

# We can't ignore the needs of sexual violence survivors



**Chi-Chi Undie, Population Council**

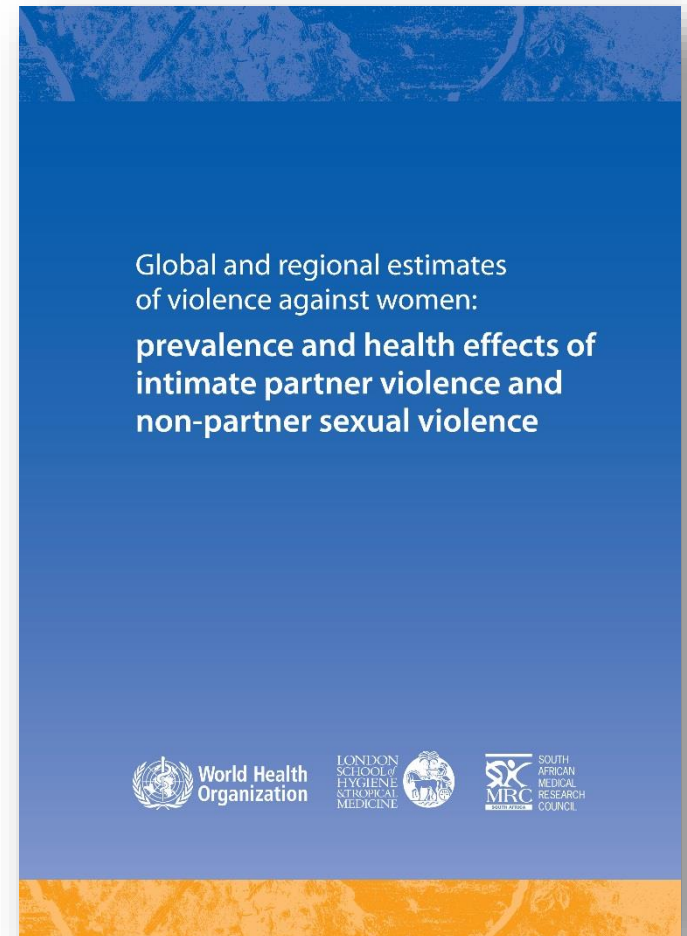
The Africa Regional Conference on Abortion  
November 29-December 2, 2016  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



6 reasons why we can't

# We know the prevalence

- **35%** of women worldwide: either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) or non-partner sexual violence
- Prevalence of physical and/or sexual IPV is highest in WHO regions such as Africa: **37%**



# We know who the survivors are

- **Children and adolescents** below the age of 18
- Women in union
- Humanitarian populations

“Adolescents (15-19 years) account for 25% of all unsafe abortions in Africa.”

(Grimes et al., 2006)

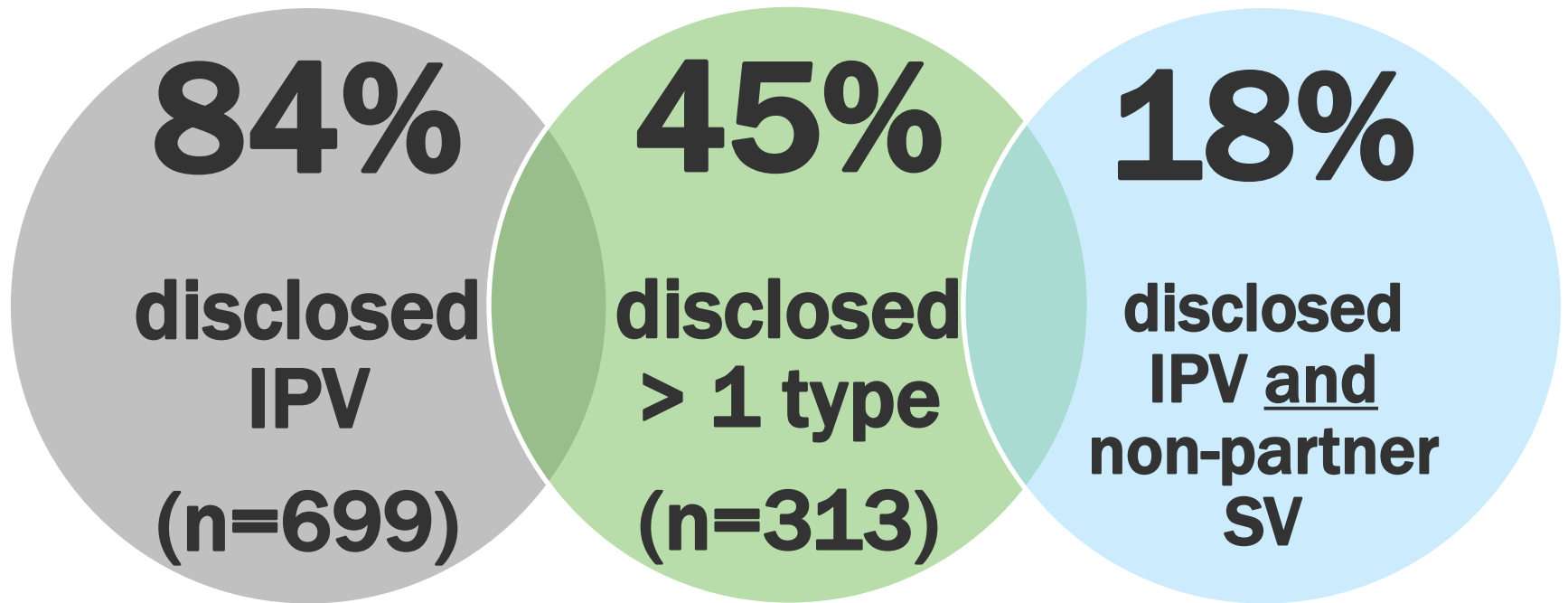
# We know sexual violence increases the risk for unintended pregnancy

2016 Population Council study in humanitarian settings in Uganda:

- **45%** of female household heads reported ever experiencing **non-partner rape**
- Of these, nearly **60%** reported ever getting pregnant due to **non-partner rape**

*(Source: Undie, Birungi et al. 2016. Effectiveness of a Community-Based SGBV Prevention Model in Emergency Settings in Uganda: Testing the 'Zero Tolerance Village Alliance' Intervention. Nairobi, Kenya: Population Council)*

# We know that rape-related pregnancy is only part of the story



*(Source: Undie, Birungi et al. 2016. Screening for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Emergency Settings in Uganda: An Assessment of Feasibility. Nairobi, Kenya: Population Council.)*

# We know survivors don't want us to

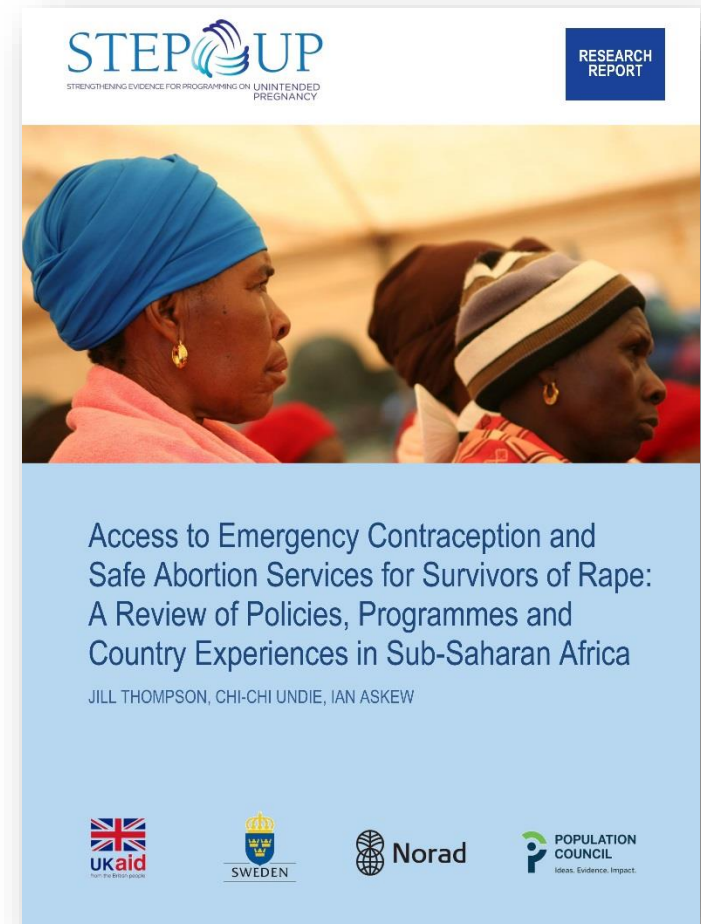
**'How does one erase memories of rape from their mind? Because whenever I see this baby, I remember [the rape], and I feel like killing the baby.'** *Survivor, Kyempango Health Centre*

**'I wanted to know what to do with this pregnancy. I have [STIs]; this man has been forcing me to have sex...There are just many problems.'** *Survivor, Rwamwanja Health Centre*

**'What should I do if I run into the man who made me pregnant?...'** *Survivor, Kyempango Health Centre*

**I am currently pregnant due to rape, and now I am wondering who will take care of me and the baby once I give birth...Now that I am pregnant, how will you assist me after delivery?**  
*Survivor, Rwamwanja Health Centre*

# We developed guidelines for reaching survivors





# So, how are we reaching survivors with safe abortion care?

- Well ... not so well.
  - Guidelines are mostly vague
  - Services are often lacking
  - Counseling is often non-specific

# What we're doing to change things

- ✓ Supporting Ministries of Health
- ✓ Collaborating with UNHCR Regional Services Centre
- ✓ Conducting health facility readiness studies in humanitarian settings
- ✓ Improving accessibility of medication abortion

# References

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