



National data and evidence-based solutions to prevent sexual violence against children in lower and middle-income countries

INRICH 14th Workshop | Paris, France | June 3, 2023

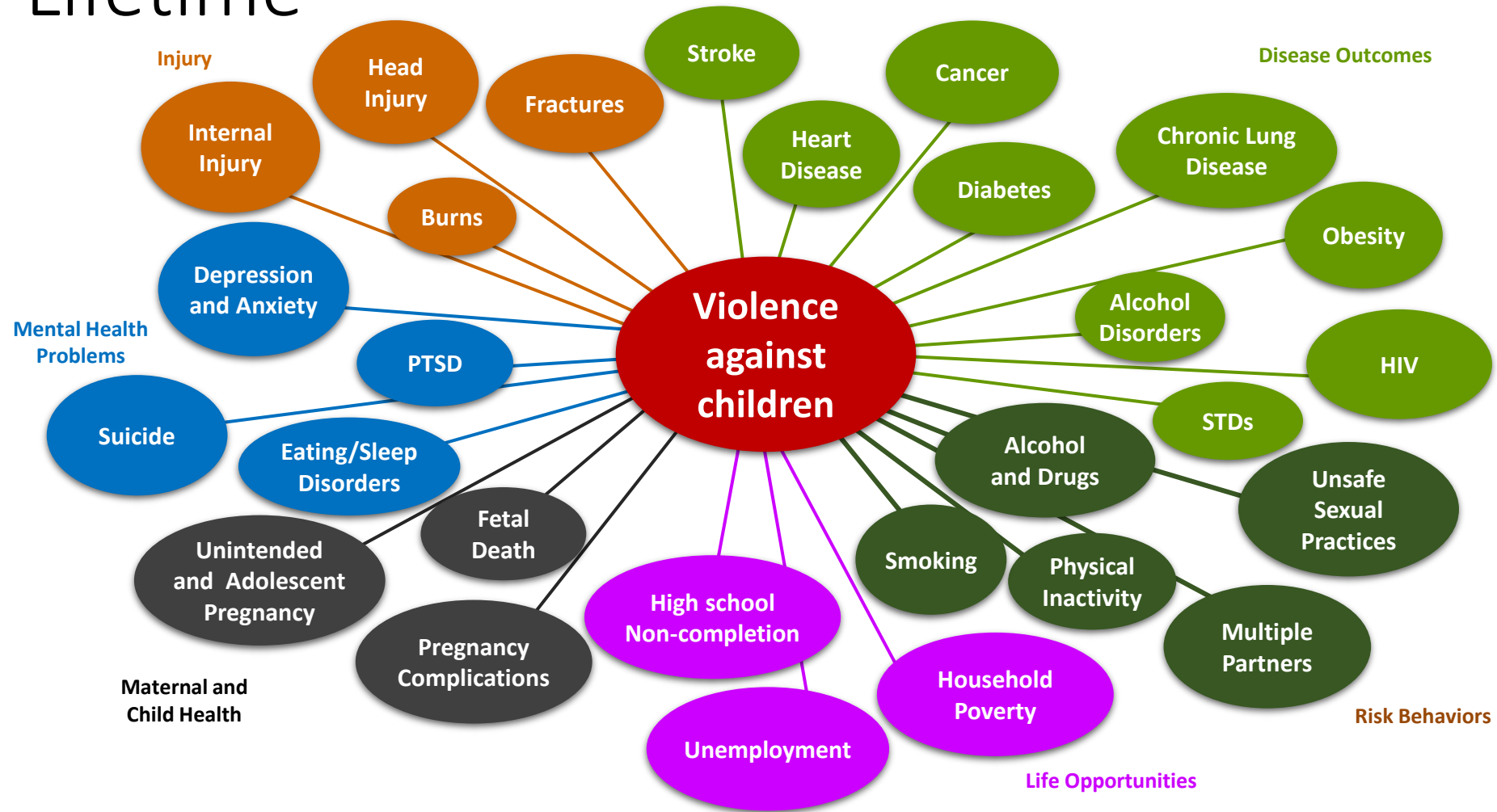
Laura Chiang, Epidemiologist



the issue

1 BILLION CHILDREN
EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE ANNUALLY

Consequences of Violence Against Children Across the Lifetime

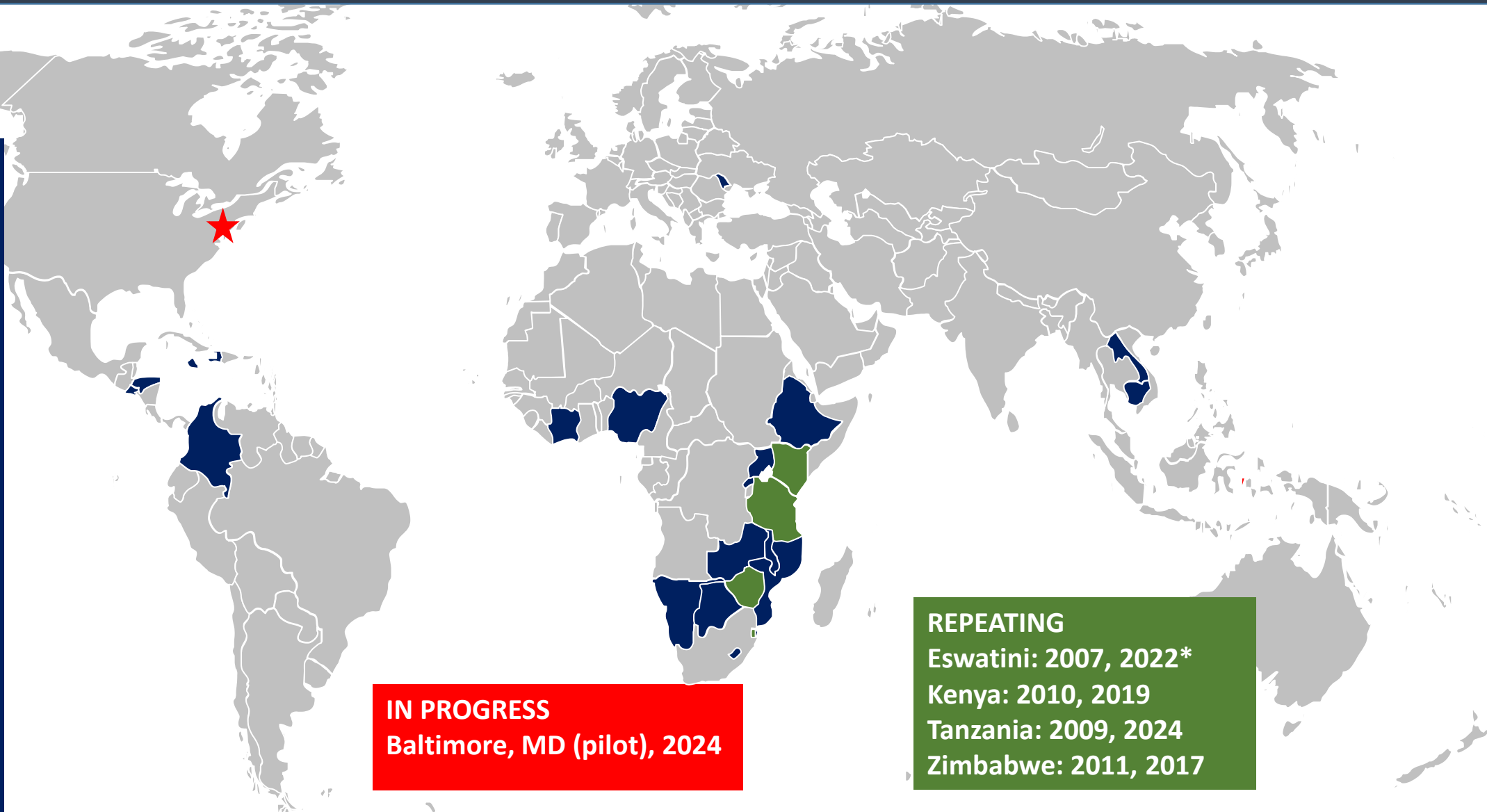


A close-up, profile view of a woman with dark skin wearing a brown, textured dress. A blue measuring tape is draped around her neck. The background is a blurred workshop or sewing room with other people and sewing machines. The lighting is warm and focused on the woman in the foreground.

Swaziland 2007

CDC Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS)

- COMPLETED**
- Botswana, 2016
 - Cambodia, 2013
 - Colombia, 2019
 - Cote d'Ivoire, 2018
 - El Salvador, 2017
 - Ethiopia, 2022*
 - Haiti, 2012
 - Honduras, 2017
 - Jamaica, 2023*
 - Laos, 2014
 - Lesotho, 2018
 - Malawi, 2013
 - Moldova, 2019
 - Mozambique, 2019
 - Namibia, 2019
 - Nigeria, 2014
 - Rwanda, 2016
 - Uganda, 2015
 - Zambia, 2014

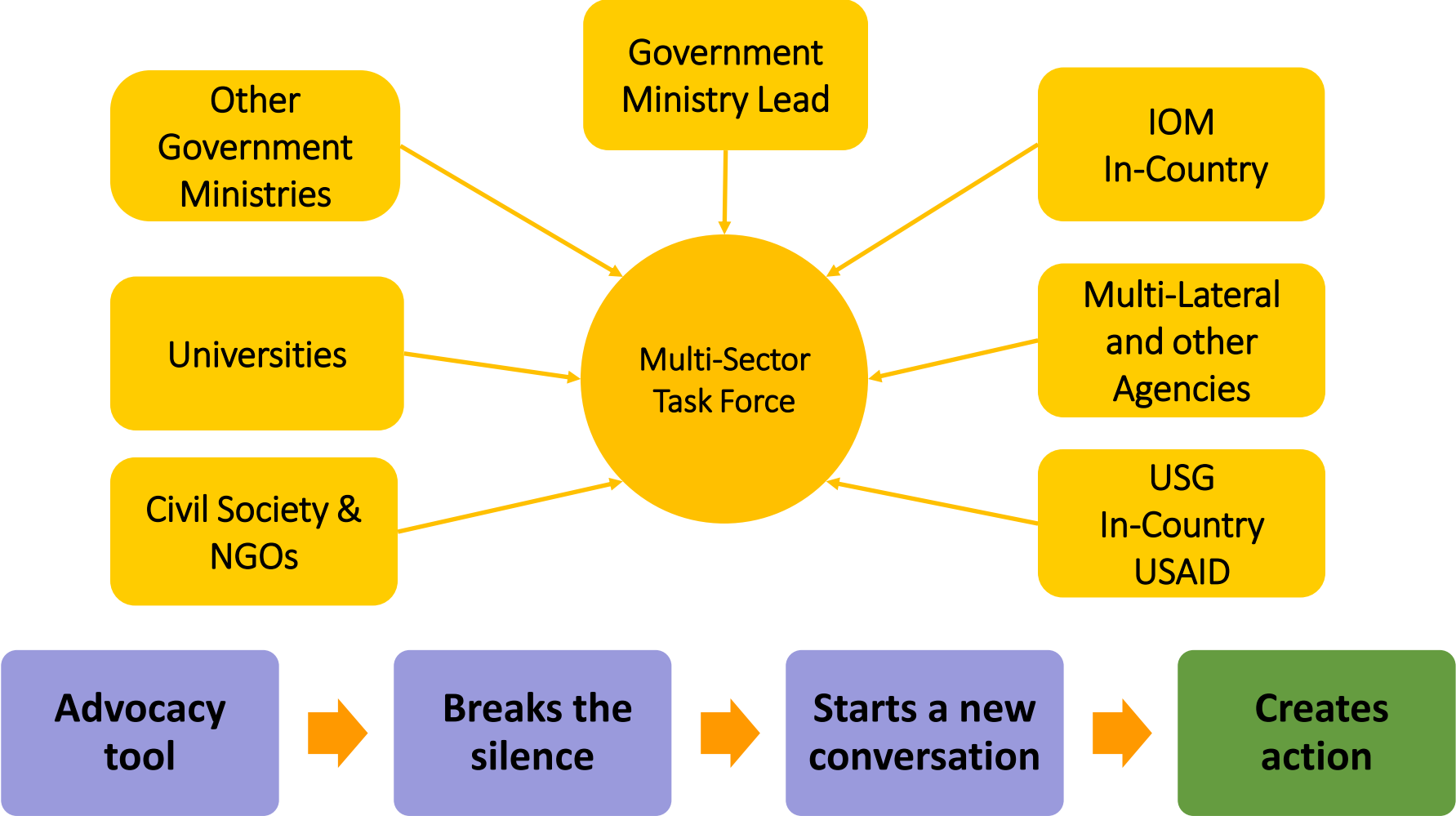


IN PROGRESS
Baltimore, MD (pilot), 2024

REPEATING
Eswatini: 2007, 2022*
Kenya: 2010, 2019
Tanzania: 2009, 2024
Zimbabwe: 2011, 2017

*Countries have completed data collection. Reports are in development.

VACS Catalyzes Action



VACS Methodology

- National household surveys
- 13-24 year old males & females
- Three-stage cluster sample survey design
- Carried out by in-country institutions
- Extensive training and protocols to protect child respondents
- Offer HIV testing and counseling to respondents who can receive results on their own



VACS Objectives

- Assess the burden of violence and its contexts
 - Information on perpetrator and context
 - Focus on children, adolescents, and young adults
- Examine health consequences
 - Mental health, substance use, STIs, health risk behaviors
- Identify risk and protective factors
 - Family, friends, community
- Assess utilization of services
 - Post-violence care, HIV testing
- Help guide violence prevention and HIV programs and policies



VACS as a tool for comprehensive data



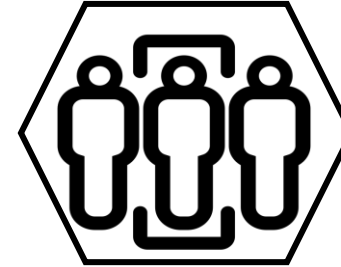
PHYSICAL
VIOLENCE



SEXUAL
VIOLENCE



EMOTIONAL
VIOLENCE



RISK FACTORS,
DEMOGRAPHICS



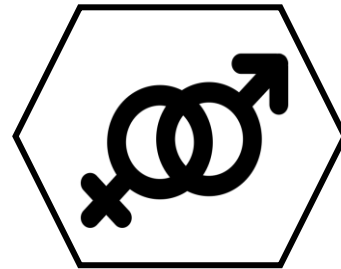
HEALTH
OUTCOMES



RISK
TAKING



HIV/AIDS TESTING
BEHAVIORS



GENDER
ATTITUDES

How are VACS implemented?

VACS Implementation Partners

FUNDING PARTNERS



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES



COUNTRY PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

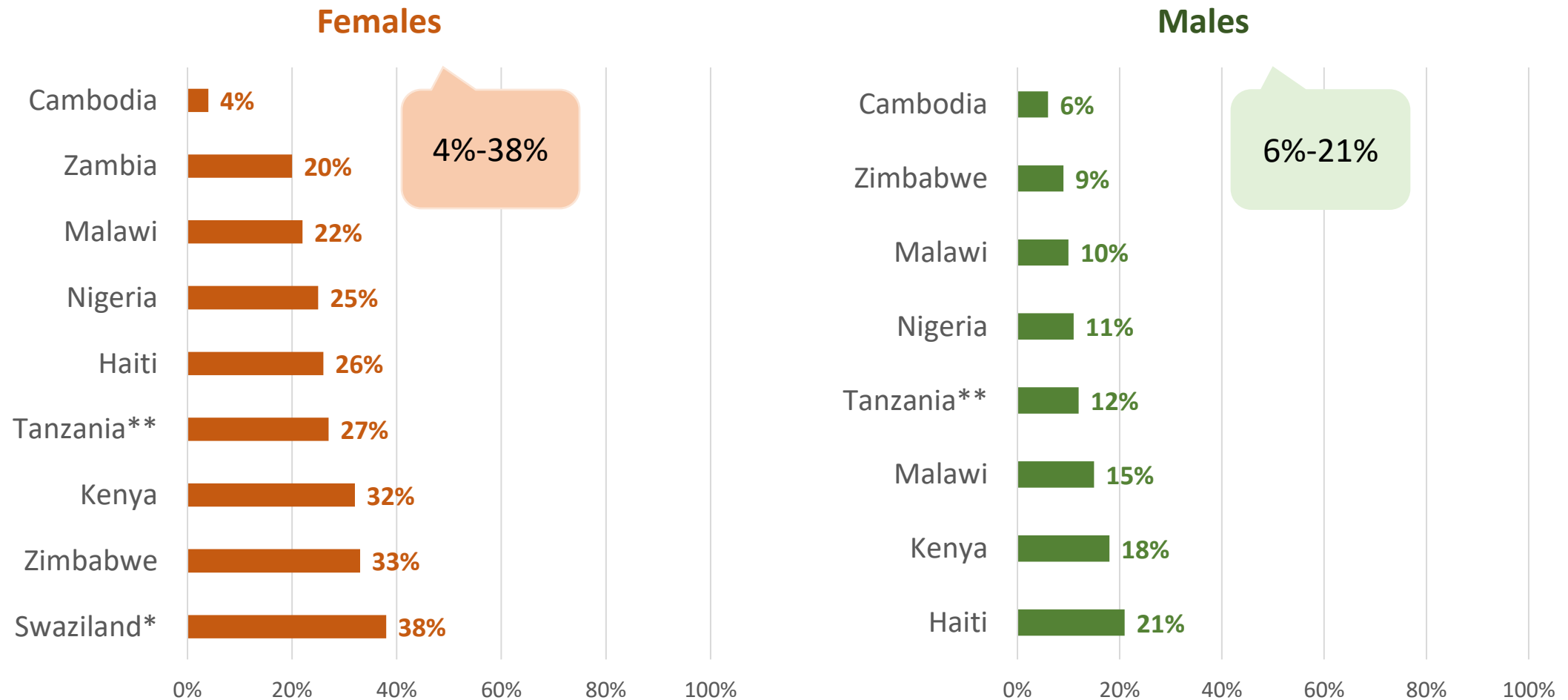


CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS
STATISTICAL AGENCIES
ETC.



VACS Findings

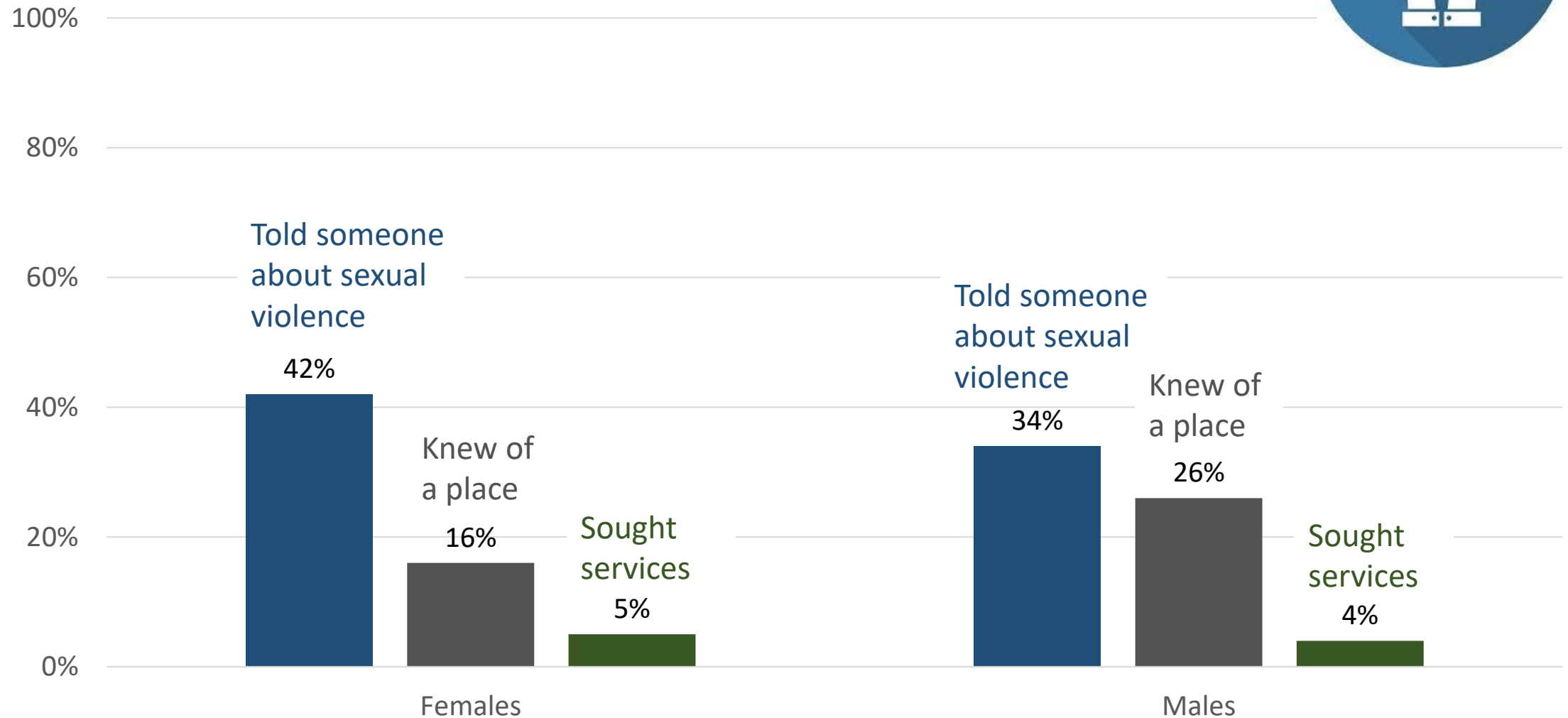
Girls and boys experience high rates of **sexual violence** prior to age 18



*Swaziland VACS only included girls.

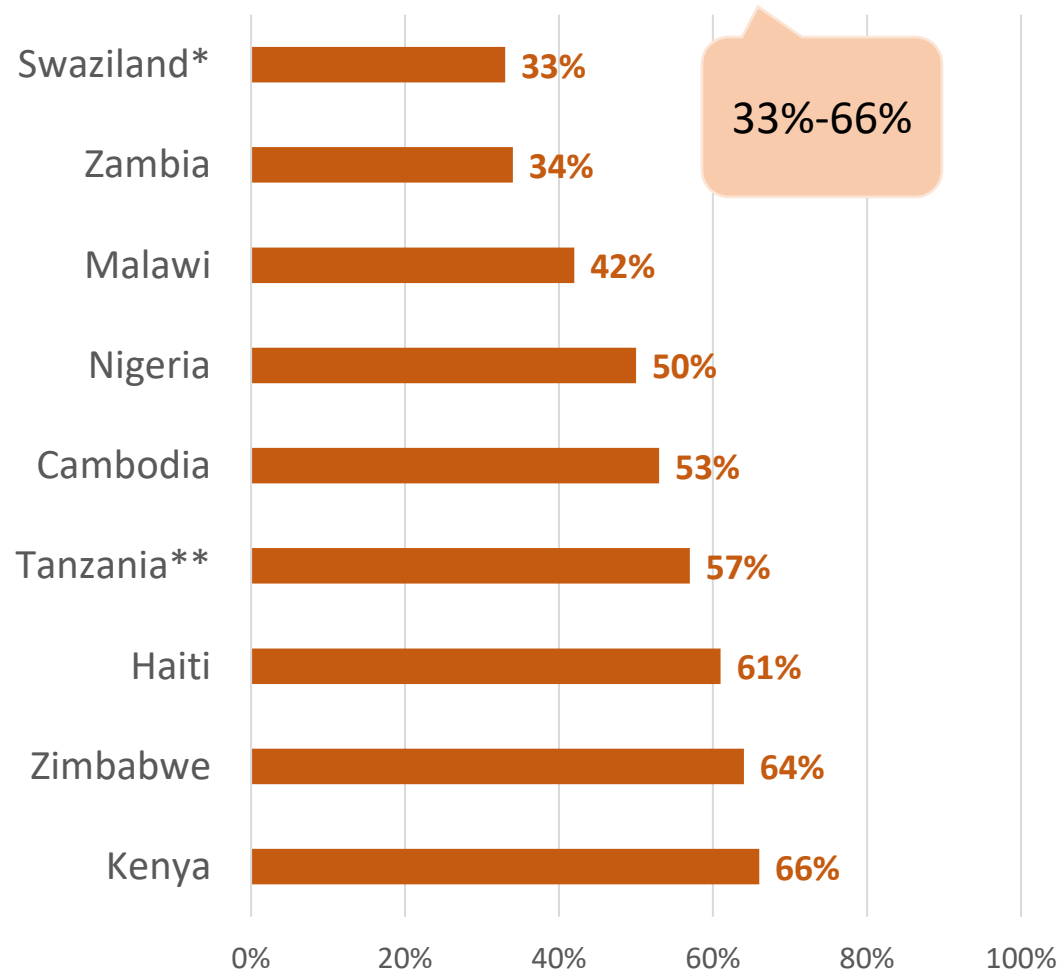
**Tanzania include data on 13-24 year olds.

Disclosure and service use by victims of sexual violence, Nigeria VACS

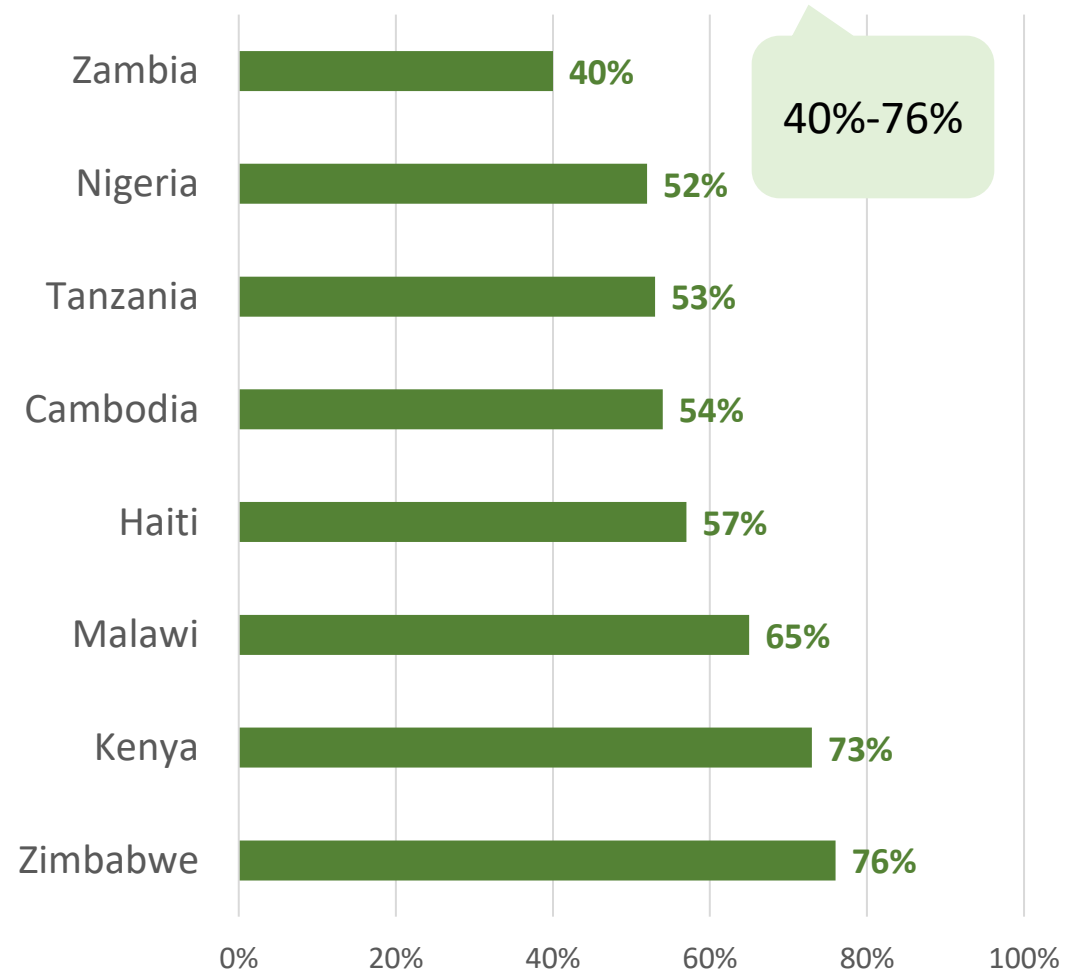


Prevalence of **physical violence** among females and males prior to age 18

Females

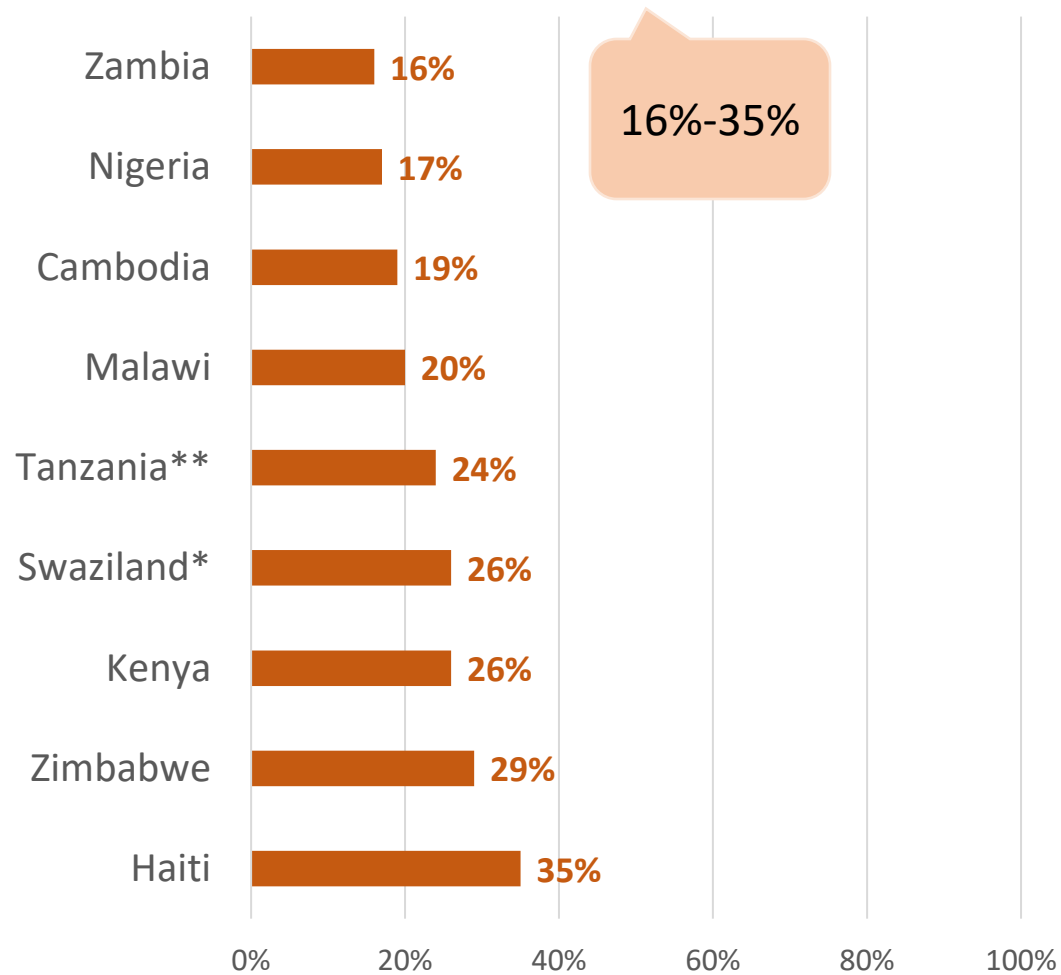


Males

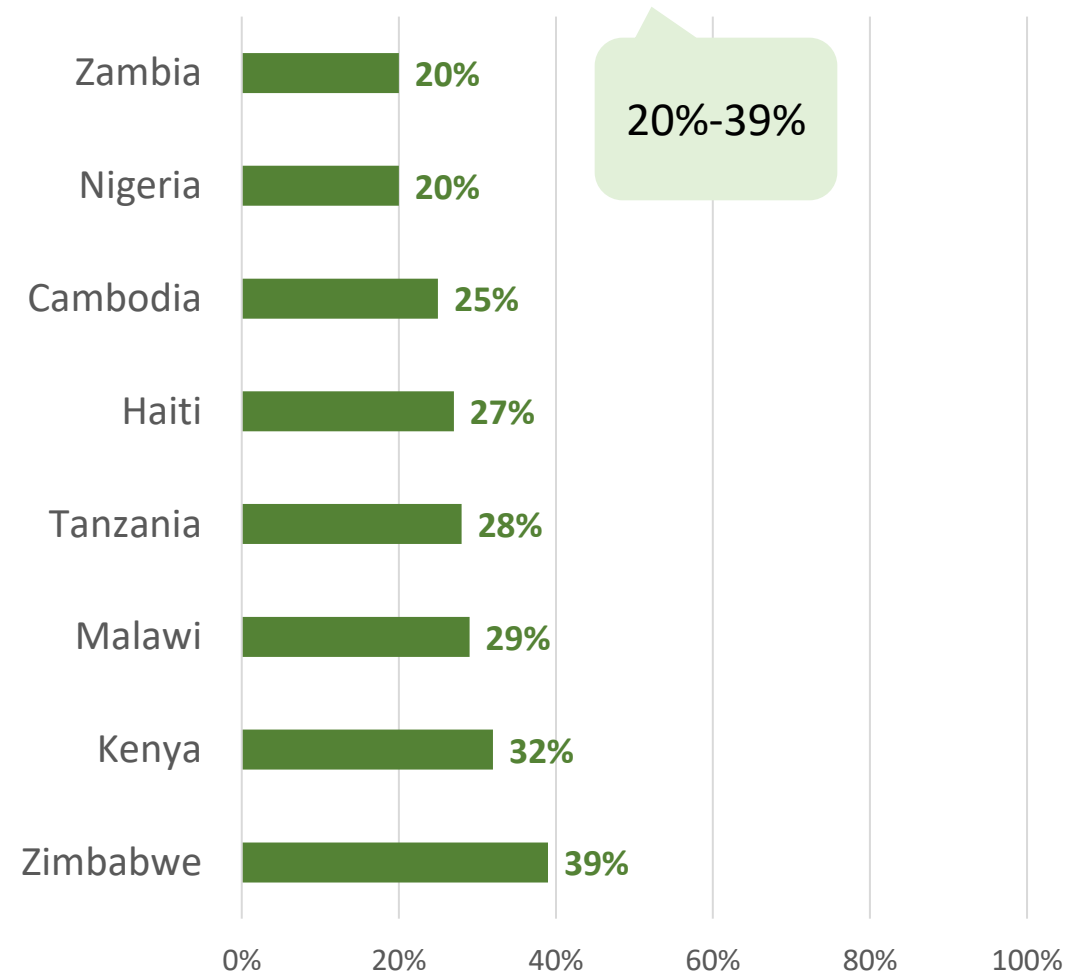


Prevalence of **emotional violence** among females and males prior to age 18

Females

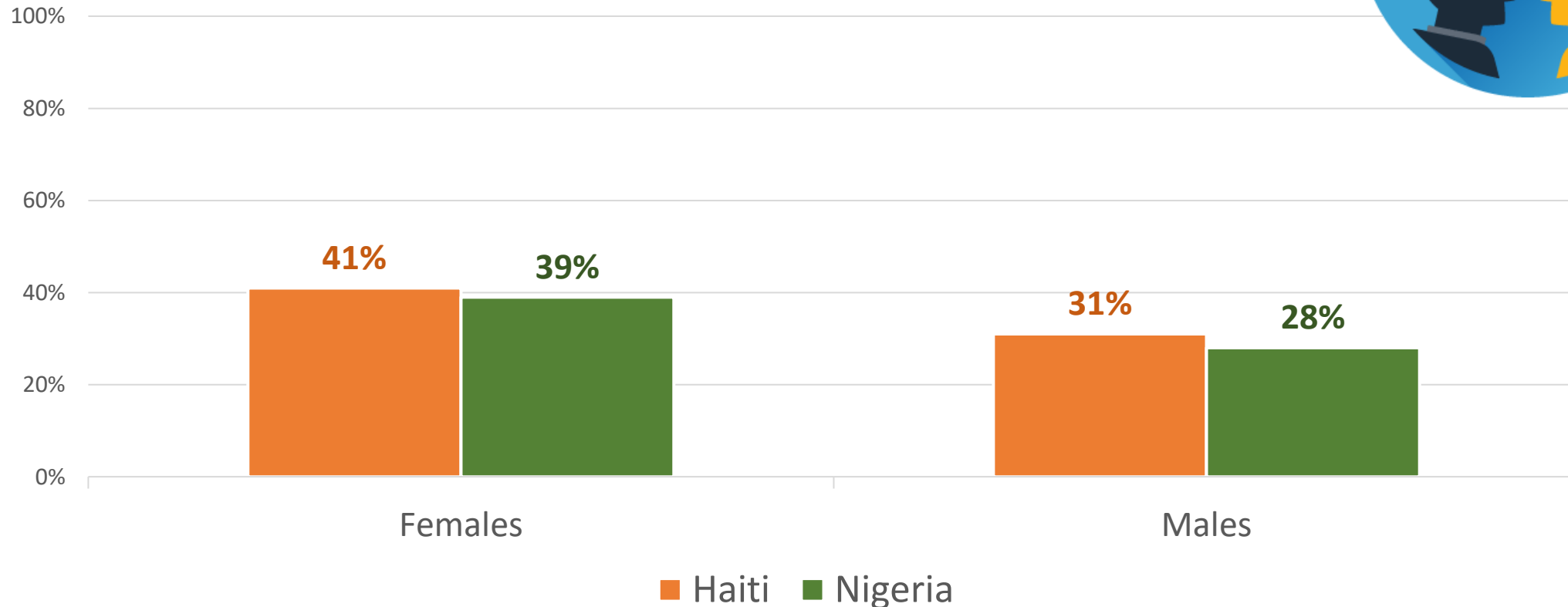


Males



NORMS AND VALUES

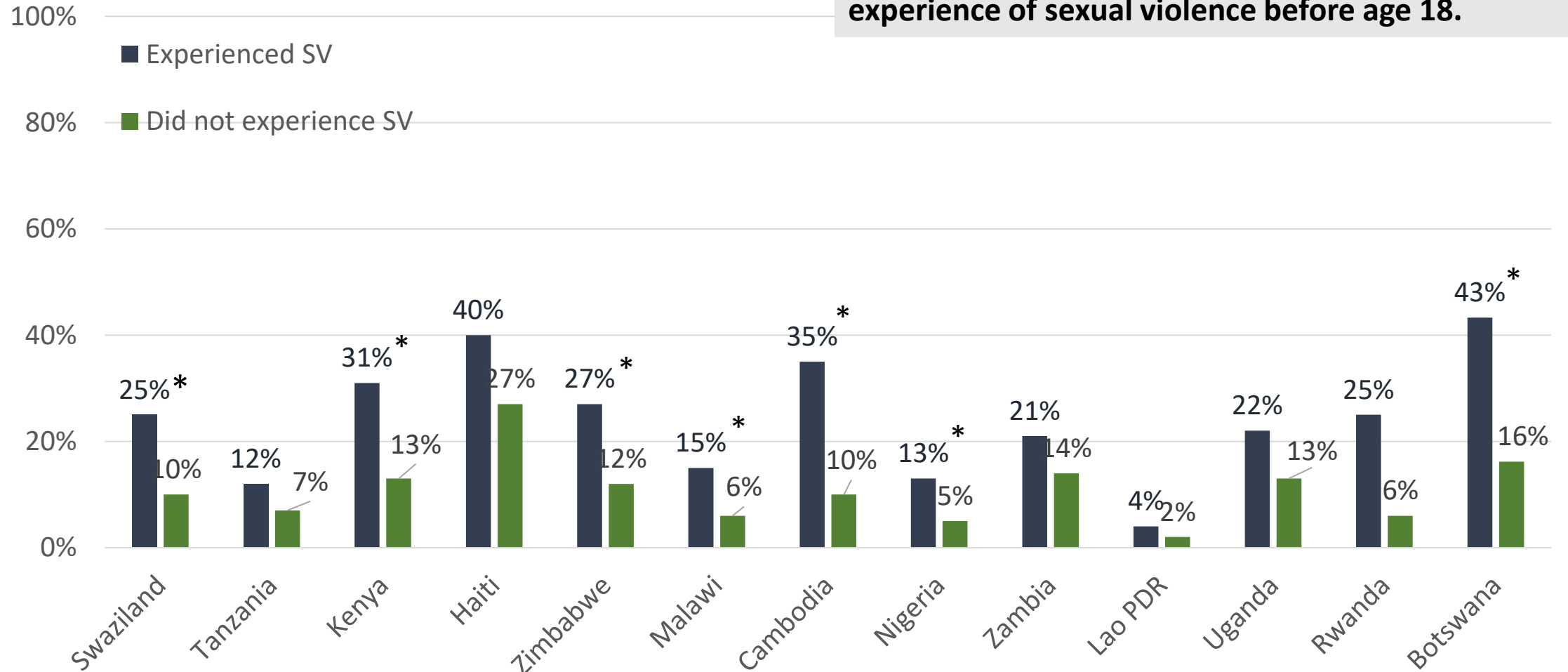
ENDORSEMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Young adults (18-24 year olds) who endorsed one or more circumstances where domestic violence is acceptable, Haiti and Nigeria VACS.

Suicidal ideation in the past 30 days

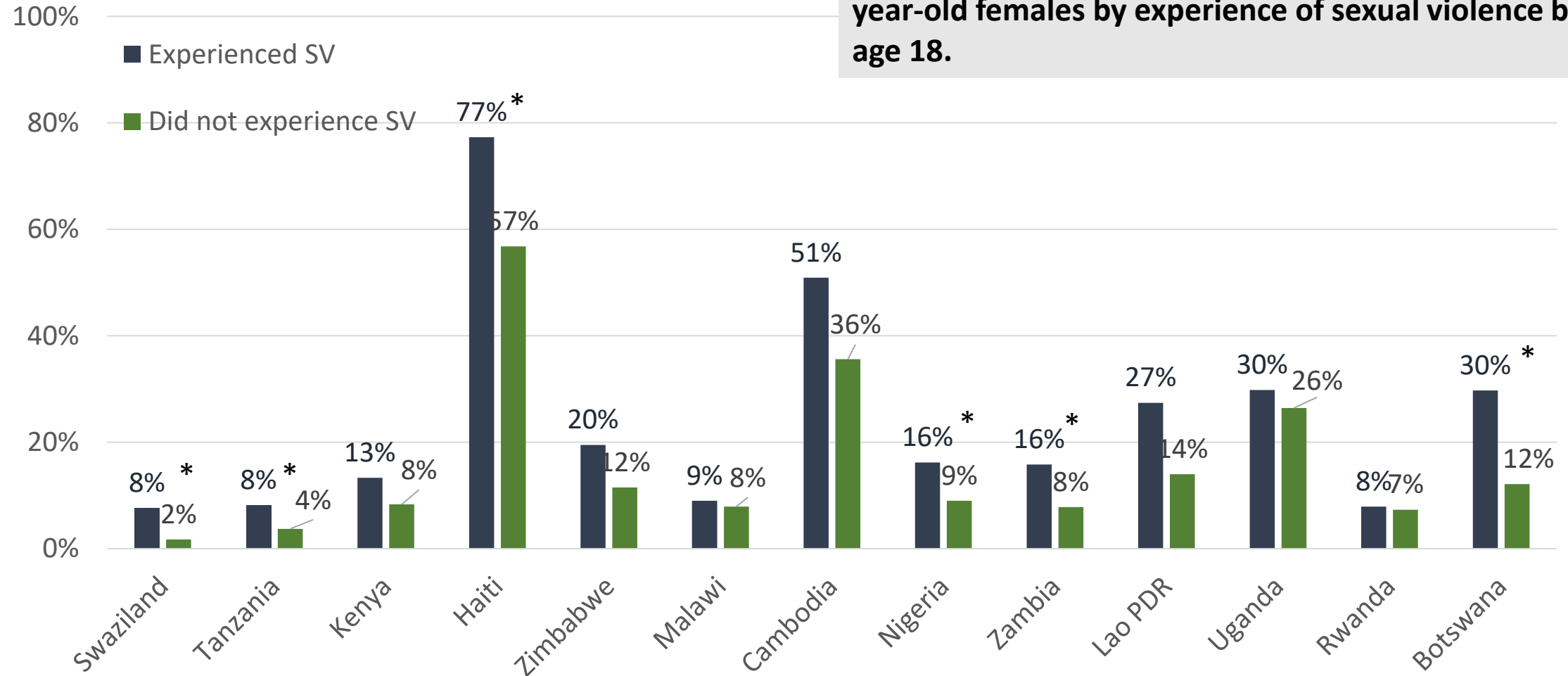
Suicidal ideation among 18-24 year-old females by experience of sexual violence before age 18.



* Statistically significant difference

Sexually transmitted infections

Experienced symptoms or diagnosis of STIs among 18-24 year-old females by experience of sexual violence before age 18.



* Statistically significant difference



VACS as a global health research tool



Violence Against
Children Surveys



Data to Action
Tools and
Workshops



INSPIRE: Seven
Strategies to
End Violence
Against Children



Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS)

Data to Action Tool



Linking VACS data to cross-sector action planning to address violence against children

Figure 1. Nine steps for adapting and implementing INSPIRE



Source: WHO. INSPIRE: Seven Strategies to End Violence Against Children. 2016.

INSPIRE

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



INSPIRE: SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

INSPIRE is a technical package. The seven strategies are based on the best available evidence.

Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills



To learn more visit:

Website: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/inspire

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whoviolenenceprevention

Twitter: twitter.com/WHOviolenceews

INSPIRE

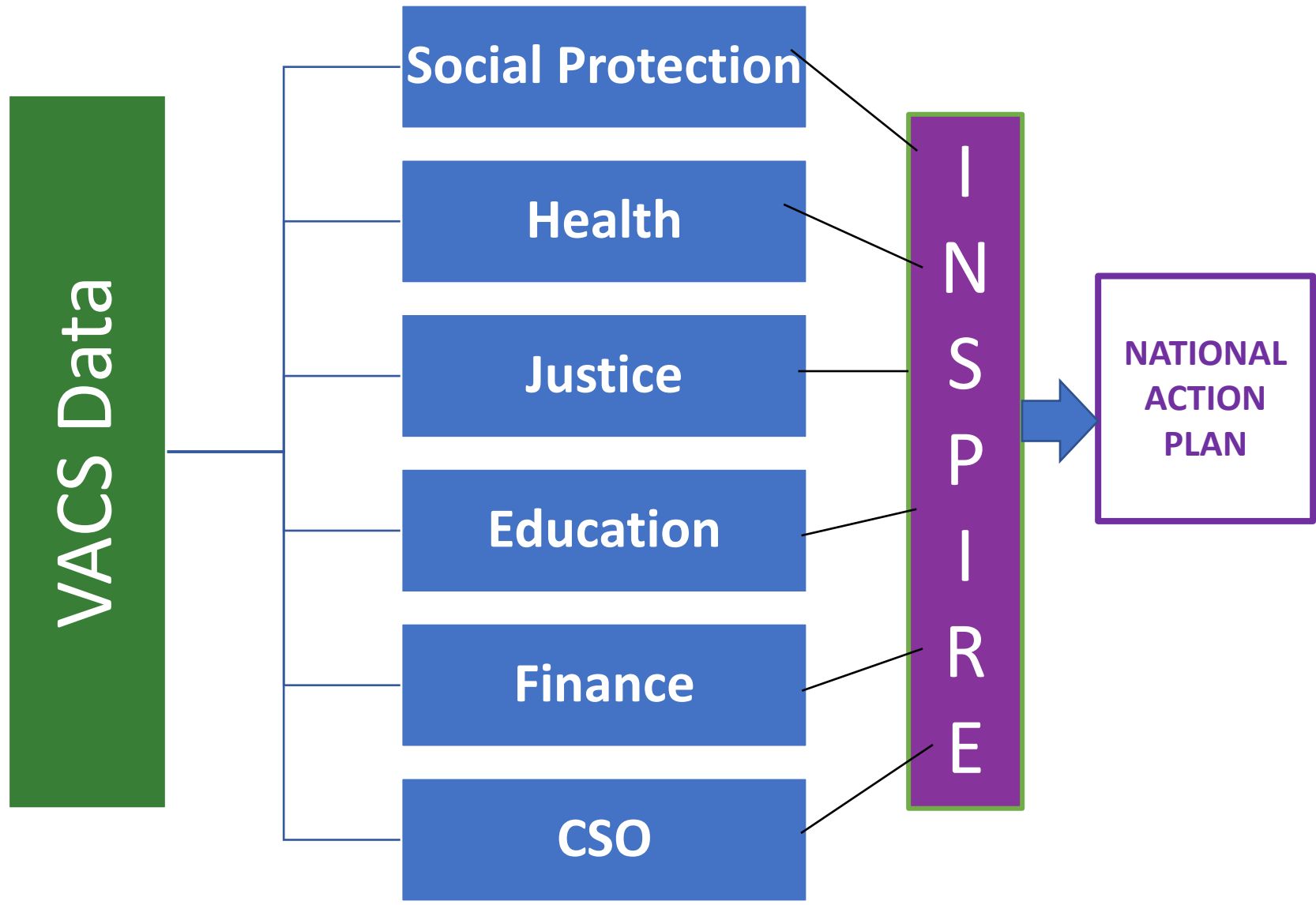
Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



- Represents **best practices** for preventing and responding to violence against children and youth.
- Reflects **best evidence** about **what works** to prevent violence.
- Strategies based on strict **criteria**.



VACS Data to INSPIRE



VACS Swaziland: Success Stories in Action

Strengthening Protections for Women and Girls

Swaziland Multi-Sector Response



Domestic Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences Units
Database to track reported cases of violence



Established mentoring programs for girls in schools



Scaled up post-rape care into one-stop centers



Children's Protection and Welfare bill
Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence bill

VACS Tanzania: Success Stories in Action

Three-year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children

Tanzania National Action Plan



Training for police on handling abuse cases

Guidelines for Gender Desk and Children's Desk



Child protection guidelines for schools

Code of conduct and ethics for teachers, required training

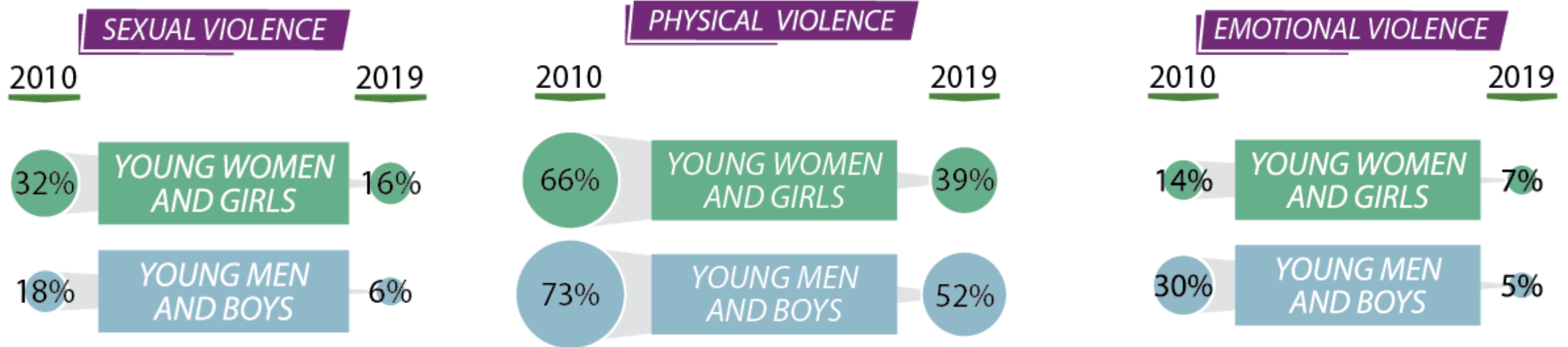


One-stop centers established for post-rape care

VACS Kenya: Success Stories in Action

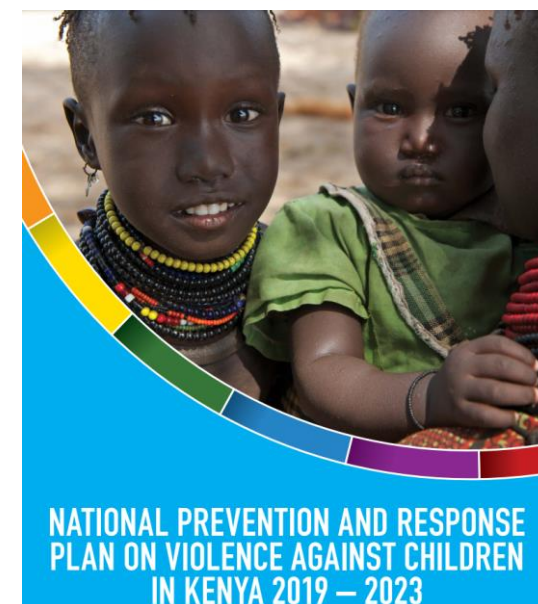
Significant declines in all forms of violence between 2010 and 2019 VACS

Kenya: Significant declines in childhood violence – 2010-2019



Kenya National Response Plan 2019

- Covers six strategic areas:
 1. Laws and policies
 2. Family support — parenting skills and economic strengthening
 3. Education and life skills
 4. Community norms and values
 5. Response and support services
 6. Coordination
- Builds on the 2010 VACS and the Response Plan to end Violence Against Children (2013–2018)



Conclusions

- Globally, violence against children is a highly prevalent public health problem with consequential impacts across the social ecology
- VACS is an important tool for collecting data and catalyzing action
- Most countries that implement VACS move towards evidence informed national action plans
- Violence is preventable:
Kenya success story





[lchiang:@cdc.gov](mailto:lchiang@cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs/