



LEARNING FROM THE STEPPING STONES AND CREATING FUTURES EVALUATION: EXPLORING THE IMPACT ON IPV AND TRANSACTIONAL SEX

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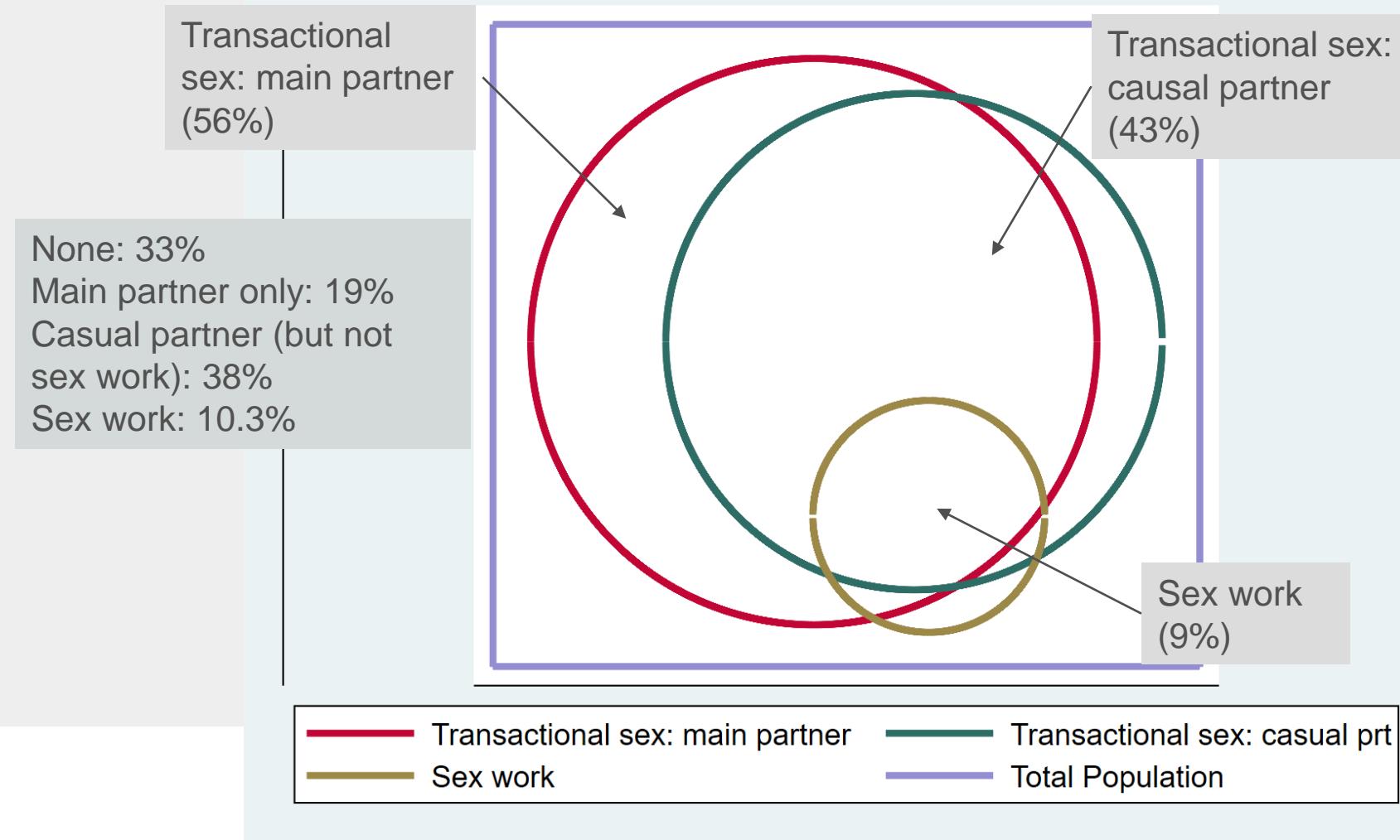




URBAN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- 25-50% of urban populations lives in slums (UN, 2016)
- Informal settlements are characterised by high population density, poor infrastructure etc. leads to poor health outcomes (UN, 2016)
- In eThekweni Municipality, SA, estimated 25% households are in informal settlements (HDA, 2015)
- Interventions to address violence and HIV often struggle in these settings (Gibbs et al., 2012)

EXCHANGE SEX AMONG WOMEN IN SSCF

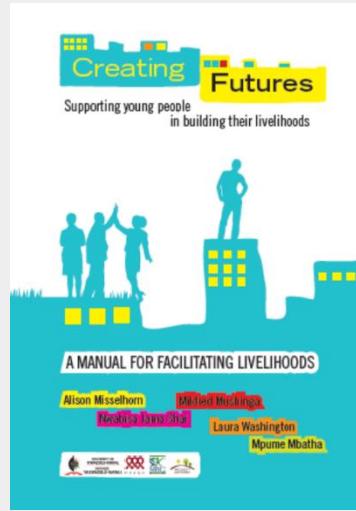
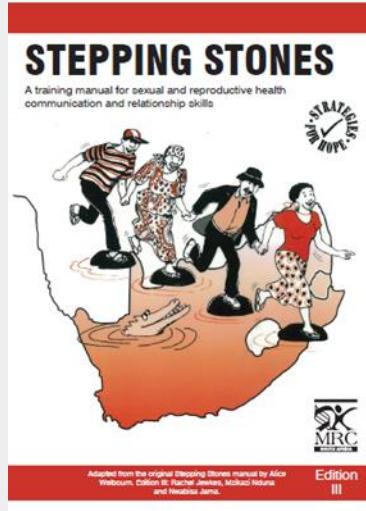


Overall (n=680)		
	n	%
Age		
18/19	79	12.3
20-24	310	48.1
25-30	256	39.7
Education		
Primary only	50	7.8
Secondary (not complete)	398	61.7
Secondary (completed)	197	30.5
Relationship Status		
Living together/married	106	16.4
Partner, but not living together	424	65.7
No current relationship	115	17.8
Kids (yes)	494	76.6
Any earnings past month (yes)	194	30.1

HEALTH OUTCOMES BY FORMS OF EXCHANGE SEX AMONG WOMEN IN SSCF (BASELINE)

	IPV		Non-partner rape		Depression		Problem alcohol use		Modern Contraceptive use	
	aOR(95%CI)	P-value	aOR(95%CI)	P-value	aOR(95%CI)	P-value	aOR(95%CI)	P-value	aOR(95%CI)	P-value
No exchange sex	ref		ref		ref		ref		Ref	
Transactional sex with main partner	1.15 (1.09-2.54)	0.705	1.38 (0.79-2.38)	0.255	1.09 (0.67-1.78)	0.809	1.26 (0.64-2.46)	0.503	0.84 (0.49-1.44)	0.529
Transactional sex with casual partner	1.67 (1.09-2.54)	0.018	2.67 (1.71-4.16)	<0.001	1.30 (1.95)	0.212	2.88 (1.70-4.88)	<0.001	0.77 (0.49-1.22)	0.266
Sex Work	1.25 (0.66-2.39)	0.492	3.49 (1.85-6.58)	<0.001	2.03 (0.86-3.80)	0.027	5.84 (2.91-11.73)	<0.001	2.17 (0.96-4.92)	0.062

STEPPING STONES/CREATING FUTURES INTERVENTION



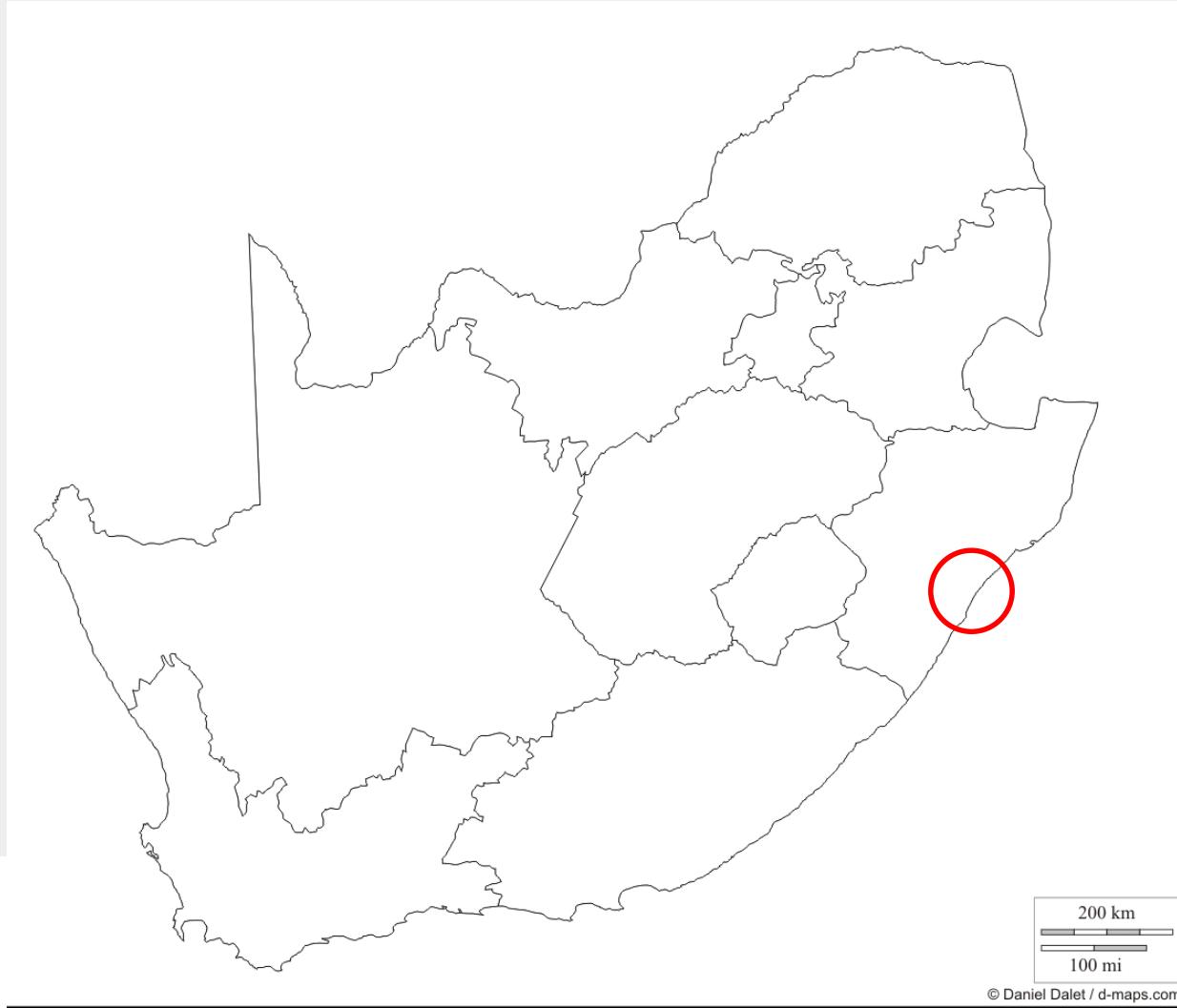
Two components:

1. Transforming gender norms
2. Livelihood strengthening

21 sessions; each session 3 hours long; primarily single sex; women and men are not in relationships

Delivered by trained peer-facilitators; based on assumptions of participatory methodologies

SSCF TRIAL DESIGN



Cluster randomized controlled trial, wait list

678 women
672 men
34 clusters

2 year follow up
Sept 2015 – Oct 2018

74.9% men & 79.8% women followed up

MEN'S IMPACTS

- Reduction in violence perpetration and alcohol use
 - Significant reduction in past year physical and/or sexual IPV perpetration (aOR0.70, p=0.019)
 - Significant reduction in past year economic IPV perpetration (aOR0.65, p=0.035)
 - Marginal reduction in past year non-partner rape perpetration (aOR0.78, p=0.1)
 - Significant reduction in overall alcohol consumption in past year (β -1.03, p=0.041)
- Stronger livelihoods
 - Significant increase in savings (β 0.64, p=0.009)
 - Improved working in past 3 months and work consistency past year
- No impact on sexual risk behaviour
 - Transactional sex with casual/once-off partner no change (aOR0.92, p=0.692)
 - Casual once/off partners in past year (2+) (aOR0.95, p=0.803)
- No impact on gender norms (β -0.30, p=0.712)



MEN'S IMPACTS – WHY?

- Qualitative research:
 - Supported men to moderate their emotions, including through building relationships with one-another (Washington et al., 2020)
 - Provided a space to recognize their individual circumstances were not an intrinsic feature of themselves, but their location in the economy/society
 - Improved relationships with main partners, less objectification of women
 - However, transactional sex was not tackled directly
 - Primarily these discussions focused on intimate, familial, or community relationships
 - At times facilitators shifted to didactic approaches to intervention delivery



WOMEN'S IMPACTS

- No impact on women's experiences of violence
 - Past year physical and/or sexual IPV (aOR0.92, p=0.672)
 - Past year non-partner rape (aOR0.99, p=0.968)
- Stronger livelihoods
 - Significant increase in working in past 3 months (aOR1.63, p=0.002)
 - Significant increase in past year work consistency (aOR1.74, p=0.006)
 - Significant increase in past month earnings
- No impact on sexual risk behaviour
 - Transactional sex with casual/once-off partner no change (aOR0.92, p=0.692)
 - Transactional sex with main partner (aOR0.88, p=0.401)
 - Casual once/off partners in past year (2+) (aOR1.12, p=0.565)
 - Sex work (aOR0.99, p=0.978)
- No impact on gender norms (β 0.25, p=0.718)



WOMEN'S IMPACTS - WHY?

- Significantly improved economic outcomes, but absolute earnings low (mean R565/\$60/month at endline)
- High levels of unresolved trauma/poor mental health (e.g. 45% potential depression), may limit engagement in transforming relationships
- Qualitative data – distributed agency, but no radical reform:
 - Small steps around women's primary relationships (e.g. confidence, negotiation)
 - Some developed new identities e.g. church going, resisting negative behaviours, but for others this was for a limited period
 - Agency was around small actions, changes

CONCLUSION

- In SSCF, different forms of transactional sex and sex work had different health impacts (transactional sex with casual and sex work v. similar)
- SSCF impacted on men's perpetration of IPV, alcohol use and livelihoods, v. similar to Stepping Stones trial in Eastern Cape (rural, younger men, Jewkes et al., 2008)
- SSCF improved women's livelihoods, but had no impact on other outcomes
- Transactional sex, while having similar risk factors to IPV, requires specific interventions/approaches beyond those effective for IPV prevention

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