Implementing a Community-Based Approach of Gender-Based Violence:
Lay counsellors ARE effective in providing survivors with access to facility-based services

Ana Baptista, MD - ana.baptista@jhpiego.org Jhpiego GBV Coordinator
Argentina Balate, BSc, Jhpiego Mozambique; Alicia J. Saavedra, MD, MPH, Jhpiego Mozambique; Humberto N. Muquingue, MD, MSc, PhD, Jhpiego Mozambique
Ana Marranguene, N/A, Jhpiego Mozambique; Debora Bossemeyer, RN, MPH, Jhpiego Mozambique; Sergio Ndiamande, BSc, Jhpiego Mozambique
Della M. Correia, MD, MPH, CDC Mozambique

Background

- Mozambique has 25.5 million habitants, 51.3% are women.
- 6 out of 10 women are illiterate;
- 4 out of 10 women experience some kind of GBV, 1 in 10 has been forced to have sexual intercourse in their lives;
- HIV prevalence is 11.5% (INSIDA 2009).
- Maternal mortality is 169/100,000 live births (INE, 2010)
- 0.027 physicians for 1000 habitants.

- Access to health services in Mozambique is still challenging for most citizens
- Cultural norms and stigma induce environments conducive to gender-based violence (GBV).
- They act synergistically as obstacles in accessing HIV prevention services and receive adequate care.

Program Description

- In September 2012, with PEPFAR/CDC support, Jhpiego initiated a community approach to GBV with LC as part of HIV testing and counselling in selected sites.
- It was reinforced the HF response implementing GBV services
- Linkages among HF and community were facilitated by peer navigators.
- We trained LC to work door-to-door and provide access to GBV information, education and screening to semirural communities with minimal access to conventional services in Mozambique.
- Conventional health facilities are not actively screening for GBV.

Results

- The target population of selected site was estimated at 60,000 people.
- From October 2012 to June 2014, LC informed 24,614 individuals, with 14,312 (58%) screened for GBV exposure.
- 180 survivors were found to have experienced GBV:
  - 69% sexual violence (121 female and 3 male);
  - 43% were aged 0-19 years;
  - 38% of cases were Intimate Partner Violence (IPV);
  - HIV prevalence among GBV survivors was 16%.

Discussion and Recommendations

- 32% suffered sexual violence less than 3 days before screening
- All survivors were referred to post GBV services and 90% reached services timely at Health Facility.

Fig. 3 Home based visit by LC’s to a HIV discordant couple during HIV and GBV prevention activities

Fig. 2 Community leaders talking about GBV at the community.

Fig. 1 Lay Counsellors mapping households in Matola district in Maputo Province

Acknowledgments

This research has been supported by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the terms of Cooperative Agreement Number U2GPS001468. The findings and conclusions presented in this manuscript are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.