

Links between violence against women and girls (VAWG), their SRHR, including mental health, and HIV

Notes for 4M Training Manual Annex 2 on Violence Against Women

Salamander Trust / 4MNet CIC

March 2020

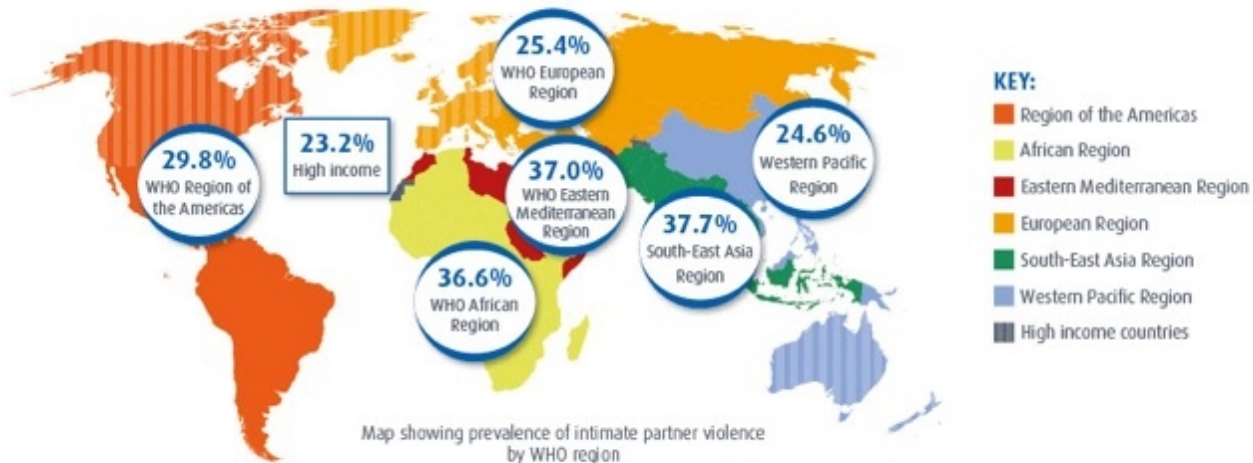


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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: PREVALENCE

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner



All statistics can be found in the report entitled Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, by the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the South African Medical Research Council, found here: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/en/index.html>

VAWG is widespread
around the world
(WHO)

What are the figures for your country?

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: HEALTH IMPACT


Women exposed to intimate partner violence are →

Mental Health

TWICE 
as likely to experience depression

ALMOST TWICE 
as likely to have alcohol use disorders

Sexual and Reproductive Health

16% 
more likely to have a low birth-weight baby

1.5 TIMES 
more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract syphilis infection, chlamydia or gonorrhoea

Death and Injury

42% 
of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner have experienced injuries as a result

38% 
of all murders of women globally were reported as being committed by their intimate partners

VAWG increases women's vulnerability to HIV and STIs by 1.5; and to mental health issues by 2 (WHO)

All statistics can be found in the report entitled Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, by the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the South African Medical Research Council, found here:

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Building a Safe House on Firm Ground:

Global Values and Preferences Survey (GVPS)

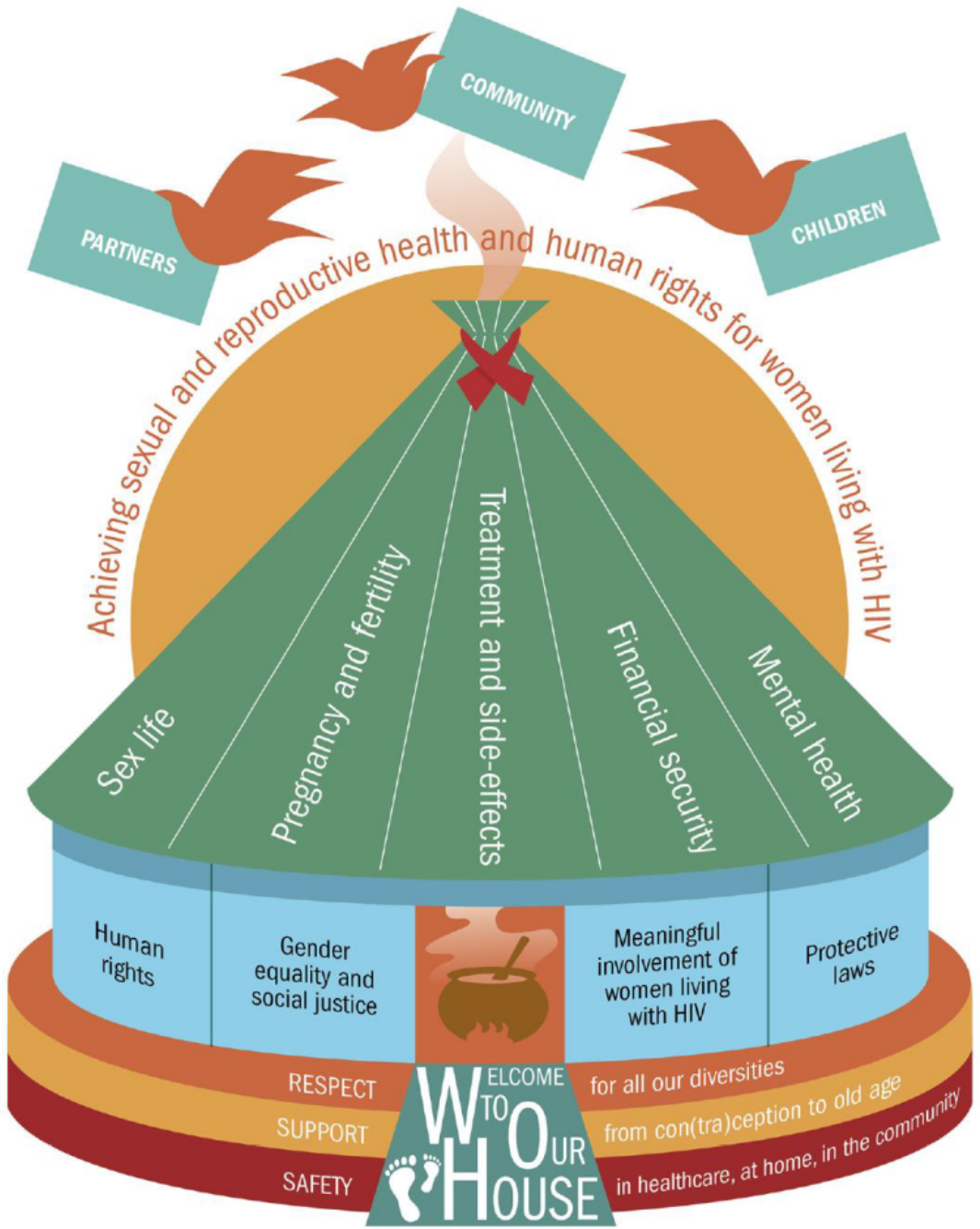
Salamander Trust et al 2014

This survey informed the WHO 2017 Guideline on the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women living with HIV

Women identified many different issues which contribute to their SRHR and well-being. Can you identify with all these? Can you think of any others?

For more information:

see <http://tinyurl.com/SRH-HRWomenWithHIV>



Violence can cause post-traumatic stress

UK: consequences of post-traumatic stress: for women; for men:

Women & Girls

Internalising: self-harm, eating disorders, addiction, avoidance

Typical trauma: childhood sexual abuse

More likely to develop PTSD when exposed to violence

Repeated exposure to sexual and violent victimisation from intimates beginning in childhood

Likely to get mental health treatment rather than substance use treatment

Treatment needs to emphasise empowerment, emotional regulation and safety

Men & Boys

Externalising: violence, substance use, crime and hyper-arousal

Typical trauma: witnessing violence

More likely to be exposed to violence, but less likely to develop PTSD

Exposure to violence from strangers and adversaries; sexual abuse and coercion outside family

Likely to get substance use treatment rather than mental health treatment

Treatment needs to emphasise feelings, relationships and empathy

From Salamander Trust 4M Net Webinar No. 8: 19 Sep 2019; Hall D and Fraser K:
<https://vimeo.com/361065776>

What gender differences do you see in your country?



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Women living with HIV, *mental health* and violence:

Results from 59% of 832 survey respondents on Mental Health*

- **82%** reported depression; **78%** rejection
- 1/5 reported MH issues *before* diagnosis
- This increased by **3.5 times** *after* diagnosis
- 45.8% had multiple 'socially disadvantaged identities' (SDIs)
- More SDIs ⇔ More mental health issues
- MH affected ability to enjoy SRH and to access services
- MH included: depression, rejection, social exclusion, sleep problems, intersectional stigma, challenges with sexual & intimate relationships, substance use, sexual risk, repro health barriers, human rights (HR) violations

Respondents recommended psychological support & counselling, funding for peer support & interventions to challenge GBV and to promote HR



* Thanks to Carmen Logie for additional analysis of quantitative responses

What is the situation in your country?

Results from a Global Survey of women living with HIV in 2014

(Orza et al JIAS 2015: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.7448/IAS.18.6.20289>)



Women living with HIV, mental health and *violence*.

Results from 58% of 832 survey respondents on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- **89%** reported experiencing at least one type of violence
 - From an **intimate partner**: 59%
 - From **family or neighbours**: 45%
 - In the **community**: 52%
 - In the **health care setting**: 53%
 - From **police / military / prison or detention**: 17%
 - **Fear** of violence: 68%
- High IPV levels before and after diagnosis. Higher levels of violence experienced **post**-diagnosis in **health settings** & in the **community**
- Experiences of violence in the health care setting often **worse** for women with *other* socially disadvantaged identities



- Some had experienced no violence before HIV diagnosis
- Some had experienced *some* violence
- IPV and violence in the community started or increased after diagnosis
- The *greatest* increase in violence was in healthcare settings.

What is the situation in your country?

Results from a Global Survey of women living with HIV in 2014

(Orza et al JIAS 2015: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.7448/IAS.18.6.20285>)



Trauma and HIV

HIV diagnosis can be traumatising

People living with trauma may find it more difficult to manage a chronic condition (poorer health outcomes)

People with a history of trauma are more vulnerable to acquiring HIV.
(If a woman uses drugs, alcohol, or sex to escape the pain of prior abuse, she may be more vulnerable to acquiring HIV from sharing injection equipment or having sex without condoms or other barriers)

From Salamander Trust 4M Net Webinar No. 8: 19 Sep 2019; Hall D and Fraser K:
<https://vimeo.com/361065776>

A woman's experiences of violence and mental health:

- are a violation of her SRH & rights
- can act as treatment access barriers
- can also affect the health and well-being of her children



Orza et al 2017: <https://www.hhrjournal.org>

**KEY BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT:
A GLOBAL REVIEW**



How do you see this in your country?



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Women's recommendations from the global survey 2014

Figure 9: What do you think are the most important ways to address or prevent these forms of violence?

9.1 Through safe health services that protect, respect and uphold women's rights



Here are recommendations from women living with HIV in the Global Survey

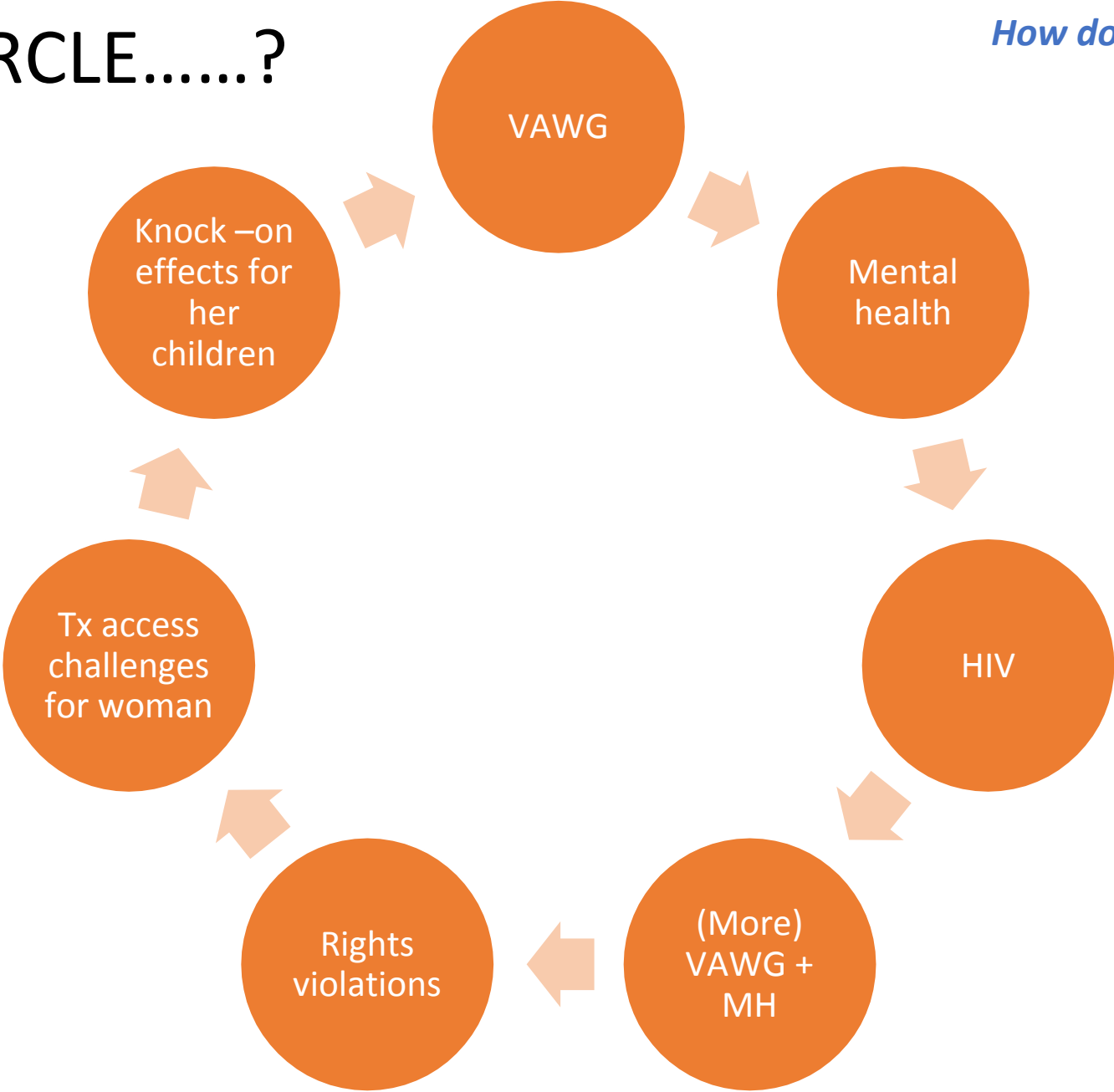
There are policy and financial Recommendations also

How do you see this in your country?



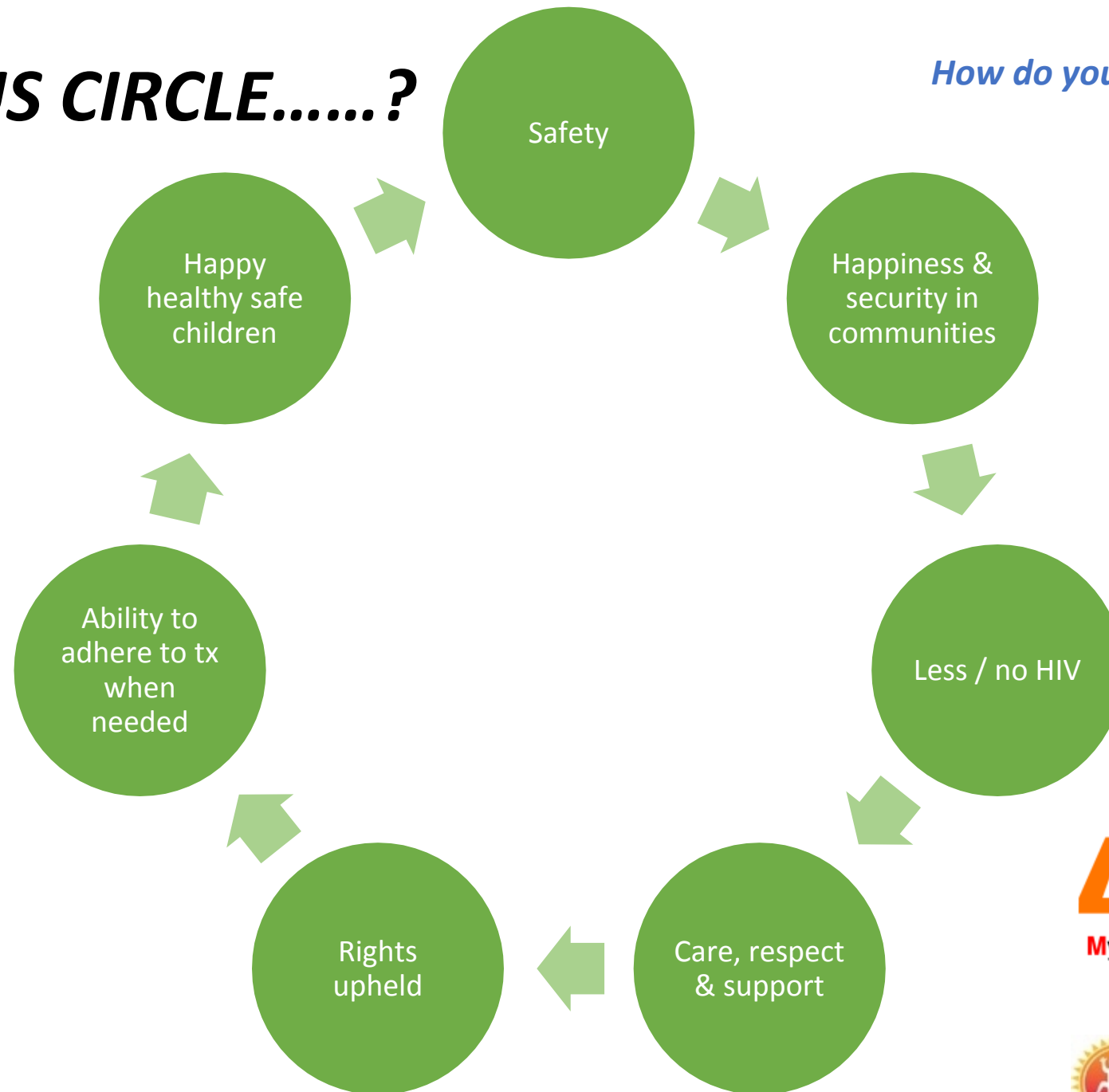
VICIOUS CIRCLE.....?

How do you see this in your country?



OR VIRTUOUS CIRCLE.....?

How do you see this in your country?



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“Conclusion

- **Violence against women and girls** has a deep and enduring impact on women’s lives, wellbeing and economies
- Yet, we have shown **it is preventable** in programmatic timeframes
- We have a **repertoire of interventions** that are effective that can be adapted and taken to scale
- **Robustly designed and implemented interventions** are essential for success
- We are positioned now to **make a real difference to women’s and girls’ lives** and it is imperative that **we seize the moment** and **move forward with impact”**

Building a Safe House on Firm Ground:

Global Values and Preferences Survey (GVPS)

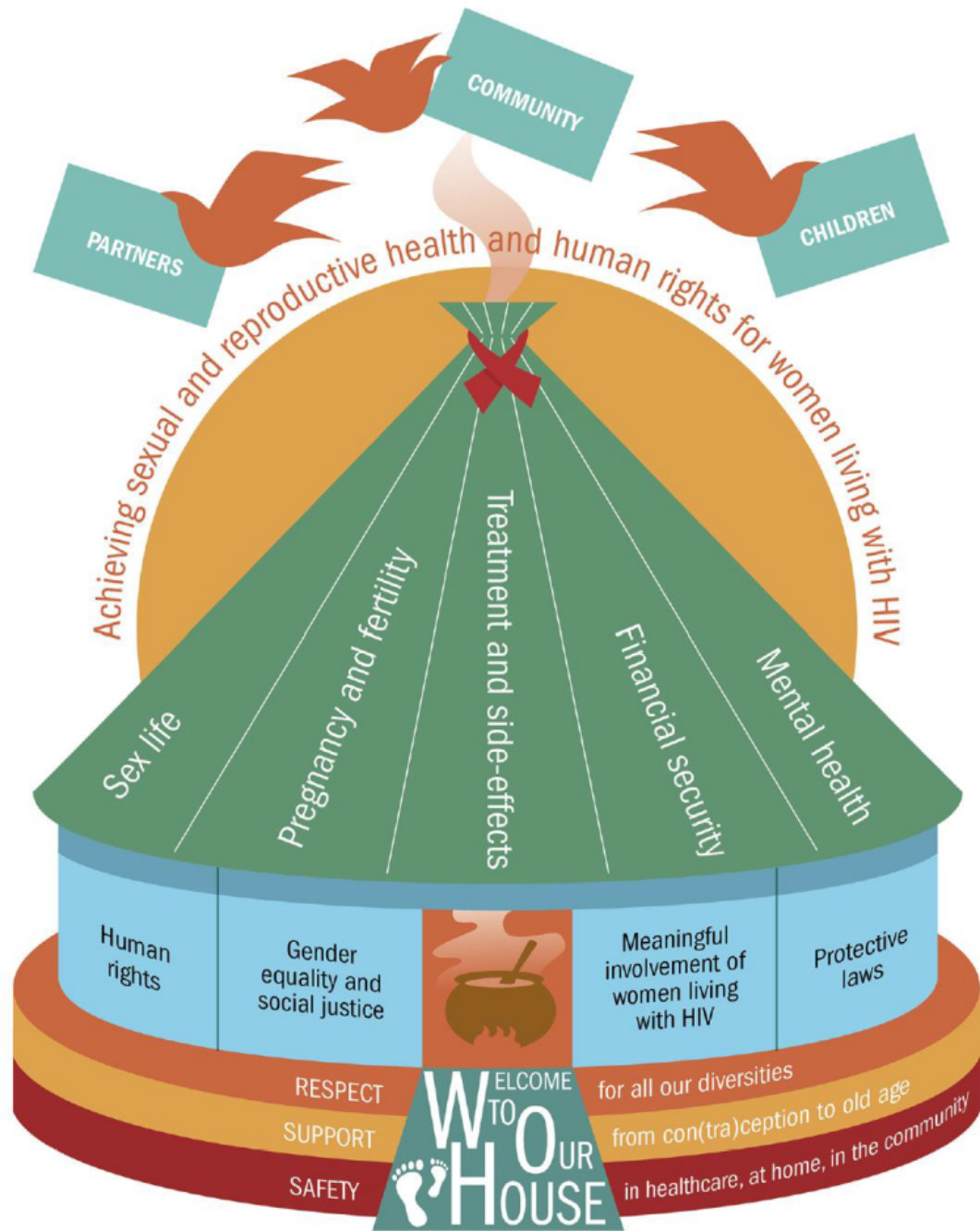
Salamander Trust et al 2014

This survey informed the WHO 2017 Guideline on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV

*The 4M training manual and all our work aligns with the principles of this Guideline:
all our work is women-focused, gender equitable, rights-based.*

For more information:

see <http://tinyurl.com/SRH-HRWomenWithHIV>



To read more, including access to our training manual,
with annexes on mental health and violence against
women, and many webinars:
see www.tinyurl.com/4MProject

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