

# THE MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY ON THE DRIVERS OF VIOLENCE AFFECTING CHILDREN

## The Violence Prevention Research Process: ZIMBABWE

Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW), Department of Child Welfare and Probation Services (DCWPS), Zimbabwe Statistical Agency ZIMSTAT and UNICEF-Zimbabwe

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# Overview of VaC in Zimbabwe

**Physical abuse** *Physical violence is the most prevalent type of reported violence against children in Zimbabwe.*

- $\sim\frac{2}{3}$  females and  $\frac{3}{4}$  males aged 18-24 years experienced physical violence prior to 18 years
- Mostly perpetrated by parents and teachers

**Emotional abuse** *This is the most varied and complex risk factor for males and females.*

- $\sim\frac{1}{3}$  males and females aged 18-24 years experienced emotional violence by an adult prior to turning 18
- Perpetrated by parents, family members and neighbours

**Sexual abuse**

- Lifetime prevalence, reported sexual abuse by 18-24 year olds for males: 8.9% and for females: 32.5%
- Partners and parents were most likely to be the perpetrators

# Factors leading to Zimbabwe's involvement in the 'drivers' research process

- National baseline survey on life experience of adolescents in Zimbabwe (NBSLEA, 2011) and MICS (2014)
  - Data on the scope of the problem, but no indications of WHY
- Strategy development and agenda setting underway for 2016-2020 (and beyond):
  - New National Action Plan for OVC II (2016-2020)
  - Roll out of the National Case Management System
  - Formative strategies for National Social Protection, Education and Health Sectors by Ministry of Public Service

*A critical moment for Violence affecting Children to be on everyone's agenda! An entry point for systemic change!*

# Lessons learned in Zimbabwe by the end of Stage 1

- Inclusiveness is critical to the research process from children/young people, frontline practitioners to high-level policy makers
- The research and programming environment are not static but fluid: “Watch Out” for changing risk & Protective Factors!
  - Continuing economic decline (impact on households) – changing coping mechanisms and dynamics
  - Population movement – within and across borders, with rapid urbanization and magnet effect of “growth points” across the country
- Importance of monitoring of the local situation (patterns and trends) for real time changes—the research is already generating change

# Changes created by the 'drivers' process in Zimbabwe thus far

- Agreement to do the first ever secondary analysis of VaC data—on Zimbabwe territory
- Rich qualitative community data on children's rights and protection under analysis for the first time ever
- Junior researchers engaged in high level dialogue for social change using their innovative applied research skills and analysis
- Facilitating data linkages between ZIMSTAT and Childline building on Zimbabwe's rich research capital

**Thank You!**