

‘Are we following the WHO 2017 Guideline on the SRHR of women living with HIV?’

ITPC / Salamander Trust / Making Waves collaboration
around HIV/SRHR linkages

Presentation by Joyce Ouma

Making Waves Network

October 2020



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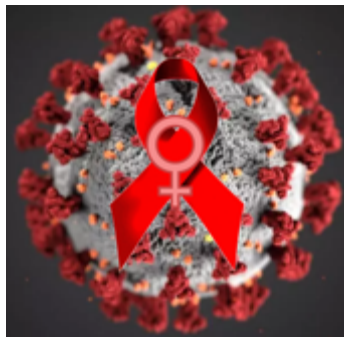


- Participatory, women in all their diversity
- Women's SRHR priorities
- WHO 2017 Guideline meaningful involvement in research

- ❑ CROI research: March 2020: 198 women; 28 countries – partner agencies: ICW East Africa, Africaid; survey; interviews; FGDs; lit. review

- ❑ COVID-19 research: Oct 2020: 30 women; 10 countries, E & Southern Africa; rapid brief research: cascade interview approach

Key Quotes from March/April 2020



*"Who supports you? **Nobody** supports us; we are supported by our passion."* Interviewee, Southern/East Africa

"Women reported a gap between their experiences and the friendly, safe, supportive and non-judgmental services they seek. Such services would ensure that all women are able to access SRHR without experiencing institutional discrimination and violence. **Peer support provided by women and their organizations is often the only avenue** for such non-judgmental care."

"The women who were consulted pointed out that they have **repeatedly made all of the recommendations listed below**, over decades, in many successive documents produced by women living with HIV."

Quotes from October 2020: Impact of COVID-19 on women and girls

The Black Dog

*“COVID-19 has just made an already bad situation worse. Adolescent girls and young women were not accessing services before COVID-19, they are most definitely not doing so right now, and COVID-19 has only aggravated the situation. Women were exposed to violence before COVID-19. Young women were not getting information, commodities or even services before COVID-19. But because COVID-19 is here, **we have found the big black dog to put the blame on.**”*

Joyce Ouma, Kenya

To read and view more, see [here](#)



Violence

*“Adolescent girls report being **raped** by brothers and fathers. They are also being **beaten** by older family members. Such cases are increasing.*

***Intimate partner violence** is rampant. Police are not taking reports as they say people should **stay at home** because of the Coronavirus.*

*Access to **justice is denied** while women and girls remain in unsafe environments where they are continuously violated physically and emotionally.*

*The **economic** situation also **worsens** the violence faced by women. As the opportunities for earning diminish, intimate partner violence escalates.”*

Contraception

*“Women are not able to make **decisions** about sex and how or when to have children. It was also a problem before COVID-19 – and during COVID-19 it means even if people wanted to use a **condom**, they can not access it - so they couldn’t use it.*

*Access to **contraceptives** was hard, as access to **transport** was not possible during lockdown. For those who did get to clinic, access to family planning was not the **priority** of the facility – **COVID-19** was; and emergency services were more prioritised. So, if you come for family planning, they said please go home – we only do it once a week, and on that day they only take a certain number, so you may not get it. If you do, **you don’t get a choice.**”*

Funders

*“COVID-19 has highlighted that **attitudes** of funders need to change. Right now members and communities are more concerned about **welfare** than advocacy for their rights. They are looking at **food** security, financial security, and **SRH**, more than looking at how to advocate for their rights and freedoms as queer women. **Livelihoods** are at stake and people are suffering.*

*Not many funders are coming through. The few who come through have such **stringent conditions** that grassroots organisations like ours cannot meet. It’s not fair. We have a large membership of women, but because we are not registered and have not received funding before, there are **barriers** to us being supported by donors.”*



Early Child Marriage

HPV

Teen pregnancies

HIV

SRHR violations, IPV and other VAGW

OUR VOICES

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN
AND GIRLS' HEALTH AND RIGHTS

OUR CALL FOR ACTION
TO DONORS, NGOS
AND GOVERNMENTS

Urgently support the vital work of women and girls in their communities

Uphold our SRHR as essential – even in a pandemic!

Ensure everyone has enough to eat, and women and girls living with HIV do not have to take ARVs on an empty stomach

Ensure COVID-19 responses respect privacy and confidentiality for women and girls living with HIV

COVID-19 responses must address and prevent violence against women and girls

Our digital inclusion is vital – but make sure you meet our other priorities too!

Provide flexible, creative, accessible funding for organisations led by women and girls during and beyond this COVID-19 crisis



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Making Waves

“COVID-19 has been likened to an X-ray, revealing fractures in the fragile skeleton of the societies we have built. It is exposing fallacies and falsehoods everywhere:

The lie that free markets can deliver healthcare for all;

The fiction that unpaid care work is not work;

The delusion that we live in a post-racist world;

The myth that we are all in the same boat....”

UN Secretary General
Mandela Lecture 2020



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Making Waves

Acknowledgements

Virtual interviews: *Botswana:* Boingotlo Gupta; *Eswatini:* Precious Shongwe; *Kenya:* Joyce Amondi Ouma; Phelister Abdalla; *Namibia:* Makena Henguva; *South Africa:* Nomfundo Lorraine Eland; *South Sudan:* Ade Nunu Diana Alison; *Uganda:* Jacquelyne Alesi; *Zambia:* Mwenya Chiti

Virtual interviewers: Martha Tholanah, Emma Bell, Fiona Hale

National interviews: *Kenya* national interviewer: Joyce Amondi Ouma; Interviewees: Delma Chiheny, Idah Perez, Gladys Asinyen, and anonymous contributors | *South Sudan* national interviewer: Ade Nunu Diana Alison; Interviewees: anonymous contributors | *Uganda* national interviewer: Jacquelyne Alesi; Interviewees: Gladys Nanbayo, Nagujja Olivia, and anonymous contributors | *Zimbabwe* national interviewer: Martha Tholanah; Interviewees: Mercy Musiyiwa, Janet Tatenda Bhila, Angela Jambo, Nandi D. Chinowawa, Mary Audry Chard

Messages and Call for Action images: Jane Shepherd

A **forthcoming article** by Salamander Trust Associates, Making Waves members and ITPC includes contributions, comments and review by the women listed above, and review by Tracy Swan, Wame Jallow, Helen Etya'ale, Gerard Best and Solange Baptiste from ITPC; and Alice Welbourn from Salamander Trust



References

To learn more about this research on the effects of COVID-19 during lockdown, and the prior research study, which presented at CROI in March 2020, and in the advocacy brief in April 2020 , please visit

<https://tinyurl.com/SalamanderTrustCOVIDEffects>

