



A photograph of three young children of African descent standing outdoors in front of a light-colored building. The child on the left is wearing a white t-shirt, the middle child is wearing a pink polo shirt and smiling, and the child on the right is wearing a white and yellow long-sleeved shirt. They are all shaking hands in a circle.

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Preventing Sexual Violence Against Children in Zanzibar: The Development of the SVAC Prevention Toolkit and the Plan2Prevent Roadmap

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Agenda



Part 1: The KUWAZA Project – Findings from the Implementation of the SVAC Prevention Toolkit

Part 2: Piloting the *Plan2Prevent* Roadmap with the KUWAZA Project Team

The KUWAZA Project

BACKGROUND

- In Zanzibar, SVAC affects 6.2% of girls and 9.3% of boys before age 18, highlighting the need for effective prevention (VACS 2009). Many victims remain silent. The National Plan of Action 2017-2022 emphasizes the importance of societal change.
- The KUWAZA (Kuzuia Udhalilishaji wa Watoto Zanzibar) project, funded by the OAK Foundation and implemented by Pathfinder International, ActionAid Tanzania, and C-Sema, collaborated with ICRW to develop and evaluate a toolkit to train children (7-14 years), parents, and religious/local leaders on SVAC prevention.
- The objective of the evaluation was to assess the impact of SVAC prevention toolkit on knowledge, attitudes, reporting, and help-seeking behaviors on SVAC; and children's agency in responding to child sexual abuse.

The KUWAZA Project

SVAC PREVENTION TOOLKIT

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We trained community members to engage **children (aged 7-14)**, their **caregivers, teachers**, and **community and religious leaders** in curriculum-based sessions to:

- increase knowledge and positively shift values related to SVAC, particularly focusing on the root causes of SVAC;
- improve child protection, bystander intervention, communication and caregiving skills among adults, who have the greatest responsibility to protect children;
- strengthen children's younger children's knowledge about their bodies, gender, and puberty; and,
- build children's agency and confidence and their knowledge of where to seek help

The KUWAZA Project

METHODOLOGY

- KUWAZA conducted a quasi-experimental study, with pre/post longitudinal cohort design involving children aged 7-14 and their parents/guardians, employing surveys and focus group discussions (FGDs).
- Trained enumerators administered electronic questionnaires to both children and parents at baseline and end-line. End-line FGDs were conducted with both groups.
- Ethical approval was obtained from the Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) and the vice president's office. Children and parents provided informed assent and consent, respectively.
- Data were analyzed using STATA Software

RESULTS

- Children felt more supported by caregivers, increasing from 92.4% (baseline) to 99.5% (endline) ($p=0.00$).
- Recognition of sexual abuse and child marriage as harmful rose from 40.2% (baseline) to 65.1% (endline) ($p=0.00$) and 27.7% (baseline) to 36.5% (endline) ($p=0.00$), respectively.
- Instances of feeling unsafe decreased. Willingness to report SVAC perpetrators rose significantly from 87.3% (boys baseline) to 96.6% (boys endline) ($p=0.00$) and from 88.3% (girls baseline) to 99.5% (girls endline) ($p=0.00$).
- Parents/guardians increased discussions on body changes with children, rising from 12.7% (baseline) to 20.24% (endline) ($p=0.00$).
- These results highlight the toolkit's efficacy in promoting positive changes in SVAC prevention.

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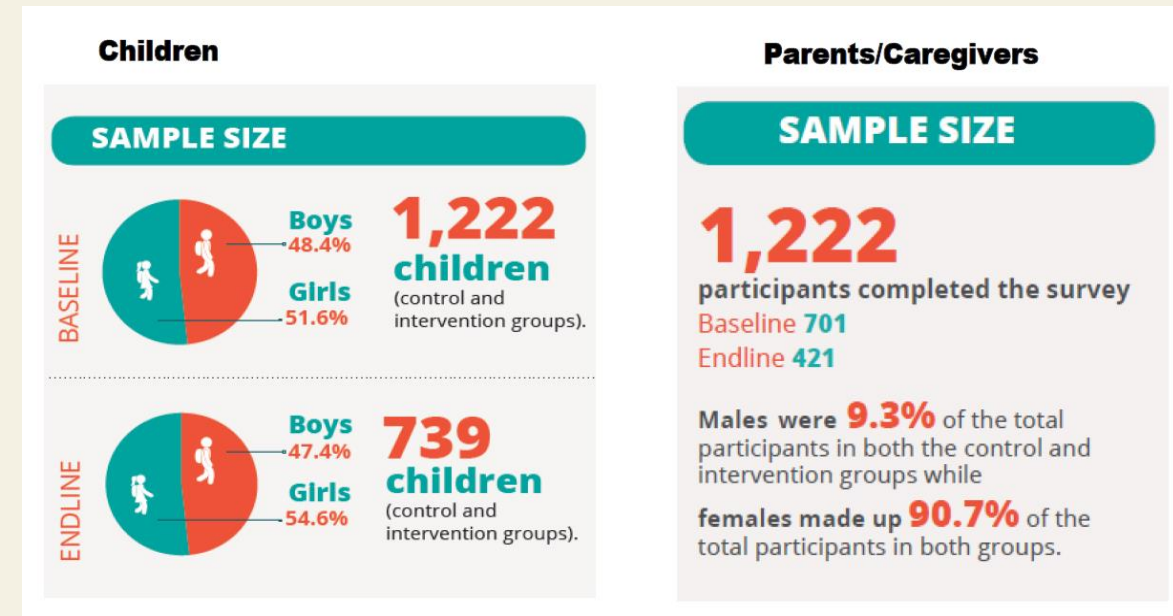


Figure 1. Distribution of sample size

The KUWAZA Project

SUCSESSES AND OUTCOMES

- Trained 60 SVAC prevention toolkit facilitators who trained **270 parents, 90 leaders**, and **824 children** (7-14)
- Increased community awareness, commitment, and accountability
- Development & implementation of community action plans using their own resources
- Developed by-laws on SVAC prevention at community level



Examples of community actions:

- Clearing bushes around schools and roads to create safe spaces
- Constructing a latrine
- Constructing a small bridge for easy access to school
- Demolishing gangster hideouts

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- Future efforts should focus on early education, community engagement, and reporting mechanisms.
- Ongoing discussion on healthy relationships, with tailored interventions, capacity building, and robust monitoring, remains essential for creating safer environments and decreasing the risk of SVAC.
- Prioritize comprehensive education on online sexual abuse and address gender dynamics and social norms
- Programs should emphasize strategies that encourage male participation in SVAC prevention and support efforts

Plan2Prevent



A data-driven, participatory roadmap to design or refine project approaches to prevent sexual violence against children



Plan2Prevent

WHAT IS IT?

A roadmap that walks implementers through a participatory process of analysis and reflection to design or refine SVAC prevention programs so that they are **evidence-informed** and **better reflect the local context**.

I hypothesize that evidence-informed, context-adapted programs that account for the diversity of children's experiences of SVAC, will lead to **more effective, sustainable, primary prevention programming that does not leave any children behind**.

SVAC SUBTYPES

- 'SVAC subtypes' refer to the characteristics of the SVAC event, including, but not limited to: the **survivor's characteristics** (i.e. age, gender, etc.), the **perpetrator's characteristics** (i.e. their relationship to the survivor, age, gender, etc.), the **characteristics of the violence** (i.e. where it took place, the form of violence, etc.), and the **intersections** of these characteristics.
- For example, while both are considered SVAC, a boy experiencing SV during early childhood perpetrated by a family member is quite different from an adolescent girl experiencing SV perpetrated by her boyfriend.
 - Each of these SVAC subtypes likely requires a different prevention approach.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- 1. SVAC is not one-dimensional:** implementers should use data to identify the prevalent SVAC subtypes in the area where they plan to program and decide which SVAC subtypes their program will aim to prevent.
- 2. SVAC prevention programs are not “one size fits all”:** implementers should select prevention interventions that are designed to address, or have been demonstrated to address, the SVAC subtypes they have decided to prevent.
- 3. SVAC prevention interventions are not implemented in a vacuum:** implementers should reflect on the context, considering the prevalence of SVAC subtypes described above, as well as relevant stakeholders, the landscape of existing SVAC prevention programs, and structural factors that may influence SVAC and prevention activities (i.e. gender attitudes and norms, poverty, war, political conditions, etc.).

Step	Description
Preparing for the Process	Provide the team with an overview of the process , set group norms, and develop a timeline
Step 1: Understand the Implementation Context	Conduct a landscape analysis to understand the context in which the program will be implemented, considering a wide range of stakeholder (e.g. project participants, local leaders, project staff and volunteers, CSOs, government ministries, donors, etc.), existing prevention programs, and structural factors that may influence the project.
Step 2: Understand SVAC Subtypes in the Implementation Area	Analyze existing data to understand the most common SVAC subtypes in the intervention area, reflect on the biases that may influence the data, and select the SVAC subtype(s) the project aims to prevent.
Step 3: Select, Tailor, or Target Evidence-informed, Context-aligned Prevention Approaches	Review existing evidence to select one or more prevention approaches that aim to prevent the selected SVAC subtype(s) and are logical based on the findings of the landscape analysis. Consider how the selected approaches could be tailored or targeted to more effectively prevent the selected SVAC subtype(s). Develop an initial logical framework or theory of change for the proposed project.
Step 4: Strategize for Success	Conduct a SWOT analysis to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to implementation and scale up of the proposed project approach. Develop a project strategy to leverage strengths and opportunities and minimize weaknesses and threats.
Wrap-up	Share additional feedback on the Plan2Prevent outputs and discuss next steps

PILOT WITH KUWAZA PATHFINDER – SELECT TAKEAWAYS

Landscape Analysis

It is critical to understand and map the activities of Zanzibari CSOs to promote synergies

Understand SVAC Subtypes

Unlike many places, the reported SVAC prevalence is higher among boys

Review existing programs and tailor approach to the context

Visualizing all project activities helped assess feasibility

SWOT Analysis

Strong government support and policies are critical to success thus far


PROCESS TAKEAWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

- Based on the KUWAZA Pathfinder pilot, a number of changes to the roadmap were made (more focus on scale, more guidance and examples added)
- KUWAZA Pathfinder appreciated the process being led by someone external to the project – would be more beneficial if we had more time, if more stakeholders were involved, if it was done in person
- Next steps – pilot the approach with more SVAC prevention projects so it can be refined further – **please reach out if you are interested!**

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THANK YOU!

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