Tengeru Community Development Journal
ISSN 1821-9853(Print) ISSN 2665-0584(online)
Vol. 10, No.2, 2023

Effectiveness of National Work Programs toward Addressing Violence against Women and Children: A Case of MTAKUWWA in Iringa District - Tanzania

Madodi, M., Mafungu, G., Mheni, O., Mlay, B. and Mwombeki, A.
Ruaha Community Development Training Institute, P.O. Box 254, Iringa
Corresponding Email: mussamadodi@gmail.com

Article History
Received: 2023-April-03
Revised: 2023-June-12
Accepted: 2023-September-15
Published: 2023-December-15

Keywords
National Work Programs, MTAKUWWA, Gender-Based Violence, Violence against Children

How to cite:
Madodi, M., Mafungu, G., Mheni, O., Mlay, B. and Mwombeki, A. (2023**).** Effectiveness of National Work Programs toward Addressing Violence against Women and Children, A Case of Mtakuwwa in Iringa District- Tanzania *Tengeru Community Development Journal**, 10(2*): 09-24.

Copyright © 2023 The Author(s). This article is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution–ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence (CC BY-SA 4.0).
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

Abstract
Despite the Tanzanian Government's efforts to combat Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) through the establishment of a number of work programs, the strategy has not been sufficiently institutionalised to achieve the expected results. This study assessed the Effectiveness of National Work Programs in addressing VAWC**.** A cross-sectional research design was adopted, with data collected from a sample of 150 respondents using questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The data were analysed using IBM SPSS 20.0 and content analysis. Findings indicate that low community awareness of these programs has affected the effectiveness of national work programs to address VAWC. Moreover, the effectiveness of the programs was found to be affected by the prevalence of external factors such as socio - cultural practices, like the increased habits of some family members being perpetrators of violent events. Based on these findings, it is recommended that the government and other stakeholders raise awareness among local communities about the availability of these programs and educate them about the adverse effects of socio-cultural practices that were found to retard the government's efforts to address violence.

1.0 Introduction

Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) remain an international scourge of which its effective prevention requires several interventions at interpersonal, community and Global levels (World Bank, 2020). Basing on this presumption, there are several international work programs

which were established in this regard. The programs include the Global Plan of Action to address interpersonal violence against women and children (WHO, 2016). The plan, among other things, aimed at strengthening and/or establishing laws, policies, and protocols to end violence against women. Another international initiative that was done in this line is the UN General Assembly Resolutions, which call upon all member states to implement multidisciplinary national strategies to eliminate violence against women and children (UN, 2023).

Additionally, the UN and EU Spotlight initiative was established and implemented in more than 25 countries, whereas between 2017 and 2023 the program has notably influenced the enactment of nearly 500 new laws/policies that aimed to address VAWC in 12 countries (UN/EU, 2023). Moreover, the Parenting-Focused Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Intervention was established in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) for the same purpose of addressing VAWC (Thota et al., 2023). According to Thota, et al., (2023) the SBC program has demonstrated remarkable results in addressing violence against women and children in LMICs.

Despite the fact that there is prominent success brought by these highlighted work programs, but they are insufficiently institutionalized in some areas of the global particularly in LMICs. According to the present statistics, 49 countries across the World lack effective legal frameworks that would contribute to addressing violence against women and children (UN Women, 2023). Consequently, the violence against Women and children is still unabated. The present statistics show that all over the global there is an average of 1 (one) in every five (5) women under the age of 50 (fifty) who are experiencing physical and/or sexual violence within a 12-month period (UN Women, 2023). According to WHO, (2021) lifetime intimate partner violence ranges from 20% in the Western Pacific, 22% in high-income countries of Europe, 25% in America, 31% in Eastern Mediterranean region and 33% in South-East Asia region.

In Africa the average of VAWC particularly on matters related to sexuality and ownership of resources is high to the extent of 33% (WHO, 2021). VAWC is much more serious in Africa because of their basis from some African socio-cultural practices which have been undermining women (Ezer, 2016). In Sub Sahara Africa (SSA) the situation of VAWC is reported to be worse in some countries to the extent of exceeding the continental average by almost 50%. For instance, in Sierra Leone and Congo (DRC) the rates of violence are counted to be 60.3% and 54.6% respectively. In East Africa, Uganda is among the leading countries in having a high rate of VAWC. The Demographic and Health Survey of 2016 reported that 22% of women in the age group between 15–49 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes, and nearly 10% of girls aged 15–19 had experienced sexual assault (UBOS and ICF 2018).

Tanzania, like many other countries of SSA, faces the challenge of violence against women and children. The violence is widespread in the country, whereby several forms of violence, including Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and rape, are “seen as normal”. WHO, (2018) found that IPV is more common in Tanzania than in many other countries as the country ranks among the top 12 highest-prevalence countries in the African region. According to World Bank, (2022) 58% of

women and 40% of men believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances. According to the World Bank (2022), in Tanzania, 40% of all women aged 15-49 years have experienced physical violence, 17% of women at the same age have experienced sexual violence, and 44% of the same age have experienced either physical or sexual violence. On the other hand, GoT, (2017) reported that 1 in 5 women have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime while 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys have been sexually abused before the age of 18. According to URT (2023) the nationally representative data from the 2022 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) indicates that 38.9% of ever-married or partnered women (aged 15–49) experienced IPV with the Major risk factors included having a partner who drinks alcohol.

In Iringa where is the area under this study VAWC incidences are high to the extent ranking number three among the nationally leading regions. According to The Citizen, (2016), the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) report covering January to July 2016 indicate that 76 incidents of child violence were recorded in Iringa to hold third position behind Dar es Salaam and Mbeya which had 435 incidences and 177 respectively. Mgembe, (2023) found that in 2022, Iringa Referral Hospital reported 12 children per month with rape or sodomy injuries whereas the contributing causes were identified to include alcoholism, negligent child-rearing and harmful beliefs/superstitions.

In a course of addressing VAWC, the Tanzanian government has been done a number of efforts including the establishment of a substantial number of work programs. The most recent work program is the 2017/18 to 2021/22 National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children (NAPEVAWC or popularly known as MTAKUWWA from its Kiswahili title) (GoT, 2017). Other programs which were previously established in this regard include the 2000-2015 National Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (GoT, 2000); the 2001 – 2015 National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (GoT 2001), the 2009-2014 National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor (GoT, 2009) and the 2013-2016 National Action Plan for Response and Prevention of Violence against Children (GoT, 2013).

Despite of the national initiatives in this regard, Violence against Women and Children is a very serious problem in Tanzania particularly to the communities who are conservative in practicing their culture and traditions. Several underlying factors such as lack of communities' awareness and socio-cultural practices are suspected to hinder the success of these initiatives. Investigating these barriers is crucial to improve policy effectiveness and related efforts. Therefore, this study was conducted to assess the effectiveness of national work programs in addressing VAWC, with a greater focus on the MTAKUWWA.

2.0 Theoretical and Empirical review

2.1.1 Violence against Women

According to Morrison et al., (2005) Violence against women is often referred to as gender-based violence (GBV) because it is rooted in women's lack of power in relationships and in society relative to men. World Bank. (2022) defined Gender-based violence (GBV) as an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e., gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty.

2.1.2 Violence against Children

Violence Against Children is physical, sexual, emotional and/or psychological harm, neglect, or negligent treatment of children (i.e., people under the age of 18), including exposure to such harm, that results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power (World Bank, 2022). This includes using children for profit, labor, sexual gratification, or some other personal or financial advantage.

2.1.3 National Work Programs

According to UN Women (2022) National work programs are structured government-led initiatives designed to address specific social, economic, or developmental challenges by coordinating efforts across various sectors, institutions, and stakeholders. These programs often involve the implementation of strategic plans, policies, and activities at national and local levels to achieve targeted outcomes, such as reducing violence, promoting gender equality, or improving social welfare.

2.2 Systems Theory

This study was guided by Systems Theory which is propounded by Bertalanffy (2017), views a program or project as a complex set of interrelated and interacting components. The theory emphasizes that, the behavior of the system as a whole cannot be understood merely by analyzing its individual parts but must be viewed in the context of its relationships and interactions. The Theory focuses on understanding and managing these interactions to achieve overall effectiveness and sustainability (Bertalanffy, 2017).

For National Work programs formulated to address VAWC in Iringa District Council, Systems Theory used to examine how various factors such as, community awareness, external factors and the role of stakeholders in influencing the effectiveness of those programs. This theoretical framework helped to identify how these components work together within the broader system of promoting the effectiveness of these national programs. By understanding these interactions, the study aims to provide a holistic view of how these national work programs are effective in addressing VAWC and propose integrated solutions that will address the scourge.

2.3 Empirical Literatures Review

In a course of addressing this pandemic, there is a number of studies which were conducted by various scholars. In Sub Saharan Africa alone since 2008 -2019 substantial number of studies associated to VAWC have been conducted (Muluneh et al., 2020). According to Muluneh et al., (2020) the studies include 23 which were focused in physical violence, 18 that focused in sexual violence and 20 studies that focused in emotional violence. UN Women, (2023) found that in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) 22.3% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 were reported to experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

2.3.1 Communities' Awareness on the Presence of Various programs for addressing VAWC

The empirical literatures regarding to Communities' Awareness on programs for addressing VAWC include the one by Edwards et al. (2023) were also researched awareness on Programs to Prevent Violence against Children in Sub Saharan Africa and found that Family-centered interventions (e.g., Families Matter!) consistently reduced violence via improved parenting, communication, and family cohesion. Furthermore, Karamagi et al. (2022) studied Effectiveness of community mobilization and group-based interventions for preventing intimate partner violence in LMICs and found that there is critical role of community-level of awareness in sustained violence reduction.

2.3.2 The Role of Stakeholders in Accomplishment of Programs for addressing VAWC

In Nigeria Civil Society and Government formed a state committee for addressing VAWC. The committee has been successfully advocating for passage and implementation of the Violence against Persons, let alone a success in other areas like Prohibition of acts, boosting institutional coordination and stakeholder collaboration on all matters regarding to VAWC (Nkeokelonye, 2023). In Ethiopia, because of being key gatekeepers in influencing program design culturally and socially, Community health workers, religious leaders, and elders have been involved in addressing IPV in pregnancy (Gashaw et al, 2019). In Zambia such important Stakeholders like school leaders, teachers, parents, and NGOs have been involved in the efforts to address VAWC whereas they tasked to enhance girls' leadership, assertiveness, and SGBV awareness through curriculum integration and community-level outreach (Ndhlovu and Mwale, 2023). In Uganda NGOs collaborate the government, schools, health providers, media, and communities to shift social norms and prevent VAWC through multi-stakeholder coalitions.

2.3.3 External Factors promoting Effectiveness of the Programs for address VAWC

According to Gudienė et al, (2013) external factors are those factors affecting the success of any project but are beyond the control of the project implementers. Wathen and Mantler, (2022) found that cultural responsiveness is among external factors which are significantly affect program success.

3.0 Methodology

The study was conducted in Iringa District, Tanzania. Iringa District Council is one of five councils in Iringa Region; the others are Kilolo District Council, Mufindi District Council, Mafinga Town

Council, and Iringa Municipal Council. The district covers an area of 20,414 km² and shares borders with Mpwapwa District (Dodoma Region) to the north, Kilolo District to the east, Mufindi District to the south, Chunya District (Mbeya Region) to the west, and Manyoni District to the northwest (URT, 2016). The choice of Iringa District was based on the fact that it is among the top seven leading regions practicing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), one of the worst forms of violence against women. The region accounts for 8% of FGM practices, behind Morogoro (9%), Tanga (14%), Singida (31%), Mara (32%), Arusha (41%), Dodoma (47%), and Manyara (58%). Iringa is also among the leading regions where residents are heavily engaged in traditional alcohol consumption. The most popular traditional alcohol in Iringa is ***Ulanzi***, and alcoholism is recognized as one of the triggers of violence against women. According to URT (2022), GBV cases in Iringa are mostly attributed to superstition-based beliefs and alcoholism from Ulanzi, among other factors.

A sample of 150 respondents was randomly selected for data collection, and a cross-sectional research design was employed to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data. Some qualitative data were generated through Focus Group Interviews. Key informants, comprising government officials from district, ward, and village levels, were purposively selected for in-depth interviews to gain insights into the effectiveness of national programs in addressing violence against women and children. These included Village Executive Officers, Village Chairpersons, Ward Community Development Officers, and Ward Executive Officers, as well as the District Social Welfare Officer and the District Community Development Officer (DCDO).

To further solidify the findings, three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted across four wards Wasa, Kiwere, Migori, and Mgama. The FGDs aimed to gather views from ordinary community members regarding the effectiveness of national programs in addressing violence against women and children. Quantitative data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (IBM SPSS 20.0) to produce descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were subjected to content analysis to capture participants' opinions on the factors influencing the effectiveness of MTAKUWWA and other national work programs targeting violence against women and children.

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Communities' Awareness on the Presence of National Work Plans and Programs Formulated to Address Violence against Women and Children

In order for the present study to accomplish its goal of assessing the effectiveness of the national programs in addressing VAWC, the study initially assessed the communities' awareness on the presence of these programs.

4.1.1 Relevance of Awareness Mechanisms and Community Awareness of National Programs

Information presented in Table 4.1 indicates that 85% of respondents reported having a low level of awareness of the MTAKUWWA programs, while 79% indicated that the mechanisms used to create community awareness were irrelevant. This suggests a correlation between the two. This finding is consistent with that of Magesa (2023), whose study on Community Awareness of Domestic Violence in Arumeru District, Arusha, Tanzania found that only 9% of respondents had high awareness of domestic violence, while 56% had low awareness. The study further revealed that awareness was significantly correlated with gender, age, and education.

Table 4.1 Communities' Awareness on the Programs for VAWC

Variable (s)	Strongly Agree		Agree		I don't know		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Community members are aware on the national programs for addressing VAWC	10	15	9	8	28	19	58	39	40	27
Community members are informed about the presence of MTAKUWWA through print/ electronic media like TV, posters, announcements at the churches & mosques	8	5	11	7	18	12	73	49	41	27
The mechanisms used in creating community awareness on the presence of MTAKUWWA are relevant	9	6	22	15	11	7	67	45	41	27

WHC (2015) demonstrates that community awareness is crucial for successful program implementation because it serves as a gateway for community members to acquire knowledge about development initiatives, ultimately enhancing their participation and engagement. Olaleye and Adebusuyi (2019) found that effective local leadership must utilize appropriate information exchange, as these services work as a critical link among diverse rural groups.

UBOS and ICF International (2018) reported that language barriers and low literacy levels among many women and girls present key challenges to the delivery of effective messaging on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). According to UBOS and ICF International (2018), information, education, and communication materials regarding violence against women and children are often produced in English and are not accessible to many women and girls. WHO (2023) has suggested that school awareness programs are effective preventive tools in addressing VAWC. This finding also aligns with that of Madodi et al. (2019), who found that when irrelevant mechanisms are used to convey messages to audiences, the intended message may not be properly received. Madodi et al. (2019)

provides an example: when people are invited to meetings through announcements made at churches and mosques, those who do not attend either place of worship will obviously not receive the intended invitations.

4.2 The Role of Stakeholders in National Work Programs Formulated to Address VAWC

The present study intended to assess the role of stakeholders in addressing violence against women and children. In this regard the political will of the government and commitment of other stakeholders to collaborate with the government in addressing violence against women and children were assessed (Table 4.2).

4.2.1 Political will in allocating the resources for implementation of the programs

The term "political will" is used to refer to the centre of power and to political decision-makers as key actors in ensuring good governance, establishing reliable legal frameworks, and formulating policies that influence the success of community development programs (Abazović et al., 2015). Information presented in Table 4.2 shows that 40% and 41% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that there is political will in allocating the necessary resources and establishing reliable legal frameworks to enforce the implementation of national work programs.

Table 4.2 Role of Stakeholders in Accomplishment of MTAKUWWA Program

Variable (s)	Strongly Agree		Agree		I don't know		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
There is political will in allocating the needed resources and establish reliable legal frameworks in enforcing implementation of the programs	60	40	61	41	19	12	6	4	5	3
The private sector has been supporting and collaborating with the government in the efforts of addressing VAWC	57	38	74	49	18	12	0	0	1	0.7
The private sector has a role in educating people, the effects of violence against women and children	65	43	67	45	12	8	3	2	3	2

Generally, the government has established a number of legal frameworks and policies aimed at addressing violence against women and children. These include: the Law of Marriage Act (revised in 2002), which prohibits "corporal punishment" against a wife; the Village Land Act No. 5, Cap 114, 1999, section 3(2), which protects women against discriminatory customs and traditions that restrict their access to and ownership of land; the National Land Policy of 1995, which contains various provisions protecting women's land rights; the Child Act No. 21 of 2009; and the Sexual Offenses Special Provisions Act (SOSPA) of 1998, which classifies rape, sexual assault, harassment, and sex trafficking as criminal offences, along with its Regulations. Additionally, the government established Gender and Children's Desks in all Ministries and police stations (GoT, 2017).

Despite these legal frameworks and policies, reports of violence against women and children continue. According to the present study, the established legal frameworks are either toothless or poorly enforced. This observation aligns with the findings of Brown and Taylor (2023), who note that police and justice coordination is crucial for effective law enforcement and the success of programs formulated to address VAWC. Similarly, weak law enforcement and inadequate social support systems for victims of violence contribute to a culture of impunity, thereby increasing the risk of violence (World Bank, 2020). Magutsa (2018) asserts that although many policies and programs are in place to ensure women's social welfare, most remain only on paper. Rijal and Gurung (2021) found that funding volatility undermines programs for addressing VAWC, especially in low-resource settings.

4.2.2 Private Sector in Supporting the Government Initiatives for VAWC

According to the information presented in Table 4.2, the majority of respondents (87%) indicated that there is strong commitment from other stakeholders to support and collaborate with the government in addressing violence against women and children. In the same vein, 43% and 45% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that the private sector has been successfully fulfilling its role in educating community members on the effects of violence against women and children. These findings imply that local communities themselves acknowledge and appreciate the role played by the private sector in supporting the government's initiatives to address VAWC.

Recognizing that private sector involvement is vital in tackling such violence, the government, through its MTAKUWWA document, explicitly calls upon other stakeholders to participate in addressing VAWC (GoT, 2017). DFID (2010) similarly found that when citizens actively participate in society through local associations outside the state, both the state and society derive greater benefits. Demonstrating the private sector's role in this regard, the Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) collaborated with Tanzania's Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MCDGWS) to hold regional capacity-building forums aimed at raising awareness of MTAKUWWA among multisectoral actors, including police gender

desks, social welfare officers, medical personnel, journalists, and community leaders in Mbeya, Songwe, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro regions (DSW, 2023).

Similarly, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), a government agency, worked with non-state organizations to launch the "VUNJA UKIMYA" taskforce, which involves civil society and the media in anti-corruption and sexual violence interventions (Policy Forum, 2022). UNESCO also supported the government in this effort. In partnership with UN Women and Sengerema District Council, groups such as teachers, youth, parents, gender police desks, and media actors were engaged to facilitate community-led discussions and raise awareness of MTAKUWWA. The approach used involved organizing live radio programs and socio-cultural dialogues to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (UNESCO, 2020).

4.3. External Factors for Effectiveness VAWC

The present study assessed whether external factors such social cultural practices can affect effectiveness of the national work programs in addressing VAWC.

4.3.1 Family Members Being Perpetrators of Violence

The information revealed in table 4.3 depict that majority of respondents by 34% and 41% were strongly agree and agree that there is increased habits of some family members being perpetrators of violence against other family members. This finding implies that to some extent the effectiveness of national work programs in addressing VAWC is impeded by the performances of some family members in this regard. The finding is in line with that of Visser and Ferrer, (2015) who found that the violence against women and children is unabated because it happens within family settings where individual family members who want to maintain power and control in relationships often use threats and force to obtain compliance from powerless family members. Women and children count a big number of violence victims because men who are always the perpetrators believe to be superior over women so sometimes, they should punch their women and children to prove that they are right in control (Hegarty, 2017). Both men and women can be victims or perpetrators of violence, but the Women are more likely to be physically assaulted or murdered by someone they know, often a family member or intimate partner (Morrison, et al 2005).

The same aspect of family members being perpetuators of violence was also narrated well by one of respondents as follow:

> *"…because of the prevailing patriarchal system, women are often compelled to endure mistreatment. Parents frequently advise their daughters to conceal any abuse they experience from their husbands.".*

Table 4.3 External Factors for Effectiveness of the National Work Programs for VAWC

Variable(s)	Strongly Agree		Agree		I don't know		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
There is increased habits of some Family members being perpetrators of violence against other family members	51	34	61	41	13	9	14	9	10	7
Socio-Cultural practices have their part in influencing persistence of violence against women and children	51	34	52	35	20	13	17	11	10	7
Communities' income levels are influencing factor for persistence	50	33	62	41	14	9	16	11	7	5

4.3.2. Cultural Practices Being an Influencing Factor for Persistence of VAWC

The information presented in table 4.3 reveals that majority of respondents by 34% and 35% were strongly agree and agree Socio-Cultural practices have their part in influencing persistence of violence against women and children. This revealed information complies with a number of previous literatures as highlighted here. Magesa, (2023) found that harmful cultural norms are influencing violence practices like FGM, early marriage, polygamy, wife battering, heavy workloads, and the devaluation of women in inheritance and decision-making. Similarly, Nguma, and Isango, (2023) found that pervasive myths, spiritual beliefs, ritual practices, and cultural silence facilitate ongoing child sexual abuse in urban Tanzania. Socio Cultural factors such as family honor and initiation rites and social norms which influence early marriage, are all found to undermine girls' schooling and protection (Elengemoke and Susuman, 2021). World Bank, (2020) found that men having sexual rights over women is linked to the traditional practice of paying bride wealth for a wife, which is equated with men having ownership of their female partners and therefore being entitled to sex with them any time.

4.3.3 Communities' income levels being an influencing factor for persistence of violence

According to the information revealed in table 4.3 majority of respondents by 33% and 41% were strongly agree and agree that Communities' income levels are influencing factor for persistence. This finding concurs with several previous literatures. These include Laisser et al., (2018) who found that area-level poverty and inequitable gender norms are significantly associated with higher risk of partner violence. Additionally, Chegere, and Karamagi, (2020) found that low women's economic resources (e.g., property ownership) correlate with higher IPV risk, with rural areas

particularly affected. According to Abramsky et al., (2019) higher women's income was protective against physical and sexual IPV, but when women out-earned their partners, it triggered more violence highlighting the complexity of economic empowerment in settings with poverty and male provision pressures. According to Lobaka (2017) men with limited or no limited wealth and resources become extremely abusive and violent to their women in order to send a strong message on who oversees the family. Sometimes young girls show less interest in continuing their education and in some cases, poor families are unable to bear the cost of education for their daughters, they opt force them be married (Verma et al, 2013).

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The findings of this study reveal several factors that hinder the effectiveness of national programs designed to address violence against women and children. Community awareness of these government initiatives was found to be very limited, reducing their potential impact. Additionally, entrenched socio-cultural practices were identified as key external factors perpetuating the persistence of such violence. Furthermore, although legal frameworks have been established to guide the implementation of these programs, they are often either weak or inadequately enforced, undermining their effectiveness.

To successfully combat violence against women and children, there is an urgent need for concerted efforts aimed at raising community awareness about the existence of these programs and educating people on how certain cultural practices contribute to the continuation of this problem. Strengthening the enforcement of legal frameworks and fostering community participation are equally critical to achieving meaningful and sustainable change.

5.2 Recommendations

Basing in the findings from this study it is recommended to: strengthen enforcement Mechanisms whereas policymakers should develop and adopt alternative mechanisms for enforcing the implementation of the MTAKUWWA program, as the current approaches were found to be weak and insufficiently responsive to external socio-cultural factors. It is also recommended to Increase Community Awareness whereas the government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, should intensify awareness-raising campaigns about the risks posed by certain cultural practices that perpetuate violence against women and children. Additionally, it is recommended to enhance partnerships between the government and the private sector particularly CSOs to reinforce community outreach programs that educate communities about the existence and objectives of MTAKUWWA in addressing this problem. Furthermore, the government should actively encourage the participation of local communities through local associations and non-state structures. This approach can provide safe platforms for community members to discuss and address cultural practices that act as barriers to eliminating violence against women and children.

References

Abazović, D. and Mujkić, A (ed) (2015). Political Will: A Short Introduction, Case Study of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).

Abramsky, T., Lees, S., Stöckl, H., Harvey, S., Kapinga, I., Ranganathan, M., Mshana, G., & Kapiga, S. (2019). Women's income and risk of intimate partner violence: secondary findings from the MAISHA cluster randomised trial in North-Western Tanzania. BMC Public Health, 19, 1108.

Asaju, K., (2010). Local government autonomy in Nigeria: Politics and challenges of the 1999 constitution. International Journal of Advanced Legal Studies and Governance, 1(1): 98–113.Politics & Policy, Volume 48, No. 6 (2020): 1161-1201. 10.1111/polp.12384 Wiley Periodicals LLC

Bellotti, E., Boethius, S., Åkerström, M., & Hyden, M. (2021). Ambivalent and consistent relationships: The role of personal networks in cases of domestic violence, Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Brown, L. M., & Taylor, J. (2023). What interventions are cost-effective in reducing violence against women? Applied Health Economics and Health Policy, 22, 283–296.

Chegere, M. J., & Karamagi, I. J. (2020). Intimate partner violence and labour market outcomes in Tanzania. African Journal of Economic Review, 8(2).

DFID, (2010) The Politics of Poverty: Elites, Citizens, and States Department for International, Findings from ten years of DFID-funded research on Governance and Fragile States 2001—2010, 1 Palace Street London

Edwards, K. M., Kumar, M., Waterman, E. A., Mullet, N., Madeghe, B., and Musindo, O. (2023). *Programs to Prevent Violence against Children in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse.*

Elengemoke, J. M., and Susuman, A. S. (2021). Early Marriage and Correlates among Young Women in Sub-Saharan African Countries. *Journal of Social Psychology*, Advance online publication.

Ezer, T. (2016) "Forging a Path for Women's Rights in Customary Law", 27 Hastings Women's L.J. 65, 80.

Gashaw, B. T., Magnus, J. H., Schei, B., and Solbraekke, K. N. (2019). Community stakeholders' perspectives on intimate partner violence during pregnancy—A qualitative study from Ethiopia. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16 (23), 4694.

Gudienė, N., Banaitis, A., Banaitienė, N. and Lopes J., (2013). Development of a Conceptual Critical Success Factors Model for Construction Projects: a Case of Lithuania. 11th International Conference on Modern Building Materials,

Hegarty, A. (2017). Masculinity, fathers and family literacy: Glimpses behind the 'hard-man 'front (Doctoral dissertation, National University of Ireland Maynooth).

Karamagi, N., Kyegombe, N. and McCleary-Sills, J. (2022). *Effectiveness of community mobilization and group-based interventions for preventing intimate partner violence in LMICs: Systematic review & meta-analysis. Journal of Global Health, 13*, 04115.

Laisser, R. M., Nyström, L., Lugina, H. I., & Emmelin, M. (2018). Unequal power relations and partner violence against women in Tanzania: a cross-sectional analysis. BMC Women's Health, 18, Article 185.

Lee, E., & Marshall, F. (2022). *Improving health system readiness to address violence against women and girls: A conceptual framework. BMC Health Services Research, 22, 247.*

Lobaka, S. T. (2017). Exploring the experiences of young adult women growing up with non-resident fathers in North West Tlokwe Local Municipality (Doctoral dissertation).

Madodi, M., Eliamini, E. and Daniel, B. (2019). Assessment of the Local Communities Participation in Rural Development Planning in Mufindi District- Iringa, Tanzania, Tengeru Community Development Journal Vol. 6, No.2

Magesa, R. J. (2023). *Cultural Factors Associated with Human Trafficking of Girls and Women in Northern Tanzania: The Case of Arusha Region*. Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence, 8(1).

Magutsa, L. (2018). Factors Influencing Women's Participation in Community Development Projects in Zimbabwe, a Case of Zvishavane Women's Project in Midlands Province, a Thesis for Master Degree of Arts in Project Planning and Management of the University of Nairobi.

Mathur, M. (2003). Too young to wed: The lives, rights, and health of young married girls. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW).

Matlabi, H., Rasouli, A., Behtash, H. H., Dastjerd, A. F., & Khazemi, B. (2013). Factors responsible for early and forced marriage in Iran. Science Journal of Public Health, 1(5): 227–229.

Morrison, A. Ellsberg. M and Bott, S (2005). Addressing Gender-Based Violence In Latin America And The Caribbean: A Critical Review Of Interventions, World Bank.

Muluneh, M., Stulz, V., Francis, L. and Agho, K. (2020). Gender Based Violence against Women in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Cross-Sectional Studies, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH) , 17, 903; doi:10.3390/ijerph17030903

Ndhlovu, P. M., & Mwale, E. B. *(2023). Final evaluation: Building capacities of vulnerable girls in schools to address SGBV and SRHR issues (Zambia). UN Women. en.wikipedia.org+4untf.unwomen.org+4untf.unwomen.org+4*

Nguma, L. S., and Isango, E. S. (2023). Cultural Factors Influencing Child Sexual Abuse in the Society: A Case of Arusha City. *The Accountancy and Business Review,* 14(2), 24–33. doi:10.59645/abr.v14i2.81

Nkeokelonye, A. (2023). *Final evaluation: Strengthening stakeholder engagement in the process of VAPP enactment and implementation (Imo State, Nigeria). UN Women.*

Nour, N. (2006). Health consequences of child marriage in Africa. Journal of Emergency Infectious Diseases, 12(11), 1644–49.

OECD. (2021). Violence against women is preventable: Global "What Works" programme increases learning. OECD Publishing. Retrieved from OECD website.

Olaleye, L., and Adebusuyi, J. (2019). Awareness and Practice of Providing Community-Based-Services on Development of Rural-Urban Projects in Nigeria, Research Gate, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333164230,

Rijal, M., & Gurung, R. (2021*). Mapping the health systems response to violence against women: Key learnings from five LMIC settings (2015–2020). BMC Women's Health, 21, 123.*

Spotlight Initiative. (2023). *Spotlight Initiative 2022 Global Report*. UN and EU.

Thota, A., Gennari, F., & Guedes, A. (2023). What works to reduce violence against children and women: A review of parenting programmes, informed by social and behaviour change strategies. UNICEF Innocenti.

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and ICF International, (2018) Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kampala and Rockville, MD: UBOS and ICF International.

UN Women (2023). Turning promises into action, Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development, SDG-report-Fact-sheet-Sub-Saharan-Africa-en.pdf

UNHCR and OPM (Office of the Prime Minister). (2019). Interagency Assessment of Measures, Services and Safeguards for the Protection of Women and Children against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence among Refugees in Uganda. UNHCR, OPM. Kampala Uganda.

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) (2000) National Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) (2001) National Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Children

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) (2009) National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) (2013). National Action Plan for Response and Prevention of Violence against Children

United Republic of Tanzania (URT) (2017) National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children

United Republic of Tanzania Prime Minister's Office Prime Minister's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (URT), (2016). Iringa District Council Strategic Plan (From the year 2015/2016-2020/2021)

United Republic of Tanzania, URT, (2022). Gender Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan for Tanzania – Zambia Interconnection Project, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited

Verma, R., Sinha, T., & Khanna, T. (2013). Asia child marriage initiative: Summary of research in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. International journal Center for Research on Women, 35-46.

Visser, M., & Ferrer, S. (2015). Farm Workers' Living and Working Conditions in South Africa: Key Trends, Emergent Issues, and Underlying and Structural Problems. Pretoria: International Labour Organization.

Vyas, S., (2012) Assessing the implications of women's economic status on intimate partner violence in Dar es Salaam and Mbeya, Tanzania. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: London.

Wathen, C. N. & Mantler, T. (2022). *Trauma- and violence-informed care: Orienting IPV interventions to equity. Current Epidemiology Reports, 9, 85–98.*

Wildlife Habitat Council, WHC, (2015). Awareness and Community Engagement Project Guidance, strategy and planning @wildlifehc.org

World Bank, (2020). Gender Based Violence and Violence against Children Prevention and Response Services in Uganda's Refugee-Hosting Districts. Washington, DC:

World Bank (2022). Tanzania GBV Assessment, The World Bank Group, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA;

World Health Organization (2023). A Student-Centric Evaluation of Connect with Respect in Tanzania, Zambia & Eswatini. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 20(15), 6498.

World Health Organization, WHO, (2018). Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, pgs. 22, 24. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256