



CHILD BEHAVIOR & EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE IN THE HOME

Evidence from Nyanza Province, Kenya

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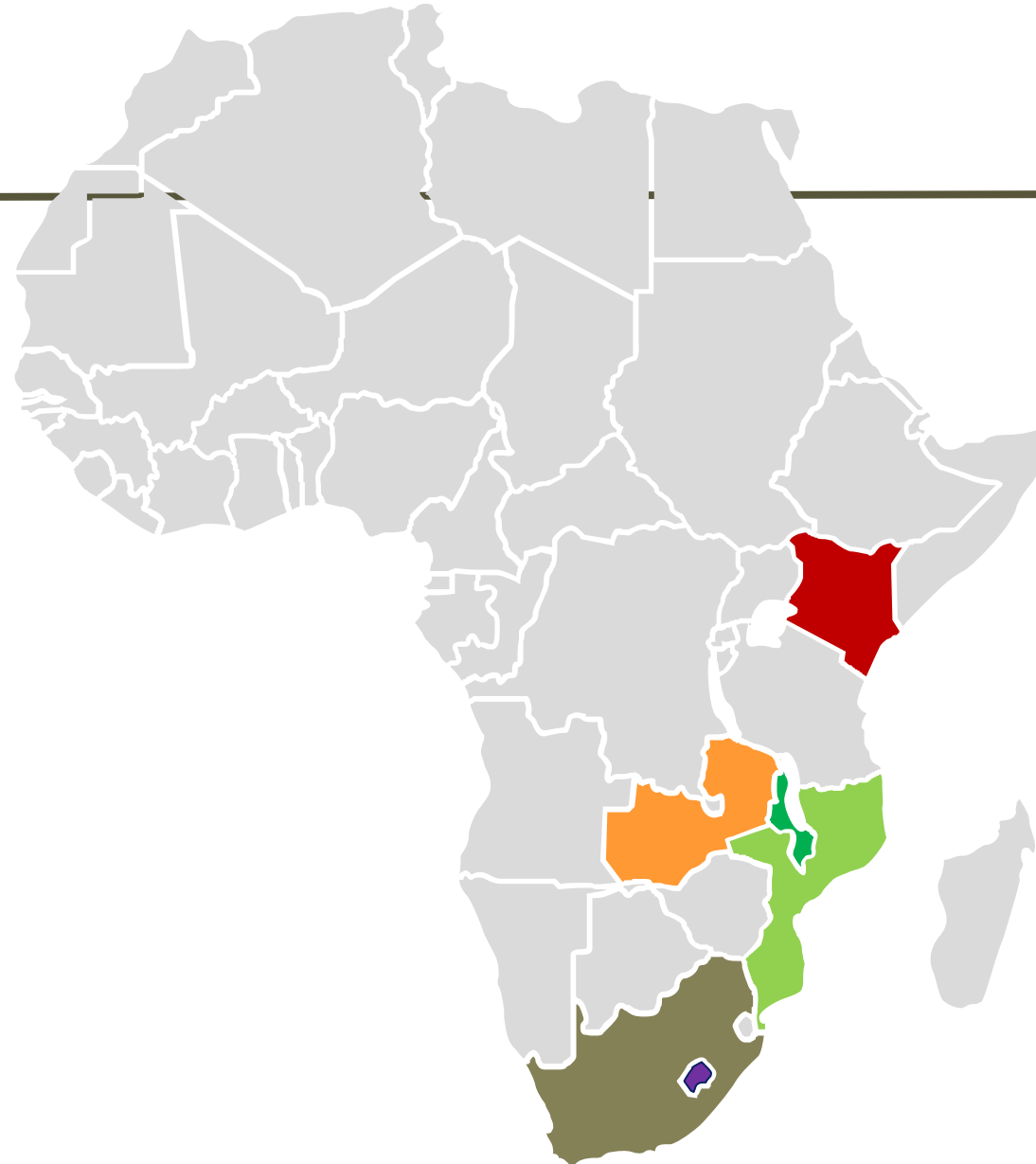
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INTRODUCTION

- Research on child behavior/mental health and violence exposure: mostly in high-income settings
- In low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), focus is often on community and physical violence
- Need for more research on children in the home
- This study looks at child behavior and household violence exposure in a Kenyan sample



CLAC2 PROJECT: PLAN INTERNATIONAL



- Evaluating Plan International's CLAC2 program: ECCD and parenting intervention
- Selected 19 Plan-supported centers to recruit children from, looking at how the program operates at each
- Across Bondo, Homa Bay, and Kisumu area where Plan works

SAMPLE



- We asked 476 caregivers about their children (n=495) who were ages 4 and 5 at the time
- All self-report, from baseline in mid-2016
- Interviews in two parts: parent/household, child

MEASURES



- Demographic variables
- Questions related to household violence:
 - Intimate partner violence (physical) – WHO Violence Against Women Study (2005)
 - Harsh discipline in household (physical and psychological) – Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale
 - Selection of questions from Gender Equitable Men Scale – gender attitudes specifically about violence (Pulerwitz & Barker, 2008)

MEASURES



Child behavioral outcomes using two scales:

- Child Behavior Checklist (ages 3-5)
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (ages 4+)

SELECTED SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

- 239 girls, 258 boys
 - At time of assessment: 54% were 4 years old, 46% were 5 years old
- 58.5% of children living in homes with an income between 0 – 2000 Ksh monthly (~\$20 USD)
- 95.7% of households list cell phone as an asset

SELECTED SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

- 88.2% female caregivers interviewed, 11.8% male caregivers
- 92% of caregivers are married (nearly 1/4 are in polygamous unions)
- 43% of caregivers have completed Grade 7
32% completed Grade 8
21% have some or all secondary schooling
- 22.6% of caregivers and 1.6% of children are HIV+

VIOLENCE EXPOSURE

Population	Measure	Experiencing Any Violence	% (total)	# Experiencing Frequent Violence	% (total)
497 Children	All Discipline	444	89.34%	122	24.55%
	Harsh Physical Discipline	440	88.53%	108	21.73%
	Harsh Psychological Discipline	162	32.60%	38	7.65%
408 Female Caregivers	All IPV	162	39.71%	125	30.64%
	Moderate Violence	148	36.27%	117	28.68%
	Severe Violence	98	24.02%	66	16.18%

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ANALYSIS

- Univariate analyses to identify potentially significant demographic variables
- Added these significant variables to other violence-related predictors of child outcomes in a multivariate linear regression model

Outcome	Predictor	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-Value	p-Value
SDQ Score	All IPV	0.35	0.10	3.47	0.00
	Harsh physical discipline	0.34	0.24	1.42	0.16
	Harsh psychological discipline	0.63	0.23	2.80	0.01
	Gender attitudes including violence	-0.17	0.19	-0.93	0.35
	Caregiver education	-0.23	0.10	-2.38	0.02
	Cell phone ownership	-1.93	1.24	-1.56	0.12
	Child gender	-0.94	0.50	-1.87	0.06

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FINDINGS

- IPV and harsh psychological discipline were very significant in predicting poor child outcomes, as was caregiver education
- Higher frequencies of IPV and harsh psychological discipline in the home correlated with worse child behavior reported
- Physical discipline was not significant, though widely used



DISCUSSION



Little on harsh psychological violence exists:

- Retrospective studies asking adults about their childhood exposures, but rarely in LMIC
- Other LMIC studies combine violence variables and child mental health, but often focus on physical exposure, or look at children in situations of particular vulnerability (post-conflict or HIV)

DISCUSSION



- Parenting programming to be more specifically tuned to harsh psychological discipline
- More to analyze in tandem with parent group observational data

LIMITATIONS

- Study takes a broader look at a cross-section of households with children enrolled in preschools supported by Plan – may neglect to incorporate the most vulnerable children who are not in school
- Cross-sectional data, not able to attribute causality
- Limited tools available for measuring child outcomes in LMIC, ours come from HIC



QUESTIONS? |