

IUSSP Webinar on
The COVID-19 Pandemic and Sexual & Reproductive Health in Africa
Day 2 – 1 September 2020

Q&As

- 2 CHI Chi presentation is very interesting. Is it possible to share this with the participants?
Tima Zgambo (tzgambo@uwc.ac.za)
 - A video recording of the webinar will be made available afterwards to all participants
- 3 Thank you Mzi Nduna for acknowledging GBV against LGBT+ individuals. In my country (England) we know that people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to GBV and domestic violence - I wonder if there is any data on this for countries in Africa?
Rosamund Greiner (rosgreiner@gmail.com)
 - the data from the GBV Centre has 'reasons for the call' but does not provide us with demographics of the caller. (Mzi Nduna)
 - we will have more information when the annual South African Police Service (SAPS) Annual crime report is released in 2021 (Mzi Nduna)
 - Thank you, that is a shame but great that there will be some more detailed data coming. Thank you. (Rosamund Greiner)
- 4 On Chi Chi's presentation. The issue of returning teen mothers goes beyond policy, the re-entry policy in Zambia may be well presented on paper but much needs to be done in terms of financial, social and emotional support. This is crucial. In terms of lockdown, what are some of the viable ways to reach the teen mothers in remote areas? and also what is the role of the school going boys too (in the case of those impregnating fellow pupils) in this?
Tima Zgambo (tzgambo@uwc.ac.za)
 - You're totally right. Policies don't implement themselves, and it takes a village to operationalize them. In Kenya, public schools are closed until January. The government has been working hard to ensure education continues, though, including through a Community-Based Learning program that will take place in small groups. They are currently tracking learners for this purpose. Advocating for all children to be including is one action that can be taken - and providing support for sensitizing school heads and teachers to the need to allow for continued education for such girls. I'm not sure what's occurring in Zambia, but perhaps there are radio learning programs? Whatever exists, one just needs to influence the programming. The role of school-going boys: Our studies in Kenya indicate that a large proportion do end up getting school girls pregnant. A multi-sectoral approach is required, including prevention and response measures for boys.
- 5 Chi-Chi. Thank you. In SSA, First Births among adolescents are mainly influenced by marriage intentions. What's your take in regards to intentions to resume school amidst intentions to marry and now COVID-19.
Henry Nsobya (lhenuga@yahoo.com)
 - Chi-Chi. Thank you. In SSA, First Births among adolescents are mainly influenced by marriage intentions. What's your take in regards to intentions to resume school amidst intentions to marry and now COVID-19
 - live answered

6 Great presentation from chi chi, however, would like to know the year of the Zambian DHS quoted for the percentage of girls out of school because the re entry policy in Zambia is very effective such that we have almost a 100% return rate, so that high percentage is quite worrisome.

Pamela Chirwa-Banda (pcbnamwinga@yahoo.com)

- Hi Pamela, that is amazing, if you are seeing such a great return rate of teen mothers post birth. What aspects of the policy do you think has made the policy/or other factors have made the initiative work so well?
- The latest ZDHS. We just updated that table last week with the latest info. And yes, Zambia is doing some good work - which is why you saw that, unlike the other countries listed, Zambia has a higher proportion of parenting girls that return to school. This means that what you all are doing is working! Please keep it up.
- Henry Nsohya: A third of the girls in our sample were married. Many were still interested in re-entering school and some did so as a result of our interventions. In the region where we've done this work in Kenya, there are a lot of adolescent marriages. Both parties need to be back in school. Kenya's latest school re-entry guidelines (not yet released) is, fortunately, for ALL children out of school - not just girls.
- The Zambian re entry policy guarantees girls the right to stay in school as long as they choose during pregnancy, they are allowed to take a maternity leave and return to the same school or a different one. No pupil is stigmatized, if anything, there is need to review the policy because so many girls are assumed to be getting pregnant knowing they will continue with school
- A review of the policy with a deliberate focus on pregnancy prevention would probably be useful. Zambia is doing something right, and should continue. All that's needed is to fill in the gaps by introducing effective pregnancy prevention measures. Both girls and boys need to be educated on this.

7 The data by Chi Chi Undie were on South and Central Africa, what is the condition and situation of school girls with unintended pregnancy in Nigeria, with over 13.5 million out of school children, mostly girls?

Bonaventure Nwokeoma (bonaventure.nwokeoma@unn.edu.ng)

- Yes, the data were on a few countries in East and Southern Africa, which is where I work. I'm afraid I don't have the information on Nigeria, but the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey is publicly available.
- The NDHS may not provide relevant data with the covid era. An empirical study to provide relevant data especially with the inherent policy deficit surrounding the issue in Nigeria.

8

9 Arlette Simo presentation is very interesting in the field of disability. Is it possible to send slides to participants?

Ram Aryal (ramaryalpu@gmail.com)

- And even details on references used. Best.

10 Great presented by Dr. Fotso. On Disability, am aware that designers of PPE in Kenya had to get a prototype of Face Masks for the disabled persons, to enable them communicate with care givers and other members of society.

Mary Muyonga (mary.kalerwa@gmail.com)

- 11 the presentations give a good overview of the problems faced by different communities. Are there examples of innovation in solutions to these problems?
Sunanda Ray (sunanda28@hotmail.com)
- There are some innovative solutions to the barriers to school re-entry for parenting girls. My presentation contains a Reference slide which lists some information on this - all available online. The presentations will be shared.
- 12 Thanks Arlette, wonderful presentation. There is some evidence that COVID can cause long term health impacts such as chronic fatigue - are you aware of any planning or policy aimed at supporting people who acquire a disability/ long term health condition due to COVID?
Rosamund Greiner (rosgreiner@gmail.com)
- 13 What is the situation right now regarding gender based violence in conflict zones in Africa? Also, could you elaborate on the nuances in the experience of GBVAWC among LGBTIQ+ women and other gender nonconforming women? Thank you so much
Diana Veloso (dmveloso1@gmail.com)
- Dr Choonora also touched on the GBV related challenges in various settings
 - LGBTIQ women are generally at an increased risk of violence from 1) cisgender men; 2) cisgender women; 3) heterosexual men and 4) heterosexual women and with this it is sensible to expect that because 'the Home' is also not a safe space for many LGBTIQ women whose families are homophobic, these women were worse off during the lockdown as they could not adopt strategies that require them to be outside their homes.
 - Thank you so much
 - Are there cases of GBV between same gender couples?
- 14 I enjoyed the presentations, particularly the one on violence against women in South Africa. My question is What are the solutions to the issues raised in the presentation? How can religion intervene? The role of the religious sector and the traditional sector for those living in the rural areas?
Josphine Hapazari (jbhiri.hapazari@gmail.com)
- There are attempts by the religious sector but these are sectoral. for instance i am aware that the South African Council of Churches has interventions in various denominations. the challenge is that these interventions seem to be targeted at senior clergy and do not trickle down to the congregations. Congregations are left to organise on their own and therefore the response is not consistent and does not reach everyone.
- 15 Is there available information on how GBVAWC affects women and girls with HIV/AIDS during the pandemic?
Diana Veloso (dmveloso1@gmail.com)
- information that is coming through suggests that AGYW with HIV became vulnerable to psychological distress and emotional abuse in particular from their partners. that AGYW living with HIV were at an increased risk of Covid-19 also became an issue because they generally lacked access to various SRHR services including family planning, PAP Smears, ARV And these are necessary commodities
- 16 Did the panelists consider the role that COVID-related stigma plays in this? Could it exacerbate violence for example in domestic settings - contact tracing and related issues may expose social tensions, me thinks?
Mary Muyonga (mary.kalerwa@gmail.com)
- 17 Simo's Presentation on disability is interesting. Do you know of any deliberate policies or actions by governments to put in place measures to cushion those with various challenges in the wake

of COVID-19? And what about SRH interventions in the period?

Mugo E. Waweru (wmugoh@gmail.com)

- 18 With the presentation from Arlette, I think it will be good to do more study among the disabilities population in Nigeria, and collection of data might be difficult, my opinion
Luqman Bisiriyu (maneleke@gmail.com)
- 19 The discussion on gender based violence is often reduced to violence against women i.e. a one-sided discussion. The discussant raised an important question that should give the discussion a better balance: data are certainly available about violence against men by women. Some DHS have collected such data.
Eric Udjo (bororue@yahoo.com)
 - But we need more of such data especially from service provision perspective
- 20 '@AU Youth: there is a lot of gap in data to measuring some critical aspects of adolescents. I have been looking at household survey data since 1990 and wrote a paper that is coming soon in a supplement. I wonder if there are opportunities to discuss further how to address these gaps at higher level.
Dessalegn Melesse (desyiz@gmail.com)
- 21 All the presentations raised serious SRH concerns exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. What responses and approaches should be adopted to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on issues like gender-based violence?
Sunday Adedini (Sunday.adedini@gmail.com)
- 22 Thank you for enlightening presentations!
Nompilo Mjwara (nompilomjwara@gmail.com)