



Sexual Violence against Children in Africa: Evidence, Practice, Challenges & Opportunities

**5th CRM on Protection of Children from Sexual
Violence - Strasbourg, France 18-19 June 2015**

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Contextual Factors

**Government
limitations**

**Urbanization,
Globalization**

**Practices
endorsed
by culture,
religion**



International

State

Poverty



Family

Community

**Tough
upbringing**

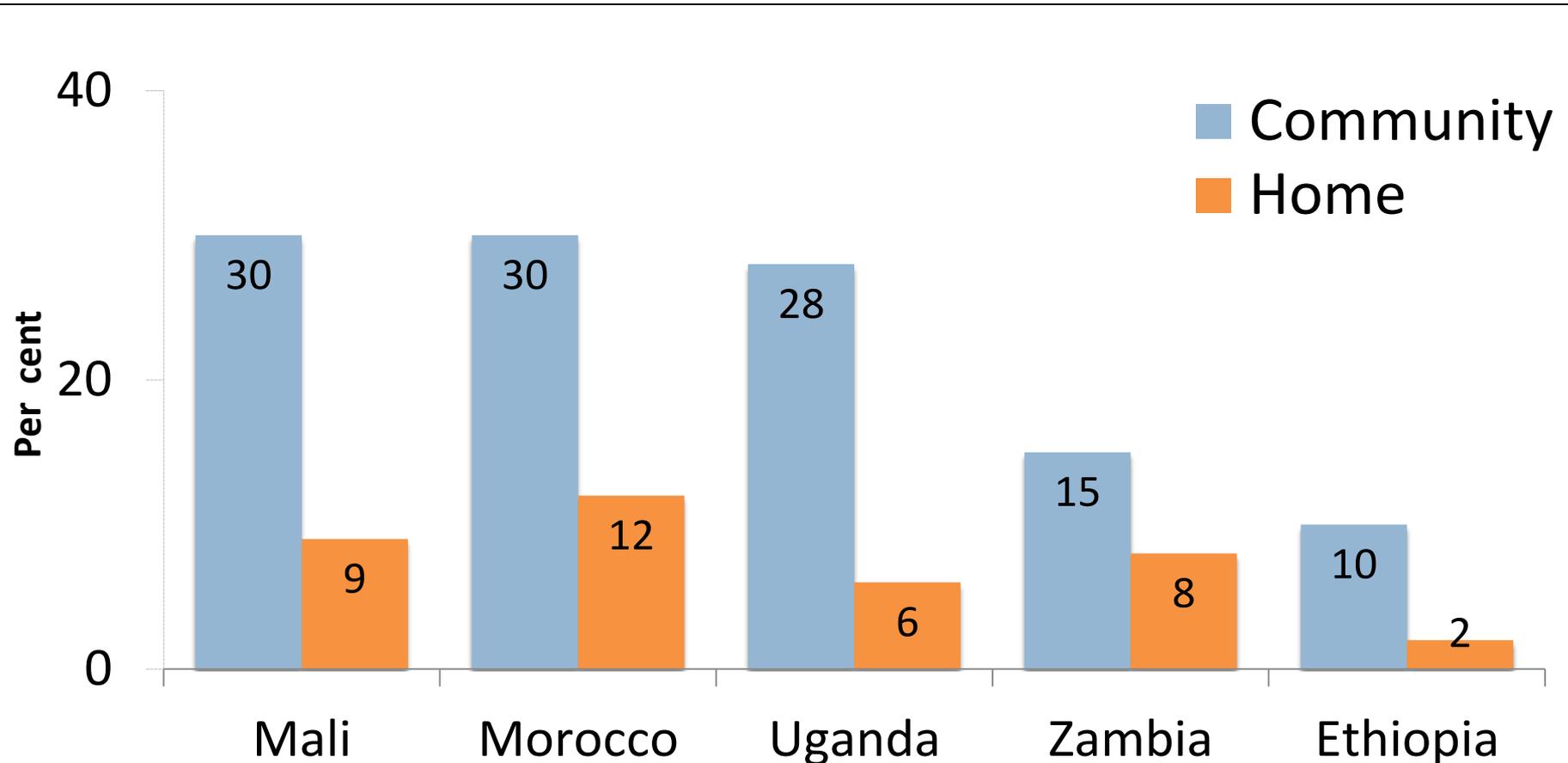


Child

**Parent
death/separati
on**

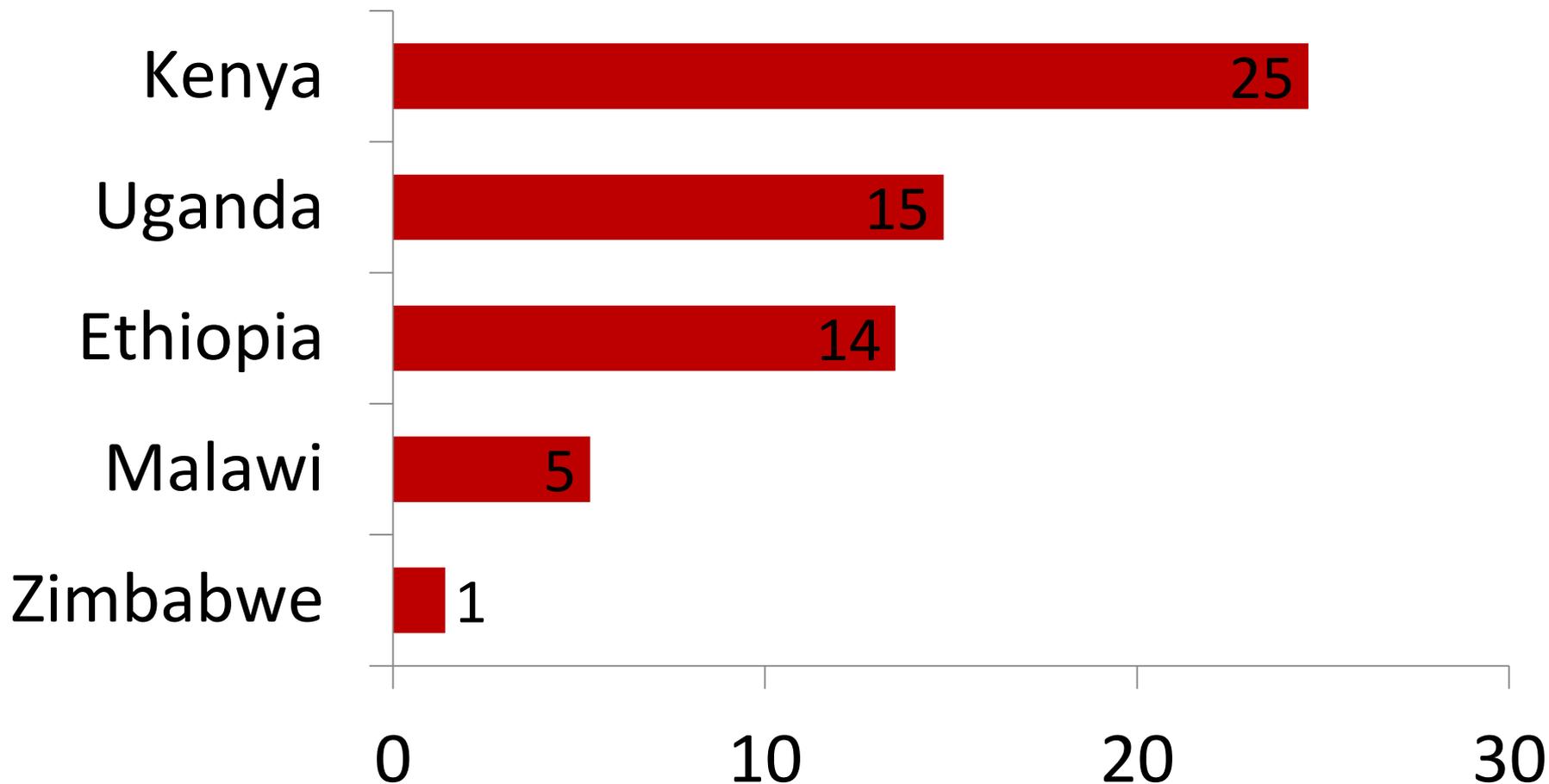
Evidence - Prevalence

% children who experienced at least one form of sexual violence



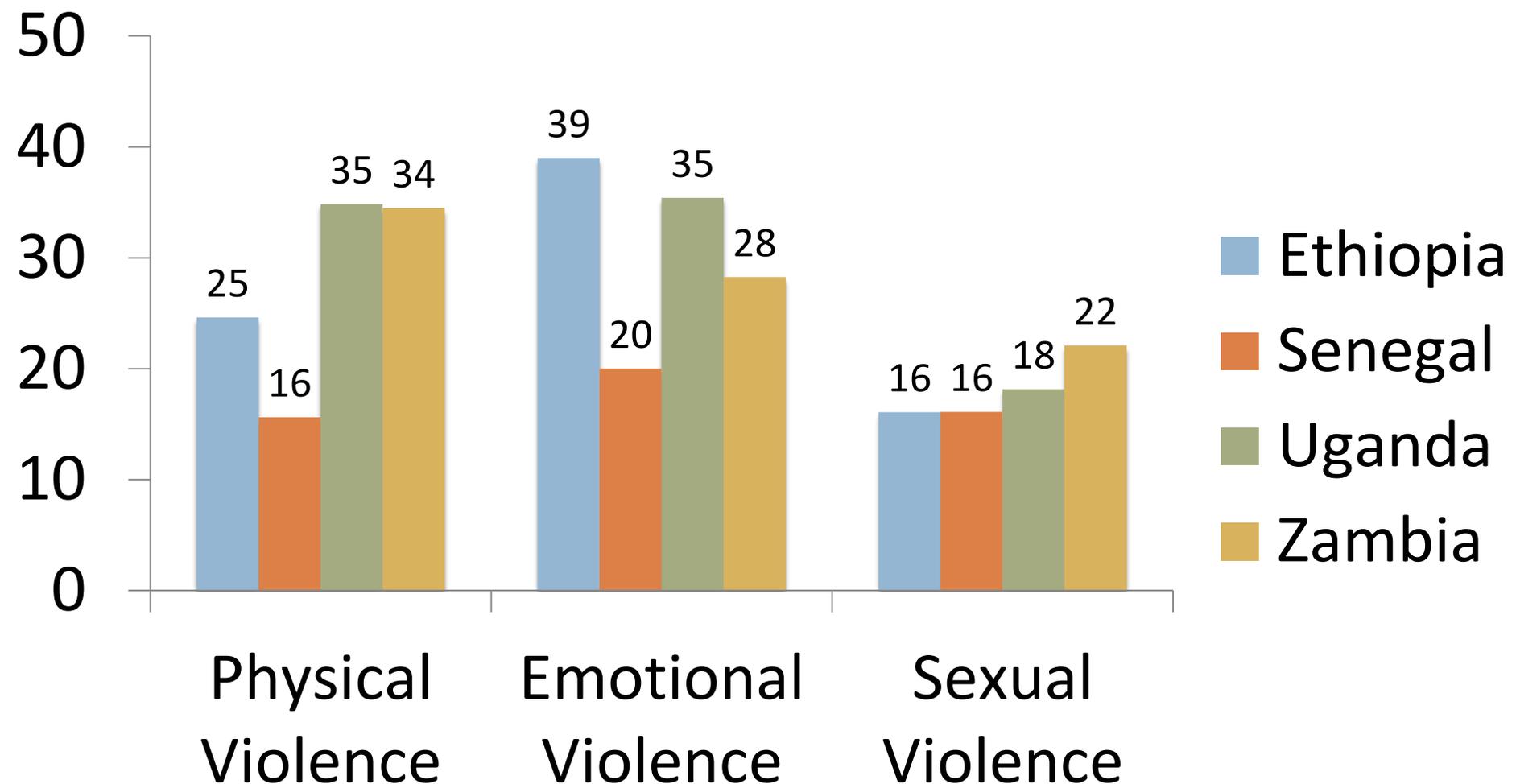
Evidence – “Street” Children

Forced sex, including rape



Evidence – Children with Disabilities

% of violence by forms of violence & by country



What is being done?

Specific laws on sexual offences against children

Criminalization of Child prostitution, child pornography

AU's campaign to end child marriage

SL, Niger, Benin, Ghana: linking statutory system with community mechanisms

What is being done?

South Africa: Thuthuzela Care Centres – integrated services for victims of SE

Togo: training for child victims to assist rehabilitation and reintegration

Botswana: partnership Gvt-Children-Families-Communities

Liberia: identification with community leaders of girls at risk

Challenges

Not a political priority, a development, economic, or social justice concern

Inadequacy of legislation on SE, Child sex tourism, extraterritorial sexual offences

Focus on treatment and response not on prevention. Little recognition of root causes

Modern Law vs Customary Law

Challenges

Gender-based differences not sufficiently addressed

Capacity constraints: enforcement of policy and implementation

Evidence generation externally-driven → limited national ownership

Outdated, poor quality data, infrequent data collection

Opportunities

Efforts at documenting nature and extent of VAC through national surveys

Inter-Agency Group on Strengthening Child Protection Systems in SSA

Sustainable Development Goal 16.2

Agenda 2063: The Africa we want

Thank you!



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