

# Co-occurrence of witnessing intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) and violence against children (VAC) in Refugee Settlements in Uganda

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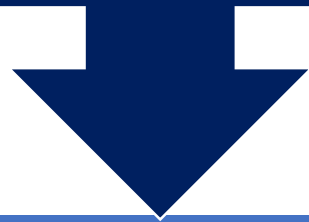
# Introduction

- Intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) and violence against children (VAC) often co-occur in households.
  - overlapping risk factors, shared root causes, and consequences
- Presumed to be heightened in humanitarian settings
  - Weakened social, institutional, and economic structures, etc.,
- Limited rigorous evidence on IPVAW-VAC co-occurrence in refugee settings to inform programming or policy



# Objectives

Examine the prevalence of witnessing IPVAW among children and young people aged 13-24 years in Uganda refugee settlements



Examine the association between witnessing IPVAW and

Physical and emotional VAC perpetrated by a caregiver

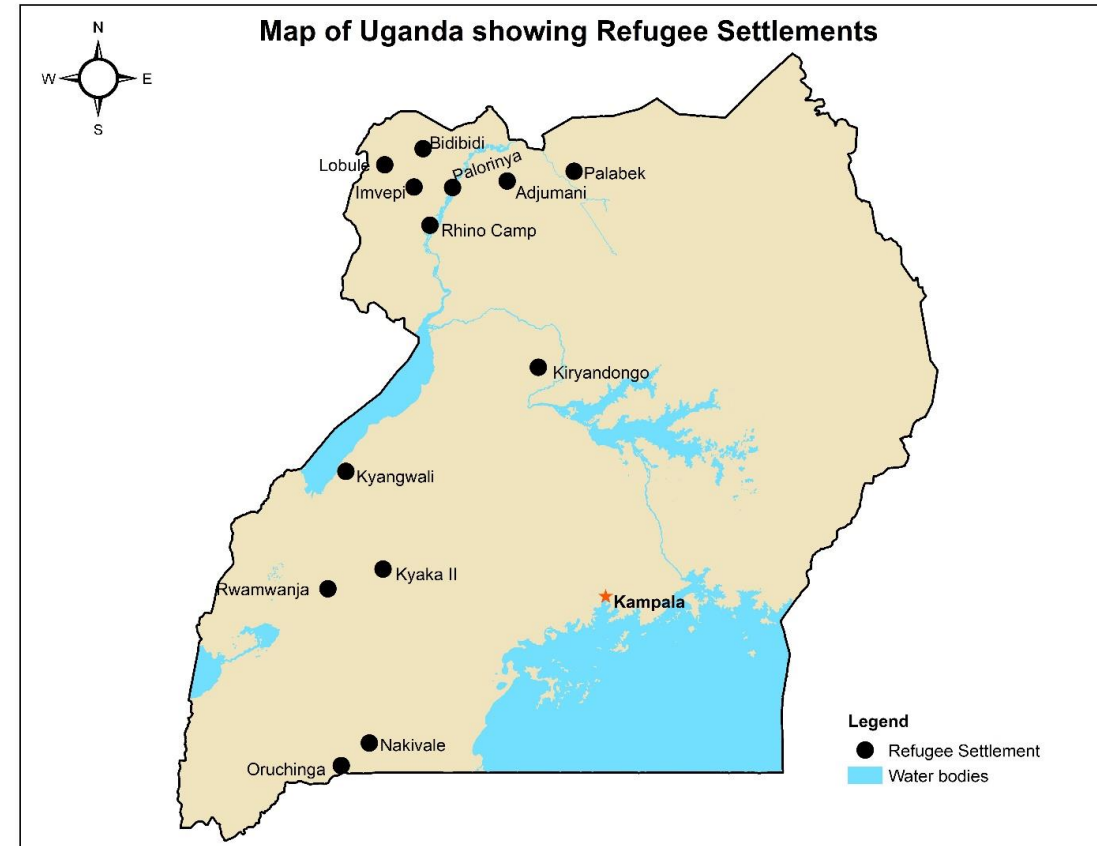
Sexual violence VAC by any perpetrator

Endorsement of norms justifying IPVAW



# Methods

- 2022 Uganda HVACS
  - Adaptation of standard VACS used in development setting
- Representative household survey in 13 refugee settlements in Uganda
- Multistage sampling
- Split sampling
  - 1,338 13-24-year-old females
  - 927 13-24-year-old males



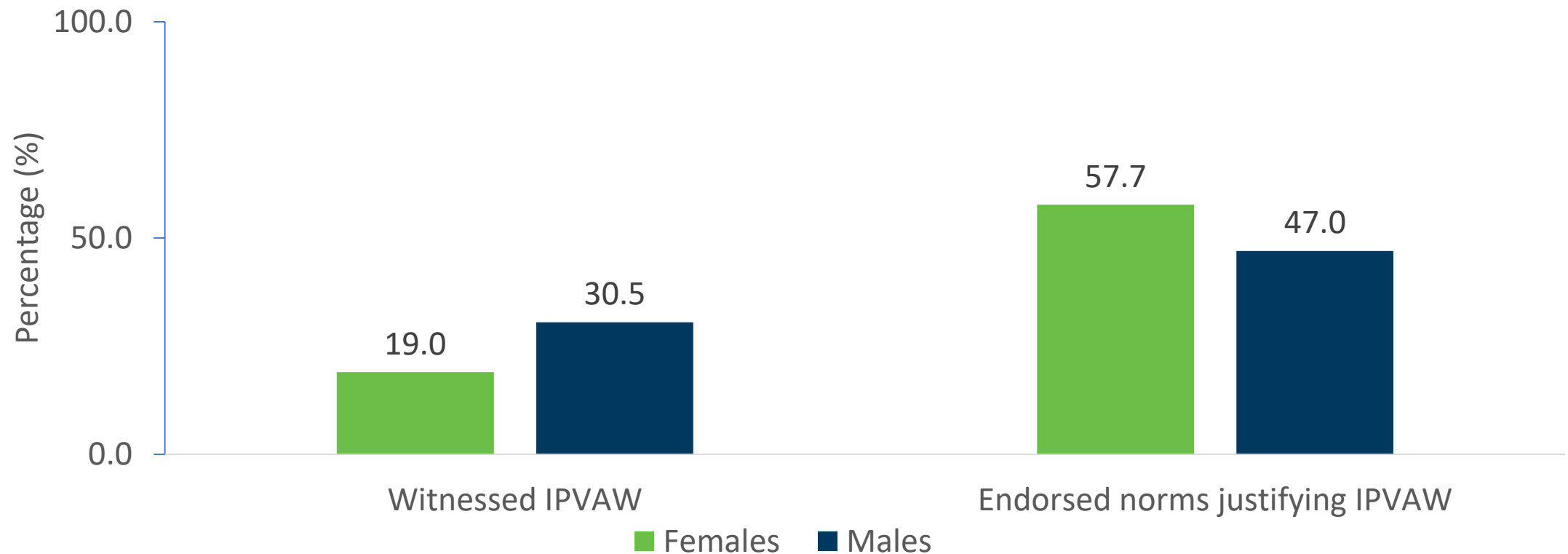
# Measures

**Childhood experiences combine lifetime experiences for 13-17-year-olds and experiences before the age of 18 for 18-24-year-olds**

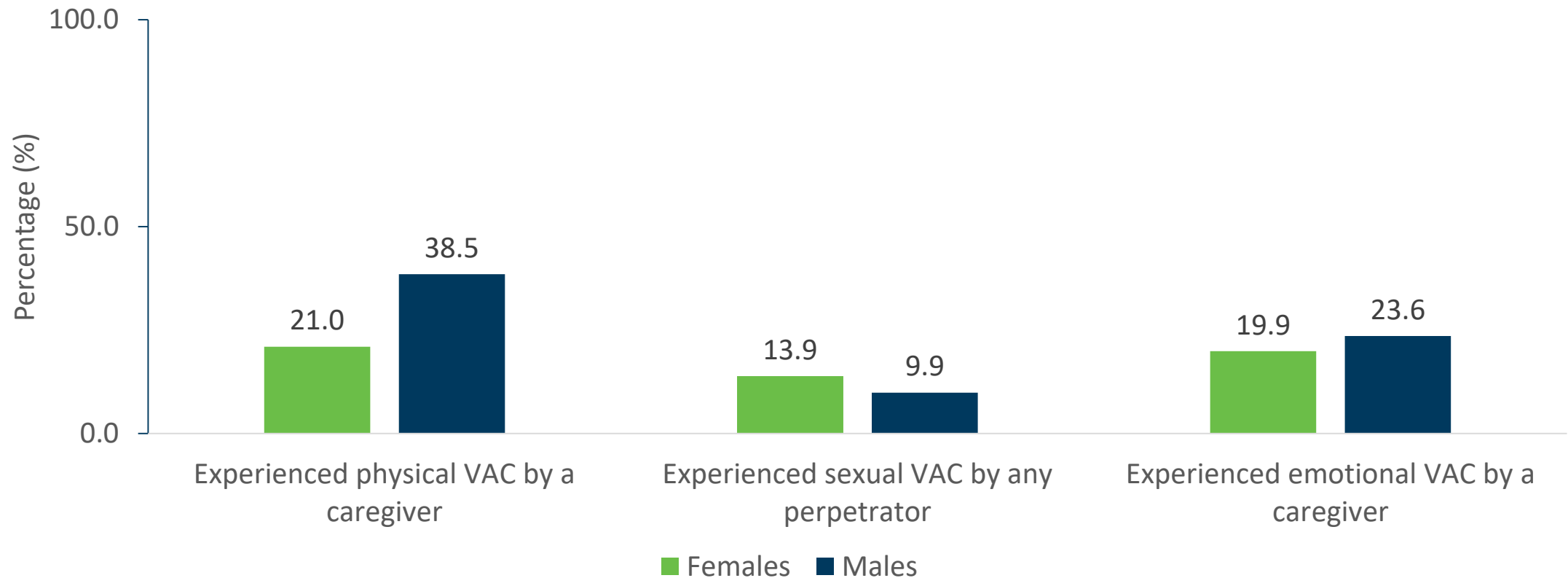
| <b>Measures</b>                      | <b>Definition</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Witnessing IPVAW in childhood</b> | Ever seen or heard their mother or step-mother being physically violated by their father or step-father before age 18   |
| <b>Physical VAC by a caregiver</b>   | Experience of one or more physical acts of violence (e.g., slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, whipping,...) by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relatives.                |
| <b>Emotional VAC by a caregiver</b>  | Experience of emotional violence by a parents, adult caregiver, or other adult relatives.   |
| <b>Sexual VAC by any perpetrator</b> | Experience of one or more incidents of unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured perpetrated by any perpetrator.                         |
| <b>Justification of IPVAW</b>        | Agreeing it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she: goes out without telling him; neglects the children; argues with him; refuses to have sex with him or burns the food |

# FINDINGS

# High prevalence of witnessing IPVAW in childhood, and endorsement of norms justifying IPVAW among females and males aged 13–24

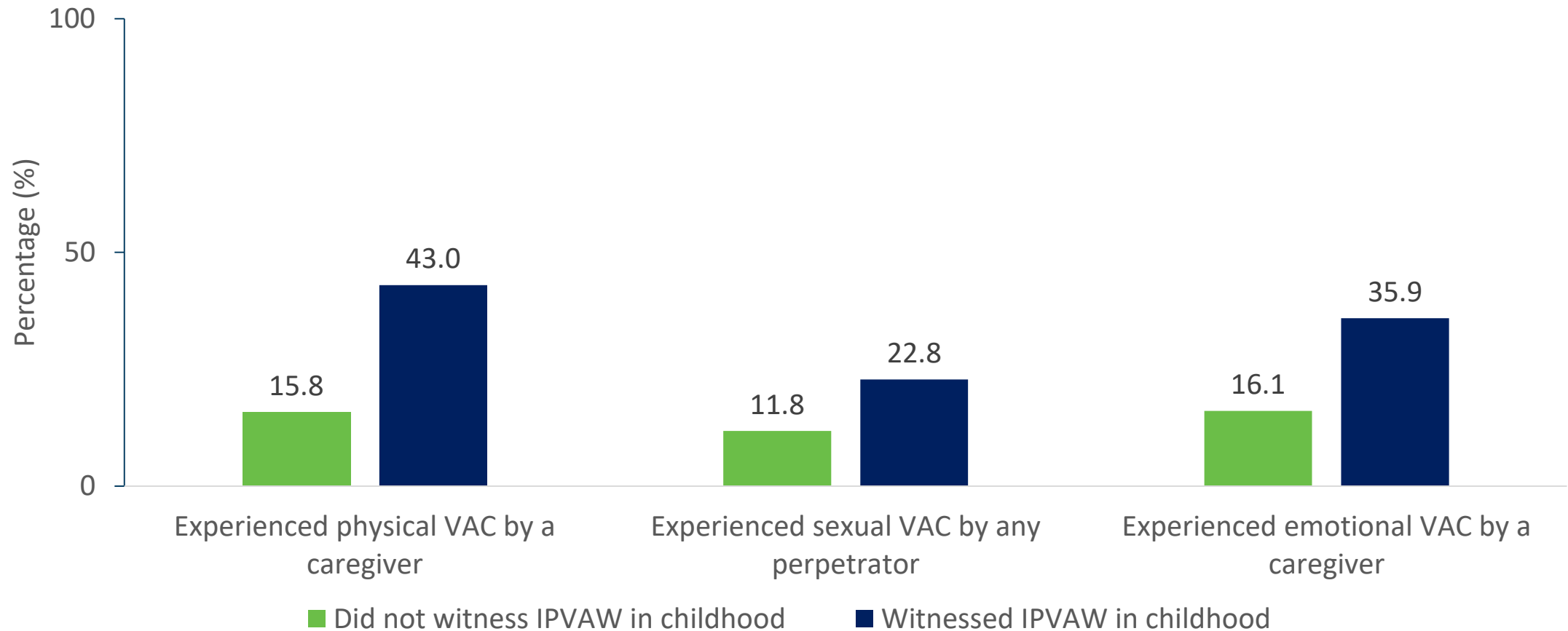


# Prevalence of physical and emotional VAC by a caregiver, and sexual VAC by any perpetrator among females and males aged 13–24 years

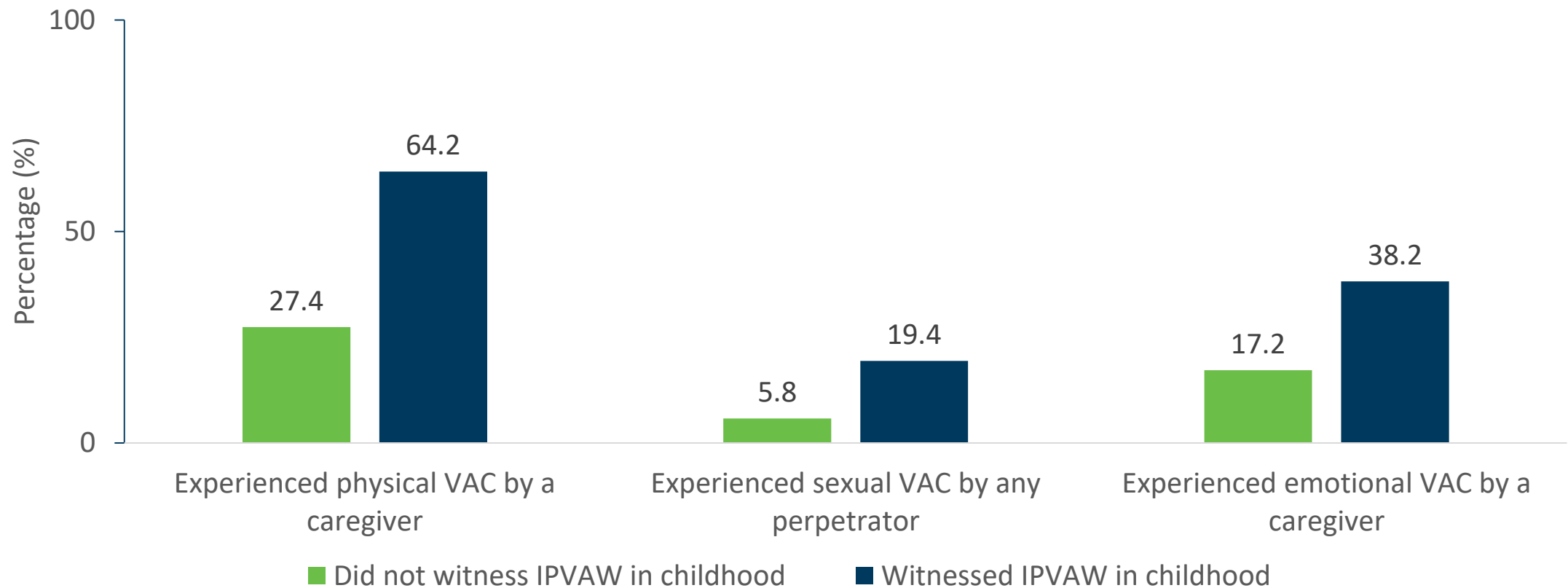




# IPVAW and VAC co-occurrence among females aged 13-24 years



# IPVAW and VAC co-occurrence among males aged 13-24 years

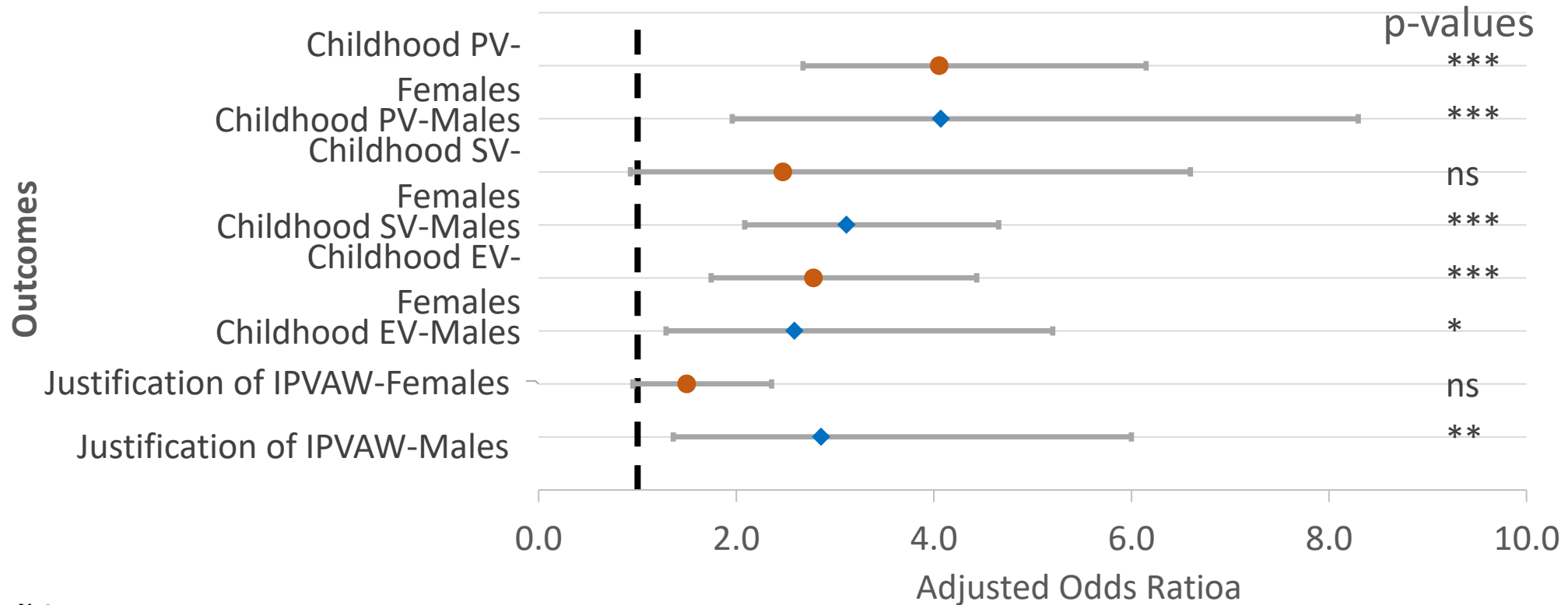


# Endorsement of norms justifying IPVAW by witnessing IPVAW in childhood among females and males aged 13–24 years

|  | Females                          |                           | Males**                         |                           |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Endorsement of norms justifying IPVAW  | % Did not witness IPVAW (n=1087) | % Witnessed IPVAW (n=251) | % Did not witness IPVAW (n=685) | % Witnessed IPVAW (n=242) |
| Endorsed norms justifying IPVAW        | 56.0                             | 64.9                      | 38.7                            | 65.8                      |
| Did not endorse norms justifying IPVAW | 44.0                             | 35.1                      | 61.3                            | 34.2                      |

\*\*p<0.01

# Likelihood of experiencing VAC and justifying IPVAW among females and males aged 13–24 years who witnessed IPVAW in childhood



**Notes:**

PV-Physical violence; SV-Sexual violence; EV-Emotional violence;

<sup>a</sup>-Odds ratios were adjusted for age, level of education attainment, work status, and country of origin

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$

ns-Not significant

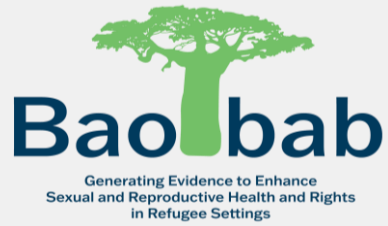
# Conclusion

- Coupled with the endorsement of IPVAW, the IPVAW-VAC co-occurrence is common in refugee settlements in Uganda.
  - May lead to short- and long-term health consequences, including mental health issues\*

*\* Kisaakye P, Seruwagi G, Odwe G, Obare F, Muthuri S, Kabiru CW, Wado YD, Undie CC. Associations between childhood violence and mental health in refugee settings in Uganda. Child Protection and Practice. 2024 Aug 1;2:100038.*

# Policy and program implications

- Violence prevention and response programs need to be attentive to the realities of IPVAW-VAC co-occurrence.
- GBV, Health, Education and Child Protection sub-sectors need to create synergies and leverage programming around intersecting IPVAW-VAC risk factors in households within refugee settlements.
- Caregiver support through information and skill-building sessions to foster nurturing non-violent parenting.



## Filling Gaps in Evidence to Enhance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights among Vulnerable Populations in Refugee Settings in the East and Horn of Africa



The Population Council leads the Baobab Research Program Consortium in close partnership with the Population Council Kenya and the African Population and Health Research Center. Situated in the East and Horn of Africa, this Africa-based and African-led consortium is filling critical evidence gaps to reduce inequities in sexual reproductive health and rights among vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings.

