

Welcome !

ALIV[H]E Webinar # 1 *The Politics of Language*



The recording of this webinar can be found [here](#).





Project Title

- “Build national workforce and non-government organisations’ capacity and political visibility to link responses on GBV and HIV through innovative models of Engaging with Communities around GBV survivors’ shelters in selected districts of Zimbabwe”.



Partners

- MUSASA (CBO)
- HER ZIMBABWE (CBO)
- WOMEN AND LAW IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST (RESEARCH
PARTNER)



Overview of the project

- Partners intend to implement and document strategies to address violence and HIV at community level and raise the awareness politically on the link between violence and HIV.
- To develop and operationalize a best practice programmatic approach to addressing GBV in the context of HIV and strengthen the capacity of country level civil society and community engagement in implementing strategic interventions to address HIV and violence.



Roles

WILSA

- Research partner

Musasa- Implementing Partner

- Offers direct services to survivors of gender based violence including counselling, legal aid, emergency cash support, toll free line support and shelters. Through these HIV is also addressed. Through its shelters, partnerships with other service providers, Musasa will facilitate the uptake of strategies to address violence and HIV at community level and raise the awareness politically on the link between violence and HIV.



Roles

Her Zimbabwe- Implementing partner

- “Her Zimbabwe” is a tech-based women’s organisation that uses innovative approaches and space, through various social media platforms and creative communication around GBV and HIV. HZ will work with community-based organisations (MUSASA) and young women to build their skills and capacity for exchange and advocacy, and ideas and skills to document evidence of innovative action around GBV-HIV.



Key Achievements

- GBV and HIV baseline survey report.
- Community dialogues and Sensitisation meetings
- ICT Training with Musasa
- Review of the curriculum
- Revised ICT/GBV-HIV curriculum



Use of Language

Unpacking ICTs

- Both in the training and in the Curriculum review meeting, participants required clarification on what ICTs are and we had to explain them from the simplest basic forms. (sms's,mms's, emails, cellphones, computers)

Relevance of ICTs

- In explaining this to participants, words like GBV, HIV, VAW were used because these are service providers who have an understanding of the terms already.
- However, words like blogging, audio-visual storytelling, advocacy, communication, survivor, client, policy, influence, audience, source, evidence, 'information sharing', access were used to describe the type of information that is relevant for a means of communication.
- There was a recommendations on how to simplify terms for the public trainings and some terms were discussed as well.



Differences in terms of Language

- For instance evidence= testimonial/ personal story =‘I’ story
- Blog- participants preferred to use ‘story’.
- Audio recording- participants preferred to use voice recording
- The language has to be simplified for the information kits because members of the community will not understand.



Difference in terms of language

- The kits will focus more on how they can use the information on them rather than how they can use ICTs to share information.
- It will focus on service providers or service provision centers.





(ALIV[H]E) Framework Webinar:
The Politics of Language

Women, Disabilities and Language
Betty Kwagala
31 October 2016



What matters most about language used in relation to work with women and disabilities and why?

What matters most is to be sensitive and respectful to women with disabilities as human beings first, because negative language used in our day to day work creates negative attitudes towards women with disabilities.

Bellow are some of the language commonly used which devalue and disrespect women with disabilities in the society.

- a disabled person
- the handicapped or the crippled or the lame
- wheelchair-bound or confined to a wheelchair
- birth defect or affliction
- victim of cerebral palsy
- suffers from polio, polio victims

Preferred Language

Negative	Positive
a disabled person	a person with a disability
the handicapped, the crippled or the lame	a person with a disability
wheelchair-bound or confined to a wheelchair	a wheelchair user or uses a wheelchair
birth defect or affliction	congenital disability or birth anomaly
a victim of cerebral palsy or other condition	has cerebral palsy
suffers from polio, afflicted with polio or post-polios	has had polio, experienced polio or has a disability due to polio

Beyond this work - Engaging women with disabilities around language

In conclusion, use of language should be sensitive to how words may affect different persons with disabilities, women with disabilities inclusive. There is a need to be aware of the words we use not to exclude or devalue women with disabilities.

What we should use and say to influence our work in the future I may say we should use the social model of disability rather than medical model and change negative into positive language.

The social model of disability says that disability is caused by the way society is organized, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. It looks at ways of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people. When barriers are removed, disabled people can be independent and equal in society, with choice and control over their own lives. Disabled people developed the social model of disability because the traditional medical model did not explain their personal experience of disability or help to develop more inclusive ways of living.

To change negative language into acceptable or positive language

Disability should be specified in an acceptable manner



(ALIV[H]E) Framework Webinar: The Politics of Language

Women, sex work and Language
Phelister Adballa
31 October 2016



What matters most about language used in relation to sex work and why?

- The complex terminology used by donors and partners pushes sex workers away from most discussion
- Simplified language is needed
- Sex workers are seen as trafficked people - we do this work out of choice
- Complex system used for data management for example the dashboard is very difficult to translate.

Beyond this work - Engaging sex workers

- Sex workers should be engage in all levels of programming (design, Implementation, monitoring and evaluation)
- Sex workers led groups implement their own programmes (Capacity issues should not arise)
- Sex workers to be invited to decision making tables
- Sex workers capacities built on how to interpreter data from partners or simplified
- We should work on a social model that will influence our work towards changing negative into positive language.



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Transgender Women and Language
Leigh Ann van der Merwe
31 October 2016



What matters most about language in relation to transgender women and why?

- Trans women have traditionally been subsumed in programming for other key populations such as MSM and sex workers. This has not been useful for focused programming for trans women;
- Locally produced terms are useful for engaging trans women eg. Hijra in India, Kathoey in Thailand etc;
- Self identification of trans women is key to the engagement of other movements especially the feminist movement where trans women have been labeled over and over again;
- Language is never innocent – capturing of trans women's identities in research and advocacy is really important;
- What's in a name? A very important consideration in legal gender recognition is around access to health and/or justice

Beyond this work - Engaging transgender women!

- Meaningful engagement of trans women is critical to building movements that are trans inclusive i.e. there is no room for tokenistic inclusion of trans women;
- Trans women's health and human rights have been overshadowed by other populations for the longest time. It is important for us to reflect where we are and where we want to go.....
- Trans women are often the "sacrificial lamb" for laws affecting sodomy/homosexuality in countries where sexual and/or gender diversity is criminalized;
- We need gender responsive healthcare systems and facilities – systems where our "legal identities" are not captured by electronic filing systems in hospitals as male/female;
- Trans women could be anywhere on the gender spectrum – its important not to make any assumptions. For example, the language in waiting rooms of rape care centres, victim empowerment units etc.

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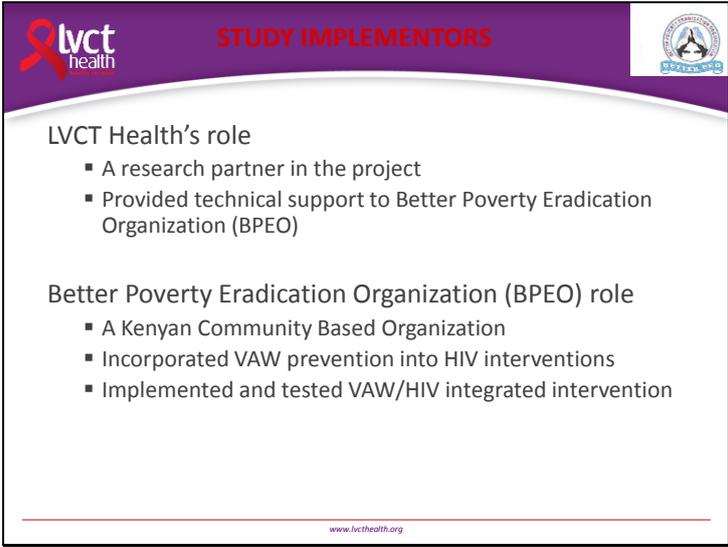


A Community based intervention to prevent Violence Against Women (VAW) and HIV

Carolyn Ajema

www.lvct.org.za 24





STUDY IMPLEMENTORS

LVCT Health's role

- A research partner in the project
- Provided technical support to Better Poverty Eradication Organization (BPEO)

Better Poverty Eradication Organization (BPEO) role

- A Kenyan Community Based Organization
- Incorporated VAW prevention into HIV interventions
- Implemented and tested VAW/HIV integrated intervention

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- Boda boda riders
- Women Chama members
- Peer leaders (Champions)





lvct health PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The project sought to address prevention of Violence Against Women & HIV by promoting gender equality
- Why address violence against women and HIV?
 - VAW & HIV are health, development, human rights and social concerns in Kenya
 - VAW prevalence- 38% of ever married women (15-49 yrs) had experienced physical & sexual intimate partner violence
 - National HIV prevalence - 5.6%
 - 1.4 Million People Living with HIV and 53% of those who acquire HIV are unaware of their status
 - Poor outcomes (health, relational, etc) are associated with HIV and VAW

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The project worked closely with boda boda riders and members of women self help groups “referred to as chamas”

The intervention workshops were delivered by peers (members of the motorcycle rider associations and women self help groups, including their members who are living with HIV



 **PROJECT OBJECTIVES** 

- To enhance the existing community based HIV prevention interventions for motorcycle operators and women self-help group members by incorporating VAW prevention and gender equality messages
- To pilot and test the integrated VAW/ HIV prevention model for motorcycle operators and women self-help group members
- To document the effect of the integrated VAW/HIV intervention on motorcycle operators and women self-help group members

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KEY FINDINGS


Positive change in gender attitudes

- Motorcycle riders use of violence reduced
- Positive gender attitudes included:
 - men agreed to be involved in household chores, allowing women to take up employment and provide financially for the family, respect for a woman's opinion, not blaming women for their VAW experiences.

Willingness to share lessons learnt with clients, and other community members as a way of advocating for change in the community







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Willingness was demonstrated by members sharing IECs with the wider community

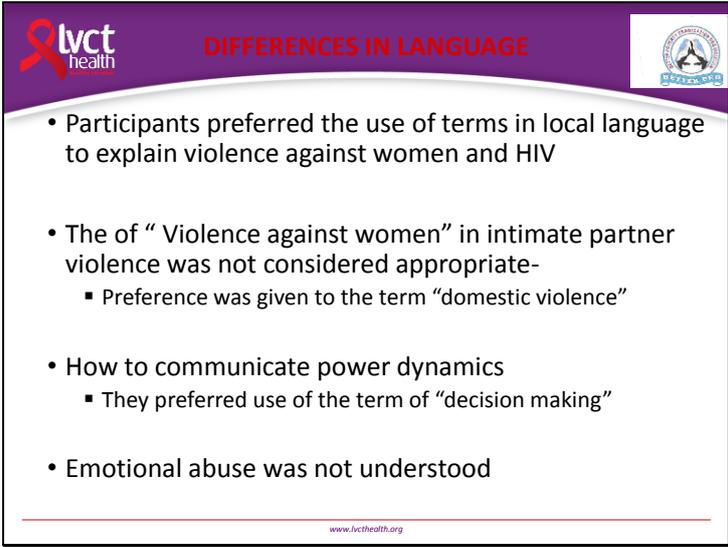




USE OF LANGUAGE

- Explaining causative factors of VAW
 - Participants preferred language that did not put blame on either gender
 - The word “vulnerable” had to be simplified –
 - so as to address show how masculinity doesn’t prevent one from being “vulnerable”
- Link between VAW and HIV
 - Simple language used to explain the linkage using examples and role plays
 - In some instances the term “violence” was used
- They appreciated use of commonly used terms to explain the types of VAW and how to support those experiencing VAW in the community

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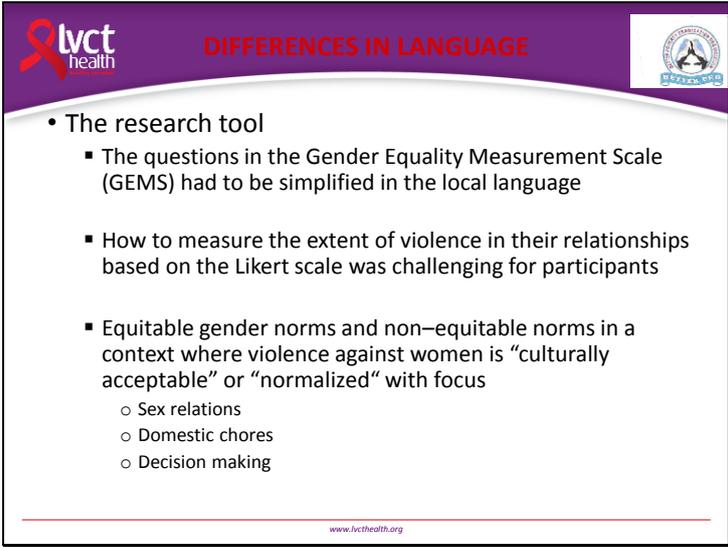
DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE

- Participants preferred the use of terms in local language to explain violence against women and HIV
- The of “ Violence against women” in intimate partner violence was not considered appropriate-
 - Preference was given to the term “domestic violence”
- How to communicate power dynamics
 - They preferred use of the term of “decision making”
- Emotional abuse was not understood

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In the community where this project was being implemented- cases of female perpetrated violence have experienced increased reporting. So men preferred if we used domestic violence to cater for both males and females





DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE

- The research tool
 - The questions in the Gender Equality Measurement Scale (GEMS) had to be simplified in the local language
 - How to measure the extent of violence in their relationships based on the Likert scale was challenging for participants
 - Equitable gender norms and non-equitable norms in a context where violence against women is “culturally acceptable” or “normalized” with focus
 - Sex relations
 - Domestic chores
 - Decision making

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(ALIV[H]E) Framework Webinar: The Politics of Language

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: Lesbian and bisexual women
and Language

Steve Letsike

31 October 2016



General Feedback on the Presentation

- Terminologies such Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender are new term since 80s, Historically the same sex practicing individuals and couples were often – started in prior to 1980s in Africa
- LGBT terms and Definitions: LGBTIQA- These acronyms refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, Queer or Questioning and Asexual or Ally and non-conforming

Worldwide these terms can be useful for establishing networks and mobilizing people to claim their rights; but when these labels also come to be seen by those working in development as markers of western agenda by those who are recipient of international funding. However these terms are recognized across the world

“I take as a given that powers inheres in the ability to name; and that what we call ourselves has implication for political practices.”

Steve Esptein 1992, p.214



What matters most about language used in relation SOGI and why?

Identities have been embraced globally for strategic purposes; e.g. In order to access funds from international donors, to fight for the legal recognition, or to make LGBTI people understood to local research or journalist.

- The dominance of LGBTI categories was established in a way to understand and define same sex desiring people –however has come under criticism – which simply can not be applied in other settings – as for being individualistic for focusing on identities and rights rather communities

- Identity categories such as LGBTI do not allow for subtle differences in sexual subjectivities or for people to determine their own identities, they can misrepresent or fail to capture the lived experience of those marginalised

Other terms

“Corrective Rape” or “Curative rape” as terms used to raise awareness rape and bias linked to the incidents

Beyond this work - Engaging women with diverse sexual orientation and identity!

- Gender identity and sexual orientation integrations should take in consideration the intersecting issues
- Diversity within the LGBTI community, some people are gender non-confirming
- Terms such as WSW and MSM are used in the public health arena
- Challenge the notion of social, economic and political programmes that are exclusive of the LGBTI agenda
- Address the legal environment
- Work with LGBTI organisations to contextualise the work and models for approvals.



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Women who use drugs and language

Silvia Petretti

31 October 2016



“I am a bad girl....and....”

Language: What matters most for women and girls who use drugs?

- Ownership
- Authenticity
- Fluid identities/contradictions/paradoxes
- Voicing difficult experiences and feelings
- Unpacking links between negative language, internalised stigma and violence against women and girls who use drugs



Engaging women and girls who use drugs around language

Words and language are at the core of who we are. However dedicating space and time to them can still feel like a luxury and it can only be done alongside:

- Upholding human rights and challenging criminalisation of drug use
- Autonomy: housing/economic independence/education/access to holistic & integrated healthcare
- Diverse and inclusive women-centred spaces
- Creative involvement in methodologies
- Sustained and accessible funding

