

# UNDERSTANDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES AMONG ADOLESCENT REFUGEES IN ADJUMANI, UGANDA

Katherine Gambir, Lydia Kabwijamu, Christine Nalwadda, Barbara Kirunda, Ronald Ssenyonga



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**Adolescents know about sexual violence: its risk factors, its impact, and when and where to seek care. However, existing programs fail to address service barriers and do not adequately meet adolescents' diverse needs and priorities.**

## What are the implications for research?

- Disaggregate data to meet unique considerations for adolescents in all their diversity (e.g., age, disability status, language, marital status, gender identity)
- Special considerations for younger adolescents (e.g. informed assent + parental consent, child safeguarding)
- Participatory research methodologies provided deeper meaning and understanding of sensitive topics, such as sexual violence, and clarified findings received from quantitative household survey
- Innovatively engage adolescent boys to speak openly about sensitive issues among peers in a research setting
- Deliberately target the custodians of the norms at community level to change attitudes and practices



***“I have drawn a girl who was raped, and she didn't tell anyone about the rape. But she got pregnant and confided in one of her sisters. So, when all the other sisters heard about it, they decided to help confront the boy. They all escorted her to the boy's home. One of the sisters carried her luggage so I have drawn them escorting her.” (13-15 year old girl)***