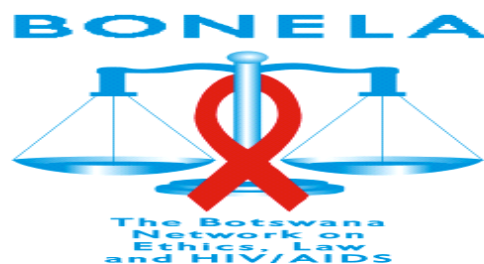


REPORT ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT IN MAUN

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIV PROJECT

Report by:



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REPORT ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT IN MAUN

1.1 Introduction

Gender Based Violence (GBV) means all acts perpetrated against women, men, girls and boys on the basis of their sex which cause or could cause them physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economic harm, including the threats to take such acts, or to undertake the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on or deprivation of fundamental freedoms in private or public life in peace time and during situations of armed or other forms of conflicts (Protocol on Gender and Development, 2008).

Statistically over two thirds of women in Botswana (67%) have experienced some forms gender based violence in their lifetime including partner and non-partner violence. A smaller, but still high, proportion of men (44%) admit to perpetrating violence against women (Gender Based Violence Indicators Study, Botswana, 2012).

1.2 Summary

The objectives of the project were:

1. To map gender based violence in Maun through a rapid sampling assessment
2. To identify women survivors who can be champions in speaking out on issues of gender based violence

The methodology used was participatory mapping where survivors of gender-based violence projected their experiences through oral narration and drawings. The sampling was done through random selection from the WAR database of clients who had accessed WAR services between 2009 and 2013. The sample included 23 female survivors and 5 male perpetrators divided into groups of 3 to 6 participants in each. The assessment was done in Maun and targeted all 19 wards.

The overall findings are that gender based violence occurs within intimate relationships and involves all types of gender-based violence: sexual, emotional and physical. The participants voiced that the starting point for reconciliation or redress in most cases of intimate partner violence was civil society organisations and government departments like district commissioner, social services and magistrate courts.

The male perpetrators reported alcohol abuse as a contributing factor to the abusive behaviour that they displayed which affected their partners, family and community.

1.3 Activities

The participants were invited for a consultative and information sharing meeting to prepare them for the project. Those willing and ready to participate completed consent and confidentiality forms. There were 36 potential participants selected from the WAR database and 8 declined to proceed with the process.

The participants were allocated into groups of 3 to 6 people according to age falling into three categories as follows: one group of 21 to 30 year olds, three groups of 31 to 43 years and one group of above 43 years. The time allocation was one hour per group and two groups per day. The actual time taken was between 1.5 hours and 3 hours depending on the number in the group. The participants were coded using letters of the alphabet instead of real names for confidentiality. Two counsellors facilitated this process and debriefing was done to bring the participants to a comfortable state.

The participants were guided by one of the counsellors through the use of a questionnaire to narrate and draw their experiences. The other facilitator took notes and observed the behaviour and reactions of the participants during the process. The participants were free to make choices in the colours they used in their drawings to depict the facts and emotions.

2. Outputs from the Participant Activities

2.1 GROUP 1

FEMALES: 31 YEARS AND ABOVE

Gender Based Violence definition according to participants.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unstable family• Emotional abuse (verbal)
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unhealthy life
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional distress
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unstable emotions caused by someone
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unstable family
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abandoned as a child

Participants defined and depicted GBV in different ways depending on their experiences. Participant A, the husband abused her verbally:

“Selo ke wena”

E said GBV is due to unstable family, C and D said unstable emotions and distress, B said unhealthy life and F said it was due to being abandoned as a child.

Share with us your experiences of Gender Based Violence experiences that have happened in your life and draw.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chased away from matrimonial home by the husband with children Threatened to be killed
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropped out of school because of pregnancy at the age of 19 years Chased away the boyfriend after regretting being impregnated Brother insulted and humiliated her for being pregnant
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boyfriend impregnated her and deserted her Gave birth and parents assisted her while under confinement
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fell pregnant at the age of 16 years and still doesn't know who impregnated her Expelled from school for pregnancy Disowned/abandoned by parents for being pregnant Dropped out of tertiary to raise the child because her aunt died Abused alcohol Intimately involved with multiple male partners
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deserted by husband with children Husband cut communication
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohabited with boyfriend who impregnated Boyfriend deserted her later Defiled at the age of 13 years old

On sharing about GBV experience that has happened to them, participant D was defiled by unknown perpetrator, she was expelled from school, the parents disowned her and her mother started to verbally abuse her:

“You have reaped what you sow, bitch”

During her life experience she had multiple male partners, abused alcohol and dropped out of the tertiary to raise her child. After counselling she recovered, went back to school, graduated and dated a caring man. Participant F was defiled at the age of 13 years, while staying alone. Another man impregnated and got engaged to her, later on deserting her. She also experienced some

beatings from the ex-girlfriend of her fiancée. Further more, participant B dropped out of school because of pregnancy at the age of 19, the brother humiliated her because of this. On the other hand participant A was deserted by a boyfriend after impregnating her and threatened to be killed by husband. Participant E was deserted by her husband who completely cut off communication between them and the relationship ended in divorce.

Who was the perpetrator/s?

PARTICIPANT	PERPETRATOR
A	• Husband
B	• Ex-boyfriend
C	• Boyfriend
D	• Stranger
E	• Husband
F	• Boyfriend

Most of perpetrators were husbands and boyfriends.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
A	• Ran away from family
B	• Wrote a letter to perpetrator
C	• Told parents
D	• Remained in shock
E	• Reported to the parents
F	• Chased away the perpetrator

With regard to how the participants reacted to overcome the situation, the first to be approached were parents as indicated by participants C and E.

Where did you seek help?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
A	• Women Against Rape
B	• Parents • Magistrate Court
C	• Women Against Rape
D	• Women Against Rape

E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District commissioner • Women Against Rape
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magistrate Court

The participants looked for help at Women Against Rape as indicated by participant A, C, D and E. A emphasised that the husband said:

“Counselling ya thusa masadi wame, bona jaaka o bopame”

There is also evidence of accessing the magistrate courts and the district commissioner.

How did the help change your life?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happily reconciled
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still stressed
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted the situation • Living happily with the boyfriend
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy • Graduated from tertiary • In a healthy intimate relationship
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healed and happy after divorce • Given child custody
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy and reconciled with an ex husband because of the children

On narrating how the help changed their lives, participants showed feelings of happiness as indicated by participants A, C, D, E and F while participant B is not yet happy.

2.2 GROUP 2

FEMALES: 21 YEARS TO 30 YEARS

Gender Based Violence definition according to participants.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurting someone emotionally
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurting each other
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being hurt emotionally • Verbal abuse

The group had three participants and two of them defined Gender based Violence as hurting emotionally as indicated by G and X.

Share with us your experiences of Gender Based Violence that has happened in your life and draw.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohabiting with boyfriend • Boyfriend impregnated her • Deserted by boyfriend
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caught fiancée having sex with another woman • Stabbed a woman dating her fiancée with a knife • Sentenced to prison • Not allowed to date any man
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husband insisted that she stay at the in-laws plot • Threatened to be killed by a gun • Attempted suicide • Ran away from the matrimonial home to rent with children • Being beaten by a fence erector

On their experiences participant G cohabited with the boyfriend who impregnated her and later on deserted her. J caught her fiancée having sex with another woman, and the cheating girlfriend abused her verbally:

“Who are you to ask me to talk, don’t you know that I was called by that stupid husband of yours?”

She stabbed the fiancée’s girlfriend with a knife and was sentenced to prison. After the prison term, the boyfriend dumped her and didn’t allow her to date any other man. Participant X was forced to stay at the in-laws where there was alcohol being sold and not conducive to the children. She was not involved in decision-making at home especially those involving finances, the husband attempted to burn her using paraffin, made death threats using a gun and a fence erector and eventually chased her out of the matrimonial home to rent.

Who was the perpetrator/s?

PARTICIPANT	PERPETRATOR
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyfriend
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiancée
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husband

The perpetrators are husband, boyfriend and fiancée: intimate partners.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents were informed
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informed uncle• Neighbours
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ran away with the children to her plot

When reacting to the situation the first participant G informed parents, participant J informed uncle and neighbours, while participant X ran away from the in laws to her plot with her children.

Where did you seek help?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magistrate court
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women Against Rape
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-laws

On seeking assistance participant G went to the magistrate court, J went to Women Against Rape and X reported to the in laws.

How did the help change your life?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unhappy and still feels pain
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still in fear
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still unhappy and want to divorce

Participants G and X still feel unhappy while participant J still in fear.

2.3 GROUP 3

FEMALES: 21 YEARS TO 30 YEARS

Gender Based Violence definitions according to participants.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hurting someone emotionally
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being hurt in intimate relationship
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hurting someone emotionally and• Physically
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical and• Emotional abuse
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forced marriage by your family

Participants K, M and N described GBV as hurting someone emotionally and physically, participant L said being hurt in an intimate relationship and O defined it as forced marriage by your family.

Share with us your experiences of Gender Based Violence experiences that has happened in your life and draw

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mother traumatised after child was sexually abused
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cohabited with boyfriend• Deserted her with a child
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cohabited with a boyfriend who deserted her with two children
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend forced child custody to him
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend got married to another woman without telling her• Step- mother abused her child

Participant K was traumatized after her child was defiled. Participants L and M cohabited with boyfriend who later deserted them with children and one said that the boyfriend abused her verbally:

“I no longer love you”

Participant O was the mother who had a child who was abused by the stepmother while staying with the father and he got married to another woman without telling her. Participant N experienced the abuse of the boyfriend who was seeking sole child custody.

Who was the perpetrator/s?

PARTICIPANT	PERPETRATOR
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbour
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ex- boyfriend
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Husband

Perpetrators were mostly intimate partners as shown by Participants L, M, N and O.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Called the sister and told her what happened
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interrogated the boyfriend• Accepted the issue and moved on
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interrogated the boyfriend
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insisted on taking the child to the grandmother
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forced visits to the husband who deserted her

Participant L and M interrogated boyfriends about the cheating, K told the sister what happened, N insisted on taking child to the grandmother while O forced visits to the husband unexpectedly.

Where did you seek help?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women Against Rape• Police• Hospital
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social workers• Gender Affairs• Kgotla• Magistrate court
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kgotla• Women Against Rape
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women Against Rape• Magistrate court

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kgotla • Women Against Rape

Participants K, M, N and O sought help at Women Against Rape, L went to social workers and kgotla.

How did the help change your life?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have mixed feelings
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted and moved on with her life
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted the situation and moved on with her life
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy with partner
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still unhappy • Wants divorce • Wants maintenance for the children

In this group, four participants were happy and moved on with their lives, including L, M and N while, two participants, K and O had mixed feelings and are still trying to cope with and manage the situation.

2.4 GROUP 4

MALES: 30 YEARS TO 40 YEARS

Gender Based Violence definitions according to participants.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurting each other emotionally • Verbally (insults)
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your power to abuse others
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional abuse
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abusing one's rights

Participants P and R used emotional abuse to describe GBV while S said GBV is the abusing of one's rights and Q defined it as using your power to abuse others.

Share with us your experiences of Gender Based Violence that has happened in your life and draw

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohabited • Cheated • Dumped by girlfriend
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abused money on alcohol • Beating the family members • Beating at the bars after drinking alcohol
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deserting the family
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaten by girlfriend's ex-boyfriend • Girlfriend often left him with young children

On sharing their experiences, the following issues came out: Participant P cohabited, cheated and was dumped by girlfriend; Q used inheritance money to abuse alcohol, he beat family members and members of the community; Participant R deserted his family and S was beaten by girlfriend's ex-boyfriend and was often left with young children.

Who was the perpetrator/s?

PARTICIPANT	PERPETRATOR
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girlfriend
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himself
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himself
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girlfriend

In this group the perpetrators were girlfriends as indicated by P and S and the men themselves as indicated by Q and R.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated himself • Had thoughts of committing suicide • Killing girlfriend
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troubled the family members • Beating girls at bars
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left the family
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoided visiting girlfriend

Their reactions were as follows: P isolated himself, had thoughts of committing suicide and killing girlfriend, Q caused trouble in the family and community, while R left the family and S avoided visiting his girlfriend.

Where did you seek help?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Against Rape
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Against Rape
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents • Women Against Rape

Participants P, Q and S received assistance at WAR, while R and S involved parents.

How did the help change your life?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felt happy • Focused in his life • No conciliation
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy • Sober
R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciled • Living happily with the children
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurting about the issue of children

Participants P, Q and R showed positive improvements towards life are happy but S is still unhappy about the issue of children.

2.5 GROUP 5

FEMALES: 35 YEARS AND ABOVE

Gender Based Violence definitions according to participants.

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional abuse
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal abuse• Physical abuse
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional abuse• Name calling
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional abuse

GBV was described as emotional abuse by participants T, V and W, while U said it was physical and verbal abuse.

Share with us your experiences of Gender Based Violence that has happened in your life

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend did not allow her to do any business
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beating• Strangulation• Attempted suicide• Overdosing pills• Had premature twins
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend cheated on her• Beaten by mother of boyfriend's girlfriend while pregnant• Her baby died after delivery
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Got into a special wedding• In-law poisoned food she ate in attempt to kill her• Husband tried to kill her with axe

GBV experiences included participant T not being allowed to do any business by boyfriend because of insecurity, U was beaten, strangled, attempted suicide, overdosed on pills and had premature twins. V was cheated on by boyfriend, beaten by mother of boyfriend's girlfriend and her baby died. W got into a special wedding, was ill treated by the in-laws including poisoning of food with the aim of killing her and husband tried to kill her with an axe.

Who was the perpetrator/s?

PARTICIPANT	PERPETRATOR
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Husband
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boyfriend
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Husband• In law

Perpetrators were boyfriends, husbands and in-laws.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chased him away
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stayed in the abuse at first
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endured the abuse• Trapped in the abuse
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stayed in the abuse

Some of the different reactions by participants after abuse was, as follows: U, V and W stayed in the abuse while T chased the boyfriend away.

Where did you seek help?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Father in-law
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents• Women Against Rape• COCEPWA
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maun Counselling Centre• Women Against Rape
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospital• Church• COCEPWA• Women Against Rape

Participants U, V and W got assistance at Women Against Rape while T involved father in law.

How did the help change your life?

PARTICIPANT	RESPONSE
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made peace with the family
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still not happy• Wants a divorce
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still not happy
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wants maintenance

Three part participants U, V and W showed that they are still trying to cope with situation while T made peace.

3.1 Summary of Findings

On mapping GBV experiences of women in Maun, there were 28 participants including 24 women aged between 21 to 45+ years and 4 men aged 31 to 45 years.

- Participants understood GBV as emotional abuse as well as physical abuse.
- The abuse is predominately emanating from intimate relationships: marital and cohabiting couples.
- There was a trend of cohabiting, deserting girlfriends and wives with children.
- Some of the participants experienced childhood sexual abuse.
- Overall participants knew where to report cases of GBV as they reported to civil society and government institutions, although others endured GBV before taking a step to report.
- Married, unmarried and adolescents women are abused emotionally (insults, name calling, humiliated, threats of death and abandoned) and physically (beating, strangulation, poisoning, burning) in relationships.
- Economic abuse is rife on women: wife and girlfriends were not allowed to do businesses, wives not involved in financial decision-making and abandonment.
- The in-laws of the brides perpetuate the abuse between spouses as they often take sides with their male child.
- Traditional counsellors were not utilised in solving issues as only 3 out of 28 participants reported their cases at the kgosi.

- Counselling was reported to be beneficial by most participants: 15 women and 3 men out of 28 participants displayed happy feelings in their lives while 9 women and one man were not happy and still continuing with counselling sessions.

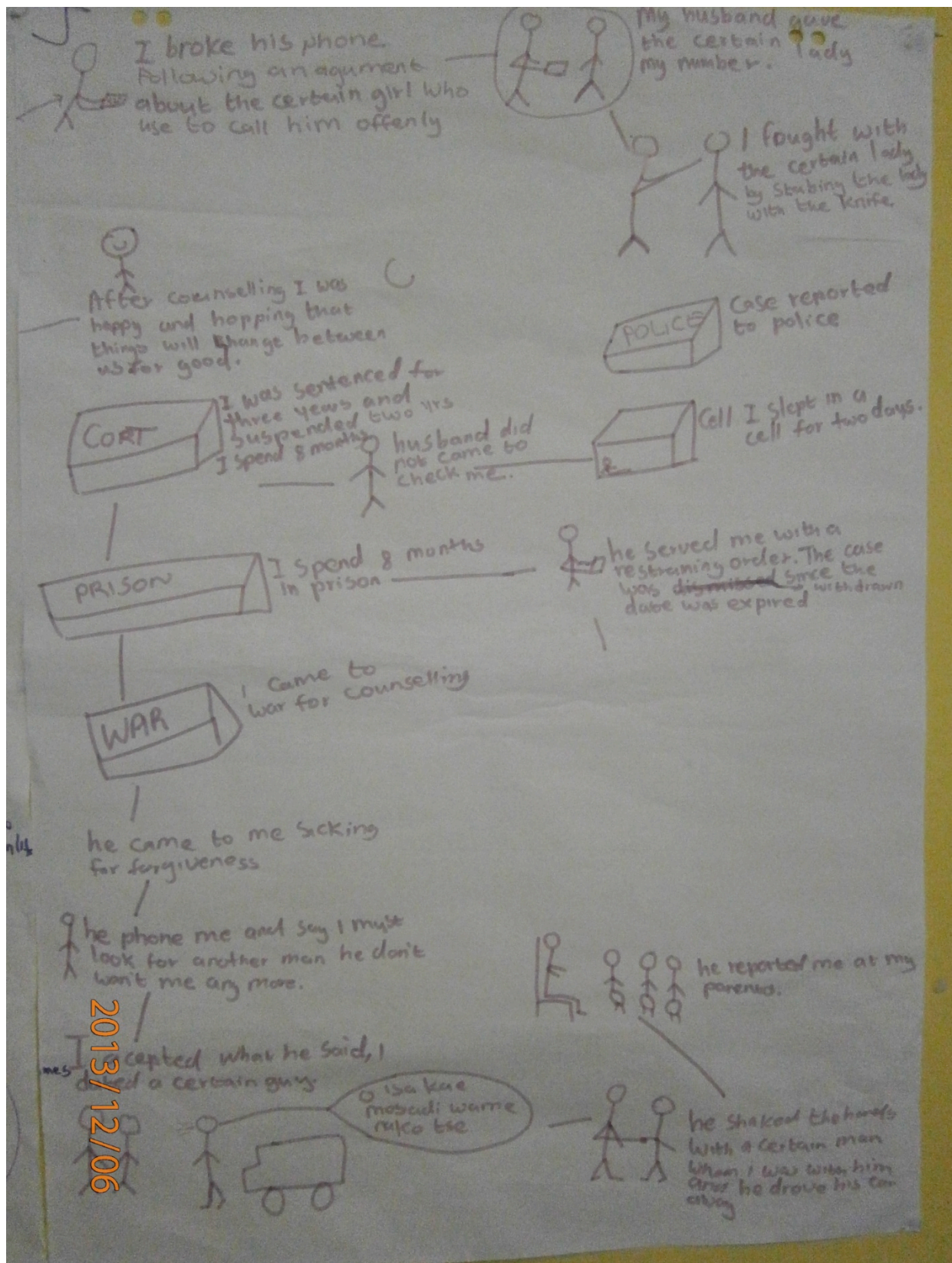
3.2 Challenges

- Time constraints in selection and preparation of participants
- Emotional breakdown by participants during the process
- Some relational problems due to partner participation in this project

4. Pictures from the Participatory Mapping

(see Annex 1)

Annex 1: Pictures from the Participatory Mapping



PARTICIPANT J

Participant J defined GBV as hurting each other.

GBV Experiences

- Caught fiancée having sex with another woman
- Stabbed a woman dating her fiancée with a knife
- Sentenced to prison
- Not allowed to date any man

Perpetrator

- Fiancée

Reactions after GBV

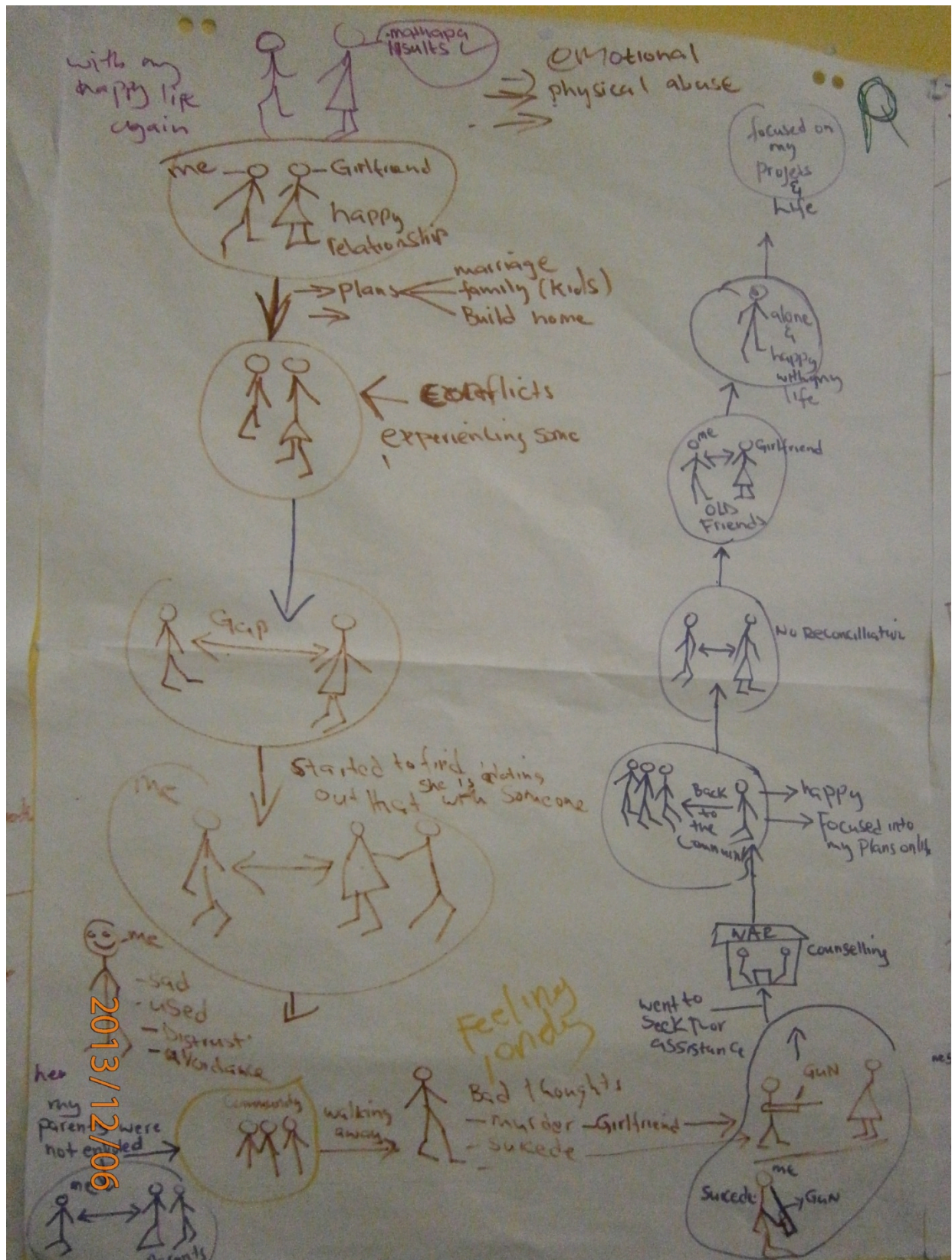
- Informed uncle and neighbour

Seeking Assistance

- Women Against Rape

Life after Help

- Still in fear



PARTICIPANT P

P defined GBV as hurting each other emotionally

GBV Experiences

- Cohabited with girlfriend
- Cheated and dumped by girlfriend

Perpetrator

- Girlfriend

Reaction after GBV

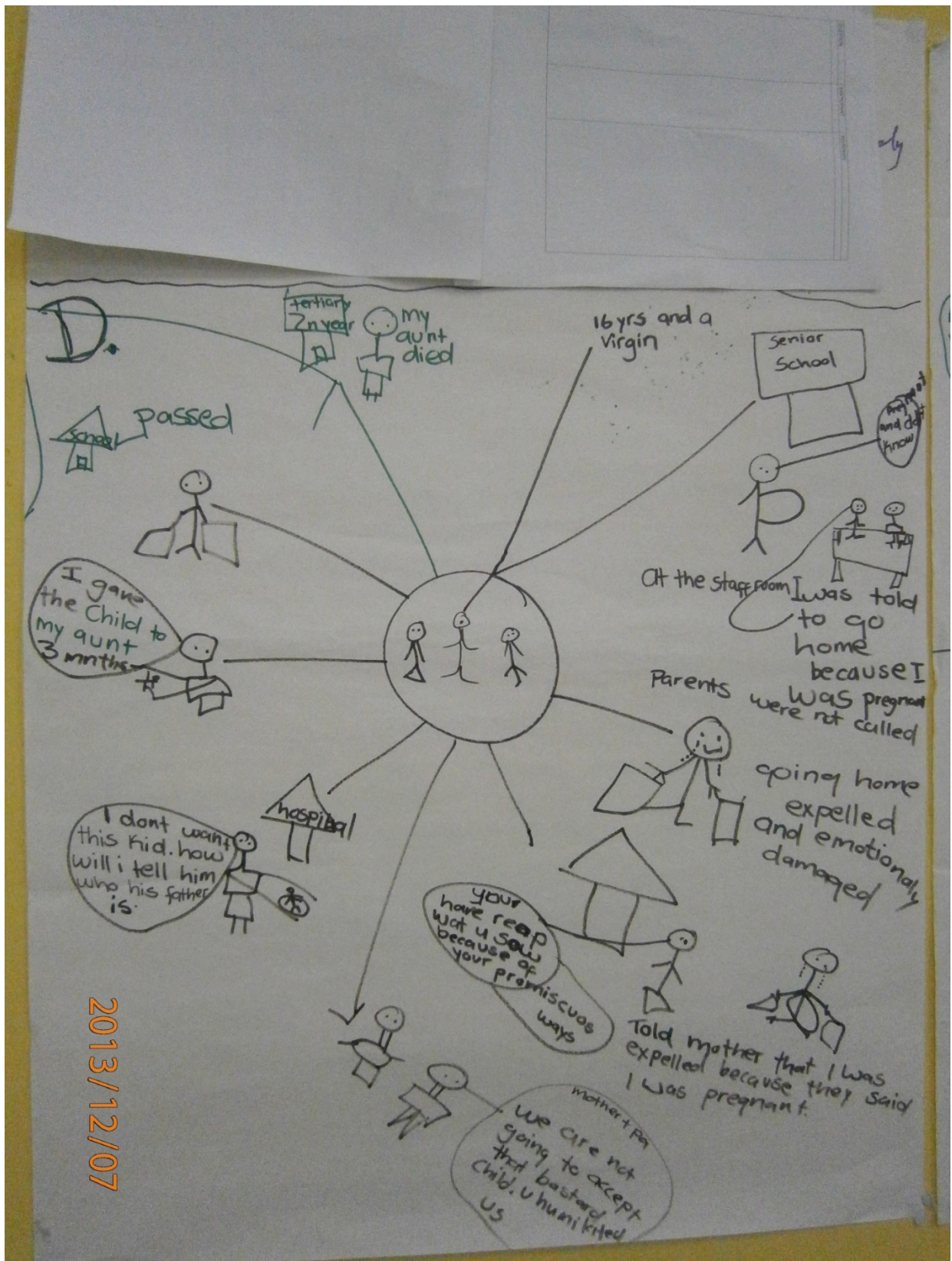
- Isolation
- Killing girlfriend and thoughts of committing suicide

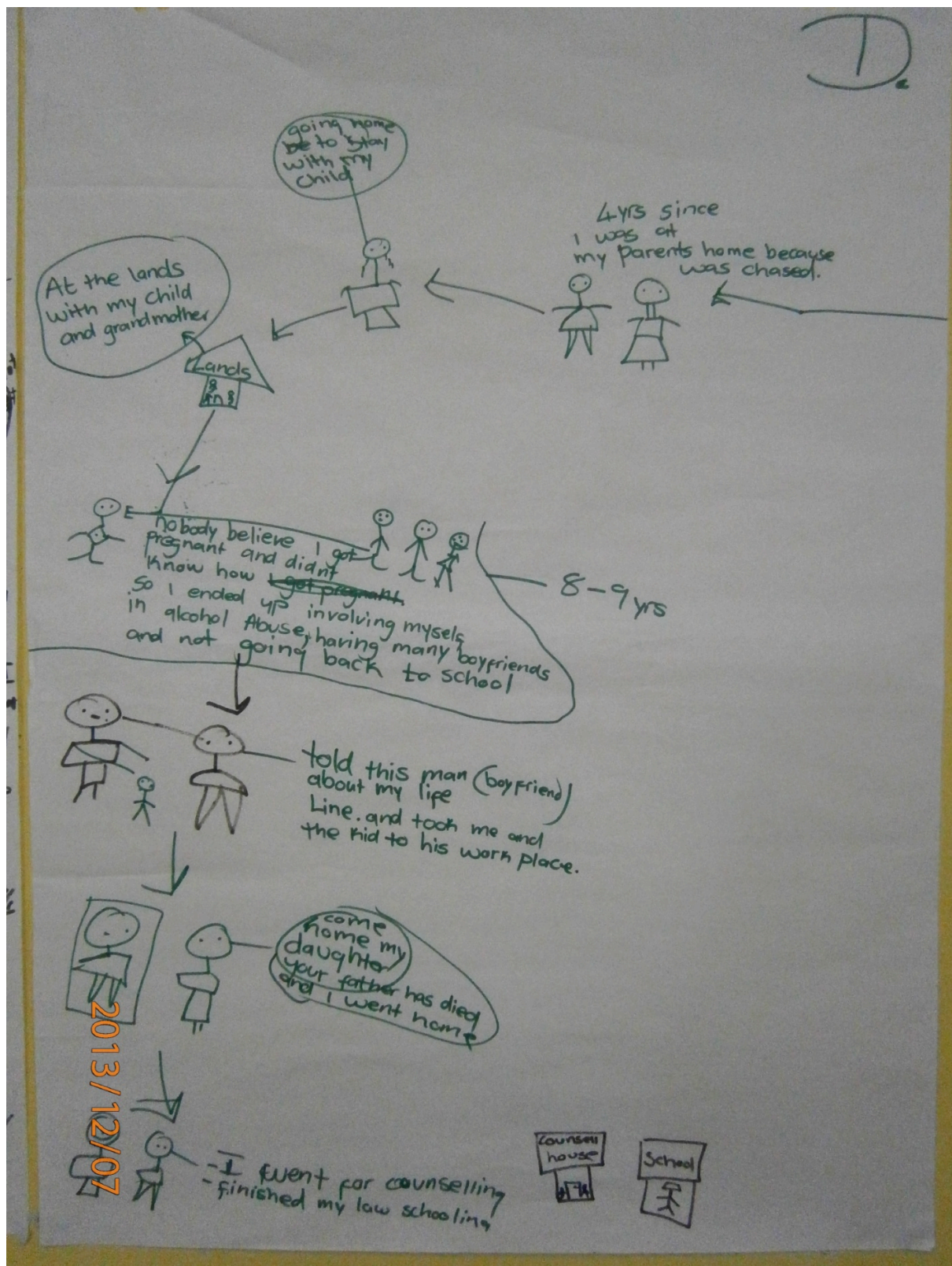
Seek assistance

- Women Against Rape

How did you feel after assistance?

- Felt happy
- Focused in his life
- No reconciliation with girlfriend





PARTICIPANT D

D defined GBV as unstable emotions caused by someone

GBV Experiences

- Fell pregnant at the age of 16 years and still doesn't know who impregnated her
- Expelled from school for pregnancy
- Disowned/ abandoned by parents for being pregnant
- Dropped out of tertiary to raise the child because her aunt died
- Abused alcohol
- Intimately involved with multiple male partners

Perpetrator

- Stranger

Reactions after GBV

- Remain shocked

Seeking Assistance

- Women Against Rape

Life after Assistance

- Happy
- Graduated from tertiary