



THE COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH TO WORKING WITH MEN AND BOYS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

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Outline of the presentation

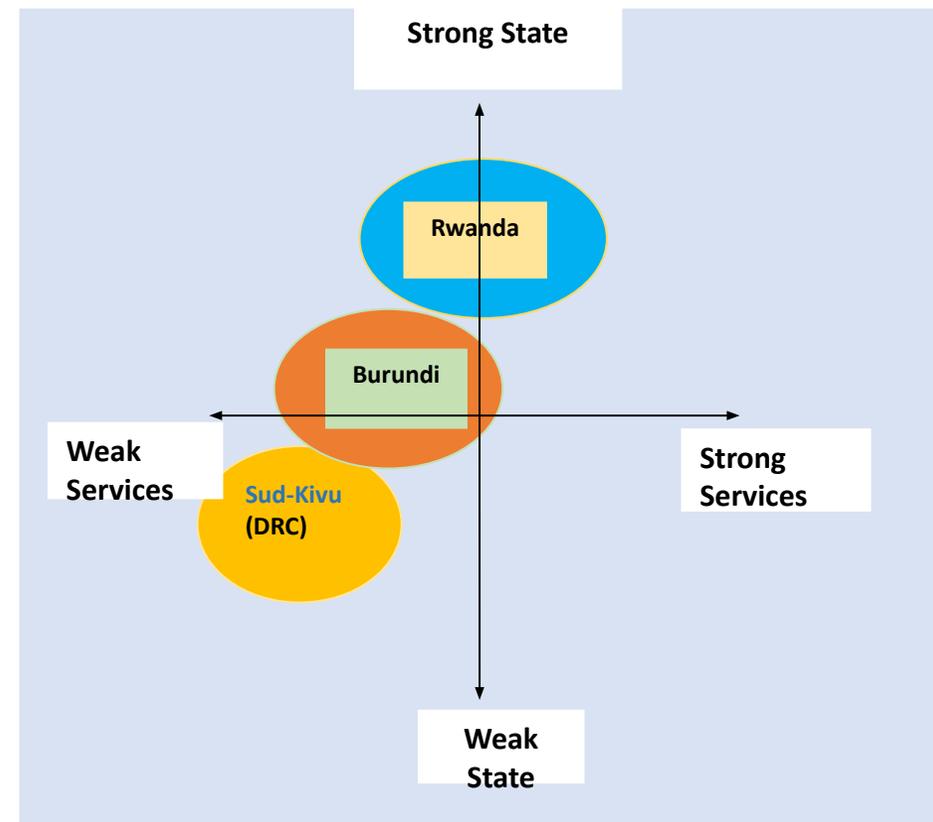
- Background
- Community-based psychosocial approach
- EMB approach at SDC
- Key activities
- Dealing with resistance
- Outcomes





Background

- 3 decades of armed conflicts in the region; high level of fragmentation and destruction of community cohesion
- Cultural similarities in the three countries; patriarchal norms
- Numerous initiatives and national progress, especially on women rights (Rwanda)
- Services for individuals are not sufficient to address the needs of survivors



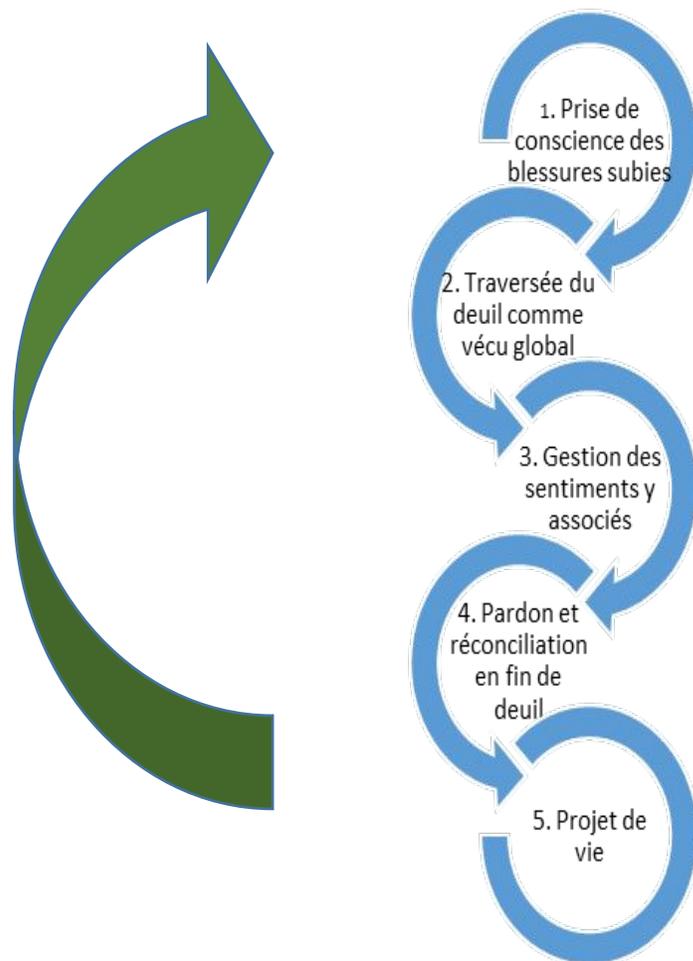


The psychosocial regional programme

- 4 phases (2011-2023) : 9Mio CHF/ each phase of 3 to 4 years
- Implemented in 3 countries: Burundi, Rwanda, South-Kivu (DRC)
- National and local NGOs as implementing partners
- 3 axes of intervention:
 - Community level
 - Individual services
 - Policy dialogue



Steps of “healing”





Characteristics of psychosocial approach

Individual approach

The abuse and wounds are understood as individual suffering/attributed to the individual

Holistic case management: medical, legal, psychosocial and socioeconomic is focused on the direct survivor

The role of the professional: "Expert" with the right knowledge to take action

Target groups, victims and perpetrators
Individual and vulnerable beneficiaries; aim to support the victim and punish the perpetrator

Community based approach

The abuse and wounds are understood as suffering by the collective/attributed to the collective

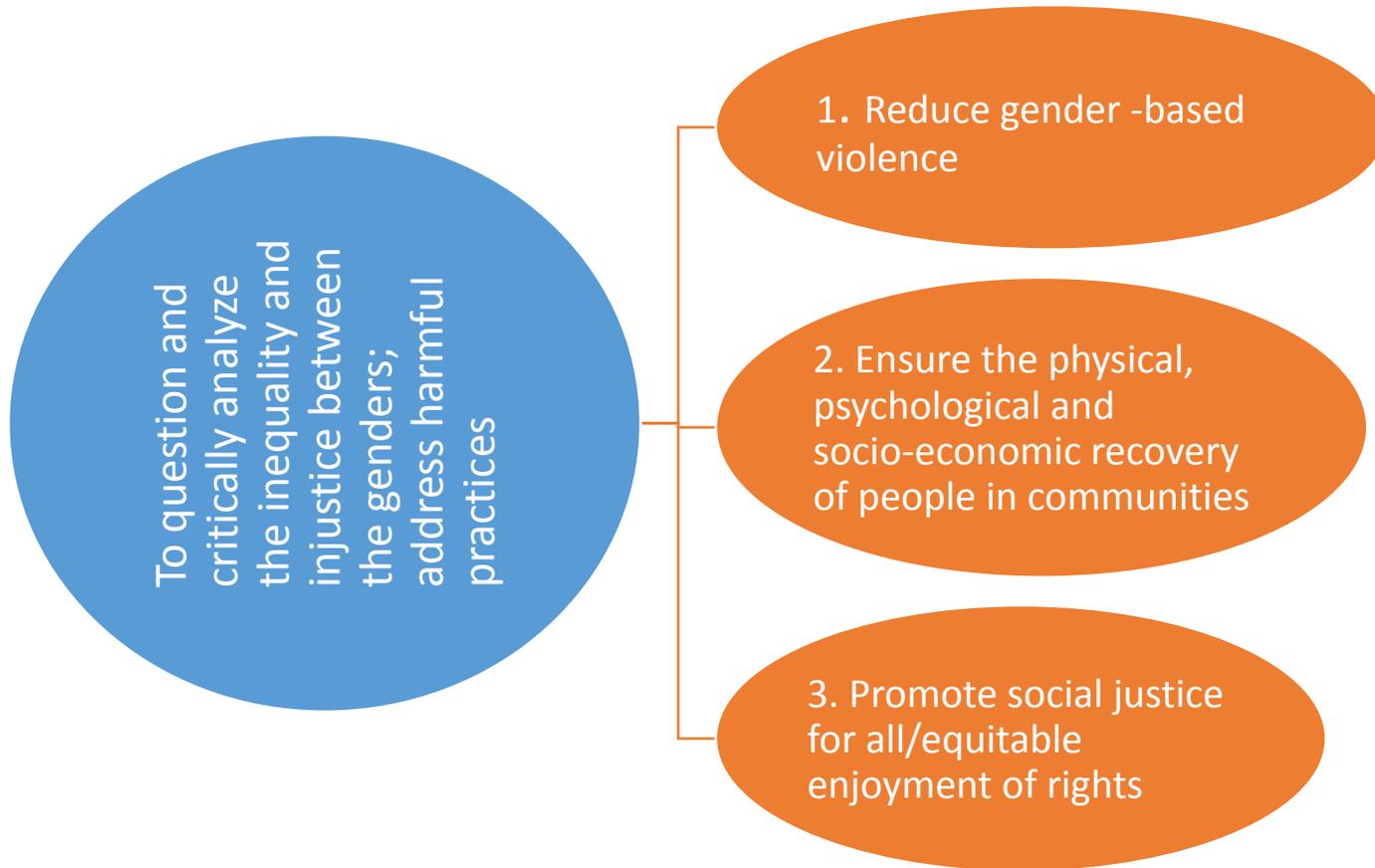
Homogeneous and heterogeneous groups share experience and build solidarity

The role of the professional: advisor or facilitator, also a member of the healing process

Target groups, victims and perpetrators:
Survivors, perpetrators and other actors and members of the community are involved.
Different level of victimisation
supporting them to become agents of change

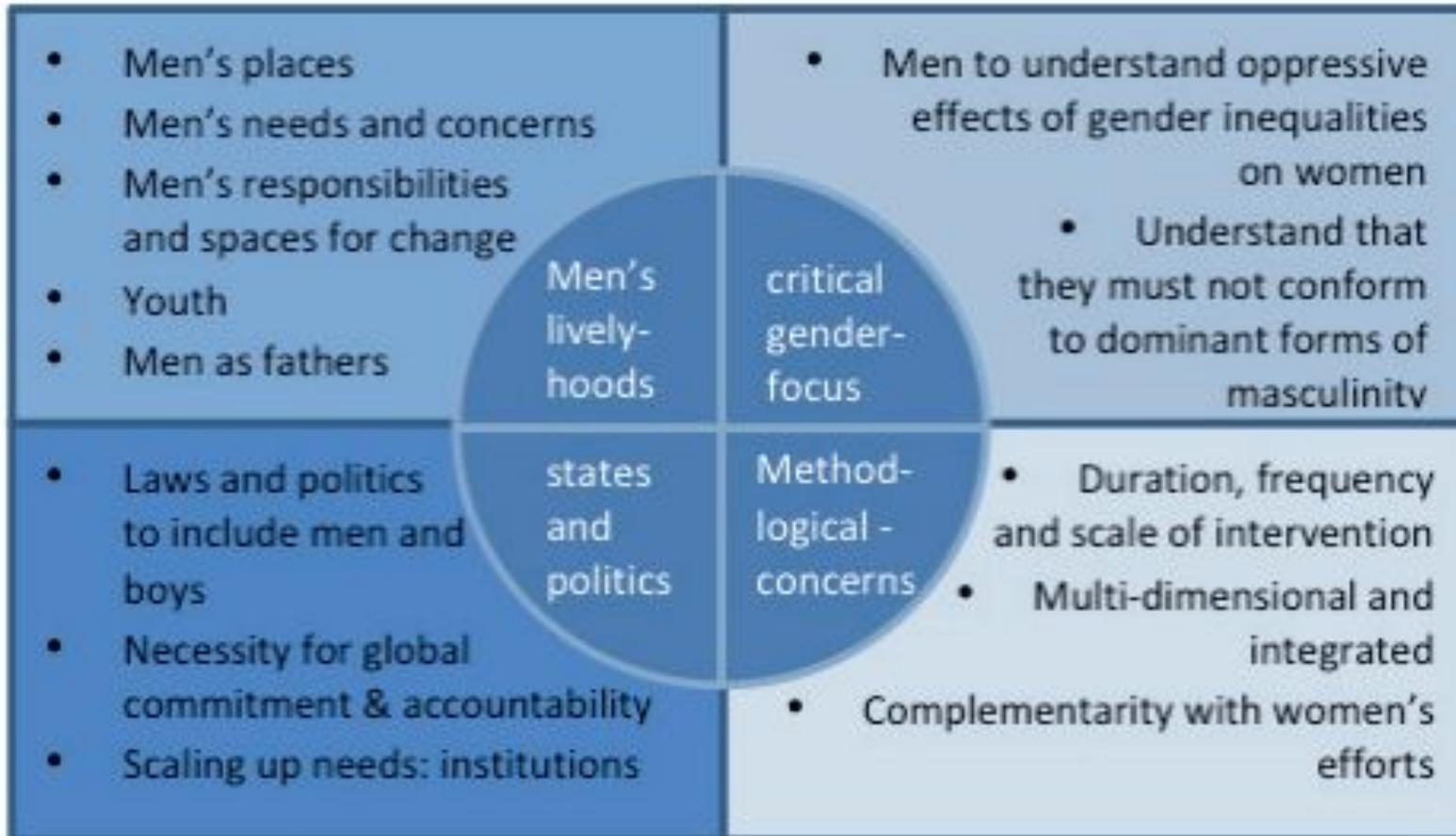


Why working with men and boys?





Engaging with Men&Boys (EMB) to fight SGBV





Building blocks of the work with Men and Boys

- Build competencies of NGOs/operational partners
- Create a thorough understanding of the context
- Reference to legal framework and institutional actors
- Identify community resources and actively use them!





Keys activities of the projects

A set of activities which complete each other with the aim to influence both - the individual and the community as a whole

- Accompanying men and boys within the group and at individual level (e.g. Indashyikirwa)
- Capacity building through awareness and sensitization (trainings, briefings, workshops)
- Safe spaces for dialogue for specific groups of men and boys
- Advocacy





How to address resistance to change

Why resistances are frequent in working with men and boys

- Men have not learned to question themselves
- Position of power and privilege
- Fear of being labeled as weak and gender non-conforming

⇒ Resistance is way to manage fear and insecurity and an effort to stay in control

Resistances are opportunities

- Important to understand the significance and value for the men
- An opportunity and entry point to understand better the inner world of the men involved in the dialogue
- On this basis, it is possible to reflect on oneself



Success factors for the work with men and boys

- Focus on the men as persons, their experience and their life
- Define a proactive role for them in and with the community
- Use the resources in the community (reflection and dialogue groups, role models)
- Use legal framework and work with institutional actors
- Work simultaneously on transformative processes (individual-communities)



Sufficient time for these processes is a sine qua non condition to achieving transformational change



Outcomes of working with men and boys

Les effets mesurables dans les communautés

- More women and men access care in service centers
- Testimonies of changes in attitudes towards women in general and survivors in particular
- Improvement of psychosocial situation for survivors
- Better integration of survivors into communities
- Improved living conditions
- Satisfaction of the beneficiaries

- **Breaking the silence/increased support seeking**
- **Decreasing complaints of violence to local authorities**
- **Reduction of violence: recourse to dialogue/ peaceful resolution of conflicts or disagreements**
- **Sustainable reintegration process**

Merci

