

Utoto Salama

Understanding sexual and other violence against children in Zanzibar:
Adapting research approach and
violence exposure measurement to the Zanzibar context

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Utoto Salama collaboration

Save the Children violence against children is no longer tolerated (by 2030).
To achieve this is **strengthening evidence-based approaches**, particularly around preventing violence in the home and ending violence in schools.

- Save the Children, Tanzania/Zanzibar
- Save the Children, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)

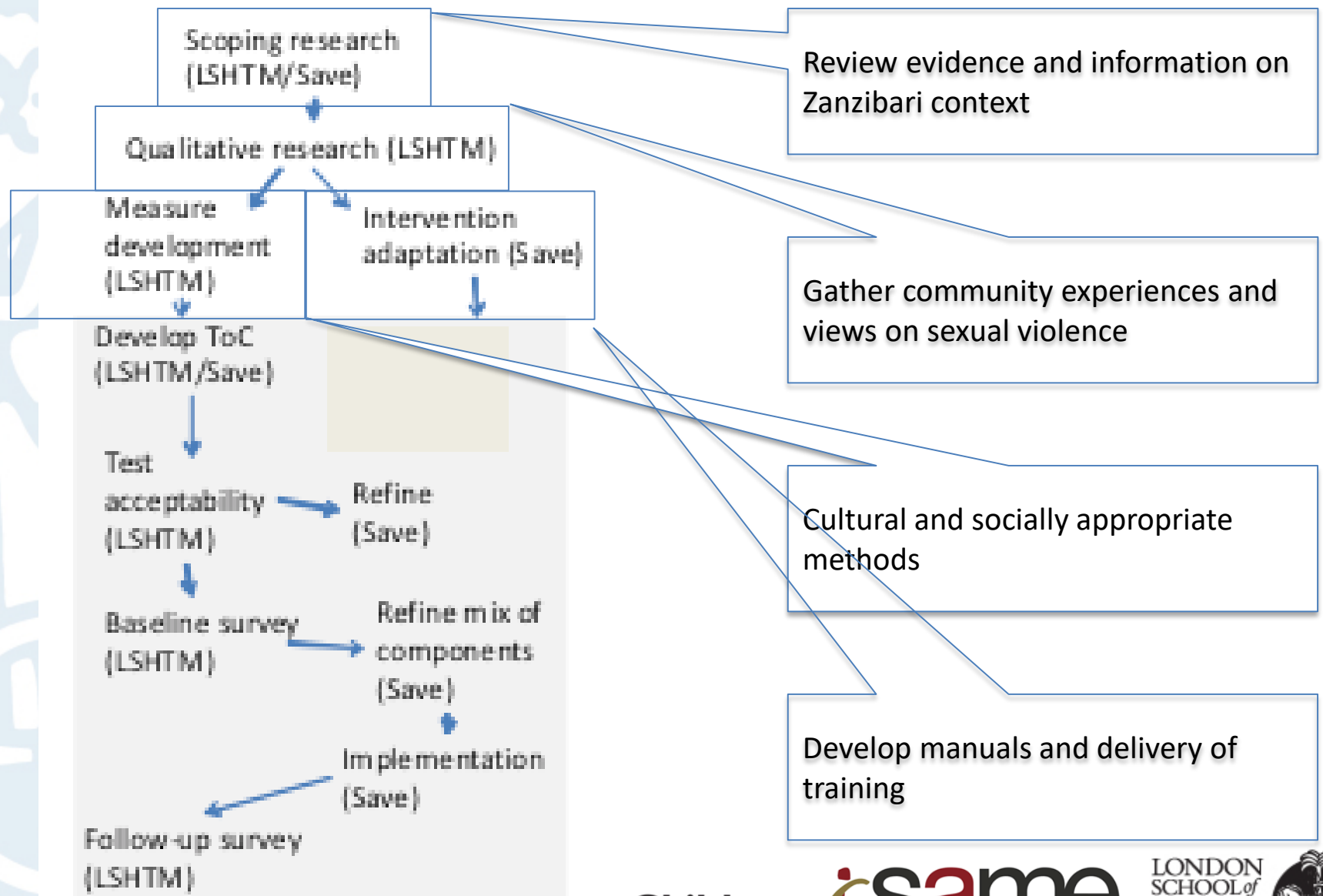


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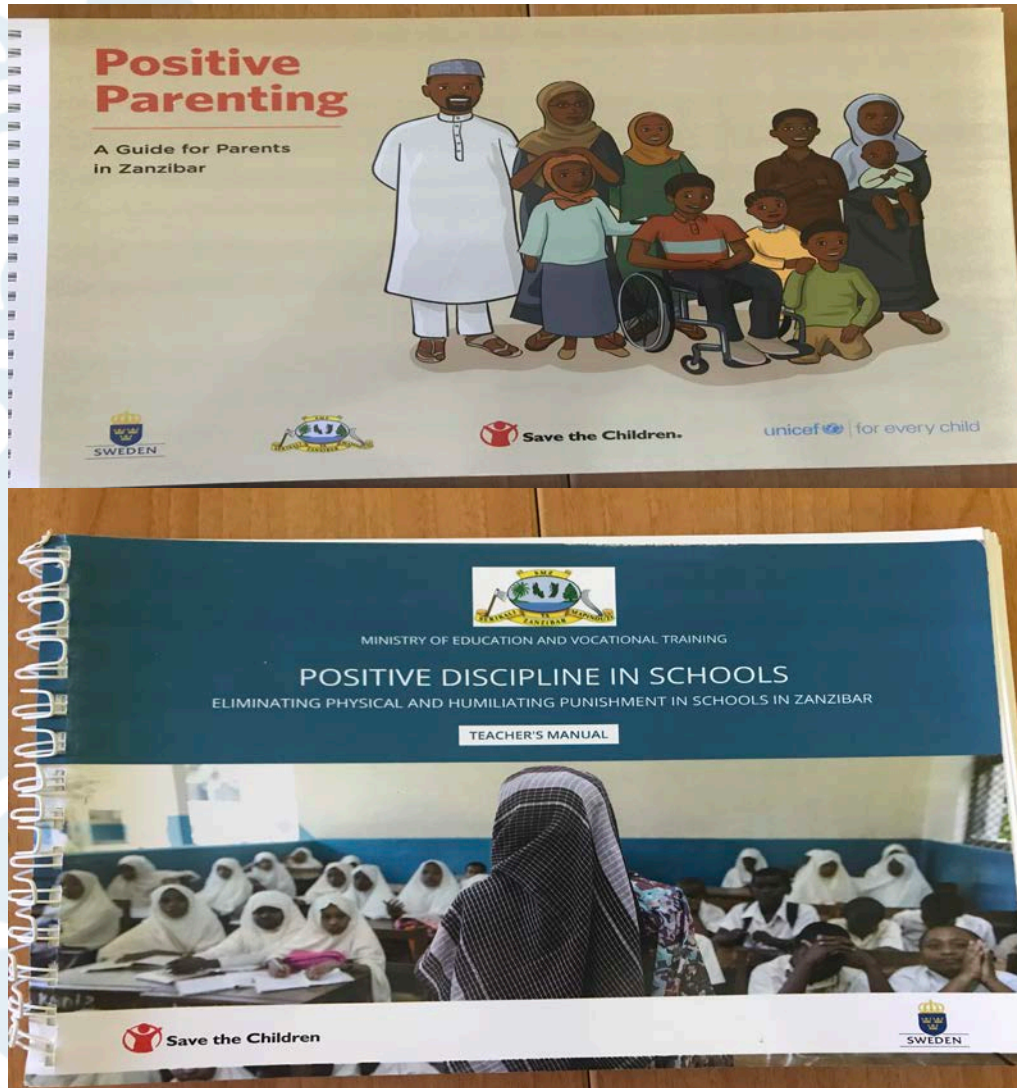


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Intervention development



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Positive parenting:

- Manual complete
- Pilot tested
- Will be delivered Dept of Women and Children/SC

Positive discipline in schools

- Manual complete
- Pilot tested
- To be delivered by MoE/SC

Positive discipline in Madrassa schools

- Manual in development
- Delivery mechanism (Oak funded)

Research context

Collecting data from children is essential to understand the patterns of violence occurring in and around the Madrassa schools, to inform prevention interventions

- Sensitive topic
- Need to adapt to context



Madassa schools:

- Half the day/weekend
- Private or government (fees maybe similar?)
- Mufti office is in the process of registering
- Teachers may not have completed formal teacher training
- Age



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Objectives:

1. To understand the most appropriate approach to survey research methods and procedures in this context. (including referral procedure and documentation)
2. To develop and cognitively test a measure of violence exposure with children



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Objective 1 Methods:

To seek views on the proposed research approach, acceptability, understanding and appropriateness of question wording, for children of different ages

User groups:

- 3 x children's user groups (8-10 and 11-16 yrs)
- 1 x Madrassa teachers
- 1 x Parents

Strategic stakeholders interviews:

- 3 with Kadhi court, Mufti office and a religious scholar

Also

- Save the Children and Zanzibar Social Workers Association – consultation and drafting of referral procedures and documentation



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Objective 1: feedback from students, parents and madrassa teachers

- **Acceptability, asking children about violence:**

- General acceptance around asking children survey questions on violence, including sexual violence to children of 8 years and older.

“its normal things to ask”, “shows someone cares”

- **Research approach:**

- Face to face interviews were preferred
- Subset of sensitive questions designed for child self-completion (interviewer present)
- Liked pictorial images (for responding to questions)
- Interviews could be conducted in school or Madrasa when Madrasa teachers are not present.
- May not need individual consent from parents (to consent their child) but general information on the research should be provided to all parents in community



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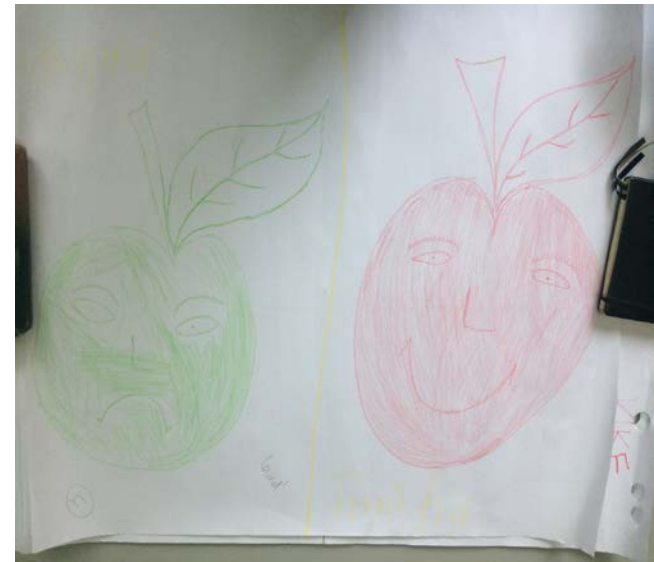
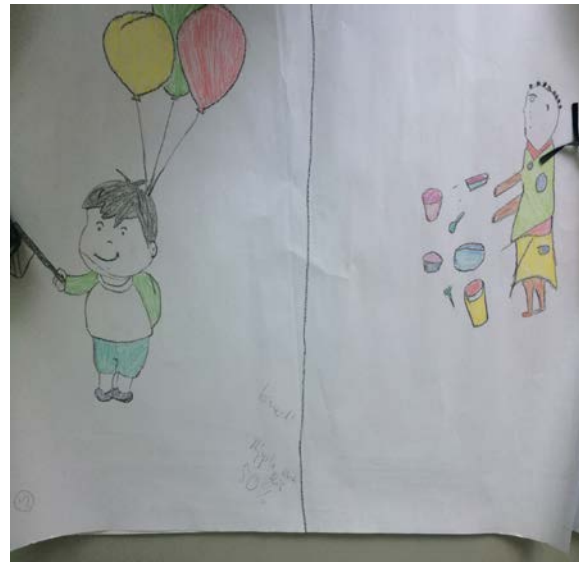


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Methods: Developing pictorial images for children - Art workshops

- Local art teacher and peer facilitators -led art workshops with children aged 8-10 and 11+
- Participatory approach to develop culturally appropriate and child friendly pictorial images for children's responses to violence questions. Pictures:



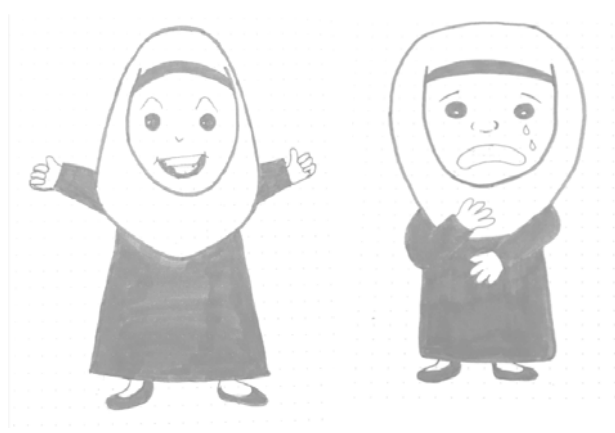
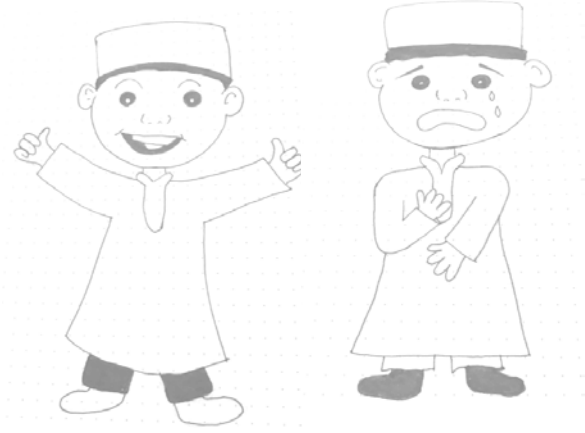
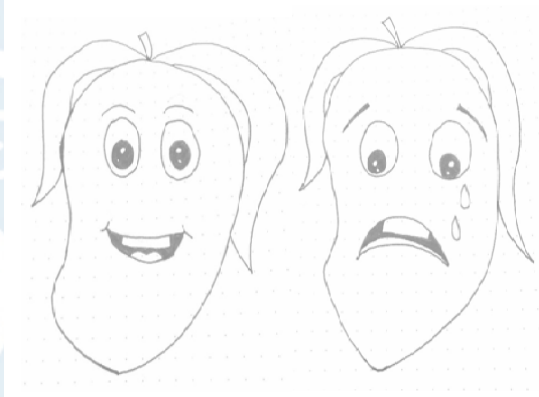
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Images adapted from drawings



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Methods: Cognitive Pre-testing of questions

- Translated and adapted internationally validated questions
- Focus on violence questions relating to adults in madrasa schools
- Tested a shorter set of questions on violence in other settings/perpetrators
- Training on consent, ethics, interviewing children, referral
- Cognitively pre-tested questions with 27 children, boys/girls aged 8-13 years old, from urban and rural settings
- Sealed envelope method tested with pictorial images
- Children's responses, understanding, recorded signs of emotional distress and discomfort
- Daily debriefs
- Questions were refined and adapted - retested

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool–Child Institutional, ICAST-CI



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Procedures

- One rural and one urban school, one week, private spaces
- Male interviewers - boys only and female interviewers -girls and boys.
- Consent from parents -inviting parents to school
- Informed voluntary assent was sort from the child prior to starting the interview.
- The full referral process and documentation was pre-piloted –referrals reviewed daily.
- **REFERRAL 1:** Forced sexual intercourse within the past week, or obvious untreated physical injuries
- **REFERRAL 2:** Forced sexual intercourse within the past year, injuries or severe physical violence within the past year, or less severe sexual violence within the past year.
- **Counselling only:** All children offered counselling



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Questions acceptable and understood

- The questions seemed acceptable for the children in general
- Concentration may be difficult for some younger children of 8 or 9 year olds
- In general the questions were well understood.
- Few question wording has been changed as a result of the cognitive testing.
- The images of children were preferred to the Mango

Sexual violence questions- some "shy and put head down", "surprised and hesitate to answer"

"The student were comfortable with no worries, but because she was very young sometimes she was concentrating with other things. Looking at pictures of books, or sometimes rise her hand up and stretching her body" (Interviewer of Eight year old girl)

"they are mannered boys as they wear kanzu",
"girl is a human and human love her".

BOY 9, AND GIRL 10



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Learning for future research approach

- The interviewers reported that they expected higher reports of physical violence from madrasa teachers, and that some children may not be reporting honestly
 - 32% said had been hit with stick in last week
- Children liked the more “secret” method of reporting sexual violence
- Using female interviewers in the future
- 5 referrals –procedures and reporting (4 SV or related, 1 HC)
- Propose use of a similar system in the future research
- Questions now ready for pilot survey

“prefer answer to be secret rather than me to see/write the answer.” “She likes both parts (pictures + information to be read because it is quick.)” Interviewer feedback

Dissemination in Pemba and Unguja



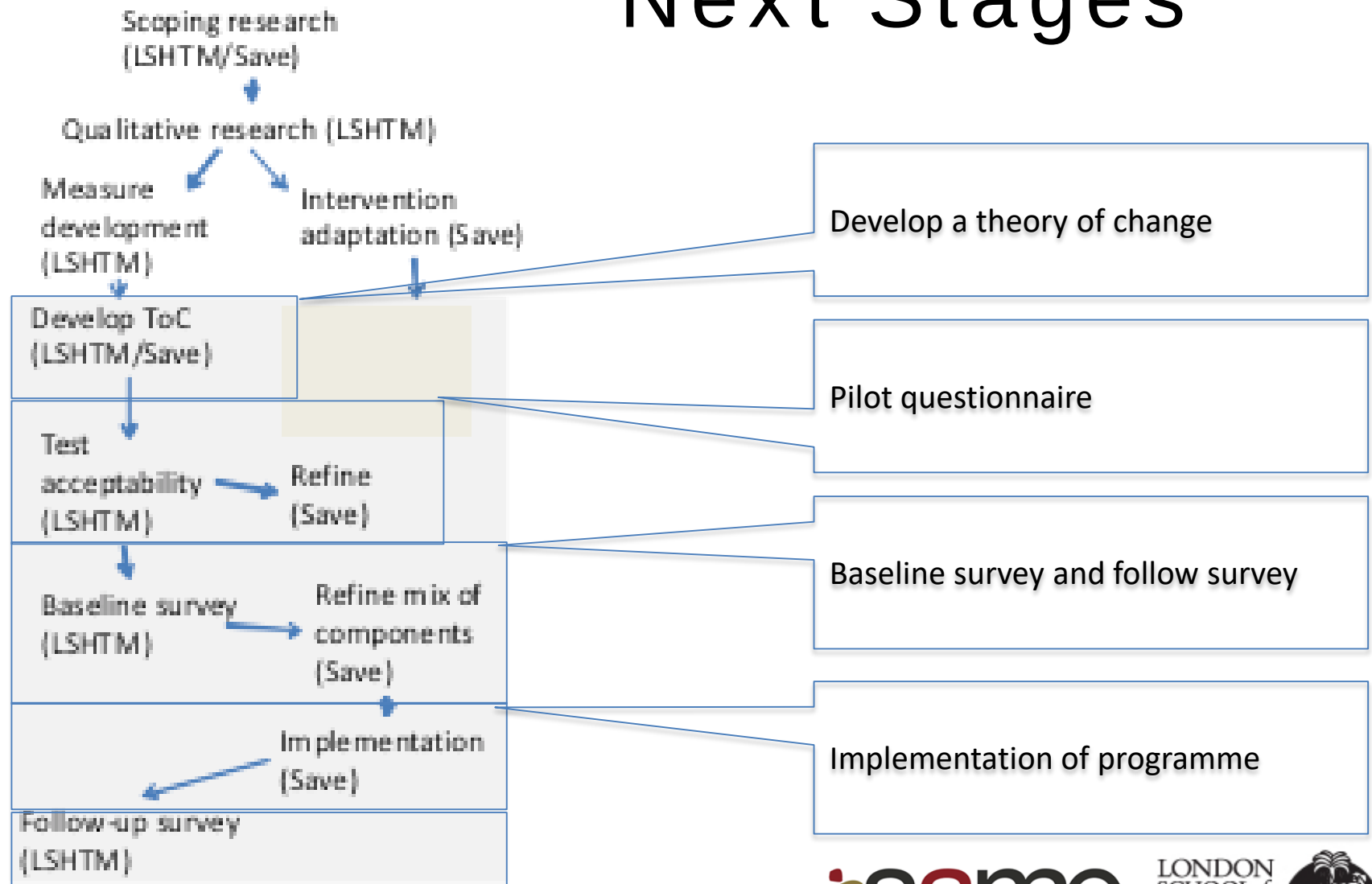
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Next Stages



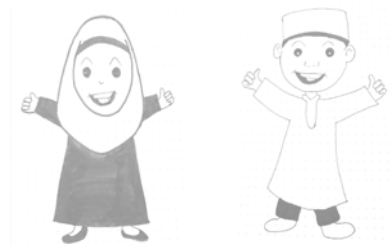
Conclusion

We highlight the need:

- To build responsive collaborations between local NGO's and research organisations
- To adapt research to local contexts

And the importance of local stakeholder consultation and child participation in development of research methods and tools.

“The child said she was very happy about the research because she got the chance to speak truth.....”



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- Jumaza Imams Association of Zanzibar
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elderly, Youth, Women and and Childre



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