants visited the right villages. Coordinates were later removed from the data. The in-house testing helped to ensure that data structures worked as expected, and the in-built skips and consistency checks functioned as expected.

Quantitative data processing and analysis

To ensure data security, all interviewers were authenticated using password protection and authorization procedures. All electronic data files were encrypted from the interviewer tablet and transferred via secure wifi to the IRC servers and IJM's Box account. Data processing included registering and checking for inconsistencies, incompleteness, and outliers. Data editing

and cleansing included structure and consistency checks to ensure completeness of work in the field. The central office also conducted secondary editing of computer-identified inconsistencies. The data was then processed by the data analyst and two programmers who took part in the main fieldwork training.

Following data collection, a separate file of personally identifiable variables was generated and password-protected. The non-personally identifiable dataset was used for data cleansing and analysis. All the data processing and analysis was completed using STATA version 16.0.⁴²

To assess the accuracy of the baseline sampling approach, the first step of analysis involved checking observed demographic and socioeconomic status characteristics by study group. The group differences for each variable were summarized using means and proportions and p-values indicated.

Descriptive analyses of participants' demographic characteristics were performed using means and proportions. Univariate and bivariate analyses were done to further characterize the study sample. For the women and children surveys, the association between background characteristics and physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, and forced sex was assessed using odds ratios.

3.8.2 RELIANCE OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE ON THE CJS

The assessment team used a variety of tools (see Annex C for more information) to assess vulnerable people's reliance on the CJS, based on five indicators out of the 9 reliance indicators in the measurement framework:

Extent to which survivors rely on the justice system:

- **Willingness to report crime:** The percentage of respondents who say they would report incidents of crime to relevant criminal justice agencies if they experienced a violation (using Women Survey tool L9hb-a)

⁴² Stata Corporation, College Station, Texas, USA

Willingness to participate in criminal proceedings: The percentage of the respondents who say they would participate in the entire criminal process if it happened to them and they were provided with the necessary support (using Women Survey tool L9hb-a)

Crime reporting rate: The percentage of incidents of IPV and SVAC reported to relevant CJS agencies during review period (using Women Survey tool L9hb-a)

Intermediary crime reporting rate: The percentage of crimes reported to non-CJS agencies during the reporting period (using Women Survey tool L9hb-a)

Crime reporting gap: The percentage per crime type not reported anywhere during period under review (using Women Survey tool L9hb-a)

Estimated sample size for survey

The reliance sample size was calculated based on the household Women and Children Survey Tools used to estimate sample size for the prevalence domain. The sample size computation assumed 80% power of the study, 95% confidence interval, and an intra-cluster correlation coefficient of 0.05 that yielded a design effect of 1.5. For all household survey respondents, the sample for reliance was selected from those that responded to having been victims of any violence or abuse.

Data collection methods and tools

The Women and Children Survey: The study used the Women and Children survey tool to measure selected reliance indicators as indicated above. The survey tool covered sociodemographic characteristics, assessment of survivor reporting and justice process participation behaviors, survivor confidence in the justice system, and the trauma-informed interview tool.

In-depth interviews (IDI): 14 IDIs were conducted with women survivors of violence in the study districts. The IDI guide was used to assess survivor's understanding and perceptions of violence against women and children, protection of victims

and perpetrators, existing social support systems, challenges, and recommendations for protecting victims and ending violence.

Study tool development, programming, and in-house testing

All processes and procedures used to measure the prevalence domain were used to measure the reliance domain.

Field work supervision: The Women and Children Surveys were conducted by 11 field teams, each composed of 5 research assistants and 1 supervisor, over a period of 25 days.

Quality control: 5 quality controllers monitored the field teams to ensure that interviews were being conducted appropriately and to ethical standards. Field supervisors conducted spot-checks on at least 2 surveys completed per day to identify inconsistencies that were raised with the team for action. Supervisors were trained on how to review completed interviews on tablets without altering or losing any entries.

To supplement the efforts of the supervisors, all data collected was downloaded daily and assessed in terms of survey speed, pauses during questioning, rapid consecutive surveys, unusual movement among research assistants between surveys, late surveys, simultaneous surveys, and unusual data patterns. All questionnaires identified with the above issues were sent to the supervisors for action.

Quantitative data processing and analysis

The first step of analysis involved checking observed demographic and socioeconomic status characteristics by study group. The group differences for each variable were summarized using means and proportions and p-values indicated. Descriptive analyses of the demographic characteristics of participants included in the study were performed using means and proportions. Univariate and bivariate analyses were done to further characterize the study sample. For the Women and Children Surveys, the association between background characteristics and physical violence, sexual

violence, emotional violence, and forced sex was assessed using odds ratios (OR).

3.8.3 CONFIDENCE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CJS

The assessment team used a variety of quantitative and qualitative tools (see Annex C for more information) to assess stakeholders' confidence in the criminal justice system on the basis of 3 components:

1. **Justice System Effectiveness:** The ability of the CJS as a whole to protect vulnerable women and children and deter the crime. This indicator goes beyond a view of individual CJS institutions to give perceptions on "overall protection effectiveness".
2. **Justice System Efficiency:** The degree to which institutions within the CJS independently carry out their responsibilities in alignment with legislative mandates.
3. **Justice System Fairness:** The extent to which JS institutions treat individuals equally and without discrimination. It encompasses impartial and unbiased treatment in legal proceedings, ensuring equal access to legal processes, unbiased judgment, and protection of rights for all parties involved.

Based on the above components, the assessment included the following indicators:

- The percentage of key stakeholders who reported feeling "confident" in the overall effectiveness of the CJS to protect vulnerable people from IPV and SVAC and deter the prevalence of IPV and SVAC, based on the confidence measurement scale (using Key Informant Interview Guide).
- The percentage of stakeholders who reported feeling "confident" in the efficiency of CJS institutions, based on the confidence measurement scale (using Key Informant Interview Guide)
- The percentage of stakeholders who reported feeling "confident" in the fairness of key government institutions (using Key Informant Interview Guide).

Sample size and selection procedures for qualitative interviews

Qualitative sample of 88 KIIs was determined prior to data collection and data was collected until no new information was obtained. The team reached data saturation after conducting **68 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**. These interviews captured the opinions and experiences of key justice service providers, partners, relevant ministry officials, and other key offices. The KIIs were conducted using a guide that assessed their understanding of VAWC, their confidence in the CJS, what they perceived as challenges in protecting women and children from violence, and their recommendations for improving protection. Confidence was measured by:

- Stakeholders' Confidence in Overall Justice System Effectiveness
- Stakeholders' Confidence in Justice System Efficiency
- Stakeholders' Confidence in Justice System Fairness

14 In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted with women survivors of violence in the target districts. The IDI guide was used to assess survivors' understanding and perceptions of VAWC, their confidence in the CJS and knowledge of existing social support systems, perceived challenges in protecting women and children from violence, and their recommendations for improving protection and reducing the prevalence of violence.

Respondents were selected based on their role and/or interaction with the CJS and their role in helping women and children seek justice through the CJS. Stakeholders included:

- **Government and CJS actors:** police officers and those responsible for law enforcement, investigation, and the protection of survivors; courts; prosecutors; duty bearers; and local officials responsible for implementing policies related to the VAWC.
- **Local leaders and community influencers:** traditional, cultural, and religious leaders; grassroots community representatives; and any other actors who act as intermediaries between the CJS and the community.

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations:** organizations and/or advocacy groups working in the area of protection and/or VAWC.
- **Donors and funding agencies:** Institutions or individuals providing financial support to programmes that address VAWC.

Data processing and analysis

For the qualitative data, all the interview recordings were uploaded to an encrypted folder and deleted from the collection devices to protect against unauthorized access. Qualitative interview transcripts were reviewed by supervisors for completeness and coherence before being coded. Qualitative data was coded using a Master Coding Sheet that was developed by the study qualitative expert based on the confidence measurement units for Effectiveness, Efficiency and Fairness.

The interview recordings conducted in languages other than English were transcribed and translated verbatim into English. All qualitative notes were entered into an Excel matrix structured according to the interview guides.

The collection, coding and analysis of data processes were blended throughout the study. The team used a master coding sheet based on the confidence measurement units for effectiveness, efficiency and fairness. Additional codes were determined during the coding process. Coding and analysis of the qualitative data was conducted iteratively while the researchers were still in the field.

Data analysis was conducted using the thematic content analysis approach and specific guidance of measuring stakeholder confidence in the CJS. All information collected in each district and respondent category was analyzed as one case, which allowed for triangulation and enabled the research team to check for internal consistency.

Connections between categories and themes were used to further understand the research questions. Direct quotes were selected and included in the report to emphasize the responses given without losing the original context of the meaning.

To measure overall effectiveness, fairness and efficiency the following formula was used:

Stakeholders' Confidence on Overall CJS Effectiveness = $\frac{\text{Number of Respondents who scored 4 points on the 4 items}}{\text{Total number of Respondents}} \times 100$.

Stakeholders' Confidence on Overall CJS Efficiency for all CJS institutions = $\frac{\text{Number of Respondents who scored 4 points on the 4 components of the indicator for each CJS institution}}{\text{Total Number of Respondents}} \times 100$.

Stakeholders' Confidence on Overall CJS Fairness for all CJS institutions = $\frac{\text{Number of respondents who scored 2 points on the 2 components for each CJS institutions}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$.

Table 3.2: Sample size distribution for qualitative data collection

Research method	Respondent Category	Sample size	No. of interviews conducted	Explanation
In-depth interviews (IDIs) with the beneficiaries	Women victims	15	14	1 in-depth interview was conducted for women separately for each of the sample districts to gain an in-depth understanding of the survivor's experiences with the justice systems or other alternative mechanisms used by the survivors. Information on the survivors' experience and perception of the performance of the CJS was obtained.
Key informant interviews (KIs)	Judiciary –Judicial Officers	07	09	The key informant interviews provided in-depth understanding of the justice systems to enforce law and other mechanisms that have been put in place to support survivors of violence. The informants also provided information on the performance of the CJS from the different respondents.
	ODPP – Prosecutors	07	07	
	MoGLSD	07	04	
	Ministry of Health	07		
	Ministry of Local Government	07	06	
	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and development partners	07	14	
	District officials (Probation, Community Development Officers)	07	11	
	Uganda Police Force	07	06	
	Religious leaders	07	05	
	Cultural leaders	07	02	
	Project staff	03	03	
TOTAL		88	81	(A total of 68 KIs, and 14 IDIs were conducted)

3.8.4 PERFORMANCE OF THE CJS

The assessment team used a variety of data collection methods and tools to 1) comprehensively describe and outline the legal framework and processes for handling cases of VAWC in Uganda, and 2) assess the CJS' baseline performance in terms of its ability to prevent and respond to VAWC in Uganda.

Sampling for the case file reviews

Case file reviews were conducted for IPV and SVAC cases in both intervention and comparison districts based on court jurisdiction. Separate sampling was done to determine the sample of each crime type. Although the sampling frame was following the completion of investigations or legal proceedings in the last 6 months, there was no sufficient sample of completed cases at either the police and courts levels. Therefore, the sampling frame was modified to cases completed in the last 2 years.

For each of the districts in the study, legal and investigation case files were reviewed:

- A completed **investigations file** was defined as a case file in which all investigative activities—interviews, evidence collection, and reports—had been completed, and a final disposition of the case had been determined (i.e. filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court, closed, inactivated, or referred).
- A completed **legal case file** was defined as a case file in which all legal activities had been completed, and a final disposition of the case had been determined (i.e. final judgement reached, closed, and dismissed).

After completing the sampling frame, the completed case files were reviewed. In stations with less than 30 complete case files in the last 2 years, all files were reviewed. In districts with more than 30 completed case files, 30 case files were randomly selected for the case file review.

Data collection methods and tools

Document reviews: Several documents—including existing laws, policies, legal frameworks, and research reports—were reviewed as part of this assessment to provide a comprehensive overview of the legal framework and current processes for handling cases of VAWC in Uganda.

Tools used in case file reviews included:

ILED Case File Review Tool (ICFR): Using the ICFR, information was collected on law enforcement actors' ability to handle IPV and SVAC criminal complaints; ensure victims are removed from abusive situations;

check if key statements are taken, key evidence is gathered, and key lines of inquiry are followed up on; forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence is completed; perpetrators are arrested and cases are filed. ILED indicators were used to measure cases' progression up to and including submission to prosecution and/or courts. Overall, 410 investigation case files were retrieved from police.

Legal Case File Review Tool (LCFR): The LCFR was used to assess whether the CJS is fulfilling its mandate to deliver justice in IPV and SVAC cases.

Overall, 441 legal case files from magistrate and high court records were reviewed in this assessment. The LCFR questionnaire captured important background information, pre-trial custody, convictions, final judgements, appeals, victims' details, guilty pleas, adjournments, charges, and data quality.

Assessment of survivor outcomes (ASO)

tool: IJM's ASO tool was adopted as a valid and reliable tool for measuring progress towards restoration⁴³ and outcomes for survivors who are recovering from various forms of violence and exploitation. The tool fills a gap in holistic assessments and measures outcomes of survivors recovering from various forms of violence and exploitation. It measures survivor functioning and circumstances across six domains over the 30 days prior to the interview. Each domain is critical to a survivor's ability to function in society with low vulnerability to revictimization. These domains include:

- **Safety:** Survivor is free from the threat of violence or revictimization and is motivated and able to remain safe.
- **Legal protection:** Survivor is knowledgeable of his/her rights and protections under the law and able to pursue justice and legal protections for violations of these rights.
- **Mental wellbeing:** Survivor demonstrates stability, positive coping skills, and reduced harmful behaviors that affect long-term recovery.

⁴³ IJM defines restoration to be when a survivor is able to function in society with low vulnerability to revictimization

- **Economic empowerment and education:** Survivor's household is able to maintain adequate income from a non-exploitative source to meet needs, and the survivor positively engages in school, training, and/or work.
- **Social support:** Survivor is supported by positive relationships, is socially included in their community, and is free from discrimination and negative social pressure.
- **Physical wellbeing:** Survivor takes care of health needs and can access basic needs, medical services, and safe, stable housing.

The assessment was done using one score per domain on a scale of 1-4, as follows: **Highly stable** (no or very low vulnerability), **Stable** (minimal or low vulnerability), **Vulnerable** (moderate vulnerability), and **Very vulnerable** (high to extreme vulnerability).

Trauma Informed Care (TIC-I) Interview guide: The TIC-I tool was used only with female survivors of physical and sexual

violence to capture their experiences and voices regarding whether they felt the criminal justice system was trauma-informed in their interactions with them.

In-depth interviews (IDI): 14 IDIs were conducted with women survivors of violence in the study districts. The IDI guide was used to assess survivor's understanding and perceptions of violence against women and children, protection of victims and perpetrators, survivor confidence in the CJS, existing social support systems, challenges, and recommendations for protecting victims and ending violence.

Data processing and analysis

Document review: The team conducted a comprehensive review of current and available legal documents to establish the existing legal framework and processes in place in Uganda to address cases IPV and SVAC.

Case file reviews: Data analysis for the ILED and Legal case file reviews was performed in Excel and guided by the following;



ILED indicators:

- % of case investigations in which government officials took statements from victims, key witnesses, and suspects
- % of case investigations in which government officials properly collected potential non-testimonial evidence
- % of case investigations in which forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence was completed in a timely manner
- % of case investigations in which government officials independently followed up on all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry
- % of case investigations which resulted in an arrest
- % of case investigations filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court
- Average time taken for investigations of cases to be completed
- % Investigations generated by the government

- % Operations conducted by the government

LEGAL indicators:

- Number of alleged perpetrators formally charged
- % of accused held in pre-trial custody
- % of accused for which final judgement was a conviction
- Average time taken for legal cases to reach final judgement
- % of final judgment types for the accused in the legal cases
- % of convictions that were overturned in an appeal

ASO and TIC data analysis were guided by the following aftercare indicators.

- % of victims restored
- % of victims provided key components of case management
- % of victim interactions with the justice system that were trauma-informed, based on victim interviews
- % of victims who had a positive perception of the justice system





4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

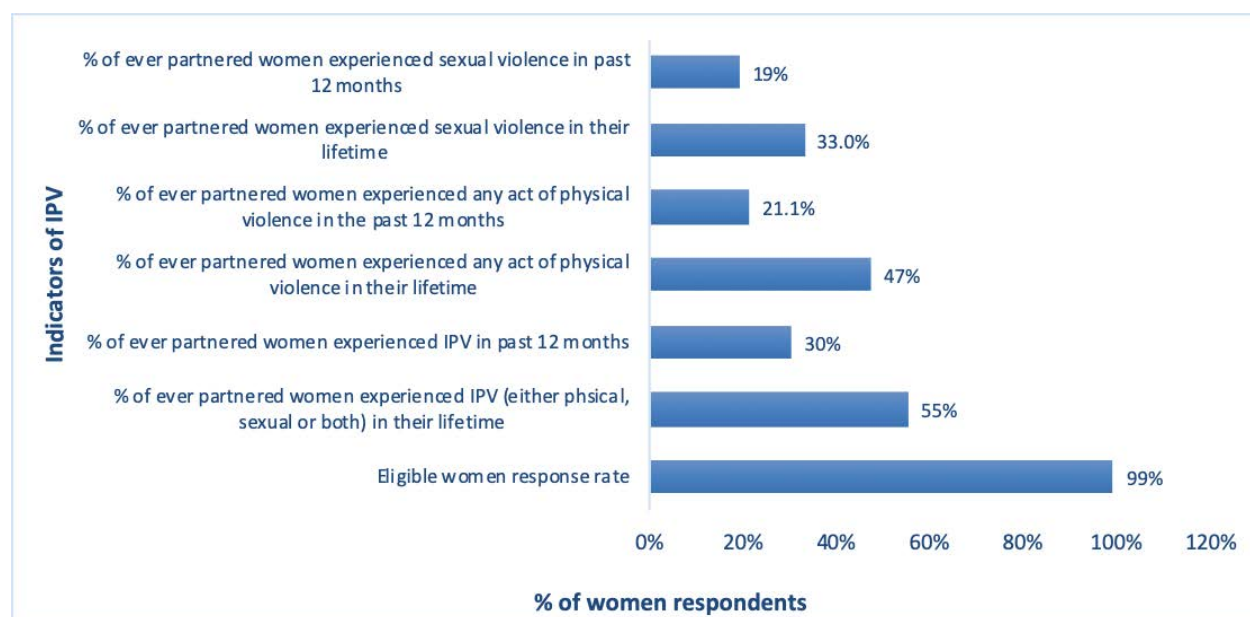
The overall response rate for women from both intervention and comparison district was very good at 99%. Equally, the overall response rate for children in this baseline study was 99.6%. Annex D: Supplementary tables; table A.1 summarizes the background characteristics of women respondents and table A.2 for children respondents.

4.1.1 Intimate Partner Violence

The survey measured the prevalence of IPV —defined widely as experience of physical violence, sexual violence or both. Specifically:

- IPV was measured as an experience of physical violence, sexual violence, or both caused by a current or former intimate partner for both lifetime and in the last 12 months. “Ever-partnered women” were defined as women who were or had ever been married or cohabitated with an intimate partner.

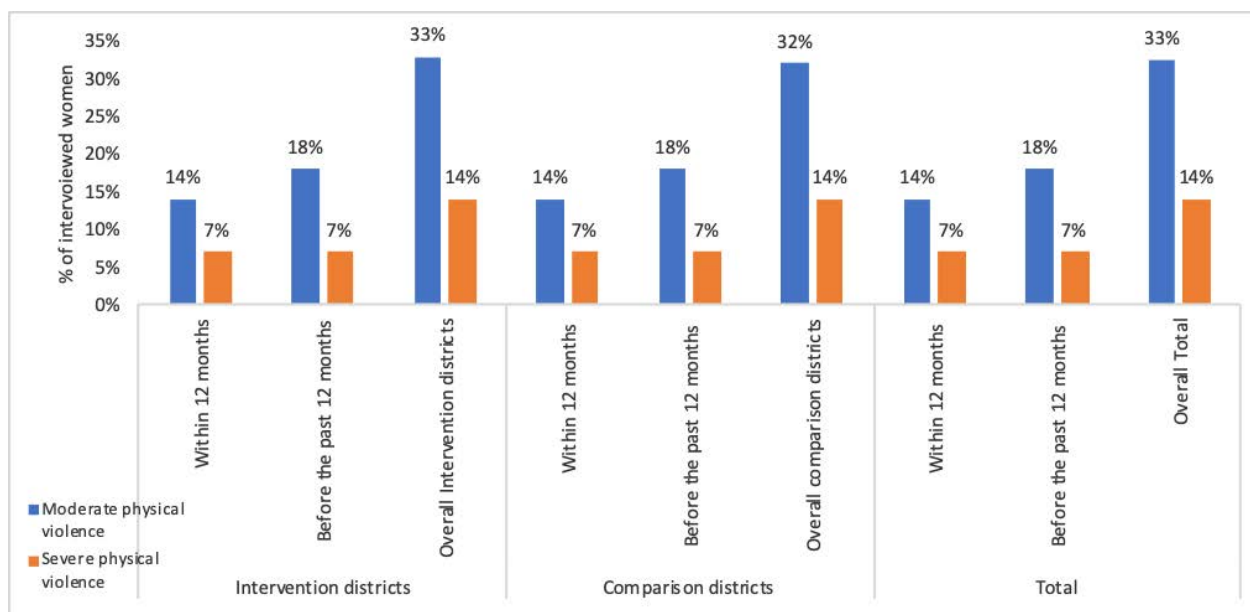
Figure 4: Prevalence of intimate partner violence among women respondents



Physical Violence

The assessment team sought to determine the various ways women experience physical violence from an intimate partner in Uganda over the last 12 months and the 12 months prior to that, including: slapping, pushing, hitting, twisting limbs, kicking and/or being dragged, choking and/or burning, and being threatened with a weapon, such as a knife or gun. What was discovered was that 15% of women in the intervention areas experienced at least one of these forms in the last 12 months, and 24% experienced violence prior to that. This was comparable to the rates of violence captured in the comparison areas (See Annex D: Supplementary table A.3).

Figure 5: Prevalence of moderate and severe⁴⁴ physical violence among women interviewed



Nearly half (47%) of ever-partnered women reported experiencing one or more acts of physical violence in their lifetime. In terms of age, violence was highest in the past 12 months among women between 25–29 years (51% in intervention vs. 49% in comparison areas) and decreased as women aged.

Women in intervention areas who identified as Anglican suffered from the highest levels of physical violence in the past 12 months at 52%, with Pentecostal Christians and Catholics reporting 47% prevalence. Women identifying as Muslims had the lowest prevalence of any act of physical violence in the intervention areas at 39%, while those identifying as Seventh Day Adventists had a prevalence of 31% in the comparison districts.

Acts of physical violence reported in the past 12 months were significantly associated with marital status in both the intervention and comparison areas. The prevalence of any act of physical violence was highest amongst women who were married and living with their husbands (48% in intervention and 46% in comparison districts). Physical violence was highest in the intervention areas in the past 12 months prior to the study among women who had attained no education (53%), while violence was experienced the most by women with a primary level of education (54%) in comparison areas.

The prevalence of any act of physical violence among women who do not earn money was 45% in the intervention districts, and similar in the comparison areas. However, for women who did earn independently, the prevalence of any act of physical violence within the past 12 months was almost the same at 48%.

⁴⁴ Please refer to section 3.8.1 for definition of “moderate” and “severe” violence.

The tables 4.1 and 4.2 below highlight experience of any act of physical violence among ever partnered women by an intimate partner in the last 12 months and in their lifetime by background characteristics respectively.

Table 4.1: Proportion of ever partnered women who experienced any act of physical violence by their intimate partners in the past 12 months

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.197		P=0.142			P=0.913
Rural	23.0	15/652	19.3	150/776	0.089	21.0	300/1428
Urban	19.8	93/470	23.2	76/327	0.241	21.2	169/797
Age-group		P=0.027		P=0.000			P=0.000
18-24	26.5	58/219	28.3	51/180	0.680	27.3	109/399
25-29	27.0	47/174	26.4	47/178	0.898	26.7	94/352
30-34	23.3	40/172	25.7	48/187	0.596	24.5	88/359
35-39	19.3	31/161	18.1	28/155	0.786	18.7	59/316
40-44	20.4	28/137	15.0	19/127	0.245	17.8	47/264
45-49	19.5	22/113	12.7	14/110	0.171	16.1	36/223
50-54	11.8	10/85	12.5	13/104	0.878	12.2	23/189
55-59	11.5	7/61	9.7	6/62	0.746	10.6	13/123
Religion		P=0.485		P=0.067			P=0.059
Catholic	23.1	119/516	18.6	100/537	0.076	20.8	219/1053
Anglican	23.8	58/244	25.5	85/333	0.630	24.8	143/577
Muslim	16.4	26/159	15.5	9/58	0.882	16.1	35/217
Pentecostal/born again	20.1	34/169	20.4	30/147	0.949	20.3	64/316
SDA	18.8	3/16	6.3	1/16	0.285	12.5	4/32
Other	16.7	3/18	8.3	1/12	0.511	13.3	4/30
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
Currently married/ living with a man	25.5	205/803	23.3	197/844	0.301	24.4	402/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	16.0	17/106	12.1	7/58	0.492	14.6	24/164
Divorced	9.7	3/31	21.1	4/19	0.261	14.0	7/50
Widowed	5.4	4/74	2.3	2/86	0.307	3.8	6/160
Divorced/separated	13.0	14/108	16.7	16/96	0.456	14.7	30/204
Education attainment		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
No education	27.9	36/129	10.2	20/196	0.000	17.2	56/325
Primary	24.8	151/608	24.8	161/650	0.978	24.8	312/1258
O level	16.6	48/289	17.8	36/202	0.725	17.1	84/491
A level	20.0	5/25	0.0	0/7	0.198	15.6	5/32
Tertiary/university	4.4	3/68	19.2	9/47	0.011	10.4	12/115
Earns money		P=0.398		P=0.702			P=0.613
Does not earn money	23.2	79/340	19.5	39/200	0.310	21.9	118/540
Earns money	21.0	164/782	20.7	187/903	0.894	20.8	351/1685
Ever partnered women	21.7	243/1122	20.5	226/1103	0.499	21.1	469/2225

Table 4.2: Proportion of ever partnered women who ever experienced any act of physical violence by their intimate partner in their Lifetime.

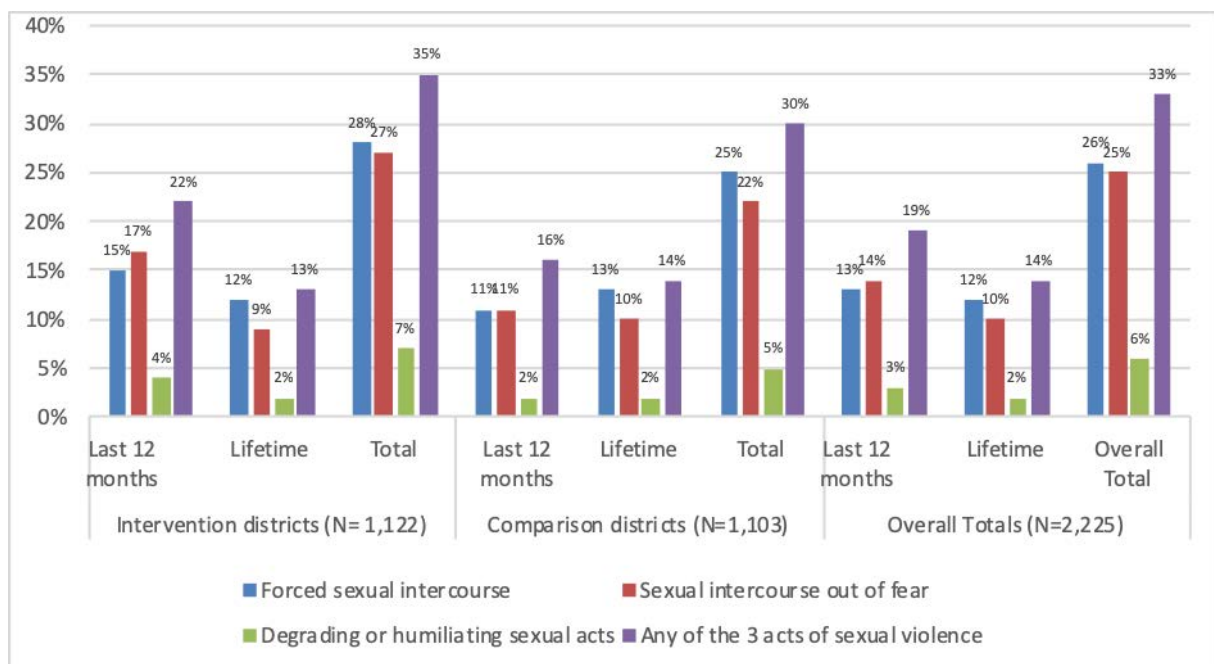
Background characteristics	Intervention districts (%, n/N)		Comparison districts (%, n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Age-group n		P=0.506		P= 0.678			
18-24	41%	90/219	44%	80/180	0.501	43%	170/399
25-29	51%	88/174	49%	87/178	0.750	50%	175/352
30-34	49%	84/172	49%	92/187	0.946	49%	176/359
35-39	47%	75/161	43%	66/155	0.474	45%	141/316
40-44	45%	62/137	49%	62/127	0.562	47%	124/264
45-49	50%	57/113	43%	47/110	0.248	47%	104/223
50-54	53%	45/85	49%	51/104	0.593	51%	96/189
55-59	44%	27/61	39%	24/62	0.532	41%	51/123
Religion		P=0.107		P=0.014			
Catholic	47%	245/516	41%	221/537	0.039	42%	466/1053
Anglican	51%	124/244	53%	175/333	0.681	52%	299/577
Muslim	39%	62/159	45%	26/58	0.439	41%	88/217
Pentecostal/born again	50%	85/169	52%	76/147	0.803	51%	161/316
SDA	44%	7/16	31%	5/16	0.465	38%	12/32
Other	28%	5/18	50%	6/12	0.216	37%	11/30
Current marital status		P<0.001		P<0.001			
Currently married / living with a man	48%	387/803	46%	387/844	0.416	47%	774/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	29%	31/106	33%	19/58	0.595	30%	50/164
Divorced	61%	19/31	63%	12/19	0.888	62%	31/50
Widowed	34%	25/74	34%	29/86	0.950	34%	54/160
Divorced/separated	61%	66/108	65%	62/96	0.555	62%	128/204
Education attainment**(3 miss)		P<0.001		P< 0.001			
No education	53%	69/129	34%	67/196	0.001	42%	136/325
Primary	51%	313/608	54%	352/650	0.343	53%	665/1258
O level	44%	127/289	37%	75/202	0.131	41%	202/491
A level	32%	8/25	29%	2/7	0.863	31%	10/32
Tertiary/university	16%	11/68	28%	13/47	0.136	21%	24/115
Earns money							
Does not earn money	45%	153/340	46%	91/200	0.910	41%	244/540
Earns money	48%	374/782	46%	418/903	0.527	47%	792/1685
Ever partnered women	47%	528/1122	46%	509/1103	0.669	47%	1037/2225

Sexual violence

One-third of ever-partnered women (33%) have experienced an act of sexual violence from their intimate partners in their lifetime. Sexual violence includes forcing sex, using fear to coerce women into having sex, degrading and/or humiliating sexual acts, and any of the 3 acts of sexual violence.

The most common form of sexual violence experienced by ever-partnered women in their lifetime is forced sex at 28%. In the intervention districts, sexual violence was reportedly highest (41%) among women between 40-44 and 50-54 years old. In the comparison districts, sexual violence was most prevalent among women aged 35-39 years (37%).

Figure 6: Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced different acts of sexual violence by their intimate partner in the last 12 months and in their lifetime, in intervention and comparison districts



Similar to rates of physical violence, women identifying as Anglican and ever-partnered suffered the highest rates of sexual violence (38%) in the intervention districts within the past 12 months. Ever-partnered women following other religions had the lowest prevalence rates of any act of sexual violence within the last 12 months for both intervention (28%) and comparison (17%) districts.

Prevalence of any act of sexual violence was highest among divorced/separated women in the intervention areas at 48%, and highest

among those with low levels of education. For example, rates of sexual violence among women who held only a primary level of education was 38% in the intervention districts vs 18% women who held a tertiary/university level education.

Tables 4.3 and 4.4 below highlight experience of any act of sexual violence among ever-partnered women by an intimate partner in the last 12 months and in their lifetime by background characteristics respectively.

Table 4.3: Proportion of ever partnered women who experienced any act of sexual violence by their intimate partners in the last 12 months

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.043		P=0.650			P=0.416
Rural	24.2	158/652	15.7	122/776	0.000	19.6	280/1428
Urban	19.2	90/470	16.8	55/327	0.402	18.2	145/797
Age-group		P=0.002		P=0.002			P=0.000
18-24	27.4	60/219	15.6	28/180	0.005	22.1	88/399
25-29	25.3	44/174	21.9	39/178	0.455	23.6	83/352
30-34	23.8	41/172	21.4	40/187	0.580	22.6	81/359
35-39	21.7	35/161	16.8	26/155	0.264	19.3	61/316
40-44	25.6	35/137	17.3	22/127	0.105	21.6	57/264
45-49	11.5	13/113	10.0	11/110	0.717	10.8	24/223
50-54	18.8	16/85	7.7	8/104	0.022	12.7	24/189
55-59	6.6	4/61	4.8	3/62	0.681	5.7	7/123
Religion		P=0.495		P=0.381			P=0.279
Catholic	20.5	106/516	13.8	74/537	0.004	17.1	180/1053
Anglican	25.8	63/244	18.6	62/333	0.038	21.7	125/577
Muslim	23.9	38/159	15.5	9/58	0.185	21.7	47/217
Pentecostal/born again	18.9	32/169	19.1	28/147	0.980	19.0	60/316
SDA	25.0	4/16	18.8	3/16	0.669	21.9	7/32
Other	27.8	5/18	8.3	1/12	0.192	20.0	6/30
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
Currently married/living with a man	25.8	207/803	18.7	158/844	0.001	22.2	365/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	17.0	18/106	12.1	7/58	0.403	15.2	25/164
Divorced	9.7	3/31	10.5	2/19	0.923	10.0	5/50
Widowed	6.8	5/74	0.0	0/86	0.014	3.1	5/160
Divorced/separated	13.89	15/108	10.4	10/96	0.450	12.3	25/204
Education attainment**(3 miss)		P=0.068		P=0.015			P=0.001
No education	16.3	21/129	8.2	16/196	0.024	11.4	37/325
Primary	25.2	153/608	18.5	120/650	0.004	21.7	273/1258
O level	20.1	58/289	15.4	31/202	0.181	18.1	89/491
A level	24.0	6/25	14.3	1/7	0.583	21.9	7/32
Tertiary/university	14.7	10/68	19.2	9/47	0.528	16.5	19/115
Earns money		P=0.772		P=0.656			P=0.000
Does not earn money	22.7	77/340	15.0	30/200	0.031	19.8	107/540
Earns money	21.9	171/782	16.3	147/903	0.003	18.9	318/1685
Ever partnered women	22.1	248/1122	16.1	177/1103	0.000	19.1	425/2225

Table 4.4: Proportion of ever partnered women who experienced any act of sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.060		P=0.028			P=0.721
Rural	37.6	245/652	28.5	221/776	0.000	32.6	466/1428
Urban	32.1	151/470	35.2	115/327	0.371	33.4	266/797
Age-group		P=0.363		P=0.381			P=0.239
18-24	35.6	78/219	27.2	49/180	0.073	31.8	127/399
25-29	35.1	61/174	33.1	59/178	0.705	34.1	120/352
30-34	35.5	61/172	32.1	60/187	0.499	33.7	121/359
35-39	34.2	55/161	36.8	57/155	0.627	35.4	112/316
40-44	41.6	57/137	29.9	38/127	0.048	36.0	95/264
45-49	28.3	32/113	26.4	29/110	0.743	27.4	61/223
50-54	41.2	35/85	28.9	30/104	0.076	34.4	65/189
55-59	27.9	17/61	22.6	14/62	0.499	25.2	31/123
Religion		P=0.273		P=0.046			P=0.018
Catholic	32.2	166/516	26.8	144/537	0.057	29.4	310/1053
Anglican	40.2	98/244	31.8	106/333	0.039	35.4	204/577
Muslim	38.4	61/159	36.2	21/58	0.772	37.8	82/217
Pentecostal/born again	34.9	59/169	39.5	58/147	0.404	37.0	117/316
SDA	43.8	7/16	31.3	5/16	0.465	37.5	12/32
Other	27.8	5/18	16.7	2/12	0.481	23.3	7/30
Current marital status		P=0.097		P=0.000			P=0.000
Currently married/living with a man	34.9	280/803	29.3	247/844	0.015	32.0	527/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	29.3	31/106	22.4	13/58	0.345	26.8	44/164
Divorced	48.4	15/31	57.9	11/19	0.514	52.0	26/50
Widowed	31.1	23/74	20.9	18/86	0.143	25.6	41/160
Divorced/separated	43.5	47/108	49.0	47/96	0.437	46.1	94/204
Education attainment**(3 miss)		P=0.003		P=0.013			P=0.000
No education	27.1	35/129	21.4	42/196	0.237	23.7	77/325
Primary	39.3	239/608	34.0	221/650	0.051	36.6	460/1258
O level	35.3	102/289	27.7	56/202	0.077	32.2	158/491
A level	24.0	6/25	42.9	3/7	0.327	28.1	9/32
Tertiary/university	20.6	14/68	29.8	14/47	0.259	24.4	28/115
Earns money		P=0.892		P=0.302			P=0.276
Does not earn money	35.6	121/340	33.5	67/200	0.623	34.8	188/540
Earns money	35.2	275/782	29.8	269/903	0.019	32.3	544/1685
Ever partnered women	35.3	396/1122	30.5	336/1103	0.015	32.9	732/2225

Experience of physical and sexual violence

Over half of ever-partnered women in the intervention areas (58% vs 52% in comparison areas) experienced physical violence, sexual violence, or both by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Both forms of violence were highest among women between 30–34 years old (61%) and 50–54 years old (65%) in the intervention areas. In the comparison districts, both forms of violence were most prevalent among women between 25–29 years old (57%).

By marital status, physical and sexual violence was experienced most by divorced women (77% in intervention areas), followed by women currently in partnerships (40%) and widowed women (31%).

Both forms of violence were highest among

women with low levels of education—63% of women with a primary level education in intervention areas reported experiencing violence in their lifetime—and both forms of violence decreased as a woman's level of education increased. This trend was similar to what was reported in Uganda VAWG Survey 2020

There was no significant difference in the prevalence of both physical and sexual violence among women whose dowry or bride price was paid versus women whose dowry or bride price was not paid.

Tables 4.5 and 4.6 below highlight the proportion of ever-partnered women who experienced intimate partner violence in the last 12 months and in their lifetime by background characteristics respectively.



Table 4.5: Proportion of ever partnered women who experienced intimate partner violence in the last 12 months

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.080		P=0.097			P=0.907
Rural	35.0	228/652	26.3	204/776	0.000	30.3	432/1428
Urban	30.0	141/470	31.2	102/327	0.719	30.5	243/797
Age-group		P=0.002		P=0.000			P=0.000
18-24	39.7	87/219	34.4	62/180	0.278	37.3	149/399
25-29	38.5	67/174	36.0	64/178	0.621	37.3	131/352
30-34	36.1	62/172	33.7	63/187	0.640	34.8	125/359
35-39	31.1	50/161	27.1	42/155	0.439	29.11	92/316
40-44	32.1	44/137	25.2	32/127	0.215	28.8	76/264
45-49	25.7	29/113	19.1	21/110	0.239	22.4	50/223
50-54	24.7	21/85	13.5	14/104	0.048	18.5	35/189
55-59	14.8	9/61	12.9	8/62	0.766	13.8	17/123
Religion		P=0.779		P=0.352			P=0.572
Catholic	32.8	169/516	25.5	137/537	0.010	29.1	306/1053
Anglican	36.1	88/244	31.5	105/333	0.254	33.5	193/577
Muslim	32.1	51/159	25.9	15/58	0.379	30.4	66/217
Pentecostal/born again	29.0	49/169	29.9	44/147	0.855	29.4	93/316
SDA	37.5	6/16	18.8	3/16	0.238	28.1	9/32
Other	33.3	6/18	16.7	2/12	0.312	26.7	8/30
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
Currently married / living with a man	38.4	308/803	31.9	269/844	0.006	35.0	577/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	26.4	28/106	19.0	11/58	0.284	23.8	39/164
Divorced	16.1	5/31	26.3	5/19	0.382	20.0	10/50
Widowed	9.5	7/74	2.3	2/86	0.051	5.6	9/160
Divorced/separated	19.4	21/108	19.8	19/96	0.950	19.6	40/204
Education attainment**(3 miss)		P=0.005		P=0.000			P=0.000
No education	33.3	43/129	15.3	30/196	0.000	22.5	73/325
Primary	37.0	225/608	32.2	209/650	0.070	34.5	434/1258
O level	28.7	83/289	25.3	51/202	0.395	27.3	134/491
A level	24.0	6/25	14.3	1/7	0.583	21.9	7/32
Tertiary/university	17.7	12/68	31.9	15/47	0.076	23.5	27/115
Earns money		P=0.258		0.664			P=0.008
Does not earn money	35.3	120/340	26.5	53/200	0.034	32.0	173/540
Earns money	31.8	249/782	28.0	253/903	0.087	29.8	502/1685
Ever partnered women	32.9	369/1122	27.7	306/1103	0.008	30.3	675/2225

Table 4.6: Proportion of ever partnered women who experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		*P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.100		P=0.001			
Rural	59.8	390/652	48.8	379/776	0.000	53.9	769/1428
Urban	54.9	258/470	60.2	197/327	0.133	57.1	455/797
Age-group		P=0.624		P=0.530			
18-24	54.8	120/219	48.9	88/180	0.240	52.1	208/399
25-29	56.9	99/174	57.3	102/178	0.939	57.1	201/352
30-34	61.1	105/172	55.6	104/187	0.297	58.2	209/359
35-39	58.4	94/161	52.9	82/155	0.327	55.7	176/316
40-44	56.9	78/137	53.5	68/127	0.580	55.3	146/264
45-49	59.3	67/113	46.4	51/110	0.053	52.9	118/223
50-54	64.7	55/85	50.0	52/104	0.042	56.6	107/189
55-59	49.2	30/61	46.8	29/62	0.789	48.0	59/123
Religion		P=0.356		P=0.004			
Catholic	57.4	296/516	46.7	251/537	0.001	52.0	547/1053
Anglican	61.1	149/244	58.0	193/333	0.453	59.3	342/577
Muslim	52.2	83/159	51.7	30/58	0.950	52.1	113/217
Pentecostal/ born again	59.8	101/169	61.2	90/147	0.791	60.4	191/316
SDA	68.8	11/16	37.5	6/16	0.077	53.1	17/32
Other	44.4	8/18	50.0	6/12	0.765	46.7	14/30
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.000			
Currently married /living with a man	59.3	476/803	52.1	440/844	0.004	55.6	916/1647
Having a regular partner (sexual relationship living apart)	39.6	42/106	37.9	22/58	0.832	39.0	64/164
Divorced	77.4	24/31	73.7	14/19	0.764	76.0	38/50
Widowed	43.2	32/74	36.1	31/86	0.353	39.4	63/160
Divorced/ separated	68.5	74/108	71.9	69/96	0.601	70.1	143/204
Education attainment**(3 miss)		P=0.000		P=0.000			
No education	57.4	74/129	38.8	76/196	0.001	46.2	150/325
Primary	63.0	383/608	60.0	390/650	0.276	61.5	773/1258
O level	56.1	162/289	42.6	86/202	0.003	50.5	248/491
A level	36.0	9/25	42.9	3/7	0.740	37.5	12/32
Tertiary/ university	29.4	20/68	44.7	21/47	0.093	35.7	41/115
Earns money		P=0.566		P=0.590			
Does not earn money	56.5	192/340	50.5	101/200	0.179	54.3	293/540
Earns money	58.3	456/782	52.6	475/903	0.019	55.3	931/1685
Ever partnered women	57.8	648/1122	52.2	576/1103	0.009	55.0%	1224/2225

Emotional abuse of women

The assessment team also asked participants about their experience with emotional abuse. More than half (58%) of ever-partnered women reported experiencing emotional violence in the past 12 months prior to the survey, with higher rates in the intervention areas. Prevalence of emotional abuse was not based on age and affected all age groups and religious affiliations (See Supplementary Table A.4).

Again, emotional violence was most prevalent among women with low to no education (62%) in the 12 months prior to the study and decreased as women reached higher levels of education.

Controlling behaviors towards women

The assessment team asked participants how frequently their intimate partners exhibited controlling behaviors—such as restricting contact with family and friends, insisting on knowing whereabouts, becoming angry when speaking with another man, exhibiting suspicious behavior, being treated differently from others, and expecting permission to be granted before accessing health care. 55% of women reported their intimate partners insisted on always knowing their whereabouts. Prevalence rates of controlling behaviors did not vary significantly between intervention and comparison districts (See supplementary table A.5).

Women's attitudes towards violence, gender roles, and human rights

Women were also asked a variety of questions to gauge their attitudes and beliefs around violence, gender roles, and their personal rights. For example, women were asked if they agree or disagree that it is acceptable for a husband/partner to beat a wife/partner or physically mistreat her in certain circumstances—for example, not completing housework, disobeying her husband, refusing sex, asking about other women, suspecting infidelity in her partnership, or being unfaithful herself.

The assessment team found that more than half of the women in both the intervention (54%) and comparison (59%) districts agreed that a man has a right to beat his wife under

such circumstances. This attitude was most prevalent among women between 18-24 years old in both intervention and comparison areas. Women who identified as Catholic agreed most often that a man had a right to beat his wife for any given circumstance in both the intervention (53%, 288/539) and comparison (62%, 345/558) districts compared to other religions. Finally, the majority of women with little to no education agreed men had the right to beat a female partner for any reason (70% in intervention, 69% in comparison areas) Refer to Supplementary Table A.6.

Women's beliefs around sexual autonomy

Women were also asked a variety of questions to gauge their beliefs around women's sexual autonomy. Specifically, participants were asked whether they believed it to be acceptable for a woman to refuse sex with her husband—for example, if she is unwell, if she doesn't desire to, if her partner is inebriated, or if he is mistreating her.

Overall, more women in the intervention districts (89%) than in comparison districts (87%) agreed that it is alright for women to refuse to have sex with their husbands/partners in given situations. Most women in the intervention areas said it was acceptable to refuse sex if she was unwell (79%), followed by if she was being mistreated (Supplementary table A.7).

In terms of age, the majority of women between 35-39 years old in the intervention districts (92%) and women between 25-29 years old and 30-34 years old in the comparison districts (89%) agreed it was alright for women to refuse to have sex with their husbands/partners in given situations.

Regarding religion, women who identified as Pentecostal were most likely to hold this belief. On the contrary, Seventh Day Adventists had the lowest proportion of women who held this belief in either area (68% in intervention vs. 75% in comparison).

The majority of never-married women in the intervention districts (95%) agreed that it was alright for women to refuse to have sex with their husbands/partners in given

situations, while it was mostly divorced women in the comparison districts (95%) who shared this belief.

And finally, as reflected elsewhere in the data, education influenced women's beliefs—96% of women with advanced degrees in intervention areas said it was alright for women to refuse sex in given circumstances (supplementary table A.7).

Link between violence against women and demographics

Education and ethnicity were significantly associated with **physical violence** against women both in the intervention and comparison districts. Additionally, the data shows that the prevalence of

physical violence among women with tertiary education was 83% lower than that among women with no education in the intervention districts. Additionally, the prevalence of physical violence against women with a primary education was about twice that of women with no education in the comparison districts (see supplementary table A.1).

In terms of ethnic groups, physical violence was most common among women in the intervention areas who identified as Bakhonzo, Jopadhola, Bamasaba, and Luo, with Jopadhola women experiencing the highest rate of physical violence compared to Baganda women in the comparison districts.

Table 4.7: Association between lifetime experience of physical violence and background characteristics of women

Background characteristics	Physical violence OR [95%CI] unadjusted	
	Intervention (N=1122)	Comparison (N=1103)
Age	P=0.509	P=0.6807
18-24	1	1
25-29	1.46[0.98-2.19]	1.19[0.79-1.81]
30-34	1.36[0.91-2.04]	1.21[0.80-1.83]
35-39	1.25[0.82-1.88]	0.92[0.6-1.42]
40-44	1.18[0.77-1.82]	1.19[0.75-1.88]
45-49	1.45[0.92-2.66]	0.93[0.58-1.50]
50-54	1.61[0.97-2.01]	1.20[0.74-1.95]
55-59	1.13[0.64-2.01]	0.79[0.43-1.42]
Education level	P=0.000	P=0.000
No education	1	1
Primary	0.92[0.63-1.356]	2.27[1.62-3.17]**
O level	0.68[0.44-1.03]	1.13[0.75-1.71]
A level	0.40[0.16-1.01]	0.77[0.14-4.07]
Tertiary/university	0.16[0.08-0.34]**	0.73[0.36-1.48]
Earns money	P=0.362	P=0.839
Does not earn money	1	1
Earns money	1.12[0.87-1.45]	1.03[0.75-1.40]
Ethnicity	P=0.000	P=0.000
Baganda	1	1
Bakhonzo	0.46[0.24-0.88]*	(empty)
Banyoro/ Batooro	1.53[0.96-2.44]	1.04[0.37-2.88]
Banyankore/ Bakiga	1.17[0.67-2.04]	0.76[0.50-1.15]
Jopadhola	2.61[1.57-4.33]**	4.47[0.45-43]
Bamasaba	1.80[1.13-2.88]*	1.30[0.45-3.77]
Ateso	1.75[0.98-3.12]	2.58[1.70-3.93]**
Ngikarimojong	1.5[0.83-2.70]	0.53[0.32-0.86]*
Luo/ Acholi	2.07[1.34-3.22]**	2.26[1.43- 3.55]**
Other specify	1.17[0.72-1.91]	1.47[0.95-2.27]

Note: (unadjusted OR, logistic regression fitted for each factor against the experience of violence), * signifies statistical significance at 5% and ** at 1%.

In regard to **sexual violence**—including forced sex—data shows that women in the intervention areas between 18-24 years old and women with little to no education were twice as likely to experience sexual

violence. Additionally, women who identified as Jopadhola had the highest prevalence of sexual violence (6x higher) compared to Baganda women in the comparison districts.

Table 4.8: Association between lifetime experience of sexual violence and background characteristics of women

Background characteristics	Sexual violence- OR [95%CI] unadjusted	
	Intervention (N=1122)	Comparison (N=1103)
Age	P=0.369	P=0.387
18-24	1	1
25-29	0.97[0.64-1.48]	1.32[0.84-2.08]
30-34	0.99[0.65-1.51]	1.26[0.81-1.97]
35-39	0.93[0.61-1.43]	1.55[0.97-2.47]
40-44	1.28[0.83-1.99]	1.14[0.69-1.88]
45-49	0.71[0.43-1.17]	0.95[0.55-1.63]
50-54	1.26[0.75-2.11]	1.08[0.63-1.85]
55-59	0.69[0.37-1.30]	0.78[0.39-1.53]
Education level	P=0.004	P=0.015
No education	1	1
Primary	1.73[1.14-2.64]*	1.88[1.29-2.75]*
O level	1.46[0.92-2.31]	1.41[0.88-2.22]
A level	0.84[0.31-2.29]	2.75[0.59-12.76]
Tertiary/university	0.69[0.34-1.41]	1.55[0.76-3.17]
Earns money	P=0.892	P=0.303
Does not earn money	1	1
Earns money	0.98[0.75-1.28]	0.84[0.61-1.17]
Ethnicity	P=0.000	P=0.001
Baganda	1	1
Bakhonzo	1.80[1.01-3.20]*	(empty)
Banyoro/ Batooro	1.15[0.70-1.89]	1.15[0.40-3.29]
Banyankore/ Bakiga	0.75[0.40-1.40]	0.6[0.38-0.94]*
Japadhola	2.22[1.33-3.71]**	6.34[0.64-62.54]
Bamasaba	2.11[1.30-3.41]**	1.85[0.63-5.38]
Ateso	2.04[1.13-3.69]*	1.37[0.89-2.10]
Ngikaramojong	0.55[0.27-1.11]	0.62[0.36-1.04]
Luo/ Acholi	0.90[0.56-1.45]	1.11[0.69-1.77]
other specify	1.20[0.72-1.99]	0.85[0.53-1.37]

Note: (unadjusted OR. logistic regression fitted for each factor against the experience of violence), * signifies statistical significance at 5% and ** at 1%.

Finally, in regard to **emotional abuse**, women between 18-24 years old were more likely to experience emotional abuse than other age groups—as were women with little to no education. Similar to other forms of violence, the prevalence of emotional abuse

decreased with more education. Emotional abuse was also highest among women who identified as Bamasaba—12 times more prevalent than among Baganda women -in the comparison districts.

Table 4.9: Association between lifetime experience of emotional violence and background characteristics of women

Background characteristics	Emotional violence OR[95%CI] – unadjusted	
	Intervention N=1122	Comparison N=1103
Age	P=0.356	P=0.032
18-24	1	1
25-29	1.54[1.02-2.31]*	1.49[0.98-2.28]
30-34	1.51[1.00-2.26]*	0.98[0.65-1.48]
35-39	1.28[0.85-1.94]	1.04[0.67-1.61]
40-44	1.47[0.95-2.27]	1.10[0.70-1.74]
45-49	1.13[0.95-2.27]	0.84[0.52-1.36]
50-54	1.44[0.86-2.41]	0.95[0.58-1.55]
55-59	1.02[0.58-1.81]	0.48[0.27-0.87]*
Education level	P=0.087	P=0.0035
No education	1	1
Primary	0.87[0.58-1.29]	1.29[0.93-1.78]
O level	0.97[0.63-1.50]	0.77[0.52-1.14]
A level	1.05[0.43-2.56]	0.65[0.14-2.98]
Tertiary/university	0.46[0.25-0.85]*	0.59[0.30-1.12]
Earns money	P=0.373	P=0.728
Does not earn money	1	1
Earns money	1.12[0.86-1.45]	0.95[0.69-1.28]
Ethnicity	P=0.146	P=0.000
Buganda	1	1
Bakhonzo	0.87[0.49-1.53]	Empty
Banyoro/ Batooro	0.88[0.55-1.41]	1.58[0.55-4.48]
Banyankore/ Bakiga	0.56[0.32-0.97]*	0.46[0.30-0.70]**
Jopadhola	0.62[0.38-1.03]	2.58[0.26-25.41]
Bamasaba	1.08[0.67-1.74]	12.07[1.55-94.04]*
Ateso	0.64[0.36-1.14]	1.55[1.02-2.36]*
Ngikaramojong	1.05[0.57-1.93]	1.63[1.01-2.61]
Luo/ Acholi	1.10[0.71-1.71]	1.27[0.81-1.99]
Other specify	0.97[0.60-1.58]	1.12[0.73-1.73]

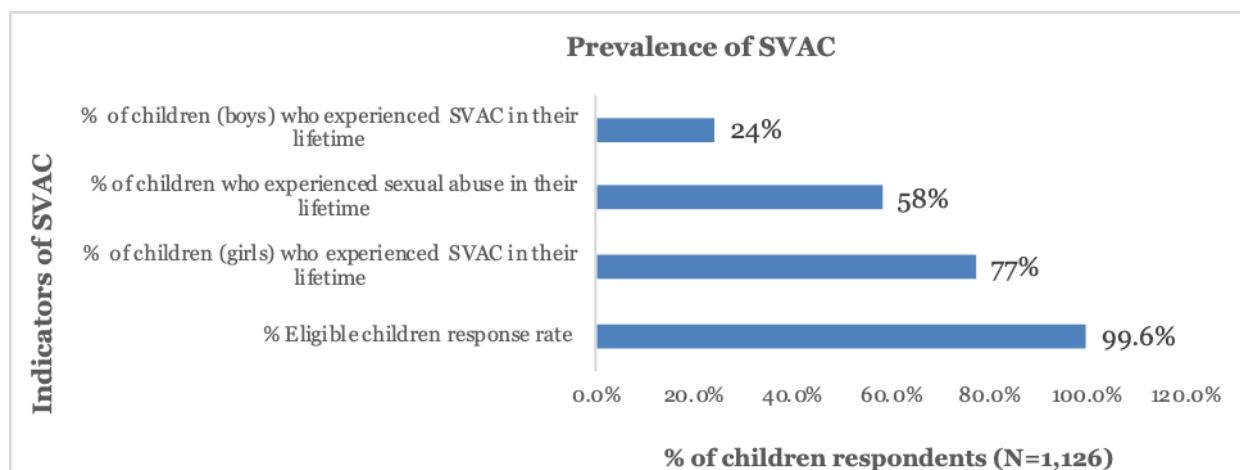
Note: (unadjusted OR. logistic regression fitted for each factor against the experience of violence), * signifies statistical significance at 5% and ** at 1%.

4.1.2 Sexual violence against children

The assessment revealed that among children aged 13-17 years that participated in the study, 58.6% (660/1,126) experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (refer to table 4.10). SVAC was 3 times more prevalent in girls (77%, 565/733) than boys (24% 95/393) and mostly affected children older than 15 years. This includes 55.7%

of children reporting unsolicited sexual touches —such as fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching on or around genitals—in their lifetime while 14% of children experienced such touches within the last 12 months. The chart summarized the prevalence of sexual violence among children from this study.

Figure 7: Prevalence of sexual violence against children



Most sexual abuse was reportedly committed by adults known to the victims. Close relatives such as fathers, siblings, uncles, aunts, and cousins were the most common perpetrators of sexual abuse against children (22% for intervention and 17% for comparison). Friends of children and their families were found to be the second largest group (15% intervention and 22% comparison).

Figure 8: Main perpetrators of sexual violence against children.

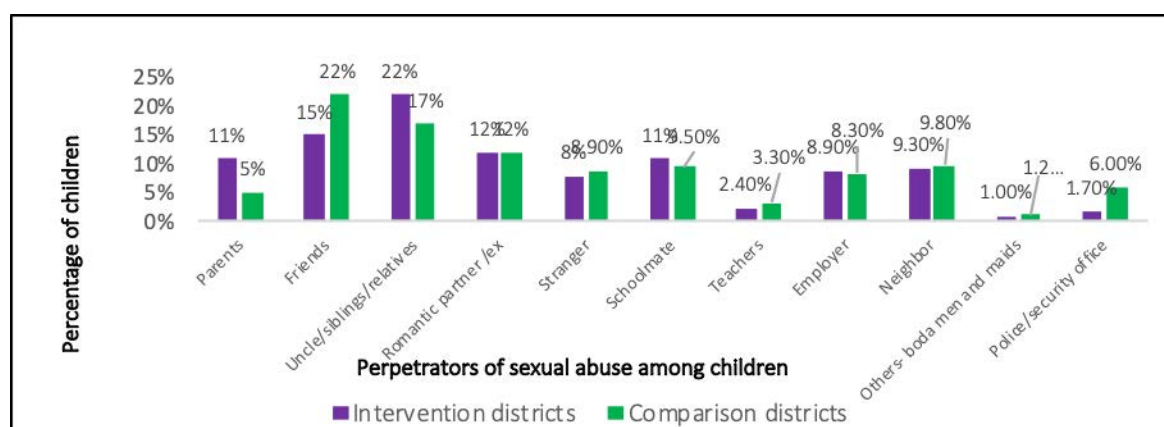


Table 4.10: Percentage of children that report to have experienced any form of sexual violence in their lifetime by selected background characteristics.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Sex		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
Female	74%	262/356	80%	303/377	0.029	77%	565/773
Male	22%	46/211	27%	49/182	0.237	24%	95/393
Religion		P=0.657		P=0.487			P=0.569
Catholic	55%	124/224	63%	182/288	0.073	60%	306/512
Anglican	52%	77/149	61%	80/131	0.114	56%	157/280
Muslim	51%	45/88	69%	29/42	0.054	57%	74/130
Pentecostal	59%	53/90	62%	53/85	0.639	61%	106/175
SDA	71%	5/7	100%	2/2	0.391	78%	7/9
Other	40%	4/10	43%	6/14	0.889	48%	10/21
Tribe		P=0.690		P=0.606			P=0.503
Baganda	52%	46/89	61%	57/94	0.222	56%	103/183
Banyankole	50%	10/20	65%	70/107	0.190	63%	80/127
Batoro/ Banyoro	55%	42/77	40%	2/5	0.527	54%	44/82
Basoga	53%	8/15	67%	6/9	0.521	58%	14/24
Bakiga	71%	12/17	70%	7/10	0.974	70%	19/27
Ngikarimojong	62%	21/34	65%	45/69	0.731	64%	66/103
Ateso	66%	19/29	58%	65/112	0.464	60%	84/141
Luo	49%	51/104	59%	46/78	0.184	53%	97/182
Other	54%	99/182	72%	54/75	0.009	60%	153/257
Education		P=0.189		P=0.455			P=0.094
None	53%	8/15	65%	31/48	0.434	62%	39/63
Primary	52%	205/391	61%	237/389	0.017	57%	442/780
Secondary	58%	91/157	68%	77/114	0.109	62%	168/271
Tertiary/ University	100%	4/4	78%	7/9	0.305	85%	11/13
Earns money		P=0.279		P=0.545			P=0.992
Earns money	52%	168/321	64%	250/392	0.002	59%	418/713
Does not earn money	57%	140/246	61%	102/167	0.399	59%	242/413
Total	54%	308/567	63%	352/559	0.003	59%	660/1127

Forced sex

Among the children who had experienced SVAC, 25% (166/660) had sexual intercourse; 19% (31/166) said it was forced sex. Many children said they were forced to have sex by a romantic partner (35%, 11/31), followed by friends (26%, 8/31) and close family relatives, such as cousins or uncles, and then strangers (19%, 6/31). Older children (16-17 years old) reported higher rates of forced sex (61%, 19/31)

compared to children 13-15 years old (39%, 12/31). Forced sex was found to be most common among girls. In fact, female children were four times more likely than their male counterparts to be forced into sex in both the intervention and comparison districts. Finally, children residing in urban areas in the comparison district were slightly more affected as were children who earned money in both the intervention districts (3%).

Table 4.11: Percentage of children by age at forced first sex by selected background characteristics

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Age-group		P < 0.001		P < 0.001			
13-15	2%	6/363	2%	6/326	0.851	2%	12/689
16-17	4%	10/226	4%	9/157	0.562	5%	19/383
Residence		P = 0.018		P = 0.042		0%	
Rural	3%	11/378	2%	9/389	0.604	3%	20/767
Urban	2%	5/211	5%	6/94	0.083	4%	11/305
Sex		P = 0.042		P = 0.224		0%	
Female	4%	14/372	4%	14/327	0.7275	4%	28/699
Male	1%	2/217	1%	1/155	0.769	1%	3/372
Earns money		P = 0.069		P = 0.206		0%	
Earns money	3%	10/333	3%	12/394	0.973	3%	22/727
Does not earn money	2%	6/256	2%	3/170	0.684	2%	9/426
Total	2.7%	16/589	3.1%	15/483;	p=0.697	3%	31/1072

Sexual Violence Against Children by transaction

Children were asked if they had ever been exploited for sex in exchange for money, goods, and/or favors. Among the children who reported ever having had sex, 21% reported having sex in exchange for material or financial support. The prevalence of sexual exploitation among children was the same in both intervention and comparison districts at 3%. The majority of children said their perpetrators used financial incentives to exploit them (89% in intervention areas

and 71% in comparison districts), followed by the use of gifts and/or favors (59% in intervention areas and 50% in comparison districts).

Transactional sex was found to be most perpetrated by current and past romantic partners (57%), followed by friends (34%), mainly in the intervention districts, and finally employers, community members, and religious leaders (3%). The average age children first experienced sexual exploitation in terms of transactional sex was 15 years old.

Table 4.12: Percentage of children who experienced sexual violence/exploitation-with money, goods or favors exchanged for sex

% of children who:	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Experienced sexual violence/exploitation	3%	17/589	3%	18/565	0.766	3%	35/1154
Exchanged the following Transaction items for sex N=35						0%	
Money	71%	12/17	89%	16/18	0.176	80%	28/35
Food	2.4%	4/17	17%	3/18	0.611	20%	7/35
Gifts/Favors	58%	10/17	50%	9/18	0.600	54%	19/35
Needs/clothes/shoes / pads	18%	3/17	6%	1/18	0.261	11%	4/35
Average and median age (IQR) age at first occurrence of transactional sex			15[13,16]				
Median [25%,75%]	15 [13,16]		15 [13,16]				15[13,16]
Mean =14.5 sd=2.07	Min=8; max=17		Min=8; max=17				mean±sd 14.5±2.07
Perpetrators of sexual exploitation						8%	51/628
Parents	11%	32/291	5%	19/337	0.0142	19%	120/628
Friends	15%	45/291	22%	75/337	0.0309	19%	122/628
Aunt/uncle /other relatives/siblings	22%	64/291	17%	58/337	0.131	12%	78/628
Romantic partner /ex	12%	36/291	12%	42/337	0.972	9%	55/628
Stranger	8%	24/291	9.2%	31/337	0.674	10%	63/628
Classmate/Schoolmate	11%	31/291	9.5%	32/337	0.630	3%	18/628
Teachers	2%	7/291	3.3%	11/337	0.520	9%	54/628
Employer	9%	26/291	8.3%	28/337	0.780	10%	60/628
Neighbor	9%	27/291	9.8%	33/337	0.827	1%	7/628
Others- boda-men* and maids	1%	3/291	1.2%	4/337	0.853	1%	7/628
Police/security office	1.7%	5/291	6%	2/337	0.181	3%	35/1154

*"Boda men" in Uganda refers to motorcycle taxi (boda-boda) riders, who provide transportation services using motorcycles, often in urban areas

Physical violence against children

Other than sexual violence against children the study further gathered evidence for physical violence against children. The assessment looked at the main perpetrators of physical violence against children in their communities.

Violence committed by community members

18% of children participants reported

experiencing violence at the hands of community members, including teachers, police officers, employers, religious and/or community leaders, neighbors, or other adults across both intervention and comparison areas. Children who identified as Seventh Day Adventist had the highest rates of violence in the last 12 months (44%) as did children from the Luo ethnic group.

In terms of education level, violence from community members was most prevalent

among children with primary level of education in the intervention districts (23%) and among children with tertiary/advanced level of education in the comparison districts (22%) [refer to Supplementary tables: Table A.8].

Violence committed by relatives or caregivers

17% of children interviewed experienced violence from a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relatives in the past 12 months, with more children experiencing violence in the intervention areas compared to the comparison districts. Violence committed against children by parents, guardians, or adult relatives was most prevalent among children who identified as Anglican in both the intervention (23%) comparison areas (17%).

Once again, children in the Luo ethnic group experienced the most violence in the last 12 months (25%) in the intervention areas. In comparison districts, it was children from the Batoro/Bunyoro ethnic group that experienced the most violence (40%) from parents, guardians, or relatives within the last 12 months.

Violence committed by parents, guardians, or adult relatives was most prevalent among children who had never attended school or who had primary education in both the intervention and comparison districts [refer to Supplementary table A.9].

Violence committed by peers

The assessment found that 18% of children have experienced peer violence in the last 12 months, while 32% of children reported never having experienced peer violence in their lifetime. Prevalence of violence towards children by their peers does, however, vary significantly by sex and education and more slightly by religion in the intervention areas.

Peer violence was most prevalent among males in both intervention and comparison areas (22%), with children who identify as Seventh Day Adventists reporting the highest rates of peer violence (63%) followed by Anglicans (21%). Children from the Bakiga ethnic group had the highest rates of peer violence (44%) followed by children from the Ngikarimojong ethnic group (23%) in the intervention areas. In

the comparison districts, children from the Ngikaramojong ethnic group had the highest prevalence of peer violence (30%) [refer to Supplementary Table A.10].

In terms of education levels, children with low to no education experienced the most peer-to-peer violence. However, there was a noticeable pattern of declining peer violence as children obtained higher levels of education.

Physical violence by background characteristics

A child's sex, education level, and earning status were not significantly associated with physical violence in both the comparison and intervention districts. However, a child's ethnic identity was especially associated with physical violence in the comparison districts—specifically 4 to 15 times more emotional violence was reported among Batoro/Banyoro children compared to Baganda (see table 4.13).

Emotional abuse of children

The assessment revealed that 26% of children in Uganda experienced emotional abuse, with the majority of those impacted being female children residing in rural areas. Rates of emotional abuse did not vary widely between intervention and comparison districts.

Regarding religion, children who identified as Catholic experienced the highest rates of emotional abuse (31%) followed by Pentecostal (29%) in the intervention areas. Most children who experienced emotional abuse in the comparison districts identified as Seventh Day Adventists (50%).

Children from the Ateso ethnic group in the intervention districts were most likely to experience emotional violence (40%), followed by those of the Banyankore ethnic group (31%) and the Ngikarimojong ethnic group (26%). In the comparison districts, children part of the Batoro/Banyoro ethnic group were most likely to experience emotional violence (60%), followed by Ngikarimojong (36%), Basoga (36%), and Luo (32%). Emotional abuse was more prevalent among children who never attended school

(39%) and proved to decrease in prevalence as children obtained more education [refer Supplementary table A.11].

Emotional violence by background characteristics

A child's education level was significantly associated with emotional violence in the comparison districts. For example, children with some level of education experienced a 71% lower prevalence rate of emotional violence than children with no education; and emotional violence against children decreased as their level of education increased.

Likewise, ethnicity was significantly associated with emotional abuse in the comparison districts—Batoro/Banyoro children are 10 times more likely to be emotionally abused than children of the Baganda ethnic group in comparison districts. The Ngikarimojong and Ateso ethnic groups also reported high prevalence rates when compared to Baganda children in comparison districts. Earning status was a significant marker of a child's likelihood to experience emotional abuse in the intervention areas. The prevalence of emotional violence against children who did not earn money was about twice that of children who earned money in intervention districts.

Table 4.13: Association between sexual violence, physical violence and emotional violence among children by background characteristics

	Emotion violence		Sexual abuse/exploitation OR[95%CI] unadjusted		Physical violence by strangers or people they know well in the home or community OR[95%CI]	
	Intervention N=567	Comparison N=560	Intervention N=567	Comparison N=560	Intervention N=567	Comparison N=560
Age	P=0.69	P =0.400	P=0.003	P=0.001	P=0.654	P= 0.339
13-15	1	1	1	1	1	1
16-17	0.93[0.66-1.31]	0.86[0.61-1.22]	1.68[1.18-2.39]	1.84[1.27-2.68]	0.92[0.64-1.32]	1.18[0.83-1.68]
Sex	P=0.992	P=0.774	P<0.0001	P<0.0001	P=0.513	0.7670
Female	1	1	1	1	1	1
Male	1.01[0.71-1.41]	1.05[0.73-1.51]	0.17[0.11-0.25]	0.13[0.09-0.20]	1.12[0.78-1.62]	1.05[0.73-1.52]
Education level	P=0.378	P=0.041	P=0.314	P=0.271	P=0.19	P=0.37
No education	1	1	1	1	1	1
Primary	0.70[0.25-1.98]	0.53 [0.29-0.98]	0.84[0.29-2.43]	0.64[0.33-1.26]	0.79[0.25-2.26]	1.14[0.61-2.13]
Secondary	0.56[0.19-1.63]	0.41 [0.21-0.83]	1.13[0.384-3.34]	0.82[0.39-1.74]	0.55[-0.188-1.66]	0.84[0.42-1.71]
Earns money	P=0.027	P=0.945	P=0.744	P=0.092	P=0.753	P=0.7504
Earns money (A11)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Does not earn money	1.63[1.05-2.54]	1.04[0.67-1.51]	1.07[0.689-1.68]	1.44[0.94-2.20]	1.07[0.68-1.69]	0.94[0.62-1.40]
Ethnicity	P=0.506	P=0.003	P=0.480	P=0.613	P=0.326	P=0.009
Baganda	1	1	1	1	1	1
Banyankole	1.71[0.67-4.3]	1.02[0.555-1.88]	0.95[0.35-2.52]	1.15[0.65-2.06]	1.38[0.47-4.06]	1.57[0.83-2.96]
Batoro/Banyoro	1.11[0.59-2.09]	10.51[1.12-98.37]	1.22[0.66-2.27]	0.93[0.14-5.84]	1.65[0.83-3.26]	13.9[1.47-131]
Basoga	1.23[0.41-3/71]	2.10[0.52-8.42]	0.89[0.29-2.67]	1.24[0.29-5.27]	1.61[0.49-5.57]	1.73[0.40-7.54]
Bakiga	0.63[0.19-2.10]	1.12[0.27-4.67]	1.872[0.61-5.76]	1.44[0.35-5.96]	4.62[1.56-13.65]	5.21[1.34-20.21]
Ngikarimojong	0.85[0.37-2.01]	3.04[1.59-5.81]	1.43[0.63-3.24]	1.52[0.78-2.95]	1.54[0.64-3.69]	2.10[1.05-4.18]
Ateso	2.35[1.02-5.41]	2.04[1.14-3.65]	1.73[0.71-4.22]	1.07[0.61-1.89]	1.97[0.80-4.84]	2.60[1.41-4.81]
Luo	1.25[0.70-2.22]	2.03[1.08-3.81]	0.75[0.42-1.32]	0.99[0.53-1.84]	1.43[0.75-2.73]	2.05[1.05-4.01]
Other	1.26[0.75-2.12]	1.85[0.97-3.51]	1.16[0.69-1.94]	1.96[1.00-3.85]	1.67[0.93-2.98]	2.73[1.40-5.31]

Note: (unadjusted OR per single variable against the types of violence) (unadjusted OR per single variable against the types of violence)

Children's exposure to violence

The assessment found that 1-in-10 children across both areas have witnessed physical violence by strangers or known adults in their communities in the last 12 months. The largest proportion of children who witnessed violence were those who identify as Seventh Day Adventists—44% in intervention areas and 50% in comparison districts.

The proportion of children who witnessed physical violence in the home or community in the last 12 months decreased with increasing levels of education across both intervention and comparison areas, except for those with an advanced and tertiary education.

Children's attitudes towards violence and gender norms

The assessment showed that children's attitudes towards violence and gender norms directly impact how they perceive and respond to violence. 12%–32% of children between 5–17 years old in the intervention areas and 15–38% of children between 5–17 years old in the comparison districts believe it is acceptable for a man to beat his wife for any reason. For example, 1-in-3 children agreed it was acceptable for a man to beat his wife if she reportedly “did not take care of the children” [Supplementary table A.13/A.14].

Several statements were used to measure children's held attitudes towards IPV and SVAC including beliefs that:

- Men, not women, should decide when to have sex
- Men need more sex than women
- Men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their wives
- Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men
- A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together

The assessment discovered that a large percentage of children (48% in comparison districts vs 49% in intervention areas) believe that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together. A large proportion of children also believe

that a woman who carries condoms must be having sex with a lot of men (45% in comparison districts vs 41% in intervention areas).

Roughly, half of all female children believe that it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations (54% in comparison districts vs 50% in intervention areas). More than half of Muslim children believed it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations (58% in comparison districts vs 51% in intervention areas) refer to supplementary table A.13).

In regard to ethnic groups, more than half of the children in the Ateso (60%), Bakiga (59%), Luo (58%), and Ngikarimojong (56%) ethnic groups believe that it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations in the intervention areas. In the comparison districts, the majority of Ngikarimojong (74%) and Bakiga (70%) children believe it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations.

In regard to education, children with little (51%) to no (77%) education in the comparison districts believe it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations.

Children's response to violence

Only 1-in-3 children said they reported the violence they experienced to someone. Of those who told someone, 45% said they reported the violence to their mother (41% in comparison areas), followed by friends, other relatives, fathers, teachers, health workers and police.

Roughly, 1-in-4 children in both the intervention and comparison districts said they knew where to go or who to go to for help after experiencing violence—including services such as hospitals and medical clinics, police stations, child helplines, social welfare, and/or legal support. As a result, only 34% of children in the intervention districts and 26% of children in comparison districts sought help from a hospital or medical clinic, police, child helpline, social welfare, or legal office after experiencing violence.

Children responded with different reasons for why they did not seek help after experiencing violence, with most stating

they “did not need/want services” (39% in intervention areas vs 50% in comparison districts). Additional reasons for not seeking help after violence included:

- Not thinking the violence was a problem
- Feeling the violence was the child's fault
- Being afraid of getting in trouble or being abandoned (in the event of violence at the hands of a caregiver)
- Not being able to afford services

For those who did seek help, only 10% of children in the intervention districts and only 8% of children in the comparison districts received services from a hospital/clinic, police station, child helpline, social welfare, or legal office. The most received services were from health workers, such as doctors and nurses.

In summary: Prevalence findings

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

The prevalence of IPV reported in this study is higher than what was reported in the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020.⁴⁵ Other rates of violence varied from this assessment compared to the 2021 WAWG Survey—including rate of lifetime physical violence (55% vs 45%), recent physical violence (47% vs 22%), lifetime sexual violence (33% vs 36%), and recent sexual violence (19% vs 28%).

This increase in overall rates of violence is likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is widely understood to have exacerbated different forms of violence. However, it is worth noting that the prevalence of physical violence and/or sexual violence among ever-partnered women has not changed since the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020 (56% vs 55% in this study).

Similar to previous studies,^{46,47} this

⁴⁵ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. *Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020*. Kampala, Uganda.

⁴⁶ Kebede, Sewnet Adem, Weldesenbet, Adisu Birhanu and Tusa, Biruk Shalmeno. 74, 2022. *Magnitude and determinants of intimate partner violence against women in East Africa: multilevel analysis of recent demographic and health survey*, BMC Women's Health, Vol. 22.

⁴⁷ Stöckl, H., Hassan, A., Ranganathan et al 2021, *Economic empowerment and intimate partner violence: a secondary data analysis of the cross-sectional Demographic Health Surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa*. , BMC Women's Health, 2021, Vol. 21.

assessment confirmed that **IPV was most prevalent among ever-partnered, older women who live in rural areas and have little to no education**. The assumption made is that these high rates of IPV for this specific demographic are because of lack of education around their personal rights protected under the law (such as the Domestic Violence Act) and their limited access to support and services from providers including police, helplines, civil society organizations, and district officials.

This assessment, however, did highlight some slight differences in the prevalence of IPV among ever-partnered women from different ethnic groups. For example, it was found that IPV was the most reported among Jopadhola women (71%), and Bamasaba/Bagisu (65%) and the least reported by Banyankore/Bakiga women (42%), while the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020 reported physical and sexual violence to be the highest among Acholi and Bagisu (72%) and Lugbara (70%) women, and the least among Batoro women. Given Jopadhola and Acholi women belong to the same ethnic group (Nilotes or Luos⁴⁸), it is safe to assume that IPV is common among the Luo people and consistent among the Bagisu.

This study also revealed that IPV prevalence was the same among women irrespective of a paid dowry/bride price. This is contrary to what was found in the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020, which showed a higher prevalence of IPV among women for whom a dowry/bride price was paid (59.4%), compared to women in marriages for whom neither a dowry or bride price or only a dowry was paid. However, it's worth noting that paying a dowry to the woman's family can create both a sense of ownership among men over their spouses and a sense of subjection and powerlessness among women, which can encourage violence.

This assessment confirmed that the likelihood of IPV was not influenced by a woman's earning status. This is also contrary to previous research conducted, which stated that women who worked and/or earned more money than their husbands

⁴⁸ Oruru, B., Najjemba, H., Zawedde, A. E., Nteziyaremye, R., & Nayibinga, M. (2020). *The first track of cultural astronomy in Uganda: Perspectives of the Baganda, Bagisu, Banyoro and Langi*. 35-38, s.l. : African Journal of History and Culture, 12(2), 35-48., 2020, Vol. 12(2).

experienced more IPV.⁴⁹ In regards to controlling behaviors, the most prevalent behavior by intimate partners was needing to know the whereabouts of women at all times (55%). This remains in line with the 2021 VAWG Survey.

It was found that women's attitudes towards violence have remained relatively stable since the 2021 survey. For example, the proportion of women who support wife-beating by a partner for any reason stayed at 52%, while the proportion of women who support wife-beating in the event of the woman being unfaithful has increased slightly from 45% to 47%. Meanwhile, the proportion of women who said women had the right to refuse sex with their husbands in any given situation (except when unwell) went down from 83% to 78%. Otherwise, women's attitudes towards IPV have stayed mostly the same since 2021, which likely signals that this type of violence has become normalized within many communities.

Sexual violence against children (SVAC)

The prevalence of sexual violence against children (SVAC) has remained largely unchanged since the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020, which found that 6 in 10 children experienced sexual violence before the age of 15. This assessment found a similar prevalence rate of 58%, indicating a minimal shift. This persistent rate may be linked to weak enforcement of laws on sexual abuse and defilement, noting that corruption and interference across the CJS along with a preference for informal resolution of VAWC cases at the community level (through mediation involving local councils, community leaders, police, and family members) continue to obstruct access to justice. This assessment found that SVAC remains more prevalent among girls than boys, and among children aged 15 and older—findings that align with the Uganda Police Force's most recent Annual Crime Report⁵⁰. It also revealed that sexual abuse prevalence remains high (above 51%) across all levels of education. This differs from the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020, which reported

the highest prevalence among girls who had never attended school.

Consistent with previous studies⁵¹, the assessment confirmed that the most common perpetrators of SVAC are individuals within the child's close circle—such as aunties, uncles, siblings, fathers, and peers.

The prevalence of SVAC was found to be similar among children regardless of whether they earn money. This contrasts with earlier findings from the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020, which indicated higher rates of SVAC among children who earn income (64% vs. 53%). This suggests that other vulnerabilities may be more influential in driving SVAC. However, the current assessment did find that children who earn money are more likely to experience forced sex—often linked to exploitative practices targeting girls in need of work, where sex is demanded as a condition of employment.

The study also explored children's attitudes toward gender-based violence. Alarming, 22% of children in both intervention and comparison districts agreed that it is acceptable for a man to beat his wife if she “does not take care of the children.” Unfortunately, there is a notable lack of research in Uganda and globally on children's attitudes toward sexual violence, highlighting a critical gap in understanding and prevention efforts.

4.2 RELIANCE OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE ON THE CJS

Reliance is measured by the degree to which vulnerable people can rely on the CJS for protection and an indication of a well-functioning justice system. Reliance in regard to IJM's programming was assessed using indicators measuring the following (Annex B):

- *The extent to which survivors rely on the justice system*
- *The extent to which survivors are empowered to undertake the justice journey*

⁴⁹ Stöckl, H., Hassan, A., Ranganathan et al 2021, *Economic empowerment and intimate partner violence: a secondary data analysis of the cross-sectional Demographic Health Surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa*. , BMC Women's Health, , 2021, Vol. 21.

⁵⁰ Uganda Police Force, Annual Crime Report, 2024, Kampala, Uganda

⁵¹ Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development/MGLSD, 2018). *National Gender Based Violence Statistical Analysis Report On Cases of Violence against Children May 2015- November 2018*. Kampala: MGLSD. Kampala : Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, 2018.

- *The extent to which survivors are adequately protected and supported as they pursue justice*

The assessment measured women survivors' reliance on the CJS in their lifetime by selected standardized indicators. The IJM survivor reliance tool was embedded into the Women Survey tool.

Victims' knowledge of services available

The assessment revealed that 58% of victims of violence or abuse said they know of services available to victims of violence (57% in intervention areas vs 59% in comparison districts) [refer to Annex D, supplementary table B.].

Women's willingness to report and participate in services for victims

Roughly, one-third of victims (28%, 340/1,224) reported a willingness to participate in and/or report to services for victims of violence in both the intervention (30%, 192/648) and comparison (26%,

148/576).

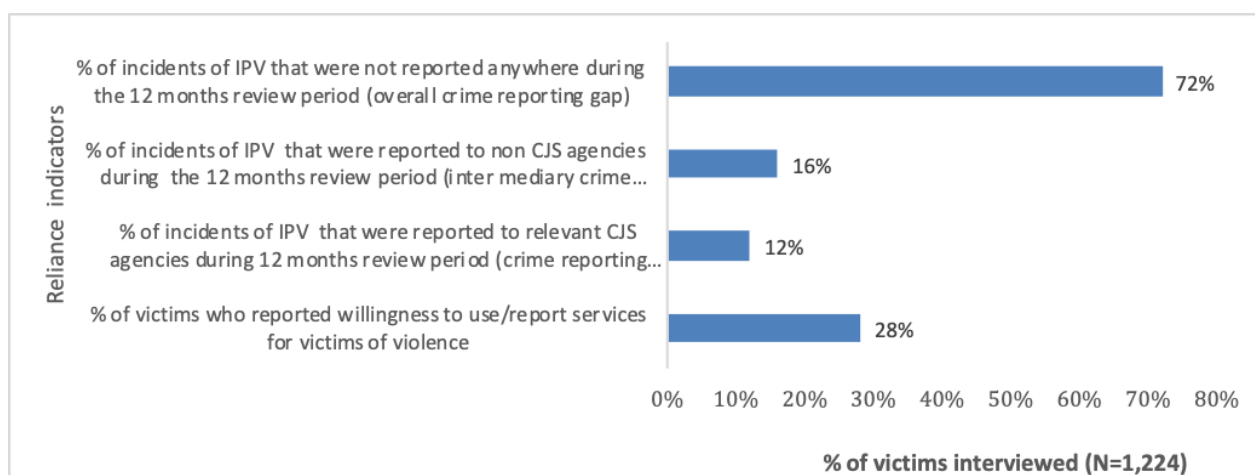
Crime reporting rate, intermediary crime reporting rate, and crime reporting gap

Only 12% of incidents of IPV were reported to relevant CJS agencies within the last 12 months. There is a slightly higher crime reporting rate in the intervention districts (12%, 79/648) than in the comparison districts (11%, 63/576).

Only 16% of incidents of IPV were reported to non-CJS agencies during the last 12 months. The intermediary crime reporting rate was higher in intervention districts (17%, 113/648) than in comparison districts (15%, 85/576).

There is a crime reporting gap of 72%, (884/1,224). This means that roughly 3-in-4 of all incidents of physical and/or sexual violence against women and children go unreported (70% in intervention districts compared to 72% in the comparison districts).

Figure 9: Summary of vulnerable peoples' reliance on the CJS by selected indicators.



Drivers and deterrents to reporting crimes to CJS and non-CJS agencies

When asked what the main reason for seeking help and reporting violence was, 45% of victims said it was because they could not endure the violence any longer. The other prominent reasons for reporting in both intervention and comparison districts were:

- The victim sustained serious injuries and afflictions that needed medical attention
- The victim was encouraged by friends and/or family to report the incident to the appropriate authorities

The most pronounced reason for victims not reporting violence was because they perceived the violence to be “normal” or “not serious enough” to report (29%). Other pronounced deterrents in both intervention and comparison districts were fear of it prompting more violence (20–22%), personal embarrassment (13%), and a perceived or real lack of money to pay for services. A sizable proportion of victims interviewed (18% on average) did not express any clear reason as to why they did not report the violence to CJS or non-CJS agencies.

Assistance obtained after reporting violence

The most common form of assistance victims received after reporting a violent crime was police arresting the perpetrator but never taking him/her to court, 44% (41% in comparison areas and 49% in intervention districts). The second largest response was from victims who said “nothing was done” to their perpetrator after reporting the violence (24%)—particularly in the intervention areas (28%) compared to the comparison districts (19%).

Another common response from victims was that police reported to the scene of the violence, but it did not result in an arrest (25%) (24%, in intervention districts and 25% in comparison districts). In only a few cases 4% taken to court and 3% was the perpetrator sentenced to jail.

Court session attendance by the survivors

Among the survivors whose case made it

to court, 60% of survivors attended most or all of the scheduled court sessions, but only 10% of victims were represented by a lawyer. 33% of victims never attended a session in person or through a lawyer representative. Those who did not attend court sessions did so because their case was resolved within the family and/or community, or the survivor reported losing interest in the case.

When asked, the majority of survivors did not mention a specific person or organization from whom they sought additional help 60%– (53% intervention areas vs 66% in the comparison districts). Although, a proportion of survivors mentioned they would like more help from family members (9%) and from the Police (9%).

Reliance: Discussion

The Women Survey revealed a crime reporting rate of 12% to CJS agencies and 16% to non-CJS agencies. This confirms a massive overall crime reporting gap of 72% of incidents that are never reported to either the CJS or non-CJS actors.

Victims who reported violence did so mainly because of the perceived gravity of the injuries and afflictions they sustained as a result of the violence. This matches what was found in the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020⁵². Other drivers for reporting violence included being encouraged by family members and friends. Those that did seek help had no recognizable mechanisms in place to protect them and their witnesses once they reported cases to authorities for legal action.

Wife-beating or the beating of children was found to be considered “normal” and a bearable disciplinary tool in many communities across Uganda. This perception was found to be held also by some key actors in CJS and non-CJS agencies, including the police and LCs.

Reasons victims did not report violence to CJS and non-CJS agencies include:

- The perpetrator also being the victim’s main breadwinne
- Victims did not know where to seek

⁵² Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. *Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020*. Kampala, Uganda.

help—only 56% of women knew of the help and services available to them

- Potentially escalating violence in the home
- Causing embarrassment or stigmatization
- Not having a “reason” to report the violence—likely as a result of it being normalized.

This assessment found that most victims of violence sought help from the police. This is contrary to what was reported in the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020, which showed victims seeking help primarily from local leaders.

This assessment found that the most common form of assistance victims received after reaching out for help was in the arrest of the perpetrator(s). However, in 25% of reported cases, the police visited the scene, but did not arrest the perpetrator. In 24% of cases reported, nothing was done at all.

About 60% of the women interviewed in this assessment were unable to identify a protection service available to them—reflecting the limited knowledge at the community-level of the services available to victims of violence. This is not too dissimilar to the Uganda VAWG Survey 2020 findings, which indicated that only 23% of women know of the services available to victims of violence, and only 10% actually use them.

In terms of court attendance, 60% of victims were able to attend all court sessions in person. Absenteeism was attributed to a number of factors including:

- Settling or resolving the case with the perpetrators
- The victim losing interest in the case or withdrawing
- Endlessly adjourning sessions
- High costs assumed by the victims, including transport to and from the courts

Despite efforts by government and non-state actors to provide justice and relief to IPV and SVAC victims, there are a number of challenges found at the pre-trial, trial, and post-trial stages, which directly impact people's reliance on the CJS. Nearly all the

challenges captured by this assessment have been previously reported in similar studies and/or literature,^{53 54} and can be broadly categorized into three core areas:

- Individual challenges
- Community challenges
- Institutional challenges

Individual challenges include stigmatization, fear for their lives or further violence, or fear of economic repercussions in the event that the perpetrator is also the main breadwinner. These challenges can have a significant and cumulative impact on the victim. For example, stigmatization can result in low self-esteem, isolation, and a low sense of worth. When a community stigmatizes violence, the victim is treated differently, which affects their sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Another individual challenge cited was victims' lack of awareness in terms of how to access help or how to report violence.

Community challenges include ethnic, religious, and political leaders interfering in cases of IPV and SVAC. This interference only frustrates and delays the justice process and key actors' ability to provide protection to victims. This challenge has also been noticed in other studies.^{55 56}

Institutional challenges identified in this assessment include ineffective CJS agencies, delays in the justice process, inadequate protection for survivors and post-violence support, underfunding of CJS agencies, a lack of community confidence in the CJS, difficulty in accessing medical services, and limited privacy for victims and their key witnesses. These challenges are also supported in a previous study.⁵⁷

In regards to the CJS's ineffectiveness, it

⁵³ Uganda Bureau of Statistics. *National Survey on Violence in Uganda: Violence Against Women and Girls 2020*. Kampala Uganda. Kampala : Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

⁵⁴ Economic Policy Research Centre. *Delayed access to justice for sexual gender based violence in Uganda and implications for gender SDG targets*. Kampala : s.n., 2020. Policy Brief.

⁵⁵ *Characterising and justifying sample size sufficiency in interview-based studies: Systematic analysis of qualitative health research over a 15-year period*. Vasileiou, K, et al. 18, 2018, BMC Medical Research Methodology, Vol. 1.

⁵⁶ Schwerdt, Guido and Woessmann, Ludger. Empirical methods in the economics of education: Difference-in-differences approach. *The Economics of Education (Second Edition)*. 2020, pp. 3-20.

⁵⁷ *Characterising and justifying sample size sufficiency in interview-based studies: Systematic analysis of qualitative health research over a 15-year period*. Vasileiou, K, et al. 18, 2018, BMC Medical Research Methodology, Vol. 1.

was said that some CJS actors—particularly the police and the ODPP—occasionally manipulated IPV and SVAC cases at entry points by accepting bribes. Other times, the Police, ODPP, or LCs were found to mediate settlements for IPV and SVAC cases at the entry level. IPV and SVAC cases were also delayed by prolonged investigations and continuous adjournment of trial sessions. In fact, the average time it took to conduct investigations was three months and it took nine months (276 day) from formal sanctioning (charges are registered to court) to when judgement is received.

Additionally, several key informants cited a lack of sufficient shelters for victims of violence—only a few districts across the country provide shelters to victims of violence. Victims also struggle to access medical services and examinations because medical personnel are unwilling to help—found to be especially the case in rural areas—as well as the associated costs of seeking help. Finally, there were reports of medical workers who were hesitant to testify in courts. All of these challenges needlessly complicate the justice process.

Most of the key informants interviewed for this assessment cited critical underfunding in some key sectors—including CJS, MGLSD, local governments, and health facilities—all of which are vital in handling cases of IPV and SVAC. Key informants also cited a gap in the number of trained personnel who can execute CJS services effectively.

However, there is need for adequate and appropriate use of the funds available, to be invested in enhancement of the quality and efficiency of investigations and post-violence services offered by the police, ODPP, and courts..

Additionally, significant challenges were reported in obtaining corroborative evidence for IPV and SVAC cases. This is particularly true for forms of sexual violence such as marital rape, where physical evidence is often limited. These evidentiary gaps compound the issue of “believability” frequently faced by survivors of VAWC, further discouraging them from reporting incidents..

Finally, victims and their witnesses were often not granted privacy when recording statements with the police or testifying in court. The lack of confidentiality creates fear and discomfort, particularly when testimonies must be given in public, undermining the dignity of survivors and potentially compromising the accuracy of their accounts. However, some key informants noted that courts have recently begun adopting video link technology to facilitate more private testimony for victims and key witnesses.

4.3 CONFIDENCE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CJS

In the context of IJM's protection measurement, confidence is measured by stakeholders' belief in the CJS to deliver **effective, efficient, and fair** justice to victims.

The assessment team measured stakeholder confidence using both quantitative and qualitative data—quantitative data was useful for tracking progress against the indicators (see Supplementary Tables C.1, C.2 and C.3) and for reporting, while the qualitative data captured useful insights from stakeholders regarding key gaps in the CJS and what could be done to improve its overall performance.

Note: All verbatim quotes are presented under the sub-category in which the responses were collected.

Stakeholder confidence in the overall effectiveness of the CJS

This assessment reviewed the CJS' ability to adequately and appropriately address IPV and SVAC across four criteria: system coordination, respect for the rule of law, public support, and effectiveness in crime deterrence. Stakeholders were asked to assess their confidence in the CJS by rating the following statements as **Unconfident, Neither Confident nor Unconfident, or Confident**:

- I have confidence that the CJS coordinates effectively to secure justice

for vulnerable people who face SVAC and IPV.

- I have confidence that the justice system upholds the rule of law at all times for persons who interact with the justice system regarding SVAC and IPV cases.
- I have confidence that the justice system overall enjoys great public support in tackling SVAC and IPV cases.
- I have confidence that the justice system overall is effectively deterring VAWC hence reducing the prevalence of this violence, based on the success of its work.
- Based on all comments above, my overall level of confidence in the effectiveness of the justice system can be described as....

In summary, 42% of stakeholders reported being confident that the CJS coordinates effectively to secure justice for victims, 33% said they felt the CJS upholds the rule of law at all times, 32% said the CJS is effective in deterring IPV and SVAC crimes, and 24% felt that the general public supported the CJS' handling of IPV and SVAC cases.

In order for a stakeholder to be considered confident in the *overall* effectiveness of the CJS to handle cases of SVAC and IPV, they were required to mark **Confident** across all four criteria. Only 18% of stakeholders affirmed all four statements.

Stakeholders' confidence in the effectiveness of CJS institutions

The majority of stakeholders—mostly local government officials and partner officials—rated their level of confidence in the effectiveness of CJS institutions as “neither confident nor unconfident”. The highest number came from the Central region, followed by the Northern region.

A lower number of stakeholders—judicial officials and police officers, mostly from the Central, Northeastern, and Northern regions—rated their level of confidence in the effectiveness of CJS institutions as Confident. Cultural leaders, local government, CSOs, and MGLSD officials were among those who rated their level of confidence in the CJS' effectiveness as Unconfident.

Those who were Confident and in between Confident and Unconfident that the CJS was effective in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the following reasons:

There was an immediate response to IPV and SVAC cases from the ODPP through the Department of SGBV, and Police were guided and supported with investigations.

Special court sessions on SGBV were conducted, judiciary was expanded to reduce the backlog of cases, and the number of SGBV cases reported reduced. LCs were reported to be very effective because of the proximity to and knowledge of the community.

Cases were handled with the victim's wellbeing in mind, for example:

“They are sensitive and make an effort to deliver, although their instructions to police to investigate are general, which fails cases in court.” – NGO official in Acholi sub region

“There is positive progress, there is a trauma-informed response, i.e. safe spaces at ODPP for children and Police requests for psychosocial support for victims of violence in addition to investigating crime. They are mindful of the welfare of the victims as well.” – Partner Official

There is a well-established administration system for reporting and procedure, the use of guided investigation of police by ODPP to get required evidence on time versus police working on their own, and improvement in response to cases by court.

The courts have been brought nearer to the people.

Those who were Unconfident in terms of CJS institutions effectiveness in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the following reasons:

Police are not sufficiently funded, equipped, and trained to collect and store evidence or investigate cases—especially forensic investigations, which creates delays at the start point:

“There was a 17-year-old child with 2 children (2yrs and 5 months) who came to report the disappearance of her husband with the 2-year-old child. Police wanted to arrest the man, but the police had no transport.” – District Official, Central Region

“An 8-year-old girl witnessed the killing of her mother over domestic violence issues and testified against the father when she was 13 years old. Up to now there has been no ruling and she is now 18 years old. The girl is being kept in a children’s home.” – District Official, Central Region

Police were also reported to be corrupt and only engaged in active work for persons that can reward their effort with money.

The speed of disposal of cases is very slow, which creates a backlog at court due to bureaucracies. As a result, victims tend to lose interest in cases, which leads to a preference for mediation and settlement out of court even for capital offenses.

Lack of sufficient knowledge among community members on how the CJS functions.

Delays in getting cases to court as a result of insufficient number of prosecutors and insufficient number of police officers—especially for the Child and Family Protection Unit, which creates a lot of backlog cases.

Police have a very low budget to work with and do not follow up with victims to update them on their case’s progress.

The government’s analytical laboratory was reported to be poorly resourced and usually failing to provide reports in a timely manner.

Unmet expectations of complainants and/or victims:

“At times, victims’ expectations are not met—for example, in terms of compensation and/or treatment. Victims don’t expect to incur costs on transport to court. Even professional

witnesses such as doctors expect a transport refund.” – ODPP official, Kampala

Convictions were too light to deter future offenders.

Many times hearings were not done in privacy, which violates the dignity of victims, complainants, and witnesses.

Police did not do thorough investigations, which affected prosecution of respective cases. Sometimes, the police or the ODPP did not summon witnesses to courts or were compromised. Similarly, the police were compromised by other institutions, such as community elders who discouraged legal process.

In Karamoja, insecurity has sometimes impeded the movement of judicial officials and state attorneys to courts.

They also cited the ODPP and Police were vulnerable to bribery and corruption, stating: “Those without money rarely get service”:

“In a case of aggravated torture, the case was reduced to child neglect by the State Attorney. In a case of SVAC, the man was granted bond and the trial never commenced.” – District official, Wakiso

Stakeholder confidence in the efficiency of justice system institutions

This assessment looked at stakeholders’ confidence in the efficiency of the CJS institutions (UPF, ODPP and courts). IJM defines an efficient justice system institution as one that ensures that processes are streamlined, effectively utilizes resources, and where legal proceedings are conducted in a timely manner.

To measure stakeholders’ confidence in the efficiency of the selected CJS institutions (UPF, ODPP, and courts), stakeholders were asked to rate on a scale Unconfident, neither confident nor Confident and Confident the CJS’ efficiency across four components: mandate independence, timeliness of

service delivery, public access, and political support.

10% of stakeholders expressed confidence in the efficiency of the courts, followed by 9% who indicated confidence in the efficiency of the ODPP. Only 6% of stakeholders reported confidence in the efficiency of the police in handling cases of SVAC and IPV.

Those who were Confident and in between Confident and Unconfident in the CJS efficiency in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the following reasons:

CJS agencies were seen as government institutions established by law with trained staff.

The police and ODPP were very vigilant and committed to cases involving children.

There was teamwork and coordination across all the key actors. The police worked with the communities as well as with the ODPP and courts and NGOs.

There were personnel to pursue justice for victims of IPV and SVAC. Violators were usually prosecuted in courts of law, which has led to a decrease in GBV, especially in Gulu.

The courts, particularly the female magistrates, were commended for their judiciousness, vigilance, and impartiality when attending to cases. The problem was seen as getting the cases filed in the courts of law. For example:

“Very few cases filter through, but if it goes through and gets presented in the court, the judges are very, very hard, especially the lady judges. They are very vigilant and very tough over such cases the moment it gets there.”
– District Official, Central region

Institutions were diligent in attending to cases in courts on a daily basis in addition to having SGBV sessions. There were also a number of remedies pursued by the court, such as plea bargain, bailing, reconciliation, and trials.

The ODPP had succeeded in prosecuting and convicting several cases on IPV and SVAC, except that the court of appeal would reduce the sentences.

Those who were Unconfident in the CJS efficiency in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the following reasons:

Key actors at the entry point, such as the police, held negative attitudes towards women, which normalized violence against them.

The police were perceived to be weak in collecting, storing evidence, and conducting forensic investigations due to limited resources.

The independence of CJS institutions (police, ODPP, and the courts) is questionable as many are perceived to have given into commands from those in higher-ranking positions.

The courts were distant, characterized by backlog of cases, delays, prolonged and continuous adjournments of cases, and poor handling of the children's and family court which tended to be engaged with other cases, such as land and commercial cases. For example:

“When you're working on a case for children, time is very vital to the life of that child. Time is the future of this child. So you can't be inefficient. If you're coming in to support three months later, by the time you come in, where is this child? Where are the siblings? Where is the perpetrator?” – Partner official, Central region

“I have kept some child victims in the institution for safety purposes because the cases were taking too long in the justice system.” – PSWO Wakiso

CJS processes were not well known and communicated to the victims or complainants.

The requirement for providing evidence beyond reasonable doubt was not always achievable, which left the complainants feeling demoralized.

The police were blamed for frequently settling domestic and sexual violence issues in families outside court.

The investigators (police surgeons, medical workers, police officers, ODPP, and/or witnesses) were accused of fabricating evidence, which compromised the entire justice system. For example:

“A mother reported defilement. The first police surgeon found that there was no penetration and injury. The mother was not satisfied and went to another surgeon who found that there was no penetration, but there were injuries. Such an inefficiency comes from the police and is transferred to court. If the courts are not vigilant, then the accused will be acquitted.” – District official, Central region

Stakeholder confidence in the fairness of justice system institutions

Finally, this assessment looked at stakeholders' confidence in the fairness of the CJS institutions. IJM defines a fair justice system as one that treats individuals equally and without discrimination. This includes impartial and unbiased treatment in legal proceedings, ensuring equal access to legal processes, unbiased judgement, and the protection of rights for all parties involved. To measure stakeholders' confidence in the fairness of the selected CJS institutions, stakeholders were asked to rate on a scale of Unconfident, neither Confident nor Unconfident and Confident in the CJS' fairness across two components: non-discrimination and dignity of persons. A stakeholder was considered **Confident** in fairness when they responded positively to the two components for a specific institution.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) was perceived as the fairest justice institution at 24%. This was followed by the courts at 22%. Police, on the other hand, were perceived as the least fair at 16%.

Those who were Confident and in between Confident and Unconfident that the CJS fairness in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the

following reasons:

Courts and ODPP make fair decisions when addressing concerns of victims and perpetrators, and cases were reported to be fairly assessed regardless of the gender of the complaint. For example:

“The judges are impartial, but you can be on the right side, and if you fail to articulate your issues, you lose the case.” – District official, Wakiso

In some cases, there is a speedy trial in the lower court, but delays often occur in the High Court. There is representation in the semi-capital cases.

The court gives time for mediation and reconciliation. For example:

“Sentencing is guided by the laws and sentencing guidelines. The sentences are granted according to prescribed laws, although in IPV they normally take a reconciliatory approach.” – partner official, Acholi/Lango sub-region

Those who were unconfident in CJS fairness in addressing IPV and SVAC justified their response with the following reasons:

Sentences to perpetrators were reported to be too lenient.

Fairness also relates to the trial itself. Some judicial officers are not sensitive to the trauma of the victims and conduct trials in public or open court as opposed to trial in camera, which is perceived as unfair.

Some police lacked interview rooms to record statements in private, which is a breach of confidentiality and seen as unfair to the victim, for example:

“We encourage police to record statements in private. Although, most times it's done in the open, which affects the quality of evidence. The environment for recording statements is not fair. There is a need for interview rooms for victims of violence.” – ODPP official, Lango subregion

There are cases which are mismanaged, especially if they involve highly regarded officials or connivance between police, courts, and state attorneys.

Untold delays make people lose interest in pursuing justice.

Survivors' confidence in the CJS

In addition to surveying key stakeholders' confidence in the CJS, we assessed survivors' level of confidence in the *overall* functioning of the CJS to address cases of VAWC. Once again, confidence was measured in terms of survivors' beliefs that the CJS effectively coordinates to secure justice for victims, upholds the rule of law at all times, and holds great public support for their ability to tackle IPV and SVAC.

Overall, 27% of survivors interviewed in both the intervention and comparison districts expressed confidence that the CJS coordinates effectively to secure justice for victims of SVAC and IPV. 25% expressed confidence that the justice system always upholds the rule of law for those who interact with the justice system regarding SVAC and IPV cases. 26% expressed confidence that the justice system overall enjoys great public support in tackling SVAC and IPV cases. And 28% expressed confidence that the justice system overall is effectively deterring violence and is reducing the prevalence of this violence as a result. Looking at the CJS at large, only 19% (17% intervention areas and 20% comparison districts) felt confident the CJS could effectively, efficiently, and fairly handle cases of VAWC.

Overall confidence in CJS: Perceptions shared in in-depth Interviews

Most of the women who participated in the in-depth survivor interviews reported extremely low levels of confidence in CJS actors. They generally perceived CJS actors to have fallen short in terms of effectiveness, inclusivity, and accountability—especially with regard to vulnerable and marginalized populations such women and children. This perspective of “falling short” was attributed to several challenges, institutional and

otherwise, including:

- A lack of professionalism resulting from corruption within the CJS
- Public servants neglecting their work
- Professional incompetencies
- Limited public understanding of how the justice system really works

Below are some of the comments shared by participants in IDIs about specific justice actors:

Police: The police are meant to protect and serve. However, most respondents reported very low confidence in the police's ability to carry out its mandate—citing corruption, professional incompetence, and lack of facilitation as the main hindrances. For example:

“I don't have a lot of confidence in the police, because they ask for money and if one doesn't have much, they will not be eager to help you.... I who am poor will not be handled well. In fact, even before I get home, they will have released [the perpetrator], and even if I go back to them, they will keep tossing me around till the case goes cold.”
– Respondent from Kyenjojo

“I don't trust the police at all because they attach money to everything. When you go there, your husband will bribe them and they will let him free.” – Respondent from Ibanda

“Police are very corrupt. They tend to request money from complainants as a requirement for one to be served.” – Respondent from Moroto

A few respondents did believe that police were effective in carrying out their mandate and securing justice for victims. For example:

“They will come and set boundaries and tell the culprit not to cross it. If it concerns violence, they will order [the accused] not to torture a child, and they even identify some neighbour to keep watch over [them]. On the extreme end of our village, there is a woman

who was locked up for two days, for beating and injuring her child on the head. Since that time her children got peace.” – Respondent Kyenjojo

Courts and Judiciary: Public confidence in the court process & Judiciary was reported to be very low because it was perceived as too difficult to navigate. Respondents also reported high levels of inequality as seen in those perceived as rich and/or powerful given certain advantages over the poor, political interference, courts being too far away to access, and undue delays. For example:

“My confidence in the judicial system is not there as they only think about money these days. I once went to them for help but they immediately asked me for money that I didn’t have. I explained and begged them to help me then I will look for the money they wanted and bring it, but they insisted on money first.... There is also one thing I have noticed these days when it comes to getting justice in Uganda, if you are alone and poor you will not get justice unless you have someone big or with money on your side.” – Respondent from Mukono

“Court services are not available in the community and a few people that have been going there reported that they extort a lot of money from them to seek justice.” – Respondent from Kotido

“Everyone knows that court issues take a lot of time, but also you need to have money to be assisted. There are organizations like FIDA which usually come and teach women about their rights and encourage us to go to court but very few people are willing, and those who do, give up after some time.” – Respondent from Kampala

Two respondents did believe that the courts were effective in carrying out their mandate and securing justice for victims. For example:

“I have confidence in them, and I

know if I were to go there I would get justice. There is a woman here whose child was raped and got HIV and got pregnant. The perpetrator is jailed still to this day.” – Respondent from Kabarole

“I have confidence in the court as they bring the perpetrator to face charges and penalties before the public so that it’s a lesson to others. The judges interpret the law to help the perpetrator understand the crime committed.” – Respondent from Mbale

District officials (DCDO and Probation and Welfare Officers):

Most IDI respondents reported little or no contact with district officials, but still shared their perceptions. For those who had been in contact with district officials, they reported a high level of confidence because of the following reasons:

CDO and Probation Officers solved cases with no funding required, officers were readily available at their duty stations, officers were effective in apprehending perpetrators, efficient in sensitizing the community on the rights and responsibilities within the family unit, and more. A few responses include:

“Here mostly I have confidence in the CDO at the sub-county level. We always have access to [them] and in most cases handle family affairs well.” – Respondent from Mbale

“They are good because they provide free education and sensitization to the dangers of violence. They deliver well through sensitization of communities on equal rights and responsibilities in families.” – Respondents from Moroto and Kotido

Non-state justice actors: Respondents that reported interacting with non-state actors—such as NGOs, CSOs and CBOs—indicated very high levels of confidence in these actors.

“I know of an NGO called STRONG MINDS, which has even helped me

in the past month over my husband's mistreatment. It educated me and gave me encouragement on how to live a happy life in my marriage and now I can even advise another woman." – Respondent from Mbale

"Few that have been operating in this community have been good because they have been promoting equality amongst members in communities, for example APOLOU." – Respondent from Kotido

"There used to be an organization in the community called Every Life Counts, who used to send social workers to counsel and sensitize us on the best way of living in harmony in homes. There has also been FIDA that used to do sensitization on the rights of women and also give justice to the victims of violence." – Respondent from Kampala

Local Councils: Most IDIs reported high confidence in LCS, which are designed to promote alternative justice mechanisms that emphasize indigenous values of communal harmony, cooperation, compromise, and reconciliation. They are seen as more accessible and affordable, especially to people living in rural areas. In most cases, LCs were said to have carried out their mandate effectively. For example:

"I trust the village chairperson so much because whenever we go there, we get solutions and they know their people very well. For example, most women have had fights with their husbands, but if it wasn't for the chairman intervening, there would be no woman in any home." – Respondent from Ibanda

"I have high confidence in LCs, mostly because they are near and easily reachable, they turn up quickly to rescue the victim, arrest the perpetrator, and take them to the police while working hand-in-hand to bring justice to the victim." – Respondent from Mbale

"I have confidence in the LC

chairman because if you make a phone call at 1:00am, he will get up to see what happened. When he asks for some money, it is when the case has become complicated and needs to be taken further." – Respondent from Kyenjojo

"They are very good. They are the main conflict resolution institution that supports reconciliation within families. Community members trust them a lot since there are no costs involved when reporting a case." – Respondent from Kotido

"They perform their duties very well since 90% of grievances amongst families are mainly resolved by them." – Respondent from Moroto

Despite this praise, it was reported that some LCs in Gulu and Lira abused the flexibility allotted to them by manipulating victims and causing more harm, usually a result of corruption. In Kampala, the LCs were said to have limited power to enforce action. For example:

"I do not have any confidence anywhere at all. I tried the clan leaders, but they supported the other side. The LC was also compromised, so where else do I go? God only knows. The LC told me that he would give me a contradictory letter because he is very well-informed that I am a witch. So I went to some NGO called FIDA. They were very nice to me, but they told me first to get a letter from the LC, to which I declined because this was very frustrating." – Female survivor and IDI respondent from Moroto

Confidence in summary

There is a widespread lack of confidence in CJS institutions in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and fairness. This lack of confidence is held by both key stakeholders and survivors interviewed. A summary of key findings is:

Effectiveness

- **18% (12/68)** of stakeholders

interviewed expressed confidence in the **Effectiveness of the Justice System**, based on the criteria of: system coordination, respect for rule of law, public support, and effectiveness in crime deterrence.

- **42% (29/68)** were confident that the CJS coordinates effectively to secure justice for victims
- **33% (23/68)** believed the system upholds the rule of law at all times
- **24% (16/68)** believed that the CJS overall enjoys public support in tackling VAWC cases
- **32% (22/68)** believe the CJS is effective in deterring violent crimes against women and children

Efficiency

- **12% (8/68)** of stakeholders had confidence in the efficiency of at least one of the CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC.
- **6% (4/68)** of stakeholders had confidence in the efficiency of all the three CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC.
- When disaggregated by institutions, **only 6% (4/68)** believed the police were efficient in their handling cases of VAWC. Only **10% (7/68)** of stakeholders expressed confidence in the courts, and only **9% (6/68)** had confidence in the efficiency of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).
- **28% (19/68)** believed there is mandate independence, **28% (19/68)** believed that Police, ODPP and Judiciary (courts) are independent to exercise their mandate. **7% (5/68)** believed CJS agencies provided timely services. **24% (16/68)** of those interviewed felt the CJS was accessible to the general public. **26% (18/68)** of the stakeholders believed there is good political support for each justice institution

Fairness

- **25% (17/68)** of stakeholders believed in the fairness of at least one of the CJS institutions in handling cases

related to VAWC. **16% (11/68)** believe in the fairness of all CJS institutions in handling cases of VAWC

- The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was perceived by stakeholders to be the fairest justice institution (**24%, 16/68**), followed by the courts (**22%, 15/68**), with the police seen as the least fair (**16%, 11/68**).
- **22% (15/68)** believed that all CJS institutions are non-discriminatory in their interactions and handling matters of VAWC, and **21% (14/68)** believed that all institutions treated all with respect and dignity when handling matters of VAWC
- Overall, **84%** of the stakeholders hold the view that the CJS is not fair, across all the institutions.

Confidence: Discussion

These findings show that considerable improvement is needed if CJS institutions are to fulfill their mandate and deliver justice in an effective, efficient, and fair manner. Stakeholders cited particular concerns around entry-level responders (LCs, police, and ODPP officials) muddling in cases and complicating the justice process through corruption, accepting bribes, and lacking training. These perceptions align with what has been previously reported by Amnesty International⁵⁸ and the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention.⁵⁹

Other stakeholders reported low levels of confidence in the courts in terms of fairness because of its simple convictions delivered to perpetrators, a lack of a trauma-sensitive approach when working with victims and conducting trials in an open court and thus violating privacy. However, it was noted that more courtrooms are using video links for victims and witnesses to testify against perpetrators, which is a marked

⁵⁸ Amnesty International/AI (2010). Amnesty International/AI (2010). PRESS RELEASE AI Index: PRE 01/109/2010 07 April 2010 Uganda: Victims of rape and sexual violence denied justice. Retrieved on 28/07/2024 from: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/pre011092010en.pdf>. s.l.: Amnesty International/AI (2010), 2010.

⁵⁹ Center for Domestic Violence Prevention /CEDOVIP. Center for Domestic Violence Prevention /CEDOVIP (n.d). Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in Uganda: A Policy Brief to Support Decision Makers. Retrieved on 28/07/2024 from: https://raisingvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Network_PolicyBr.s.l.: Center for Domestic Violence Prevention /CEDOVIP, 2010.

improvement.⁶⁰

Levels of confidence in the police, in particular, were very low. In the interviews, police officers were accused of being corrupt, unprofessional, and incompetent, likely due to inadequate facilitation of their work. The courts were also viewed as difficult to navigate, favoured the rich over the poor, and easily influenced by those with power. These shortcomings reaffirm what previous reports have confirmed, which is that once victims do not receive the justice they seek and deserve through the CJS, they lose confidence in the CJS institutions altogether, and do not engage with the CJS in the future.⁶¹

However, encouragingly, many stakeholders cited qualitative improvements in the CJS institutions over the last many years. They also supported the police and ODPP's cardinal roles in identifying and registering IPV and SVAC cases—similar to other reviews.⁶²

They attribute these improvements to: 1) a credible, diligent, and vigilant police and ODPP, plus a full SGBV department within the ODPP who immediately responds to IPV and SVAC cases, and 2) commendable teamwork and coordination among stakeholders, and 3) the vigilance and impartiality of magistrates—especially the female magistrates—when attending to IPV and SVAC cases.

There are also now special court sessions on SGBV and an increasing number of courts being brought nearer to communities, which has bolstered stakeholders' confidence in overall CJS effectiveness.

In addition, 37% of court officials and 33% of ODPP officials applauded the CJS' efficiency in terms of its institutions operating independently and impartially as they are designed to do. Stakeholders also applauded court and ODPP officials for their fair decision-making when addressing

concerns of victims and perpetrators, regardless of the gender of the complainant. Stakeholders also praised the courts for their timeliness and sentencing.

Additionally, some survivors expressed confidence and praised non-CJS actors, including district officials, civil society, NGOs, and LCs. The DCDO and Probation and Welfare Officers were credited for being very accessible and not requiring money in exchange for services. They were also seen as effective in apprehending culprits and raising awareness around human rights. The LCs, however, were said to have encouraged reconciliation in SVAC and IPV cases at the village- or family-level, which is against the law. This is in agreement with other previous studies.⁶³

4.4 PERFORMANCE OF THE CJS

The assessment reviewed the CJS's performance by evaluating completed investigation case files (total N=410) at selected police stations and legal case files (total N=441) from the past two years at magistrate and high courts.

ILED indicators were used to measure case progression up to and including the submission of the case for the prosecution or court.

Legal indicators were used to assess whether the Ugandan CJS is delivering successfully on its mandate to deliver justice in IPV and SVAC cases, protect survivors of violence, promote public safety, display respect for the law, enforce laws, and correctly hold perpetrators accountable in the courts and government agencies. They helped to measure success at every stage of the legal process—pre-trial, trial, and post-trial.

Aftercare indicators were assessed using the Assessment of Survivor Outcomes (ASO) and Trauma-informed Care Interview (TIC-I) tools. For protection to be fully achieved, victims must be able to reach a

⁶⁰ Wolayo. Wolayo, H. (2010). Presentation at the 20th Annual Judges Conference, Speke Resort Munyonyo by Hon. Lady Justice, Judge High Court of Uganda. 2010.

⁶¹ UNODC and UN Women. Global estimates of gender-related killings of women and girls in the private sphere in 2021, 2021.

⁶² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC). United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Handbook on GENDER DIMENSIONS of criminal justice responses to terrorism (2019) 173. s.l.: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), 2019.

⁶³ Wolayo. Wolayo, H. (2010). Presentation at the 20th Annual Judges Conference, Speke Resort Munyonyo by Hon. Lady Justice, Judge High Court of Uganda. 2010.

state of complete safety and stability with low to no vulnerability to re-victimization. This requires all actors within the CJS to act within a trauma-informed approach. A trauma-informed CJS understands trauma, recognizes the impact of trauma, and responds in a way that actively minimizes re-traumatization in survivors. It engages with survivors in a way that is sensitive and promotes restoration.

Quality review of data from case files

Characteristics and quality of investigation case files

The majority of investigation cases reviewed involved SVAC (72%) in both intervention (71%) and comparison (72%) districts. Within that, defilement cases, including aggravated defilement, defilement and simple defilement, constituted the largest proportion (70%) of investigation cases reviewed in both intervention areas (76%) and comparison (64%) districts.

There were more IPV and SVAC victims (270) in the 9 intervention districts than in the 5 comparison districts (140). However, the average number of IPV and SVAC victims was nearly the same in both intervention areas (1.01 victims) and comparison districts (1.05 victims). Victims' median age was 17 years old in both the intervention and comparison districts.

The number of arrested persons in intervention districts was twice that of the comparison districts (270 vs 140). The vast majority of arrested persons were men—94% in intervention areas and 95% in comparison districts. The median age of the arrested persons in cases of IPV was 31 years. The median age of arrested persons in SVAC cases was 20 years in the intervention areas and 21 in the comparison districts.

99% of investigation files reviewed contained statements for key witnesses and reports of all investigative activities, 75% of files contained all evidence that was collected and submitted, and 78% maintained a chain of custody of evidence. 12% of investigation files were rated “excellent” compared to 15% in comparison

districts. 70% of investigation files in the intervention areas were rated as “average” compared to [64%] in the comparison districts (see supplementary table D.1).

In terms of the level of independence of the investigation case file reviewed, nearly all cases were championed by the government, both the intervention (100%) and comparison (94%) districts. Of those not driven by the government in the comparison districts, 8 investigation files were assisted by implementing partners.

Characteristics and quality of legal case files

In reviewing the legal case files in both intervention areas and comparison districts, the assessment team found that the majority of the cases were related to incidents of SVAC with 71% of cases in the intervention areas and 66% in the comparison districts.

When broken down by specific crime type, defilement—including aggravated defilement, attempted defilement, defilement (including simple defilement—was the largest group of case files (58% in intervention areas, 64% in comparison districts), followed by domestic violence (16% in intervention areas, 13% in comparison districts), and rape (8% in intervention areas, 17% in comparison districts).

There were a greater number of IPV and SVAC victims (323) in the 9 intervention districts than in the 5 comparison districts (151), but the average number of victims across both districts was nearly the same—1.08 victims in intervention areas and 1.00 victim in comparison districts. The average age of victims in intervention districts was 16 years old, compared to 15 years old in the comparison districts. The number of accused (306) in the 9 intervention districts was double that of those accused of violence crimes in the 5 comparison districts (306 vs 152). The vast majority of accused individuals were males in both intervention (93%) and comparison districts (97%).

13% of legal files in the intervention areas

were considered “excellent” in regards to the information they included (17% in comparison districts). 47% of legal files in the intervention areas had “fair” quality of documentation (50% in comparison districts). 45% of the legal files were found to be of “average” in the intervention areas (48% in comparison districts). And 7% of legal files were found to be “poor” in quality in the intervention areas (3% in comparison districts).

Furthermore, 64% of legal files in the intervention areas had kept all evidence collected and submitted (72% in comparison districts). And 98% of legal files in the intervention areas had charge sheets for every registered case for every accused (95% in comparison districts). Refer also to supplementary table D.2).

Regarding the independence of the legal case files reviewed, the majority of cases were championed by the government (96% of cases in intervention areas, 100% in comparison districts). Of the 4% of cases championed by agencies and/or actors other than the government in the intervention areas, IJM assisted with 3 cases and other NGOs and CSOs assisted with 7 cases.

Investigations, Law Enforcement, and Development (ILED) performance by indicator results

- In **92% (376/410)** of cases, government official statements were

collected from victims, key witnesses, and suspects.

- In **49% (202/410)** of casefiles potential non-testimonial evidence was properly collected for investigations into IPV and SVAC by law enforcement officials
- In **58% (38/65)** of case investigations forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence was completed in a timely manner
- In **81% (331/408)** of case investigations, government officials independently followed up on all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry.
- In **98%** of cases investigations resulted in an arrest
- **Almost half (49%, 201/410)** of the investigations into violence were filed with the prosecutor’s office or registered with the court.
- Average time taken for investigations of VAWC cases to be completed was **81 days**
- For the majority of IPV and SVAC cases, the investigations were independently generated by the government both in the intervention areas (98%) and comparison districts (97%).
- In both the intervention areas (97%) and comparison districts (98%), operations were independently conducted by the government for the majority of IPV and SVAC investigations.

Table 4.14: Investigation casefile review indicator results

Investigation parameters	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Statements taken	93%	249/269	90%	127/141	0.4952	92%	376/410
Government official statements taken from all victims	98%	263/269	95%	134/141	0.1334	97%	397/410
Government official statements taken from all key witnesses	97%	262/269	98%	138/141	0.7673	98%	400/410
Government official statements taken from all suspects	98%	263/269	96%	135/141	0.2479	97%	398/410
Investigations in which government officials properly collected non-testimonial evidence	46%	124/269	55%	78/141	0.0760	49%	202/410
Manner in which evidence was collected							
Government officials were acting within the law when they located the evidence (search warrant, search certificate signed by required signatories on police file)	35%	42/120	26%	20/78	0.165	31%	62/198
Government officials documented (photographed, videoed, sketched, took notes on) the evidence prior to collection	95%	116/122	97%	75/77	0.4170	96%	191/199
Government officials documented chain of custody for the evidence from the time the items were located until they were turned over to evidence custodian or property room	42%	51/121	15%	12/78	0.0000	32%	63/199
Presence of mitigating circumstances that made the collection of potential non-testimonial evidence highly unlikely	40%	104/259	52%	71/136	0.022	44%	175/395
Presence of non-testimonial evidence items that required forensic analysis	35%	43/124	28%	22/78	0.3377	32%	65/202
Case investigations in which forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence was completed in a timely manner	70%	30/43	36%	8/22	0.0097	58%	38/65
Appropriate lines of inquiry (Were all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry followed?)							
No	15%	41/269	25%	35/141	0.0177	19%	76/410
All lines of inquiry were followed by IJM/Partner with no government support	0	0	0	0			
All lines of inquiry were followed by IJM/Partner with limited government support	0	0	0	0			

Investigation parameters	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-values	Total	
All lines of inquiry were followed by government officials with critical IJM/Partner support	0	0	0	0			
All lines of inquiry were followed by government officials with limited IJM/Partner support	0	0	0	0			
All lines of inquiry were followed by government officials with no IJM/Partner support	84%	227/269	74%	104/141	0.0095	81%	331/410
Investigations resulting into an arrest	98%	263/269	98%	138/141	0.9462	98%	401/410
Filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court	42%	112/269	64%	89/141	0.0000	49%	201/410
Case closed	52%	139/269	30%	43/141	0.0000	44%	182/410
Case inactive	3%	8/269	5%	7/141	0.3078	4%	15/410
Case referred		0		0			
Data missing	4%	10/269	1%	2/141		3%	12/410
Average time to complete investigation		97, Sd=206		65.5, Sd=156	0.1152		
Investigations independently generated by government	97%	262/269	95%	134/141	0.2109	97%	396/410
Operations independently conducted by government	97%	261/269	99%	138/141	0.6144	97%	399/410

Legal performance by key indicator result

The team assessed overall case outcomes through a review of legal files and found that

- A total of **460** suspects were formally charged with VAWC.
- **99% (455/460)** of suspects were held in pre-trial custody.
- **64% (293/460)** of suspects accused for which final judgement was a conviction.
- None of the cases were appealed.
- The average time for violence-related cases to reach final judgment was **276 days** (**236** in intervention districts and **303** in comparison districts).
- **11% (53/476)** of the charges against the accused were definitively dismissed by court in which the prosecutor was unable to proceed; (**12%** (39/320) in intervention districts and **9% (14/156)** comparison districts).
- More than **two-thirds** (63% (300/474)) of victims were accompanied by a victim representative during the criminal trial proceedings.
- IPV/SVAC cases had an average number of 4 adjournments (3.58) per case.

Table 4.15: Legal Casefile review by indicator result

Performance indicator	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Pre-trial custody: % of IPV/SVAC accused held in pre-trial custody	99.7%	307/308	97.4%	148/152	0.025	99%	455/460
Accused convicted - % of accused for which final judgement was a conviction	59%	181/308	74%	112/152	0.002	64%	293/460
Time to final judgement: Average time taken for the IPV/SVAC legal cases to reach final judgment		Mean =236		Mean=303			Mean =270
		Sd=301		Sd=299			
Types of final judgements							
Acquittal	6%	20/308	6%	9/152	P=0.812	6%	29/460
Conviction	59%	181/308	74%	112/152	P=0.002	64%	293/460
Dismissal	26%	81/308	18%	27/152	P=0.042	23%	108/460
Withdraw	3%	10/308	2%	3/152	0.222	3%	13/460
Not available	3%	10/303	1%	2/1520		3%	12/460
Overtured convictions							
Overtured, retrial ordered.	0%	0%	0%	0/112	-	0%	0/293
Victims accompanied -% of victims that were accompanied by a victim representative during the criminal trial proceedings	53%	172/323	85%	128/151	0.000	63%	300/474
Guilty pleas - % of IPV/SVAC accused who pled guilty prior to the trial	38%	116/308	61%	93/152	0.000	45%	209/460
Average adjournments: Average number of adjournments in an IPV/SVAC case	3.27 [sd=3.3]			3.88[sd=4.7]	0.1669	3.58	1487/449
Charges dismissed - % of charges that are dismissed	12%	39/320	9%	14/156	0.296	11%	53/476

Aftercare performance standardized indicators

Assessment of survivor outcomes among women

The assessment looked at survivor functioning and circumstances over the last 30 days among victims of IPV. Survivors' wellbeing across the domains of safety, legal protection, mental wellbeing, economic empowerment and education, and social support was assessed and respondents were asked to score each domain on a scale of 1-4 as follows: **Highly Stable** (no or very low vulnerability), **Stable** (minimal or low vulnerability), or **Vulnerable** (moderate vulnerability), **Highly Unstable** (high to extreme vulnerability).

Safety domain of IPV: 34%-40% of IPV victims were stabilized—defined as being free from abuse, neglect, or revictimization—in the intervention areas and 42%-50% of victims in the comparison districts.

Legal protection domain of IPV: 32%-35% of IPV survivors were found to be stable in the intervention areas compared to 34%-43% in the comparison districts. 32%-35% of IPV survivors were considered stable in all three Legal Protection domain parameters in the intervention districts. However, in the comparison districts, 37%-39% of survivors were vulnerable in two parameters and 43% were vulnerable in one parameter.

Mental wellbeing of IPV survivors:

Roughly, half of all IPV survivors were stable

across all four parameters used to assess mental wellbeing—42%-50% in intervention areas and 48%-58% comparison districts. 42% of survivors in intervention areas and 54% in comparison districts demonstrated risk-free behaviors.

Economic empowerment and education of IPV survivors: 33%-37% of survivors in the intervention areas and 38%-45% of survivors in the comparison districts were stable in 3-out-of-4 parameters used to measure economic empowerment and education.

Social support for IPV survivors: 45%-55% of IPV survivors were stable across all nine parameters in the intervention areas and 52%-61% in the comparison districts. IPV survivors in comparison districts were stable in more items (6/9) than those in intervention districts (3/9).

Among the intervention areas, 55% of IPV survivors were found stable in accessing essential medical services. 13% of survivors in intervention areas were “highly vulnerable” to feeling emotionally supported in positive relationships. In the comparison districts, 61% of IPV survivors were considered stable in not experiencing discrimination or negative social pressure as a result of their abuse. Also in the comparison districts, 9% were found to be “highly vulnerable” in accessing community-based resources and support structures.

Table 4.16: Assessment of Survivor Outcomes among women respondents who experienced violence

Average scores on survivor outcomes							
Domain	n	Intervention	n	Comparison	p-value	N	Overall
Safety	648	2.62	576	2.66	0.436	1224	2.64
Legal protection	648	2.32	576	2.31	0.829	1224	2.32
Mental wellbeing	648	2.76	576	2.76	0.979	1224	2.76
Economic empowerment and education	648	2.34	576	2.41	0.083	1224	2.37
Social support	648	2.68	576	2.74	0.185	1224	2.71
Physical wellbeing	648	2.76	576	2.77	0.874	1224	2.76
Overall score	648	2.58	576	2.61	0.466	1224	2.59

Note: An overall score of 3.0 or above means that the survivor is restored and functioning satisfactorily at low risk of revictimization.

Table 4.17 shows survivor restoration based on the above criteria by background characteristics. Overall, 28% of survivors were restored.

Table 4.17: Proportion of women survivors restored

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts (%, n/N)		P-Value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.000		P=0.797			P=0.000
Rural	22%	84/390	26%	98/379	0.159	24%	182/769
Urban	42%	108/258	25%	49/197	0.000	35%	157/455
Age-group		P=0.092		P=0.272			P=0.042
18-24	28%	33/120	19%	17/88	0.172	24%	50/208
25-29	30%	30/99	24%	24/102	0.279	27%	54/201
30-34	22%	23/105	23%	24/104	0.839	22%	47/209
35-39	34%	32/94	26%	21/82	0.224	30%	53/176
40-44	24%	19/78	28%	19/68	0.623	26%	38/146
45-49	33%	22/67	24%	12/51	0.269	29%	34/118
50-54	45%	25/55	35%	18/52	0.253	40%	43/107
55-59	27%	8/30	41%	12/29	0.233	34%	20/59
Religion		P=0.075		P=0.219			P=0.028
Catholic	29%	86/296	22%	56/251	0.073	26%	142/547
Anglican	26%	38/149	24%	47/193	0.807	25%	85/342
Muslim	37%	31/83	30%	9/30	0.471	35%	40/113
Pentecostal/born again	28%	28/101	36%	32/90	0.244	31%	60/191
SDA	64%	7/11	33%	2/6	0.232	53%	9/17
Other	25%	2/8	17%	1/6	0.707	21%	3/14
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.176			P=0.000
Currently married / living with a man	27%	127/476	26%	113/440	0.731	26%	240/916
Having a regular partner (sexual relation living apart)	50%	21/42	23%	5/22	0.035	41%	26/64
Divorced	63%	15/24	43%	6/14	0.240	55%	21/38
Widowed	44%	14/32	35%	11/31	0.503	40%	25/63
Divorced/separated	20%	15/74	17%	12/69	0.660	19%	27/143
Education attainment**		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
No education	16%	12/74	18%	14/76	0.721	17%	26/150
Primary	22%	83/383	23%	89/390	0.701	22%	172/773
O level	48%	77/162	31%	27/86	0.014	42%	104/248
A level	44%	4/9	100%	3/3	0.091	58%	7/12
Tertiary/university	80%	16/20	67%	14/21	0.335	73%	30/41
Earns money		P=0.336		P=0.485			P=0.564
Does not earn money	32%	62/192	23%	23/101	0.088	29%	85/293
Earns money	29%	130/456	26%	124/475	0.410	27%	254/931
% of women	30%	192/648	26%	147/576	0.109	28%	339/1224

Assessment of survivor outcomes among children

Safety of SVAC survivors: 31%-41% of child survivors of SVAC in the intervention districts were found stable—defined as being free from abuse, neglect, or revictimization—compared to 41%-45% in comparison districts. The assessment also found 18% of children in the intervention areas are “highly vulnerable” in terms of being able to identify and manage unsafe situations (18%) compared to 16% of children in the comparison districts.

Legal Protection of SVAC survivors: 31%-40% of SVAC survivors in the intervention districts and 23%-27% of children in the comparison districts were found to be stable. 43%-50% of all SVAC survivors were found to be “vulnerable” in all three legal protection parameters. Children classified as “highly vulnerable” were most unstable in terms of being able to pursue justice for human rights violations—38% in intervention areas and 27% in comparison districts.

Mental wellbeing of SVAC survivors: 40%-66% of SVAC survivors in the intervention areas and 45%-59% in the comparison districts were considered stabilized in their mental wellbeing. A reasonable proportion of children were “vulnerable” in demonstrating both risk-free behaviors and empowered attitudes and behaviors in both intervention and comparison districts (Annex D supplementary table D6).

Economic empowerment and education of SVAC survivors: Economic vulnerability was defined by a survivor’s ability to demonstrate financial management skills, maintain an adequate income from non-exploitative work or productive assets, and have access to an adequate financial safety net. 33%-52% of children in the intervention areas and 27%-36% of children in the comparison districts were stable in economic empowerment and education. Survivors who were considered “vulnerable” were considered such because of the households to which they belong.

Social support domain for SVAC survivors: 45%-67% of child survivors in the intervention areas and 32%-55% of children in the comparison districts were

stable in terms of social support. SVAC survivors in both the intervention and comparison districts were classified as “vulnerable” when they scored low in terms of emotionally supportive and positive relationships, households supportive of their wellbeing, and having access to community-based resources and support structures.

Trauma informed interactions

Moments and frequency of IPV survivor interactions with judicial systems actors:

The CJS was assessed on whether they used a trauma-informed approach in their interactions with survivors of IPV. The TIC-I tool was used to capture survivors’ experiences and voices regarding whether *they* believed the CJS to be trauma-informed. This assessment found that the majority of the survivors (70%, 853/1224) never interacted with a justice system actor—for example, a police officer, prosecutor, judge, government worker, and/or social worker. Only 30% (371/1,224) of survivors ever interacted with a justice system actor (35% (224/648) in the intervention and 26% (147/576) in comparison districts. Of the survivors who had ever interacted with a justice system actor, only 27% (327/1,224) interacted of visited with CJS officials three or more months prior to the study (31% (198/648) in the intervention and 22% (129/576) comparison districts.

Only 2% (25/1,224) of survivors interacted with the justice system in the past one month.

Among those who interacted with CJS officials in the past one month, the majority of the survivors (76%, 19/25)— interacted with a police officer, detective or investigator (71% (10/14) in intervention districts and 82% (9/11) in comparison districts). Survivors were found to have hardly any interactions with non-governmental social service providers, public prosecutors, and judges, particularly in intervention districts.

Overall, 84% (21/25) of interactions with the CJS actors were to register victim complaints (93%, 13/14 in intervention districts and 72%, 8/11 in comparison districts). Other interactions were for purposes of victim rescue and assistance. There were only a few interactions about

victim interview/examination and court proceedings in both districts.

Most survivors (56%, 14/25) mentioned that it was law enforcement officials who were present during their cases' most critical moments—64% (9/14) in the intervention districts and 45% (5/11) comparison districts.

Communication with IPV victims using the TIC-I:

80% (20/25) of CJS actors were found to have spoken to victims of IPV in a way that was easy for them to understand (85%, 12/14 in the intervention and 72%, 8/11 in comparison districts. Those who expressed difficulty communicating with CJS actors said it was due to the words or phrases used by CJS actors.

Victim's rights and choices:

Overall, 56%, (14/25) of IPV victims were found to have been told about their rights and choices in the process (57% (8/14) in intervention areas and 55% (6/11) in comparison districts).

100% (14/14) of survivors in the intervention districts said they appreciated that CJS actors listened to what they had to say. However, this was not the case in the comparison districts, whereby only 45% (5/11) of survivors reported CJS actors paying attention to them when they spoke.

71% (10/14) of survivors in the intervention areas and 64% (7/11) of those in the comparison districts felt that the questions asked by CJS actors were needed to help them understand what happened to the survivors. 79% (11/14) of survivors in the intervention areas and 55% ((6/11) of those

in the comparison districts said they felt their concerns were treated seriously after reporting the crimes.

Safe disclosure: 44% (11/25) of victims felt comfortable that the information they shared would stay private or be safely disclosed 50% (7/14) of survivors in the intervention areas and 36% (4/11) of those in the comparison districts. 80% (20/25) survivors felt that they were treated well when reporting the crime. Where survivors indicated they were mistreated, the mistreatment was found to be mostly in the form of verbal harassment and/or berating speech as well as verbal threats.

57% (8/14) of survivors in the intervention areas and 55% (6/11) of those in the comparison districts said they received an explanation regarding what was happening or what would happen next after the incident.

Physical safety: A majority of victims (72%, 18/25) reported that the CJS actors ensured the survivors' safety during their interaction with them. 79% (11/14) of victims in the intervention areas and 55% (6/11) of those in the comparison districts said CJS actors ensured their safety during their interaction with them. 7% (1/14) of victims in the intervention areas and 9% (1/11) of those in the comparison districts said the CJS actors did not ensure their physical safety.

Victims' perception of the justice system: Overall, 57% (8/14) of victims in the intervention areas and 45% (5/11) of those in the comparison districts said they felt they had a very positive experience with CJS actors.

Table 4.18: Moments and frequency of survivor interactions with the judicial actors based on the TIC-I

Question	Responses:	Intervention districts	Comparison Districts	Total
When was the last time you interacted with a justice system actor, for example, police, prosecutor, judge, government social worker? N=1224	1. Within the last week	1%,8/648	0	8/648(1.2%)
	2. Within the last month but more than one week ago	1%,6/648	2%,11/567	17/1215(1.4%)
	3. Within the last three months but more than one month ago	2%,12/648	1%,7/576	19/1224(2%)
	4. More than three months ago	31%,198/648	22%,129/576	327/1224(27%)
	5. Never	65%,424/648	74%,429/576	853/1224(70%)
What type of justice system official did you interact with? (Select all that apply, including if the victim does not know). N=25	1. Police/detective/investigator	10/14	9/11	19/25(76%)
	2. Public prosecutor(s)	0/14	1/11	1/25(4%)
	3. Judge s)	0	0	
	4. Govt Social worker/social service provider	4/14	1/11	5/25(20%)
	5. NGO Social worker/social service provider	1/14	0/11	1/25(4%)
	6. Government social service provider	2/14	1/11	3/25(12%)
	7. Non-government social service provider	0	0	
	8. Other	0	0	
	9. specify_____ Do not know	0	0	
What was happening in that interaction? [Critical moment] Select all that apply, and for each selected moment, please complete the following questions. N=25	1. Victim Complaint	13/14	8/11	21/25(84%)
	2. Victim Rescue	3/14	0/11	3/25(12%)
	3. Victim Interview/Examination	0	1/11	1/11(9%)
	4. Court Proceedings	0	1/11	1/11(9%)
	5. Victim Assistance	1/14	5/11	6/25(0.002%)
select CJS actor(s) who were present during the critical moment (Check all that apply) N=25	1. Law Enforcement	9/14	5/11	14/25(56%)
	2. Prosecutors	0	1/11	1/11(9%)
	3. Judge	0	1/11	1/11(9%)
	4. Survivor service providers	1/14	1/11	2/25(8%)
	5. Victim advocate	2/14	0/11	2/25(8%)
	6. Other: Specify	3/14	2/11	5/25(20%)
	7. 999. Do not know	1/14	2/11	3/25(12%)

Triangulation of performance quantitative results with qualitative interviews

This assessment found that government official statements for IPV and SVAC investigations were taken for the majority of victims, key witnesses, and suspects in both intervention and comparison districts. The documentation of trials, final judgements and records for both legal and investigation case files were found to be accurate and reliable. However, there are still gaps when it comes to the quality of statements and the documentation of the chain of custody of evidence in the investigation case files, and the quality of documentation in the legal case files.

Government officials were found to have independently followed up on all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry. However, less than half of all IPV and SVAC cases contained additional non-testimonial evidence and only about half of those had forensic analysis completed in a timely manner.

Gaps are evident in the way government officials locate and collect evidence. Most government officials were found to not follow the law while locating or collecting evidence, which was attributed to limited training, especially among police officers who collect evidence at the grassroots level. The police were also accused of extorting money from victims and their caretakers during evidence collection and when executing arrests. The police and other stakeholders attributed this to critical underfunding, saying that accepting payments helped them carry out their duties, such as collecting evidence. Qualitative findings from this study also suggest there is a lack of political will to sufficiently fund criminal justice institutions, and unless this issue is resolved, problems will persist.

The police and ODPP said they rarely received adequate support from non-governmental organizations to enable them to collect evidence. Police were found to be taking advantage of communities' ignorance regarding the law and their rights, which allowed them to act unlawfully without repercussion when collecting evidence.

This assessment showed that 98% of the investigations resulted in arrests, and 49% of SVAC and IPV investigations were filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court—compared to 37% reported in the UPF Crimes Report in 2022. However, there is still a large proportion (48%) of SVAC and IPV investigation files, which were either closed or inactive.

KIs indicated that a number of cases do not reach court for hearing because they are withdrawn, or because there are resettlements, bribes, and/or interference with evidence at the entry level. Sometimes cases are interfered with or intercepted by allowing data to go missing or incomplete. Key informants cited that most cases are tampered with at the entry level—including LCs, police, and ODPP—and investigations were negatively impacted by limited forensic analysis capacity and delays (typically about three months).

However, key informants cited minimal interference with cases once they reached court. Indeed, the courts were reported to be highly trusted in handling IPV and SVAC cases, especially under female judicial officials. This study showed that over 90% of the suspects were under pre-trial custody, 66% of the suspects were convicted, 25% were dismissed, and only 3% suspects were withdrawn. These findings differ greatly from what was reported in the UPF Crimes Report of 2022 which indicated that 4% of suspects were dismissed and 0% were withdrawn. Additionally, a large proportion of cases (96%) were found to be still pending.

Public Justice System Operating Environment

Local Council Courts

LCCs were established to promote a more accessible and cost-effective justice system. They play an important role particularly in rural and conflicted parts of the country where formal justice services are hard to access. However, there are several challenges with this model—such as a lack of knowledge and understanding of the offenses within their local jurisdiction, gender bias and discrimination, cruel punishments, unfair trial procedures, bribing, and corruption. Unfortunately, this hinders their ability to administer justice for women and children at the local level. For example:

“ It works, but not so well. I told you that these people who work on our cases need to have their salary increased to carry out their duties so they are happy and don't say, 'I need 100,000 to put a stamp for you.' In my village, I don't go to our village chairman. I use another village LC chairperson because he gives you the referral letter immediately and if it requires him sitting at the police station with you he does. This chairman of ours loves money. He asks for money to stamp your documents yet it's supposed to be free.” – Respondent in Kabarole

Police gender policy

The Uganda Police Force (UPF) has taken positive steps in addressing gender issues in policing in Uganda, including developing a Gender Policy in 2019 accompanied by the Gender Strategy and Action Plan. Through this, the UPF addresses its internal policies, procedures, and structures to ensure they are gender responsive, non-discriminatory, and promote a culture that is respectful of the rights and dignity of women, men, boys, and girls. They have also established the Department of Child and Family Protection.

The UPF has instituted several positive actions to strengthen their ability to address VAWC in Uganda. This includes designing

and implementing manuals and modules on gender, human rights, and child protection as part of trainings for police officers and commanders; capacity building efforts for police officers on issues of gender, human rights, and GBV; recruiting and promoting female officers; establishing a GBV toll-free helpline; and coordinating more with other ministries, departments, and agencies. They have also developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the management of GBV cases, which outline the minimum standards needed to ensure effective and efficient management of VAWC cases.

Case coordination and referral mechanisms

A multi-sectoral prevention and response system has been established along with a referral pathway—from LCCs to UPF to health systems to ODPP and court—and was reported to be fairly well understood. Respondents spoke of a collaborative protection approach being used, in which measures to address the root causes of violence were reportedly in place.

Informants reported strong partnerships with international and national NGOs, United Nations agencies, CBOs, and faith-based organizations focusing on children and women. These partnerships help improve service provision to survivors through various interventions that protect, respond to, and support victims' needs for physical safety, medical and psychosocial services, and support throughout the justice process. For example:

“ We work in coordination with some NGOs, probation officers, and social welfare officers. For medical referrals, we work with government hospitals. All justice institutions work in coordination.” – ODPP official in Acholi sub-region

“ Courts refer cases to lawyers in the legal aid clinic of LDC. CDOs recruited by the local government are assigned much work but fail to support casework effectively.” – Chief Magistrate in Kampala

The Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) coordinates a

referral directory of different organizations, both government institutions and CSOs. Representatives from these member organizations were trained so that their services were survivor-centered.

KII responses found that Courts conduct daily hearings with support from ODPP and the police. District and City Coordination Committees (DCC/CCC) were reported to meet quarterly. A national child protection working group, SGBV committees, and child wellbeing committees were also reported to be in place and active.

Most community structures, including family members, community volunteers, counsellors, and clan leaders—were found to be reporting cases for mediation and referrals to justice service points. For example, LCs made referrals to police, police made referrals for medical examinations, CID carried out investigations, and probation officers made legal referrals to obtain social impact reports for juveniles. The IDIs reported that LC authorities were very

functional in ensuring victims were escorted to the police when necessary and that perpetrators are apprehended from the community.

Priority was shown to be given to the “3 Cs”—coordination, communication and cooperation—amongst all the justice actors. For instance, if a victim reports an incident to the LCs or police, there is a systematic flow of reporting that follows involving the ODPP, the court, and other partners, such as CDOs and NGOS.

“Police can request the ODPP to sanction a violence file ASAP so that it is heard expeditiously. DCCs form Regional Coordination Committees, which are headed by the Judge.” – Judicial Official, Kampala Central

Finally, it was pointed out that *response* efforts to IPV and SVAC victims were high, but *preventive* measures were still very low.





5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

In line with its core objectives, this baseline assessment gathered relevant data across the four domains of protection by seeking answers to the following questions:

- What is the prevalence of IPV and SVAC?
- To what extent is the vulnerable population reliant on the justice system for protection?
- What is the level of confidence of key stakeholders in the CJS?
- What are the legal framework and processes for handling cases of VAWC in Uganda?

- And how is the justice system performing in terms of preventing and responding to VAWC in Uganda?

Based on the answers and data collected for each question above, it can be concluded that:

The **prevalence** of IPV and SVAC remains high in Uganda and more action must be done to adequately protect women and children from physical, sexual, and emotional violence.

Currently, 55% of ever partnered Ugandan women have experienced an act of IPV in their lifetime, and 6 in 10 children in Uganda have experienced sexual violence.



People's **reliance**—especially those that are vulnerable—on the CJS is low.

- *Only **12% of incidents** of physical and/or sexual violence involving women were reported to relevant CJS agencies, 16% to non CJS agencies in the last 12 months. This demonstrates the huge reporting gap with the biggest percentage not reported anywhere and a reliance on non CJS agencies as the percentage that report to these agencies is higher than to the CJS.*

People's **confidence** in the CJS to uphold women and children's rights and secure their protection is also low.

- *Only **18% (12/68)** of the stakeholders interviewed expressed confidence in the **Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System**, **6% (4/68)** of stakeholders had confidence in the efficiency of all the three CJS institutions to handle cases of VAWC, with only **7% (5/68)** believing CJS agencies provided timely services. Overall, **84%**, of the stakeholders hold the view that the CJS is not fair, across all the institutions.*

The CJS' **performance** must be improved significantly if it is to uphold its mandate to protect women and children from violence.

*For example, this assessment found that **48% of SVAC and IPV investigation files** were either closed or inactive, with only 49% filed with the prosecutor's office. This implies a close to half of all completed investigations into IPV and SVAC cases do not reach the prosecutor's office.*

If left unaddressed, women and children will remain unprotected from violence, and IPV and SVAC will continue to wreak havoc in communities across the country.

5.2 A WAY FORWARD

5.2.1 IJM'S THEORY OF CHANGE

IJM's theory of change is to strengthen justice systems so they **enforce the law**, which will in turn **deter criminals** and **protect people** from violence.

How laws are enforced matters greatly. Victims must be treated with sensitivity to their trauma, police must be visible and trusted, laws must be just, and communities must be engaged. That's why IJM's theory of change hinges upon the just enforcement of fair laws by the authorities with unique power to serve survivors and deliver justice. Because when laws are enforced, criminals are deterred from committing crimes, and as a result, crime drops significantly and quickly.

Additionally, a CJS that justly and visibly enforces the law and proves it can protect communities, increases vulnerable peoples' trust in, access to, and reliance on the CJS. When survivors receive timely, fair, and effective services from a trauma-informed system, their outcomes are more positive, and entire communities benefit from a well-performing CJS.

IJM Uganda's Protection Programme aligns with this theory of change in its work to protect 24 million women and children in Uganda from violence by 2030. The findings in this assessment will be used to inform and design programme interventions across each of the four domains—prevalence, reliance, confidence, and performance—that will work together to achieve a well-functioning CJS in Uganda.

5.2.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR IJM UGANDA'S PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Based on the findings in this assessment, IJM Uganda and similar actors should consider the following approaches to addressing priority areas for improvement in the CJS:

Interventions to enhance CJS reliance and performance

Interventions should be designed, piloted, measured and scaled that: first, empower victims of violence to seek help and report incidents of violence; second, strengthen the district case management and coordination and administration of justice structures to deliver efficient and timely response to cases of VAWC; third, build capacity of CJS institutions to efficiently, expeditiously and in a trauma informed

manner, investigate, prosecute and make determination of VAWC cases. This should be done in partnership with faith actors, cultural institutions, MoLG, development partners, and CJS institutions.

Ease the costs of reporting violence by engaging community perceptions of VAWC and strengthening of the GBV referral pathway

When laws that criminalize violence against women and children are ignored, harmful social norms set the tone for community and individual behavior (including justice actors). Communities and individuals would benefit from sensitization efforts at the community-level so that there is a public dialogue and engagement on the norms, cultures and narratives that perpetuate violence against women and children, in order for victims of violence to feel validated and supported as they seek help and pursue justice.

Additionally, community leaders (traditional, local councils, religious, survivor leaders) should be equipped with information and resources to support victims of violence to report instances of violence and access the services available to them. For most victims of interpersonal violence, there are significant risks that they must overcome in order to seek help and report the violence. They encounter physical safety risks, economic, livelihood and caregiving challenges, disbelief or disinterest from the community and in some instances from the criminal justice system. It is therefore critical that actors in the GBV referral pathway are aware of the critical role they play as first responder, and the need to be trauma informed and support victims to seek help.

The GBV referral pathway should be strengthened to ensure efficient coordination, communication and collaboration of all first responders to ensure cases are reported to the formal justice system and attain timely just outcomes.

From the assessment, more victims report to the non-CJS actors, than to the CJS actors. It is therefore imperative that a documentation system is developed to ensure all cases reported to non-CJS actors require mandatory reporting to, and are

tracked by the CJS actors; whether or not survivors have directly reported those cases to the CJS. This will also ensure victims who have had contact with actors in the referral pathway, have greater access to necessary social services, health services and criminal justice system interventions leading to their restoration and reducing their vulnerability to revictimisation.

Create safe spaces and support systems for victims of violence

Victims of violence who come forward and seek help often come with dire needs for protection, psychosocial support, medical care, food and nutrition support, education, and financial support. Unfortunately, there are more victims in need (demand) of this support than there is available supply. Community-based shelters and support structures can fill this critical gap and can be scaled through partnerships between CSOs, religious institutions, cultural institutions and MoGLSD.

Data driven resourcing of the criminal justice agencies to respond to VAWC

It was frequently noted throughout this assessment that key CJS actors—police, LCs, NGOs, DCDOs, community volunteers, religious leaders, cultural leaders, the court/judiciary, ODPP, and more—were significantly constrained by limited resources and funds. These issues of under-resourcing and underfunding are believed to negatively impact the CJS' efficiency and effectiveness for victims of VAWC. Additional funding, resources, and/or effective collaboration to and between actors would make a substantial difference.

With the understandable resource constraints, it is imperative that all budget financing decisions be made following a holistic assessment of the economic cost of violence against women and children and the urgent need to ensure protection of this vulnerable and majority sector of the population demographic.

This would require coordinating data management across the key sectors that have contact with victims of violence against women and children. This includes the criminal justice actors, health sector – who conduct forensic medical examinations

as well as provision of post exposure prophylaxis, education sector – that compiles data on child protection and child pregnancy and MoGLSD GBV helpline that receives and make follow up actions on the reports. When the state publicly exhibits the political will to address sexual and gender-based violence, then the gap between the law and cultural and harmful social norms narrow.

Why IJM Uganda is equipped to bring this change

IJM's work globally and within Uganda is a clear testament to the organization's ability to improve justice systems' effectiveness, address issues of violence, and support survivors.

Through IJM Uganda's Land Rights Violation Programme—implemented from 2004–2017—IJM made great strides in getting the Ugandan CJS to recognize 'property grabbing' as a crime and substantially improved officials' capacity to respond to such cases. In fact, CJS officials attributed improvements in the courts to IJM's activities.⁶⁴ Additionally, over the course of IJM's project, the prevalence of property grabbing against widows dropped by 50%.

This Protection Model has proven successful in other parts of the world as well. For example, IJM's three programmes in the Philippines have profoundly improved their CJS' ability to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and support survivors.⁶⁵ Additionally, the prevalence of child trafficking in the Philippines has declined 75%–86% across the targeted areas.

In Guatemala, IJM's SVAC programme in Guatemala has yielded similar successes, stating that because of IJM's interventions, they've seen, "...substantive improvement of the processes of criminal investigation and criminal accusation by the responsible institutions that allowed an increase of threefold in the sentences issued by the courts of justice [and] has contributed to the prevention and reduction of sexual violence against children and adolescents in the target area." ⁶⁶

In Cambodia, IJM's Anti-Trafficking Programme was found by external evaluators to have "directly contributed" to more anti-trafficking operations resulting in more underage victims rescued from sex trafficking, increased prosecution of perpetrators, improved crisis care, and the provision of quality aftercare services for survivors.⁶⁷ The evaluators concluded that IJM was able to lower the prevalence of commercial sex trafficking of children in Cambodia because of its CJS capacity building efforts.

Drawing from this vast experience and proven track record of success in strengthening justice systems and restoring survivors globally and within Uganda, that IJM Uganda can contribute positively and measurably to the improved protection of women and children in Uganda by 2030.

⁶⁴ Aidenvironment. (2018). IJM's Program to Combat Property Grabbing in Mukono County, Uganda End of Program Evaluation.

⁶⁵ Haarr, R. (2017). Evaluation of the Program to Combat Sex Trafficking of Children in the Philippines: 2003–2015

⁶⁶ Grajeda, L. D., Romero, M. G., & Delgado, A. (2018). Final Evaluation of Program to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents in Guatemala 2005–2017.

⁶⁷ Haarr, R. (2015). External Evaluation of International Justice Mission's Program to Combat Sex Trafficking of Children in Cambodia, 2004–2014

ANNEXES

Annex A: Operational definitions

Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation. Violence may take many forms that include physical, emotional or mental injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, sexual abuse, threats etc.

Sexual violence against children includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. This encompasses a range of acts, including completed non-consensual sex acts, attempted non-consensual sex acts, and abusive sexual contact. This also includes the exploitative use of children for sex.

Intimate partner: is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that may be characterized by any of; emotional connectedness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and sexual behavior, identity as a couple, and familiarity and knowledge about each other's lives. Intimate partner relationships include current or former: spouses (married spouses, common-law spouses, civil union spouses, domestic partners); boyfriends/girlfriends; dating partners; ongoing sexual partners.

Intimate partner violence is defined as physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner as defined above.

Victim/Survivor: An individual who is confirmed or suspected to have experienced abuse (victimization), as defined by local law, or has been under imminent threat of that violence. IJM's uses the term "survivor" interchangeably with the term "victim."

Perpetrator: An individual who has been convicted of a crime according to lawful legal proceedings.

Suspect: A person to whom the facts and evidence lead one to believe has committed a crime

Accused: The person against whom an accusation is made. "Accused" is the generic name for the defendant in a criminal case.

Convict: One who has been condemned by a competent court (a person found guilty of a criminal offence)

Trauma Informed care; An evidence-based approach that: realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

Protection: Protection is the array of benefits that accrue to people in poverty through a strengthened justice system. People are protected from violence when the justice system acts as a deterrence to perpetrators; is attractive for victims to report crimes and pursue cases; performs well on those cases; and has the confidence of key stakeholders.

Woman: A female human being who is 18 years and above.

Child: Any human being under the age of 18 in Uganda

First responder: For purposes of this study, "First Responders" refers to the duty bearers who are legally mandated or expected to respond first, when a case of violence has been reported. These include Police Records officers, front desk officers, scene of crime officers; government social workers including Probation and Social Welfare Officers, health workers and Community development officers. It also refers to institutions in the community where victims or survivors are most likely to report first. These include Local Council officials, cultural leaders as well as religious leaders.

Duty bearer: is a person or institution established by law with obligations and responsibilities for protecting the rights of citizens,

including women and children.

Criminal Justice System: The institutions that are legally central to resolving conflicts arising over alleged violations or different interpretations of the rules that societies create to govern members' behavior; and that, consequently, are central to strengthening the normative framework (laws and rules) that shapes public and private actions.

Public Justice system: refers to the national justice system and the existing structures, institutions, processes, and people that are responsible for providing justice to the people not limited to; Police, Judiciary, Prosecution office, health workers, etc.

Annex B: Key Indicators for Uganda VAWC Protection measurement

Key indicator assessed	Data collection tool
Reliance Domain	
Extent to which survivors rely on the justice system	
Willingness to Report Crime: % of the respondents who say they would report incidents of crime to relevant criminal justice agencies if they experienced the violation.	Women Survey Tool – L9hb-a
Willingness to participate in criminal proceedings: The % of the respondents who say they would participate through the entire criminal proceedings against crime type, if the crime happened to them and, if they were provided with necessary support.	Women Survey Tool – L9hb-a
Crime reporting rate - % of incidents of IPV/SVAC reported to relevant CJS Agencies during review period.	Women's Survey Tool – L9d
Intermediary Crime reporting rate- The % of incidents of crime reported to Non CJS agencies during the reporting period.	Women Survey Tool – L9d
Crime Reporting Gap: % of crime type that were not reported anywhere during period under review	Women Survey Tool – L9d
Extent to which survivors are empowered to undertake the justice journey	
AC4- % of victims who had a positive perception of the Justice system (TIC -women survey tool)	Trauma informed care interview (women survey tool)
AHR1 - % of SVAC & IPV victims provided needed social services (G5.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Survey Tool -L9c • Children's Survey Tool - H18
% age of survivors that fully participate through scheduled justice processes	Women Survey tool – L9hb-a
Survivors are adequately protected and supported as they pursue justice	
AC2 -% IPV/SVAC victims restored	ASO – scoring across domains and sub domains
AC4A -% of victim interactions with the justice system that are trauma-informed, based on victim interviews	TIC-I – R2-R30
Prevalence Domain	
Prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV)	
Proportion of women aged who ever experienced physical violence from an intimate partner (Lifetime)	Women Survey Tool

Proportion of women who experienced physical violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months	Women Survey Tool
Proportion of women who experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months	Women Survey Tool
Proportion of women who ever experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime	Women Survey Tool
Proportion of women who experienced physical, sexual or both from an intimate partner in the past 12 months	Women Survey Tool
Proportion of women who experienced physical, sexual or both from an intimate partner in the past in their lifetime	Women Survey Tool
Prevalence of sexual violence against children (SVAC)	
Proportion of children aged 13-17 years who experienced sexual violence in the	Children Survey Tool
Performance Domain	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which justice system enforces the law, • Extent to which prosecutors and investigators effectively and efficiently bring cases to trial 	
IC3-Statements taken - % of SVAC &IPV investigations in which government officials (law enforcement officers) took statements from victims, key witnesses, and suspects (G3)	Investigator case file review tool
IC4- Non-testimonial evidence collected - % of SVAC &IPV investigations in which law enforcement officials properly collected potential non-testimonial evidence (G3)	Investigator case file review tool
IC5_Timely forensic analysis - % of SVAC &IPV investigations in which forensic analysis of non-testimonial evidence was completed in a timely manner) (G3)	Investigator case file review tool
IC6 - Appropriate Lines of Inquiry - % of SVAC &IPV investigations in which government officials independently followed up on all logical, reasonable, and relevant lines of inquiry (G3)	Investigator case file review tool
IC7 - Investigations resulting in to an arrest -% of referred cases which resulted in to an arrest	Investigator case file review tool
IC8: Investigations Filed - % of case investigations filed with the prosecutor's office or registered with the court (G3)	Investigator case file review tool
IC9- Time to complete investigation - Average time taken for investigations of IPV/SVAC cases to be completed	Investigator case file review tool
IHR Three: Investigations generated by Government - % of investigations independently generated by government officials	Investigator case file review tool
IHR Four: Operations conducted by government - % of IPV/ SVAC operations that were independently conducted by the government.	Investigator case file review tool
Extent to courts are trusted, efficient, accessible and deliver just rulings	
LC3 - Pre-trial custody: % of IPV/SVAC accused held in pre-trial custody	Legal case file review tool
LC5 - Accused convicted - % of accused for which a final judgement was a conviction	
LC7 - Time to final judgement - Average time taken for the IPV/ SVAC legal cases to reach final judgement	Legal case file review tool
LC8 - Types of final judgements - % of IPV/SVAC -types of final judgement for the accused in the legal cases	Legal case file review tool
LC9 - Overturned convictions: % of IPV/SVAC convictions that were overturned in an appeal.	Legal case file review tool

LHR9: Victims Accompanied - % of victims that were accompanied by a victim representative during the criminal trial proceedings	Legal case file review tool
LHR10: Guilty Pleas - % of IPV/SVAC accused who pled guilty prior to the trial	Legal case file review tool
LHR11: Average Adjournments: Average number of adjournments in an IPV/SVAC case	Legal case file review tool
LHR12: Charges dismissed - % of charges that are dismissed	Legal case file review tool
Proportion of sampled women who reported a case of SVAC/IPV to police and state that law enforcement officials handed their complaints with sensitivity (last 6 months)	Women Survey tool
Proportion of sampled women who reported a case of SVAC/IPV to police and state that law enforcement officials provided appropriate, meaningful assistance in the last 6 months	Women Survey tool
Stakeholder Confidence domain	
% of stakeholders who report that their confidence in the overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system in protecting vulnerable people from IPV/SVAC and deterring the prevalence of IPV/SVAC is "Confident" on the confidence measurement scale.	Key Informant Interview Guide
% of stakeholders who report that their confidence in the efficiency of respective Justice System institutions is "Confident" on the confidence measurement scale.	Key Informant Interview Guide
% of stakeholders who report that their confidence in the fairness of each of the key government institutions	Key Informant Interview Guide



Research Ethics committee (MUREC)

23/08/2023

To: Daniel Kibuuka Musoke

International Research Consortium
0772587094

Type: Initial Review

Re: MUREC-2023-231: Evaluation of the impact of the Public Justice System strengthening program on violence against women and children in Uganda

I am pleased to inform you that at the 134 convened meeting on 23/08/2023, the Mildmay Uganda REC (MUREC) meeting voted to approve the above referenced application.

Approval of the research is for the period of 23/08/2023 to 23/08/2024.

As Principal Investigator of the research, you are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements of approval:

1. All co-investigators must be kept informed of the status of the research.
2. Changes, amendments, and addenda to the protocol or the consent form must be submitted to the REC for re-review and approval **prior** to the activation of the changes.
3. Reports of unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or any new information which could change the risk benefit: ratio must be submitted to the REC.
4. Only approved consent forms are to be used in the enrollment of participants. All consent forms signed by participants and/or witnesses should be retained on file. The REC may conduct audits of all study records, and consent documentation may be part of such audits.
5. Continuing review application must be submitted to the REC **eight weeks** prior to the expiration date of 23/08/2024 in order to continue the study beyond the approved period. Failure to submit a continuing review application in a timely fashion may result in suspension or termination of the study.
6. The REC application number assigned to the research should be cited in any correspondence with the REC of record.
7. You are required to register the research protocol with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) for final clearance to undertake the study in Uganda.

The following is the list of all documents approved in this application by Mildmay Uganda REC (MUREC):

No.	Document Title	Language	Version Number	Version Date
1	Informed Consent forms	Dhopadhola_Lhu konzo_Luganda_ Luo_Ngakarimajo ng_Runyankore- Rukiga_Runyoro	v3	2023-17
2	Informed Consent forms	English	v3	2023-08-17
3	Informed Consent forms	Dhopadhola_Lhu konzo_Luganda_ Luo_Ngakarimajo ng_Runyankore- Rukiga_Runyoro	v3	2023-08-17
4	Informed Consent forms	English	v3	2023-08-17
5	Informed Consent forms	Dhopadhola_Lhu konzo_Luganda_ Luo_Ngakarimajo ng_Runyankore- Rukiga_Runyoro	v3	2023-08-17
6	Informed Consent forms	English	v3	2023-08-17
7	Informed Consent forms	English	v3	2023-08-17
8	Protocol	English	v3	2023-08-17
9	Assent form if applicable to your study	English	v2	2023-07-04
10	Protocol	English	v2	2023-07-04
11	Data collection tools	Luganda_Luo_D upadhola_Rukhon zo_Runyoro-Ruto ro_Runyankore-R ukiga_Ngakarima jong	v1	2023-05-08
12	Data collection tools	English	v1	2023-05-08

Yours Sincerely



Susan Nakubulwa
For: Mildmay Uganda REC (MUREC)

Annex C2: Research Approval: Uganda National Council of Science and Technology-UNCST



Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

(Established by Act of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda)

Our Ref: SS1980ES

11 January 2024

Daniel Kibuuka Musoke
International Research Consortium
Kampala

Re: Research Approval: Evaluation of the impact of the Public Justice System strengthening program on violence against women and children in Uganda.

I am pleased to inform you that on 11/01/2024, the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) approved the above referenced research project. The Approval of the research project is for the period of 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2025.

Your research registration number with the UNCST is SS1980ES. Please, cite this number in all your future correspondences with UNCST in respect of the above research project. As the Principal Investigator of the research project, you are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements of approval:

1. Keeping all co-investigators informed of the status of the research.
2. Submitting all changes, amendments, and addenda to the research protocol or the consent form (where applicable) to the designated Research Ethics Committee (REC) or Lead Agency for re-review and approval prior to the activation of the changes. UNCST must be notified of the approved changes within five working days.
3. For clinical trials, all serious adverse events must be reported promptly to the designated local REC for review with copies to the National Drug Authority and a notification to the UNCST.
4. Unanticipated problems involving risks to research participants or other must be reported promptly to the UNCST. New information that becomes available which could change the risk/benefit ratio must be submitted promptly for UNCST notification after review by the REC.
5. Only approved study procedures are to be implemented. The UNCST may conduct impromptu audits of all study records.
6. An annual progress report and approval letter of continuation from the REC must be submitted electronically to UNCST. Failure to do so may result in termination of the research project.

Please note that this approval includes all study related tools submitted as part of the application as shown below:

No.	Document Title	Language	Version Number	Version Date
1	Informed Consent forms	Dhopadhola_Lhuko nzo_Luganda_Luo_ Ngakarimajong_Ru yankore- Rukiga_Runyoro	V3	
2	Assent form if applicable to your study	English	V2	04 July 2023
3	Data collection tools	Luganda_Luo_Dupa dhola_Rukhonzo_Ru nyoro-Rutoro_Runya nkore-Rukiga_Ngaka rimajong	V1	08 May 2023
4	Project Proposal	English	V3	
5	Approval Letter	English		
6	Administrative Clearance	English		
6	STAMPED COVID 19 MITIGATION PLAN	English	v1	09 January 2024
7	DETAILED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN	English	v1	09 January 2024

Yours sincerely,



Hellen Opolot

For: Executive Secretary

UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Annex D: Supplementary tables

A. Prevalence

Table A.1: Background characteristics of women respondents

Background characteristics	Intervention districts N= 1181		Comparison districts N=1149		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	N
Age-group						
18-24	22.0%	260	18.6%	214	20%	474
25-29	15.5%	183	16.1%	185	16%	368
30-34	14.8%	175	16.4%	188	16%	363
35-39	13.9%	164	13.7%	157	14%	321
40-44	11.7%	138	11.1%	128	11%	266
45-49	9.7%	114	9.57%	110	10%	224
50-54	7.2%	85	9.0%	104	8%	189
55-59	5.2%	62	5.4%	62	5%	124
Religion						
Catholic	46%	539	49%	558	47%	1097
Anglican	22%	259	30%	347	26%	606
Muslim	14%	167	5%	60	10%	227
Pentecostal/born again	15%	179	14%	156	14%	335
SDA	2%	19	1%	16	2%	35
Other	1%	18	1%	12	1%	30
Current marital status						
Currently married /living with a man	68%	803	73.5%	844	71%	1647
Never married/never lived with a man	5%	59	4%	46	5%	105
Having a regular partner	9%	106	5%	58	7%	164
Divorced	2.6%	31	1.7%	19	2%	50
Widowed	6.3%	74	7.5%	86	7%	160
Divorced/separated	9.1%	108	8.4%	96	9%	204
Education attainment						
No school	11%	130	17%	199	14%	329
Primary	53%	627	57.4%	659	55%	1286
O level	27%	317	19%	217	23%	534
Level	2%	28	1%	17	2%	45
Tertiary /university	6%	76	5%	56	6%	132
Earns money					0%	0
Does not earn money	32%	383	20%	231	26%	614
Earns money	67.6%	798	80%	918	74%	1716
Residence						
Rural	57%	679	70%	807	64%	1486
Urban	43%	502	30%	342	36%	844
Ethnicity						
Ateso	6%	70	19%	217	12%	287
Jopadhola	9%	108	0%	4	5%	112
Ngakaramojong	6%	65	12%	138	9%	203
Bamasaba	12%	139	1%	16	7%	155
Luo/ Acholi	17%	198	13%	154	15%	352
Baganda	14%	168	15%	178	5%	346
Bakhonzo	7%	78	0%	1	3%	79
Banyankore/ Bakiga	7%	79	22%	247	14%	326
Banyoro/ Batooro	12%	145	1%	17	7%	162
Other Specify	11%	131	15%	177	13%	308
Total	51%	1181	49%	1149	100%	2330

Table A.2: Background characteristics of children respondents

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Age-group						
13-17	51%	589/1154	49%	565/1154	100%	1154
Sex						
Female	63%	372/589	67%	380/565	65%	752
Male	36%	217/589	33%	185/565	35%	402
Religion						
Catholic	39%	229/589	51%	290/565	45%	519
Anglican	26%	155/589	23%	132/565	25%	287
Muslim	16%	93/589	8%	43/565	12%	136
Pentecostal/born again	16%	94/589	15%	86/565	16%	180
SDA	2%	9/589	0.35%	2/565	1%	11
Other	2%	9/589	2%	12/565	2%	21
Ethnicity						
Baganda	17%	98/589	17%	98/565	17%	196
Banyankole	4%	22/589	19%	107/565	11%	129
Batoro/Banyoro	13%	77/589	1%	5/565	7%	82
Basoga	3%	16/589	2%	9/565	2%	25
Bakiga	3%	17/589	2%	10/565	2%	27
Ngikarimojong	6%	34/589	12%	69/565	9%	103
Ateso	5%	30/589	20%	112/565	12%	142
Luo	18%	106/589	14%	78/565	16%	184
Other	32%	189/589	13%	76/565	23%	265
Education attainment*						
Never attended school	3%	15/589	9%	48/565	5%	63
Primary	67%	396/589	70%	393/565	68%	789
Secondary	30%	174/589	20%	115/565	25%	289
Tertiary/A level	1%	4/589	1%	8/565	1%	12
Earns money						
Earns money	57%	333/589	70%	394/565	63%	727
Does not earn money	43%	256/589	30%	170/565	37%	426

Table A.3: Prevalence and timing of different acts of physical violence by an intimate partner in intervention and comparison districts.

	Intervention districts (%, N= 1181)					Comparison districts (%, N=1103)					Overall							
	Within 12 months		Lifetime		Overall N=1122	Within 12 months		Lifetime		Overall N=1103	Within 12 months		Lifetime		Overall ex- perience of violence			
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
Slapped or thrown something	15%	170	24%	267	39%	437	17%	182	25%	280	42%	462	15%	352	25%	547	40%	899
Pushed or shoved	10%	116	11%	129	21%	245	11%	123	14%	159	26%	282	11%	239	13%	288	24%	527
Hit with fist or something else harmful	8%	91	11%	128	20%	219	8%	88	11%	128	20%	216	8%	179	12%	256	20%	435
Twisted arm or pulled hair	6%	65	9%	97	14%	162	5%	63	9%	98	15%	161	6%	128	9%	195	15%	323
Kicked, dragged or beaten	8%	89	12%	137	20%	226	9%	101	14%	158	23%	259	9%	190	13%	295	22%	485
Choked or burnt	2%	23	3%	36	5%	59	2%	20	5%	55	7%	75	2%	43	4%	91	6%	134
Threatened or used gun, knife or weapon	4%	40	5%	54	8%	94	4%	46	6%	70	11%	116	4%	86	6%	124	9%	210

Table A.4: Percentage of ever-partnered women who have ever experienced any emotional abusive acts by their intimate partners, by selected background characteristics, in intervention and comparison districts.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		p-values		
	%	n/N	%	n/N			
Residence							
Rural	57%	374/652	53%	414/776	0.1315	55%	788/1428
Urban	63%	295/470	60%	197/327	0.7780	62%	492/797
Age-group							
18-24	53%	117/219	46%	99/214	0.827	50%	216/433
25-29	63%	111/174	62%	115/185	0.844	63%	226/359
30-34	63%	109/172	54%	102/188	0.123	59%	211/360
35-39	60%	96/161	55%	87/157	0.469	58%	183/318
40-44	63%	86/137	57%	87/157	0.383	59%	173/294
45-49	57%	64/113	51%	56/110	0.453	54%	120/223
50-54	62%	53/85	54%	56/104	0.268	58%	109/189
55-59	54%	33/61	37%	23/62	0.073	46%	56/123
Religion							
Catholic	56%	302/539	50%	281/558	0.0465	53%	583/1097
Anglican	61%	158/259	55%	192/347	0.139	58%	350/606
Muslim	51%	85/167	58%	35/60	0.351	53%	120/227
Pentecostal/ born again	59%	105/179	57%	89/156	0.711	58%	194/335
SDA	63%	12/19	44%	7/16	0.2610	54%	19/35
Other	39%	7/18	58%	7/12	0.307	47%	14/30
Current marital status							
Currently married /living with a man	59%	472/803	54%	459/844	0.0408	57%	931/1647
Never married	0%	0/59	0%	0/46	-	0%	0/105
Having a regular partner (sexual relation living apart)	54%	57/106	48%	28/58	0.462	52%	85/164
Divorced	90%	28/31	74%	14/19	0.135		42/50
Widowed	43%	32/74	43%	37/86	p>0.995	43%	69/160
Divorced/ separated	74%	80/108	76%	73/96	0.742	75%	153/204
Education attainment**							
No education	62%	81/130	53%	105/199	0.107	57%	186/329
Primary	58%	362/627	59%	389/659	0.716	58%	751/1286
O level	57%	180/317	44%	95/217	0.003	51%	275/534
A level	57%	16/28	18%	3/17	0.010		
Tertiary/ university	39%	30/76	34%	19/56	0.556	37%	49/132
Earns money							
Does not earn money	51%	196/383	49%	113/231	0.6311	50%	309/614
Earns money	59%	473/798	54%	498/918	0.0378	57%	971/1716
Ever-partnered women	60%	669/1122	55%	611/1103	0.044	58%	

Table A.5: Percentage of ever-partnered women reporting various controlling behaviors by their intimate partners.

Controlling behaviors	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P-value	Total	
	Ever-partnered women(n)		Ever-partnered women(n)			Ever-partnered women	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Tries to keep you from seeing your friends	29%	333/1122	26%	287/1103	0.054	28%	620/2225
Tries to restrict contact with your family of birth	17%	194/1122	17%	190/1103	0.968	17%	384/2225
Insist on knowing where you are always	56%	624/1122	54%	592/1103	0.357	55%	1216/2225
Ignores you and treats you indifferently	25%	286/1122	25%	273/1103	P=0.688	25%	559/2225
Gets angry if you speak with another man	54%	603/1122	46%	509/1103	P<0.0001	50%	1112/2225
Does not permit you to meet your female friends	28%	317/1122	20%	225/1103	P<0.0001	24%	542/2225
Is always suspicious that you are unfaithful	31%	348/1122	28%	314/1103	0.189	30%	662/2225
Expects you to ask his permission before seeking healthcare for yourself	45%	508/1122	44%	490/1103	0.686	28%	620/2225

Table A.6: Percentage of women who agreed that a man has a right to beat his wife for any given circumstance by the different respondent characteristics

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts (%)		P-Value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence							
Rural	54%	367/679	59%	480/807	0.052	57%	847/1486
Urban	42%	212/502	47%	164/342	0.151	45%	376/844
Age-group							
18-24	53%	140/260	59%	126/214	0.191	56%	266/474
25-29	48%	89/183	60%	112/185	0.021	55%	201/368
30-34	48%	84/175	55%	105/188	0.182	52%	189/363
35-39	48%	79/164	50%	80/157	0.720	50%	159/321
40-44	47%	65/138	51%	65/128	0.514	49%	130/266
45-49	46%	53/114	52%	57/110	0.369	49%	110/224
50-54	49%	42/85	61%	63/104	0.099	56%	105/189
55-59	43%	27/62	58%	36/62	0.095	51%	63/124
Religion							
Catholic	53%	288/539	62%	345/558	0.003	58%	633/1097
Anglican	47%	123/259	51%	178/347	0.330	50%	301/606
Muslim	43%	72/167	48%	29/60	0.504	44%	101/227
Pentecostal/born again	48%	86/179	51%	79/156	0.584	49%	165/335
SDA	31%	6/19	44%	7/16	0.427	37%	13/35
Other	22%	7/18	50%	6/12	0.111	43%	13/30
Current marital status							
Currently married / living with a man	52%	420/803	57%	480/844	0.042	55%	900/1647
Never married	39%	23/59	48%	22/46	0.355	43%	45/105
Having a regular partner (sexual relation living apart)	50%	53/106	40%	23/58	0.220	46%	76/164
Divorced	32%	10/31	63%	12/19	0.032	44%	22/50
Widowed	41%	30/74	63%	54/86	0.005	53%	84/160
Divorced/separated	40%	43/108	55%	53/96	0.032	47%	96/204
Education attainment**							
No education	70%	70/130	69%	138/199	0.847	63%	208/329
Primary	54%	336/627	59%	387/659	0.071	56%	723/1286
O level	40%	128/317	46%	100/217	0.168	43%	228/534
A level	25%	7/28	18%	3/17	0.585	22%	10/45
Tertiary/university	22%	7/28	29%	16/56	0.494	27%	23/84
Earns money							
Does not earn money	45%	172/383	49%	114/231	0.336	47%	286/614
Earns money	51%	407/798	58%	530/918	0.004	55%	937/1716
% of women	49%	579/1181	56%	644/1149	P<0.001	52%	1223/2330

Table A.7: Percentage of women agreed that it is right for women to refuse to have sex with their husbands in given situations by the different respondent characteristics.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P-Value	Totals	
	%	N	%	N		%	N
Residence							
Rural	85%	580/679	84%	677/807	P<0.001	85%	1257/1486
Urban	93%	467/502	93%	317/342		93%	784/844
Age-group							
13-17	0%	0	0%	0/1	P=0.318		
18-24	90%	235/260	88%	188/214		89%	423/474
25-29	87%	160/183	89%	165/185		88%	325/368
30-34	85%	150/175	89%	168/188		88%	318/363
35-39	92%	157/164	87%	137/157		92%	294/321
40-44	86%	118/138	84%	108/128		85%	226/266
45-49	88%	100/114	85%	93/110		86%	193/224
50-54	89%	76/85	84%	88/104		87%	164/189
55-59	91%	57/62	76%	47/62		84%	104/124
Religion							
Catholic	90%	485/539	85%	477/558	P<0.001	88%	962/1097
Anglican	87%	226/259	83%	291/347		85%	517/606
Muslim	88%	148/167	93%	56/60		90%	204/227
Pentecostal/born again	92%	164/179	94%	147/156		93%	311/335
SDA	68%	13/19	75%	12/16		71%	25/35
Other	61%	11/18	92%	11/12		73%	22/30
Current marital status							
Currently married /living with a man	88%	703/803	86%	724/844	P=0.003	87%	1427/1647
Never married/never lived with a man	95%	56/59	85%	39/46		90%	95/105
Having a regular partner (sexual relation living apart)	93%	99/106	91%	53/58		93%	152/164
Divorced	90%	28/31	95%	18/19		92%	46/50
Widowed	92%	68/74	84%	72/86		88%	140/160
Divorced/separated	86%	93/108	92%	88/96		89%	181/204
Education attainment**							
No education	83%	109/130	87%	173/199	P<0.001	86%	282/329
Primary	88%	550/627	87%	571/659		87%	1121/1286
O level	91%	290/317	83%	181/217		88%	471/534
A level	96%	27/28	100%	17/17		98%	44/45
Tertiary/university	91%	69/76	93%	52/56		92%	121/132
Earns money							
Does not earn money	92%	354/383	90%	209/231	P=0.3956	92%	563/614
Earns money	87%	693/798	86%	785/918		86%	1478/1716
Total	89%	1047/1181	87%	994/1149	P=0.1373	88%	2041/2330

Table A.8: Percentage of children who reported experience violence in the last 12 months from community members, by selected background characteristics

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% n/N)		Comparison districts (% n/N)		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Sex						
Female	19%	72/372	17%	64/380	18%	136/752
Male	18%	40/217	16%	30/184	17%	70/401
Religion						
Catholic	18%	41/229	19%	54/290	18%	95/519
Anglican	19%	30/155	13%	18/132	17%	48/287
Muslim	19%	18/93	16%	7/43	18%	25/136
Pentecostal/born again	19%	18/94	14%	12/86	17%	30/180
SDA	44%	4/9	0%	0/2	36%	4/11
Other	11%	1/9	25%	3/12	19%	4/21
Ethnicity						
Baganda	21%	21/98	14%	14/98	18%	35/196
Banyankole	32%	7/22	16%	17/107	19%	24/129
Batoro/Banyoro	12%	9/77	0%	0/5	11%	9/82
Basoga	6%	1/16	22%	2/9	12%	3/25
Bakiga	5%	1/17	10%	1/10	7%	2/27
Ngakarimojong	9%	3/34	13%	9/69	12%	12/103
Ateso	23%	7/30	18%	20/112	19%	27/142
Luo	34%	36/106	23%	18/78	29%	54/184
Other	14%	27/189	17%	13/75	15%	40/264
Education attainment*						
Never attended school	0%	0/15	10%	5/48	8%	5/63
Primary	23%	92/396	20%	77/393	21%	169/789
Secondary	11%	20/174	9%	10/115	10%	30/289
Tertiary/university	0%	0/4	22%	2/9	15%	2/13
Earns money		P = 0.000		P= 0.002		
Earns money	26%	86/205	20%	80/272	35%	166/477
Does not earn money	10%	26/210	8%	14/136	12%	40/346
Total	19%	112/589	17%	94/565	18%	206/1154

Table A.9: Percentage of children who reported experiencing violence in the last 12 months from a parent or adult care giver or adult relative, by selected background characteristics. (violence from care givers)

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (%, n/N)		Comparison districts (%, n/N)		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Sex						
Female	18%	68/372	15%	56/219	21%	124/591
Male	20%	44/217	16%	30/106	23%	74/323
Religion						
Catholic	21%	48/229	16%	45/290	18%	93/519
Anglican	23%	36/155	17%	22/132	20%	58/287
Muslim	11%	10/93	7%	3/43	10%	13/136
Pentecostal/born again	16%	15/94	16%	14/86	16%	29/180
SDA	11%	1/9	0%	0/2	9%	1/11
Other	22%	2/9	17%	2/12	19%	4/21
Ethnicity						
Baganda	8%	8/98	8%	8/98	8%	16/191
Banyankole	18%	4/22	14%	15/107	15%	19/129
Batoro/Banyoro	14%	11/77	40%	2/5	16%	13/82
Basoga		M	11%	1/9	16%	4/25
Bakiga	6%	1/17	10%	1/10	7%	2/27
Ngakarimojong	18%	6/34	20%	14/69	19%	20/103
Ateso	17%	5/30	13%	15/112	14%	20/142
Luo	25%	27/106	22%	17/78	24%	44/184
Other	25%	47/189	17%	13/75	23%	60/264
Education attainment*						
Never attended school	13%	2/15	23%	11/48	21%	13/63
Primary	23%	92/396	17%	65/393	20%	157/789
Secondary	10%	18/174	8%	9/115	9%	27/289
Tertiary/university	0%	0/4	11%	1/9	8%	1/13
Earns money						
Earns money	22%	72/333	16%	63/394	19%	135/727
Does not earn money	16%	40/256	14%	23/170	15%	63/426
Total	19%	112/589	15%	86/565	17%	198/1154

Table A.10: Percentage of children who reported experience peer violence in the last 12 months, by selected background characteristics.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (%, n/N)		Comparison districts (%, n/N)		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Age group						
0-5years	50%	1/2	0%	0/2	25%	1/4
6-11 years	19%	5/26	11%	4/38	14%	9/64
12-17years	64%	94/146	65%	91/141		185/287
Sex					0%	
Female	15%	55/359	15%	54/354	15%	109/713
Male	21%	45/213	23%	41/179	22%	86/392
Religion						
Catholic	19%	42/222	19%	51/273	19%	93/495
Anglican	21%	32/151	19%	24/127	20%	56/278
Muslim	12%	11/92	15%	6/39	13%	17/131
Pentecostal/born again	10%	9/90	17%	14/84	13%	23/174
SDA	63%	5/8	0%	0/0	63%	5/8
Other	11%	1/9	0%	0/11	5%	1/20
Ethnicity						
Baganda	15%	15/98	17%	16/93	16%	31/191
Banyankole	18%	4/22	10%	10/105	11%	14/127
Batoro/Banyoro	19%	14/73	25%	1/4	19%	15/77
Musoga	19%	3/16	14%	1/7	17%	4/23
Bakiga	44%	7/16	10%	1/10	31%	8/26
Ngakarimojong	23%	7/31	30%	19/64	27%	26/95
Ateso	13%	4/29	14%	15/105	7%	19/134
Luo	13%	14/105	26%	19/74	18%	33/179
Other	17%	32/183	19%	13/70	18%	45/253
Education attainment*						
Never attended school	17%	2/12	32%	14/43	29%	16/55
Primary	20%	77/385	18%	68/372	19%	145/757
Secondary	12%	21/171	10%	11/110	11%	32/281
Tertiary/University	0%	0/4	22%	2/9	15%	2/13
Earns money						
Earns money	20%	64/333	19%	72/371	19%	136/704
Does not earn money	14%	36/256	14%	23/162	14%	59/418
Total	17%	100/572	18%	95/534	18%	195/1106

Table A.11: Percentage of children (13-17) who experienced emotional violence in the last 12 months by background characteristics.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (% , n/N)		Comparison districts (% , n/N)		P - values	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence							
Rural	29%	110/378	26%	115/448	0.2698	27%	225/826
Urban	23%	48/211	21%	24/117	0.639	22%	72/328
Sex							
Female	27%	99/372	25%	95/380	0.613	26%	194/752
Male	27%	59/217	24%	44/184	0.454	26%	103/401
Religion							
Catholic	31%	81/229	29%	84/290	0.614	30%	155/519
Anglican	23%	35/155	17%	23/132	0.278	20%	58/287
Muslim	22%	20/93	19%	8/43	0.697	21%	28/136
Pentecostal/born again	29%	27/94	23%	20/86	0.404	26%	47/180
SDA	22%	2/9	50%	1/2	0.425	27%	3/11
Other	33%	3/9	25%	3/12	0.676	29%	6/21
Ethnicity							
Baganda	22%	22/98	16%	16/98	0.278	19%	38/196
Banyankole	31%	7/22	17%	18/107	0.105	19%	25/129
Batoro/Banyoro	21%	16/77	60%	3/5	0.044	23%	19/82
Basoga	18%	3/16	33%	3/9	0.413	29%	6/21
Bakiga	18%	3/17	20%	2/10	0.879	19%	5/27
Ngakarimojong	26%	9/34	36%	25/69	0.322	33%	34/103
Ateso	40%	12/30	22%	25/112	0.050	26%	37/142
Luo	27%	29/106	32%	25/78	0.490	29%	54/184
Other	30%	57/189	29%	22/75	0.895	30%	79/264
Education attainment*							
Never attended school	40%	6/15	38%	18/48	0.862	38%	24/63
Primary	29%	115/396	25%	99/393	0.224	27%	214/789
Secondary	21%	37/174	18%	21/115	0.533	20%	58/289
Tertiary/University	0%	0/4	11%	1/9	0.488	8%	1/13
Earns money							
Earns money	31%	102/333	25%	99/394	0.098	28%	201/727
Does not earn money	22%	56/256	24%	40/170	0.689	23%	96/426
Total	27%	158/589	25%	139/565	p=0.439	26%	297/1154

Table A.12: Percentage of children who witnessed physical violence by strangers or people they know well in the home or community in the last 12 months, by selected background characteristics.

Background characteristics	Intervention districts (%, n/N), 589		Comparison districts (%, n/N), 565		Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Residence						
Rural	13%	51/378	12%	53/448	13%	104/826
Urban	6%	12/211	4%	5/117	5%	17/328
Age group						
13-15yrs	12%	44/363	11%	40/349	12%	84/712
16-17yrs	8%	19/226	8%	18/216	8%	37/442
Sex						
Female	10%	39/372	11%	42/380	11%	81/752
Male	11%	24/217	9%	16/185	10%	40/402
Religion						
Catholic	15%	34/229	12%	36/290	13%	70/519
Anglican	6%	10/155	9%	12/132	8%	22/287
Muslim	3%	3/93	0%	0/43	2%	3/136
Pentecostal/born again	13%	12/94	9%	8/86	11%	20/180
SDA	44%	4/9	50%	1/2	45%	5/11
Other	0%	0/9	8%	1/12	5%	1/21
Education attainment						
Never attended school	20%	3/15	13%	6/48	14%	9/63
Primary	12%	48/396	11%	44/393	12%	92/789
Secondary	7%	12/174	6%	7/115	7%	19/289
Tertiary/A level	0%	0/4	13%	1/8	8%	1/12
Earns money						
Earns money	14%	48/333	10%	41/394	12%	89/727
Does not earn money	6%	15/256	10%	17/171	7%	32/427
Total	11%	63/589	10%	58/565	10%	121/1154

Table A.13: Percentage of children who believe it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations

Gender attitude parameter	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		All districts	
	%	n/N	%	n/N	%	n/N
Percentage of children who believe it is right for a man to beat his wife if						
If she goes out without telling him	21%	122/589	23%	134/565	22%	256/1154
If she does not take care of the children	32%	191/589	38%	216/565	35%	407/1154
If she argues with him	21%	126/589	23%	132/565	22%	258/1154
If she refuses to have sex with him	12%	68/589	15%	82/565	13%	150/1154
If she burns the food	12%	73/589	16%	91/565	14%	164/1154
Percentage of children who believe						
Men, not women, should decide when to have sex	31%	182/589	33%	190/565	32%	372/1154
Men need more sex than women	41%	241/589	44%	248/565	42%	489/1154
Men need to have sex with other women, even if they have good relationships with their wives	15%	86/589	14%	78/565	15%	168/1154
Women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men	41%	244/589	45%	255/565	43%	499/1154
A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together	48%	281/589	49%	276/565	48%	557/1154

Table A.14: Percentage of children who believe it is right for a man to beat his wife in given situations by selected background characteristics

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P-Value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Sex							
Female	50%	186/372	54%	204/380	0.2303	52%	390/752
Male	44%	95/217	51%	93/185	0.1612	47%	188/402
Religion							
Catholic	47%	108/229	54%	156/290	0.1132	51%	264/519
Anglican	50%	77/155	50%	66/132	1	50%	143/287
Muslim	51%	47/93	58%	25/43	0.4468	53%	72/136
Pentecostal/ born again	43%	40/94	50%	43/86	0.3468	46%	83/180
SDA	56%	5/9	50%	1/2	0.8774	55%	6/11
Other	44%	4/9	50%	6/12		48%	10/21
Ethnicity							
Baganda	35%	34/98	51%	50/98	0.0237	43%	84/196
Banyankole	27%	6/22	33%	35/107	0.5826	0%	
Batoro/Banyoro	44%	34/77	60%	3/5	0.486	45%	37/82
Basoga	31%	5/16	56%	5/9	0.2207	40%	10/25
Bakiga	59%	10/17	70%	7/10	0.567	63%	17/27
Ngakarimojong	56%	19/34	74%	51/69	0.065	68%	70/103
Ateso	60%	18/30	49%	55/112	0.284	51%	73/142
Luo	58%	61/106	59%	46/78	0.892	58%	107/184
Other	50%	94/189	59%	46/78	0.181	52%	140/267
Education attainment							
Never attended school	47%	7/15	77%	37/48	0.0271	70%	44/63
Primary	51%	201/396	53%	210/393	0.5740	52%	411/789
Secondary-O level	42%	73/174	42%	48/115	p>0.995	42%	121/289
Tertiary/ University	0%	0/4	22%	2/9	0.3083	15%	2/13
Earns money							
Earns money	49%	164/333	54%	211/394	0.1789	52%	375/727
Does not earn money	46%	117/256	50%	86/171	0.4174	48%	203/427
Overall	48%	281/589	53%	297/265	p=0.0895	68%	578/854

B. Reliance

Table B: Secondary indicators for assessing Reliance – Women Survey tool

	Intervention districts	Control districts	P values, comparing proportions	Total
% who reported ever getting help from the following: multiple answer	30% (192/648)	26% (148/576)	0.125	28% (340/1224)
• Police	41% (78/192)	43% (63/148)	0.719	41% (141/340)
• Hospital	44% (85/192)	41% (60/148)	0.490	43% (145/340)
• Social service	6% (11/192)	3% (5/148)	0.310	5% (16/340)
• Legal advice	2% (4/192)	2% (3/148)	0.971	2% (7/340)
• Court	3% (6/192)	3% (4/148)	0.819	3% (10/340)
• Shelter	0% (0/192)	0.7% (1/148)	0.254	0.3% (1/340)
• Local leader	63% (121/192)	67% (99/148)	0.459	65% (220/340)
• Women's organization	8% (15/192)	7% (10/148)	0.712	7% (25/340)
• Religious leader	7% (14/192)	5% (8/148)	0.483	6% (22/340)
• Other	7% (13/192)	8% (12/148)	0.639	7% (25/340)
Crime reporting rate - The % of incidents of IPV reported to relevant CJS agencies during review period.	12% (79/648)	11% (63/576)	0.494	12% (142/1224)
Intermediary crime reporting rate - The % of incidents of IPV reported to non-CJS agencies during the reporting period.	17% (113/648)	15% (85/576)	0.204	16% (198/1224)
Crime reporting gap: % of incidents of IPV that were not reported anywhere during period under review	70% (456/648)	74% (428/576)	0.125	72% (884/1224)
% of survivors of violence who report the following reasons for seeking help.				
• Encouraged by friend/family	32% (61/192)	31% (46/148)	0.892	31% (107/340)
• Could not Endure more	44% (85/192)	48% (71/148)	0.497	46% (156/340)
• Badly injured/afraid he will kill her	35% (68/192)	41% (61/148)	0.275	38% (129/340)
• He threatened or tried to kill her	15% (28/192)	14% (21/148)	0.918	14% (49/340)
• He threatened or hit children	7% (14/192)	5% (8/148)	0.483	6% (22/340)
• Saw that children suffering	14% (27/192)	13% (19/148)	0.743	14% (46/340)
• Thrown out of the home	14% (27/192)	10% (15/148)	0.275	12% (42/340)
• Afraid she would kill him	2% (3/192)	7% (11/148)	0.007	4% (14/340)
• Other	15% (29/192)	12% (18/148)	0.436	14% (47/340)
% who report not visiting of the places that offer help to victims of violence?	425	399		824
• Don't know/no answer	17% (71/425)	19% (75/399)	0.432	18% (146/824)
• Fear of threats/consequences/ more violence	20% (84/425)	22% (87/399)	0.471	21% (171/824)
• Violence normal/not serious	27% (114/425)	30% (121/399)	0.266	29% (235/824)
• Embarrassed/ashamed/afraid	13% (54/425)	13% (50/399)	0.940	13% (104/824)
• Would not be believed or	2% (9/425)	2% (7/399)	0.706	2% (16/824)
• Would be blamed	8% (34/425)	5% (19/399)	0.058	6% (53/824)
• Believed no help/know other	6% (27/425)	5% (21/399)	0.504	6% (48/824)
• Women not helped	4% (17/425)	4% (17/399)	0.851	4% (34/824)
• Afraid would end relationship	8% (34/425)	10% (39/399)	0.370	9% (73/824)
• Afraid would lose children	2% (7/425)	3% (12/399)	0.193	2% (19/824)
• Bring bad name to family	5% (23/425)	5% (21/399)	0.924	5% (44/824)
• Others specify -----	26% (110/425)	22% (87/399)	0.170	24% (197/824)
Most common other specify was lack of funds, no need and didn't know what to do!				

% that report receiving appropriate help from police or courts	12% (79/648)	11% (63/576)	0.494	12% (142/1224)
• The perpetrator was arrested by police, but never taken to court.	41% (32/79)	49% (31/63)	0.716	44% (63/142)
• The perpetrator was arrested and taken to court.	5% (4/79)	3% (2/63)		4% (6/142)
• The per perpetrator was sentenced to jail.	3% (2/79)	3% (2/63)		4% (4/142)
• The police came but the perpetrator was never arrested.	24% (19/79)	25% (16/63)		25% (35/142)
• Nothing was done.	28% (22/79)	19% (12/63)		24% (34/142)

C. Confidence

Table C.1: Stakeholder Confidence in Overall Justice System Effectiveness

Confidence Parameter To what extent do you have confidence in the criminal justice system based on the following statements. (N=68)	# (%) of stakeholders
I have confidence that the criminal justice system coordinates effectively to secure justice for vulnerable people who face sexual and Intimate partner violence (IPV). [Mandatory] N=49	29(42%)
I have confidence that the justice system upholds rule of law at all times, for persons who interact with the justice system regarding sexual and IPV cases. [Optional]	23(33%)
I have confidence that the justice system in overall enjoys great public support in tackling sexual and IPV cases. [Optional]	16(24%)
I have confidence that the justice system in overall is effectively deterring [crime type], hence reducing the prevalence of this violence, based on the success of its work. [Optional]	22(32%)
Based on all comments above, my overall level of confidence in the effectiveness of the justice system can be described as..[Mandatory]	12(18%)

Table C.2: Stakeholder Confidence in Institutional Efficiency of Justice System Institutions

Confidence Parameter To what extent do you have confidence in the efficiency of the UPF, ODPP and Courts (N=68)	UPF	ODPP	Court
a) I have confidence that the CJS institution is independent in doing its work related to justice on matters of sexual and IPV. N=68	19(28%)	22(32%)	25(37%)
b) I have confidence that the CJS institution provides timely services in the pursuit of justice on matters of sexual and IPV cases. [Mandatory]	8(12%)	8(12%)	13(19%)
c) I have confidence that the CJS institution is accessible to members of the public and anyone who wants to engage with it on matters of [case type] can reach it so easily. [Optional]	24(35%)	18(26%)	18(26%)
d) I have confidence that the CJS institution enjoys good political support from government and from politicians [mainly members of the executive and parliamentarians] in doing its work. [Mandatory]	18(26%)	24(35%)	27(40%)
e) Overall, I have confidence in the efficiency of the [the CJS institution. [Mandatory]	4 (6%)	6 (9%)	7 (10%)

Table C.3: Stakeholder Confidence in Fairness of Justice System Institutions

Confidence Parameter	UPF	ODPP	Courts
To what extent do you have confidence in the Fairness of the UPF, ODPP and Courts? (N=68)			
a) I have confidence that the UPF, ODPP and Courts treats everyone equally and without any forms of discrimination when people interact with the institution on matters of sexual and IPV [Mandatory]	15(22%)	19(28%)	9(13%)
b) I have confidence that the UPF, ODPP and Courts treats everyone with dignity when people interact with the institution on matters of sexual and IPV. [Optional]	15(22%)	21(31%)	7(10%)
c) Overall, I have confidence in the fairness of the UPF, ODPP and Courts in conducting its work on matters related to sexual and IPV. [Optional]	11 (16%)	16 (24%)	15 (22%)

D. Performance

Table D.1: Quality of Data from the Investigation Case File Reviews

Quality parameter	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P-value	Total	
	(%)	n/N	(%)	n/N		%	n/N
Statement for key victims, witnesses, and/or suspects							
No	1%	3/269	1%	2/139	0.778	1%	5/408
Yes	99%		266/269	99%		137/139	99%
Quality of statements (2 missing)							
Excellent	58%	154/265	63%	85/136	0.588	59%	239/408
Average	40%	105/265	35%	47/136		37%	152/408
Poor	2%	6/265	3%	4/136		2%	10/408
All evidence is collected and submitted							
No	26%	70/270	23%	32/140	0.495	25%	102/408
Yes	74%	200/270	77%	108/140		75%	308/408
Quality of evidence							
Excellent	23%	46/200	28%	30/108	0.053	19%	76/408
Average	67%	133/200	54%	58/108		47%	191/408
Poor	11%	21/200	19%	20/108		10%	41/408
Chain of custody for evidence documented							
No	78%	206/263	84%	117/139	0.161	80%	323/402
Yes	22%	57/263	16%	22/139		20%	79/402
Chain of custody of evidence maintained							
Evidence maintained	84%	48	64%	14/22	0.046	78%	62/79
Not maintained	16%	9/57	36%	8/22		22%	17/79
Reports of all investigative activities and case information							
No	2%	5/266	1%	1/140	0.355	1%	6/406
Yes	98%	261/266	99%	139/140		99%	400/406
Overall quality of reports							

Excellent	31%	79/249	47%	64/137	0.005	37%	143/386
Average	60%	150/249	43%	59/137		54%	208/386
Poor	8%	20/249	10%	14/137		8%	34/386
Overall rating for information included in the file (4 missing)							
Excellent	12%	33/265	15%	20/137	0.081	13%	53/402
Average	74%	195/265	64%	87/137		70%	282/402
Poor	14%	37/265	22%	30/137		17%	67/402

Table D.2: Quality of Data from the Legal Case File Reviews

Quality parameter	Intervention districts		Comparison districts		P value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Documentation of every event in the trial (3 missing)							
No	7%	20/294	5%	7/151	0.365	7%	27/445
Yes	93%	274/294	95%	144/151		93%	418/445
Quality of documentation (2 missing)							
Excellent	47%	129/273	50%	72/143	0.207	48%	201/416
Average	45%	125/273	48%	67/143		46%	192/416
Poor (insufficient detail)	7%	19/273	3%	4/143		5%	23/416
All evidence collected and submitted was kept in the file							
No	36%	107/295	28%	42/151	0.073	24%	109/446
Yes	64%	188/295	72%	109/151		66%	297/446
Quality of the evidence if evidence collected and submitted was kept in the file is YES							
Excellent	20%	37/188	23%	25/109	0.146	21%	62/297
Average	73%	138/188	64%	70/109		70%	208/297
Poor (insufficient detail)	7%	13/188	13%	14/109		9%	27/297
Presence of a charge sheet that included every charge for every accused (1 missing)							
No	2%	6/296	11%	17/151	P<0.0001	5%	23/447
Yes	98%	290/296	89%	134/151		95%	424/447
Overall rating for information included in the file (4 missing)							
Excellent	13%	37/294	17%	25/150	0.067	14%	62/444
Average	72%	212/294	61%	92/150		68%	304/444
Poor	15%	45/294	22%	33/150		18%	78/444

Table D.3: Proportion of women survivors restored

Background characteristics	Intervention districts		Comparison districts (%)		P-Value	Total	
	%	n/N	%	n/N		%	n/N
Residence		P=0.000		P=0.797			P=0.000
Rural	22%	84/390	26%	98/379	0.159	24%	182/769
Urban	42%	108/258	25%	49/197	0.000	35%	157/455
Age-group		P=0.092		P=0.272			P=0.042
18-24	28%	33/120	19%	17/88	0.172	24%	50/208
25-29	30%	30/99	24%	24/102	0.279	27%	54/201
30-34	22%	23/105	23%	24/104	0.839	22%	47/209
35-39	34%	32/94	26%	21/82	0.224	30%	53/176
40-44	24%	19/78	28%	19/68	0.623	26%	38/146
45-49	33%	22/67	24%	12/51	0.269	29%	34/118
50-54	45%	25/55	35%	18/52	0.253	40%	43/107
55-59	27%	8/30	41%	12/29	0.233	34%	20/59
Religion		P=0.075		P=0.219			P=0.028
Catholic	29%	86/296	22%	56/251	0.073	26%	142/547
Anglican	26%	38/149	24%	47/193	0.807	25%	85/342
Muslim	37%	31/83	30%	9/30	0.471	35%	40/113
Pentecostal/born again	28%	28/101	36%	32/90	0.244	31%	60/191
SDA	64%	7/11	33%	2/6	0.232	53%	9/17
Other	25%	2/8	17%	1/6	0.707	21%	3/14
Current marital status		P=0.000		P=0.176			P=0.000
Currently married / living with a man	27%	127/476	26%	113/440	0.731	26%	240/916
Having a regular partner (sexual relation living apart)	50%	21/42	23%	5/22	0.035	41%	26/64
Divorced	63%	15/24	43%	6/14	0.240	55%	21/38
Widowed	44%	14/32	35%	11/31	0.503	40%	25/63
Divorced/separated	20%	15/74	17%	12/69	0.660	19%	27/143
Education attainment**		P=0.000		P=0.000			P=0.000
No education	16%	12/74	18%	14/76	0.721	17%	26/150
Primary	22%	83/383	23%	89/390	0.701	22%	172/773
O level	48%	77/162	31%	27/86	0.014	42%	104/248
A level	44%	4/9	100%	3/3	0.091	58%	7/12
Tertiary/university	80%	16/20	67%	14/21	0.335	73%	30/41
Earns money		P=0.336		P=0.485			P=0.564
Does not earn money	32%	62/192	23%	23/101	0.088	29%	85/293
Earns money	29%	130/456	26%	124/475	0.410	27%	254/931
% of women	30%	192/648	26%	147/576	0.109	28%	339/1224

Table D.4: Detailed Assessment of survivor outcomes_ Women survivors

Domain	Sub-domains	Intervention				Comparison				Overall			
		1.Highly vulnerable, 2.Vulnerable, 3.Stable, 4.Highly stable											
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Safety	Survivor is free from abuse or neglect. revictimize.	19%	26%	34%	21%	12%	29%	42%	17%	16%	27%	38%	19%
	Survivor is free of threats from suspects or others who intend to revictimize	16%	27%	35%	21%	13%	28%	42%	17%	15%	27%	38%	19%
	Survivor is able to identify and manage unsafe situations.	14%	26%	40%	20%	9%	25%	50%	16%	12%	26%	45%	18%
Legal Protection	Survivor is aware of rights and protections under the law and views violations as abusive	22%	29%	35%	14%	16%	33%	43%	8%	19%	31%	39%	11%
	Survivor's legal status or level of documentation minimizes risk of future human rights violations.	28%	28%	32%	11%	20%	39%	34%	6%	24%	33%	33%	9%
	Survivor is able to pursue justice for the human rights violation(s).	28%	28%	33%	11%	22%	37%	35%	6%	25%	32%	34%	9%
Mental Wellbeing	Survivor demonstrates risk-free behaviors ^{3†}	10%	30%	42%	17%	8%	26%	54%	12%	9%	28%	48%	15%
	Survivors positively engage in daily activities.	5%	22%	50%	24%	6%	16%	58%	20%	5%	19%	54%	22%
	Survivors utilize positive coping skills.	6%	27%	48%	19%	8%	22%	57%	13%	7%	25%	52%	16%
	Survivors demonstrate empowered attitudes and behaviors.	13%	27%	42%	18%	11%	27%	48%	14%	12%	27%	45%	16%
Economic empowerment and education	Survivor's household maintains adequate income from non-exploitative work or productive assets.	17%	35%	37%	11%	11%	36%	45%	8%	14%	35%	41%	10%
	Survivor's household demonstrates financial management skills.	19%	35%	37%	9%	13%	40%	41%	7%	16%	37%	39%	8%
	Survivor's household has access to an adequate financial safety net.	25%	34%	32%	8%	16%	41%	36%	7%	21%	37%	34%	8%
	Survivor positively engages with school, training, and/or work.	24%	31%	33%	11%	17%	36%	38%	9%	21%	33%	35%	10%
Social support	Survivor feels emotionally supported in positive relationships.	13%	25%	46%	15%	8%	26%	55%	12%	11%	25%	50%	14%
	Survivor's household is supportive of survivor's wellbeing.	13%	27%	45%	15%	8%	25%	54%	13%	11%	26%	49%	14%
	Survivor does not experience discrimination or negative social pressure.	9%	20%	52%	19%	6%	18%	61%	15%	8%	19%	56%	17%
	Survivor has access to community-based resources and support structures	11%	27%	50%	13%	9%	24%	56%	10%	10%	26%	53%	12%
	Survivor has access to essential medical services.	5%	23%	55%	18%	6%	22%	59%	13%	5%	23%	57%	16%
	Survivor takes care of health needs.	7%	23%	54%	17%	8%	23%	56%	13%	7%	23%	55%	15%
	Survivor has access to adequate basic needs that impact health.	10%	27%	48%	15%	8%	29%	52%	12%	9%	28%	50%	14%
	Survivor has stable housing.	10%	22%	48%	19%	7%	20%	56%	16%	9%	21%	52%	18%
	Survivor's housing is safe and free from hazards.	122%	24%	45%	19%	7%	20%	55%	17%	68%	22%	50%	18%

Table D.5: Assessment of survivor outcomes among children

Domain	Subdomains	Intervention				Comparison				Overall			
		1.Highly vulnerable, 2.Vulnerable, 3.Stable, 4.Highly stable											
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Safety	Survivor is free from abuse or neglect. revictimize.	17%	35%	31%	17%	16%	27%	45%	11%	17%	32%	36%	11%
	Survivor is free of threats from suspects or others who intend to revictimize	14%	34%	36%	16%	11%	36%	41%	11%	13%	35%	38%	11%
Legal Protection	Survivor is able to identify and manage unsafe situations.	18%	31%	41%	10%	14%	32%	45%	9%	17%	31%	42%	9%
	Survivor is aware of rights and protections under the law and views violations as abusive	30%	25%	40%	6%	27%	43%	27%	2%	29%	31%	36%	2%
	Survivor's legal status or level of documentation minimizes risk of future human rights violations.	33%	31%	31%	6%	25%	50%	25%	0%	30%	37%	29%	0%
	Survivor is able to pursue justice for the human rights violation(s).	38%	24%	32%	7%	27%	50%	23%	0%	34%	33%	29%	0%
Mental Wellbeing	Survivor demonstrates risk-free behaviors ^{3†}	13%	34%	40%	14%	7%	34%	48%	11%	11%	34%	43%	11%
	Survivor positively engages in daily activities.	2%	17%	66%	15%	5%	18%	59%	18%	3%	17%	64%	18%
	Survivor utilizes positive coping skills.	6%	31%	53%	10%	9%	27%	55%	9%	7%	30%	54%	9%
	Survivor demonstrates empowered attitudes and behaviors.	14%	33%	45%	8%	14%	34%	45%	7%	14%	33%	45%	7%
Economic empowerment and education	Survivor's household maintains adequate income from non-exploitative work or productive assets.	19%	39%	33%	9%	11%	48%	36%	5%	16%	42%	34%	5%
	Survivor's household demonstrates financial management skills.	18%	34%	43%	5%	11%	52%	34%	2%	16%	40%	40%	2%
	Survivor's household has access to an adequate financial safety net.	24%	39%	33%	5%	23%	48%	27%	2%	24%	42%	31%	2%
	Survivor positively engages with school, training, and/or work.	14%	16%	52%	18%	16%	34%	32%	18%	15%	22%	45%	18%
Social support	Survivor feels emotionally supported in positive relationships.	11%	27%	51%	10%	11%	32%	48%	9%	11%	29%	50%	9%
	Survivor's household is supportive of survivor's wellbeing.	15%	28%	45%	11%	9%	34%	43%	14%	13%	30%	44%	14%
	Survivor does not experience discrimination or negative social pressure.	8%	28%	50%	14%	9%	34%	45%	11%	8%	30%	48%	11%
	Survivor has access to community-based resources and support structures	9%	24%	60%	7%	9%	43%	43%	5%	9%	30%	54%	5%
	Survivor has access to essential medical services.	9%	17%	67%	7%	2%	34%	55%	9%	7%	23%	63%	9%
	Survivor takes care of health needs.	9%	22%	63%	7%	9%	36%	45%	9%	9%	27%	57%	9%
	Survivor has access to adequate basic needs that impact health.	16%	31%	48%	6%	7%	43%	41%	9%	13%	35%	46%	9%
	Survivor has stable housing.	7%	31%	47%	16%	2%	32%	59%	7%	5%	31%	51%	7%
	Survivor's housing is safe and free from hazards.	9%	33%	44%	14%	2%	39%	52%	7%	7%	35%	47%	7%





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