

# POLICY SURVEY REPORT ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE IN KWALE

## BACKGROUND

This policy survey was conducted in Msambweni and Lunga Lunga sub-counties to assess community awareness, perceptions, and experiences regarding laws and policies on Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) / Sexual Exploitation and Violence (SEV) / Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

1. Assess awareness of existing laws, policies, and frameworks on SGBV/SEV/GBV among different population groups in Kwale County.
2. Examine perceptions of the adequacy of government interventions in preventing SGBV/SEV/GBV.
3. Explore the prevalence of community experiences with SGBV/SEV/GBV.
4. Assess the accessibility and utilisation of support services for survivors of SGBV/SEV/GBV.
5. Provide policy and programmatic recommendations to strengthen prevention, response, and survivor-centred approaches.

In addition, the survey sought to generate evidence to guide policy adjustments, identify gaps and challenges in implementation, and strengthen prevention and response mechanisms.

## EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

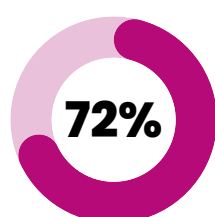
Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combined key informant interviews, focus group discussions, a structured household survey, and a county-level policy review conference.

In total, 135 respondents participated in the survey, supported by six key informants, four focus group discussions, and 19 multi-sectoral actors engaged in the policy conference. Data was analysed through both descriptive statistics and thematic analysis to generate nuanced, evidence-based insights.

## FINDINGS



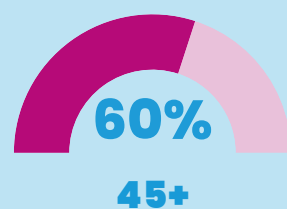
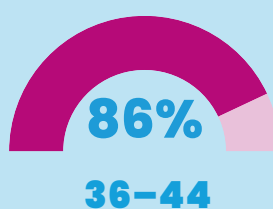
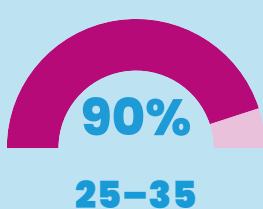
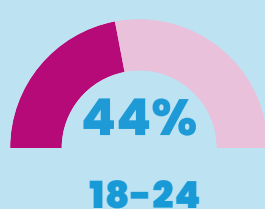
### AWARENESS OF LAWS AND POLICIES ON SEV/SGBV/GBV



**WERE AWARE OF EXISTING LAWS AND  
POLICIES ADDRESSING SEV/GBV**

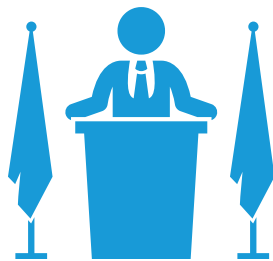
The key legal and policy instruments included the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the Sexual Offences Act (2006), the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015), the Children Act (2022), the National Gender Policy (2019), and the Kwale County Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Protection Act (2023).

Awareness spans all generations but varies by age



# FINDINGS

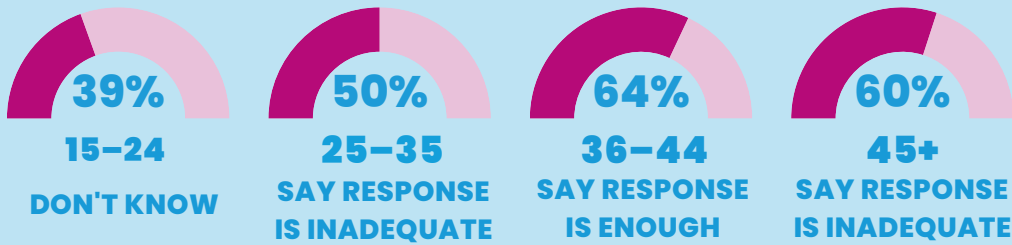
## PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT ACTION



41% say more action is needed.

Respondents said despite notable progress in SEV response through awareness efforts, institutional coordination, and policy integration, factors such as weak enforcement, corruption, and limited case follow-up hinder access to justice, forcing survivors to rely on informal resolution systems.

Generational differences were clear.



## COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE OF SGBV/SEV/GBV



Awareness spans all generations but varies by age

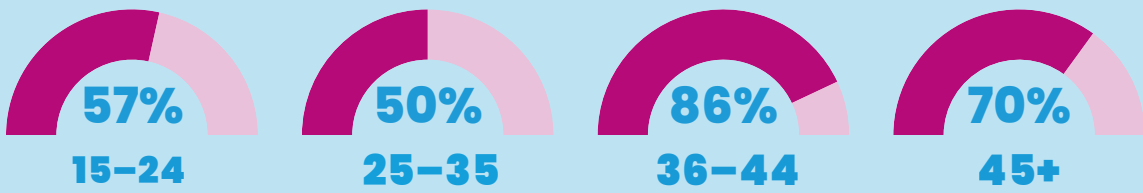


## ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES

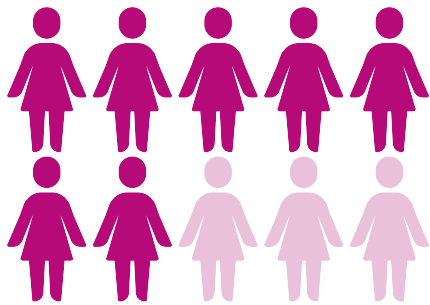


Respondents noted that although survivors increasingly access health services, weak reporting mechanisms and poor data capture at police stations, coupled with low case finalisation rates in court, undermine accountability and justice for GBV survivors.

Age disaggregation revealed deep inequities

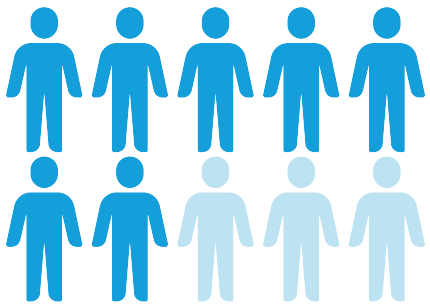


## GENDERED AWARENESS



**74%**

For women, awareness is tied to survival, resilience, and navigating violence.



**72%**

For men, awareness comes from being bystanders, perpetrators, or enforcing patriarchal norms.

# FINDINGS

## SUB-COUNTY VARIATIONS



### LUNGA LUNGA

**86%**

Are aware

**42%**

is not enough

**62%**

accessible

Awareness

Government Action

Support services access

### MSAMBWENI

**65%**

Are aware

**56%**

is not enough

**68%**

accessible

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Kwale County should adopt and operationalise the Kwale Gender & Social Inclusion Policy, develop clear guidelines for the implementation of the SGBV Act (2023) and implement existing policies and laws that address SEV.
- 2 Kwale County should establish dedicated county budget lines to ensure sustainable financing for SEV/SGBV prevention and response, and for the development and maintenance data systems for effective coordination, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making.
- 3 Kwale County should strengthen its oversight and accountability mechanisms to curb corruption and informal justice processes, safeguarding survivors' access to fair, confidential, and transparent justice pathways.
- 4 Stakeholders should invest in critical infrastructure like safe houses and recovery centres, and integration of psychosocial support with economic empowerment programs.
- 5 All stakeholders should implement youth-centred awareness campaigns through schools, youth clubs, and digital media to strengthen adolescents'—especially girls'—understanding of their rights and available protections.
- 6 Stakeholders should partner with religious leaders, women's groups, men and youth movements to drive community awareness efforts aimed at dismantling harmful beliefs, promoting accountability, and advancing gender equality.
- 7 All stakeholders must collectively commit to ongoing research to address the evolving nature of SGBV within the Kwale community

## CONNECT A GIRL (CAG) PROJECT

**Connect a Girl** project was implemented by Youth for a Sustainable World in partnership with Sauti ya Wanawake Pwani in Kwale County, Kenya, through funding support from African Women Development Fund (AWDF).

The 44-month project sought to advocate for the protection and advancement of women and girls' rights from SEV by implementing the enactment and operationalisation of the Kwale County Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Protection Act 2023.

The project enhanced the agency of women and girls to engage decision makers and hold duty-bearers accountable, and to advocate for women and girls' rights to leadership, inclusion, and participation in public development processes secured through the adoption of the Kwale Gender and Social Inclusion Policy.



**Connect a Girl project was implemented with support from African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).**

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