



REPORT ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ASSESSMENT IN MAUN



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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	- Unstable family - Emotional abuse (verbal)
B	- Unhealthy life
C	- Emotional distress
D	Unstable emotions caused by someone
E	Unstable family
F	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	<input type="checkbox"/> Chased away from matrimonial home by the husband with children <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened to be killed
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Dropped out of school because of pregnancy at the age of 19 years <input type="checkbox"/> Chased away the boyfriend after regretting being impregnated <input type="checkbox"/> Brother insulted and humiliated her for being pregnant
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend impregnated her and deserted her <input type="checkbox"/> Gave birth and parents assisted her while under confinement
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Fell pregnant at the age of 16 years and still doesn't know who impregnated her <input type="checkbox"/> Expelled from school for pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Disowned/abandoned by parents for being pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> Dropped out of tertiary to raise the child because her aunt died <input type="checkbox"/> Abused alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Intimately involved with multiple male partners
E	<input type="checkbox"/> Deserted by husband with children <input type="checkbox"/> Husband cut communication
F	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabited with boyfriend who impregnated <input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend deserted her later <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex-boyfriend
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Stranger
E	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband
F	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend

Most of perpetrators were husbands and boyfriends.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
A	<input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from family
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrote a letter to perpetrator
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Told parents
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Remained in shock
E	<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to the parents
F	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate Court
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
E	<input type="checkbox"/> District commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
F	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Happily reconciled
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Still stressed
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted the situation <input type="checkbox"/> Living happily with the boyfriend
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Happy <input type="checkbox"/> Graduated from tertiary <input type="checkbox"/> In a healthy intimate relationship
E	<input type="checkbox"/> Healed and happy after divorce <input type="checkbox"/> Given child custody
F	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting someone emotionally
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting each other
X	<input type="checkbox"/> Being hurt emotionally <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabiting with boyfriend <input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend impregnated her <input type="checkbox"/> Deserted by boyfriend
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Caught fiancée having sex with another woman <input type="checkbox"/> Stabbed a woman dating her fiancée with a knife <input type="checkbox"/> Sentenced to prison <input type="checkbox"/> Not allowed to date any man
X	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband insisted that she stay at the in-laws plot <input type="checkbox"/> Threatened to be killed by a gun <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Ran away from the matrimonial home to rent with children <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiancée
X	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband

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

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
G	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents were informed
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Informed uncle <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbours
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate court
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unhappy and still feels pain
J	<input type="checkbox"/> Still in fear
X	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting someone emotionally
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Being hurt in intimate relationship
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting someone emotionally and <input type="checkbox"/> Physically
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical and <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse
O	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother traumatised after child was sexually abused
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabited with boyfriend <input type="checkbox"/> Deserted her with a child
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabited with a boyfriend who deserted her with two children
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend forced child custody to him
O	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend got married to another woman without telling her <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighbour
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Ex- boyfriend
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
O	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Called the sister and told her what happened
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Interrogated the boyfriend <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted the issue and moved on
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Interrogated the boyfriend
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Insisted on taking the child to the grandmother
O	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Social workers <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Kgotla <input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate court
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgotla <input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape <input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate court <input type="checkbox"/> Parents
O	<input type="checkbox"/> Kgotla <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Have mixed feelings
L	<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted and moved on with her life
M	<input type="checkbox"/> Accepted the situation and moved on with her life
N	<input type="checkbox"/> Happy with partner
O	<input type="checkbox"/> Still unhappy <input type="checkbox"/> Wants divorce <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting each other emotionally <input type="checkbox"/> Verbally (insults)
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Using your power to abuse others
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse
S	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohabited <input type="checkbox"/> Cheated <input type="checkbox"/> Dumped by girlfriend
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Abused money on alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Beating the family members <input type="checkbox"/> Beating at the bars after drinking alcohol
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Deserting the family
S	<input type="checkbox"/> Beaten by girlfriend's ex-boyfriend <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Girlfriend
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Himself
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Himself
S	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated himself <input type="checkbox"/> Had thoughts of committing suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Killing girlfriend
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Troubled the family members <input type="checkbox"/> Beating girls at bars
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Left the family
S	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents
S	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Felt happy <input type="checkbox"/> Focused in his life <input type="checkbox"/> No conciliation
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> Happy <input type="checkbox"/> Sober
R	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconciled <input type="checkbox"/> Living happily with the children
S	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Name calling
W	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend did not allow her to do any business
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Beating <input type="checkbox"/> Strangulation <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Overdosing pills <input type="checkbox"/> Had premature twins
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend cheated on her <input type="checkbox"/> Beaten by mother of boyfriend's girlfriend while pregnant <input type="checkbox"/> Her baby died after delivery
W	<input type="checkbox"/> Got into a special wedding <input type="checkbox"/> In-law poisoned food she ate in attempt to kill her <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Boyfriend
W	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband <input type="checkbox"/> In law

Perpetrators were boyfriends, husbands and in-laws.

How did you react after the abuse?

PARTICIPANT	REACTION
T	<input type="checkbox"/> Chased him away
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Stayed in the abuse at first
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Endured the abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Trapped in the abuse
W	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Father in-law
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents <input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape <input type="checkbox"/> COCEPWA
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Maun Counselling Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Women Against Rape
W	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> COCEPWA <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Made peace with the family
U	<input type="checkbox"/> Still not happy <input type="checkbox"/> Wants a divorce
V	<input type="checkbox"/> Still not happy
W	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

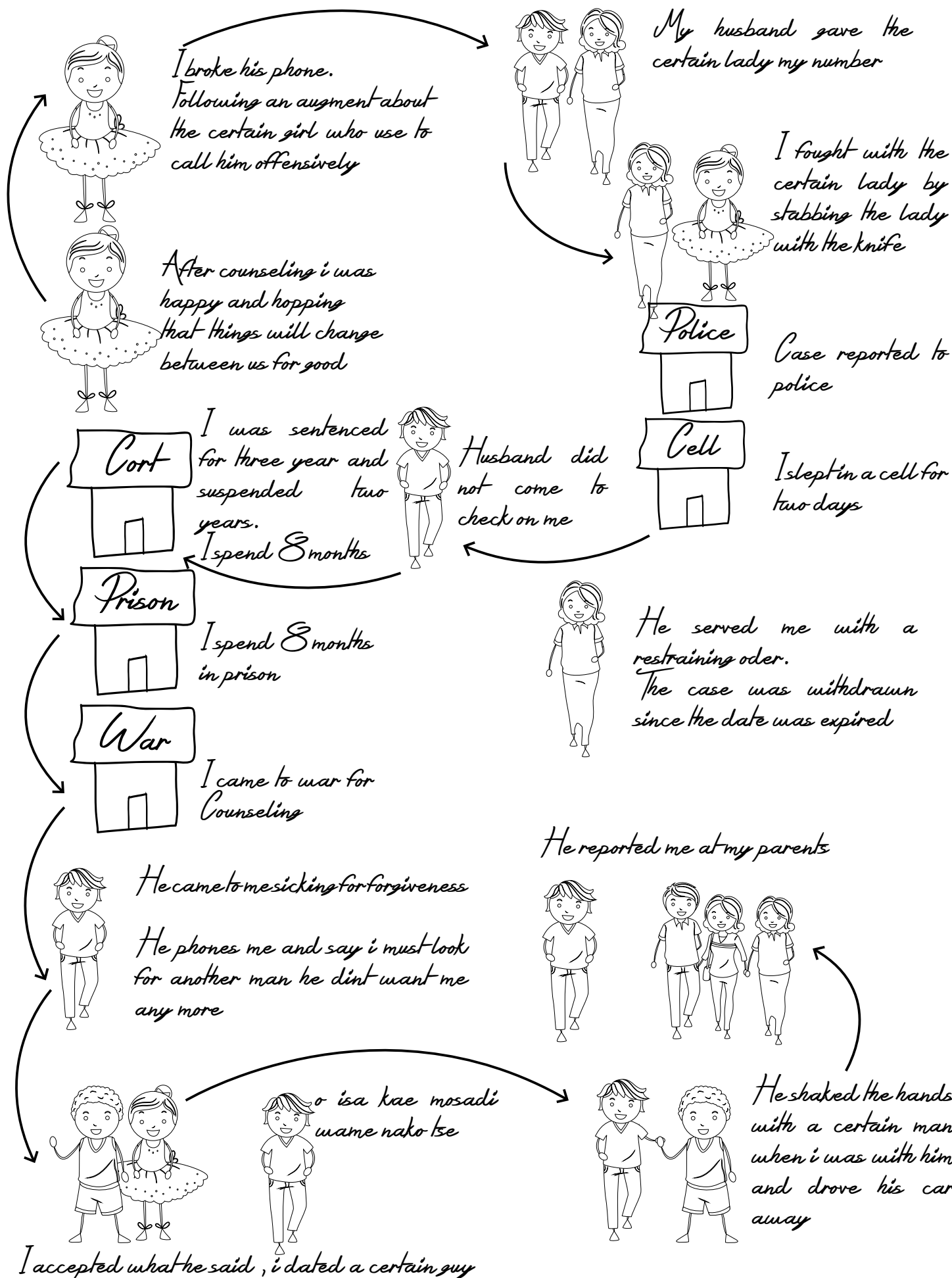
- ☐ Participants understood GBV as emotional abuse as well as physical abuse.
- ☐ The abuse is predominately emanating from intimate relationships: marital and cohabiting couples.
- ☐ There was a trend of cohabiting, deserting girlfriends and wives with children.
- ☐ Some of the participants experienced 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

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

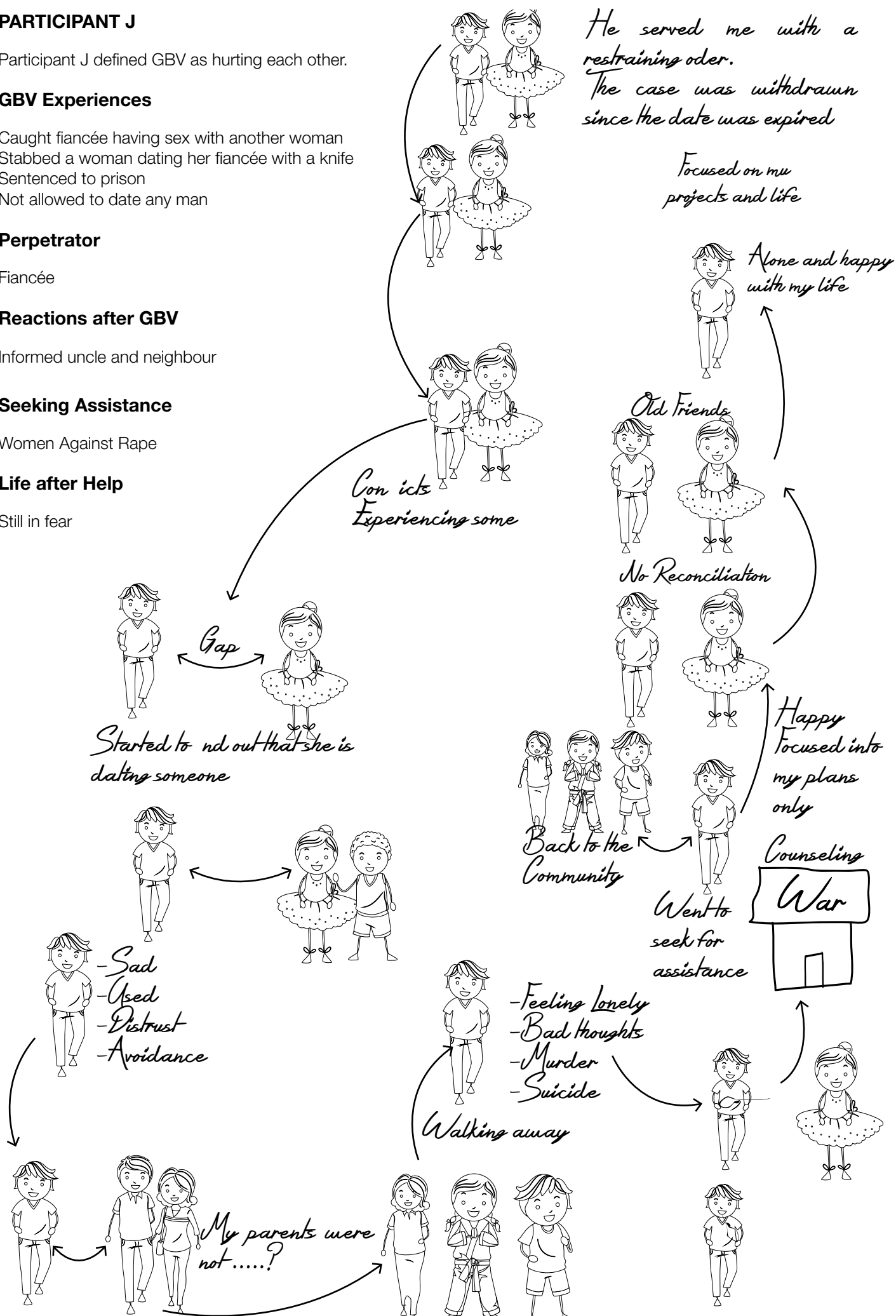
Informed uncle and neighbour

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

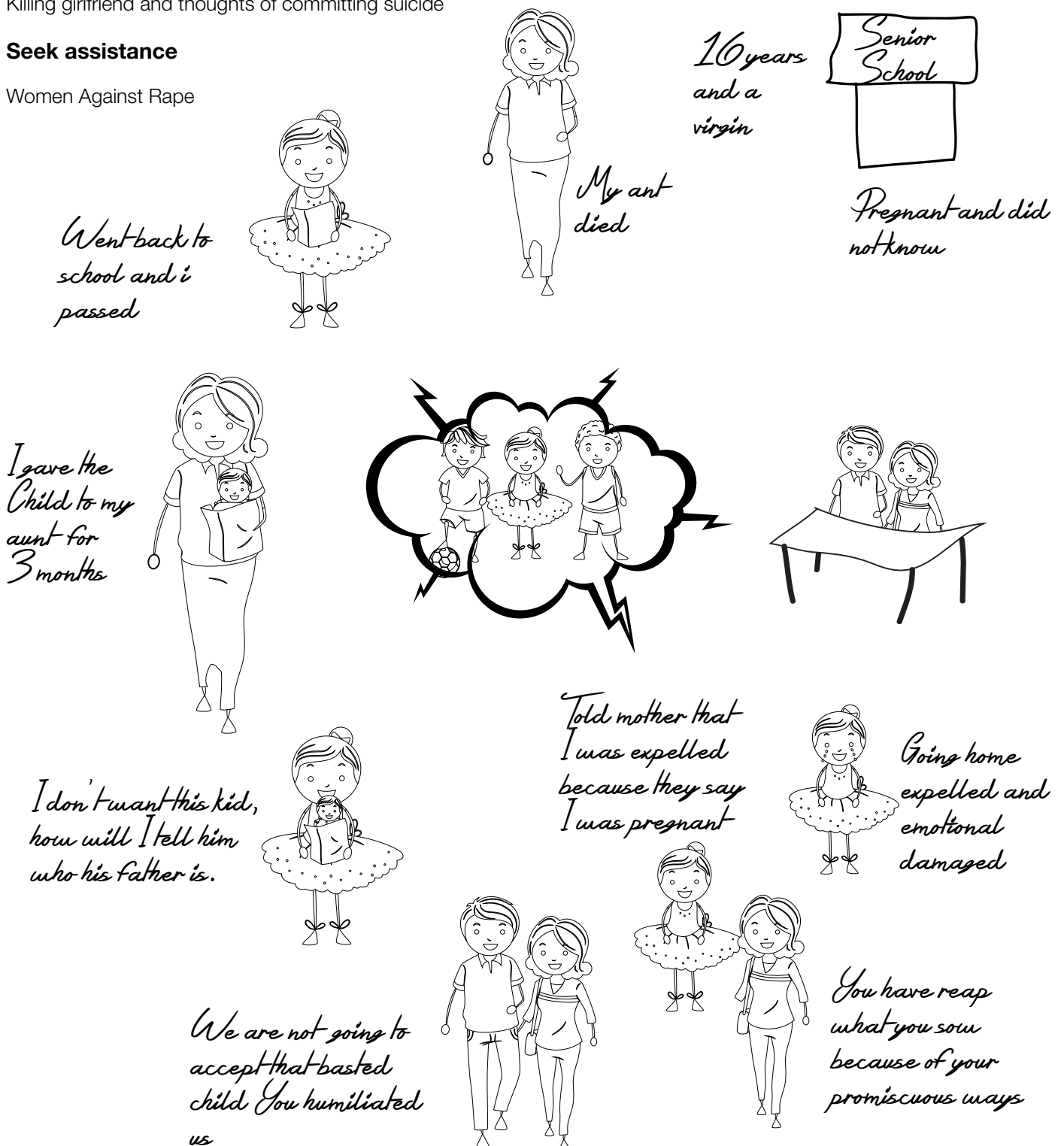
Girlfriend

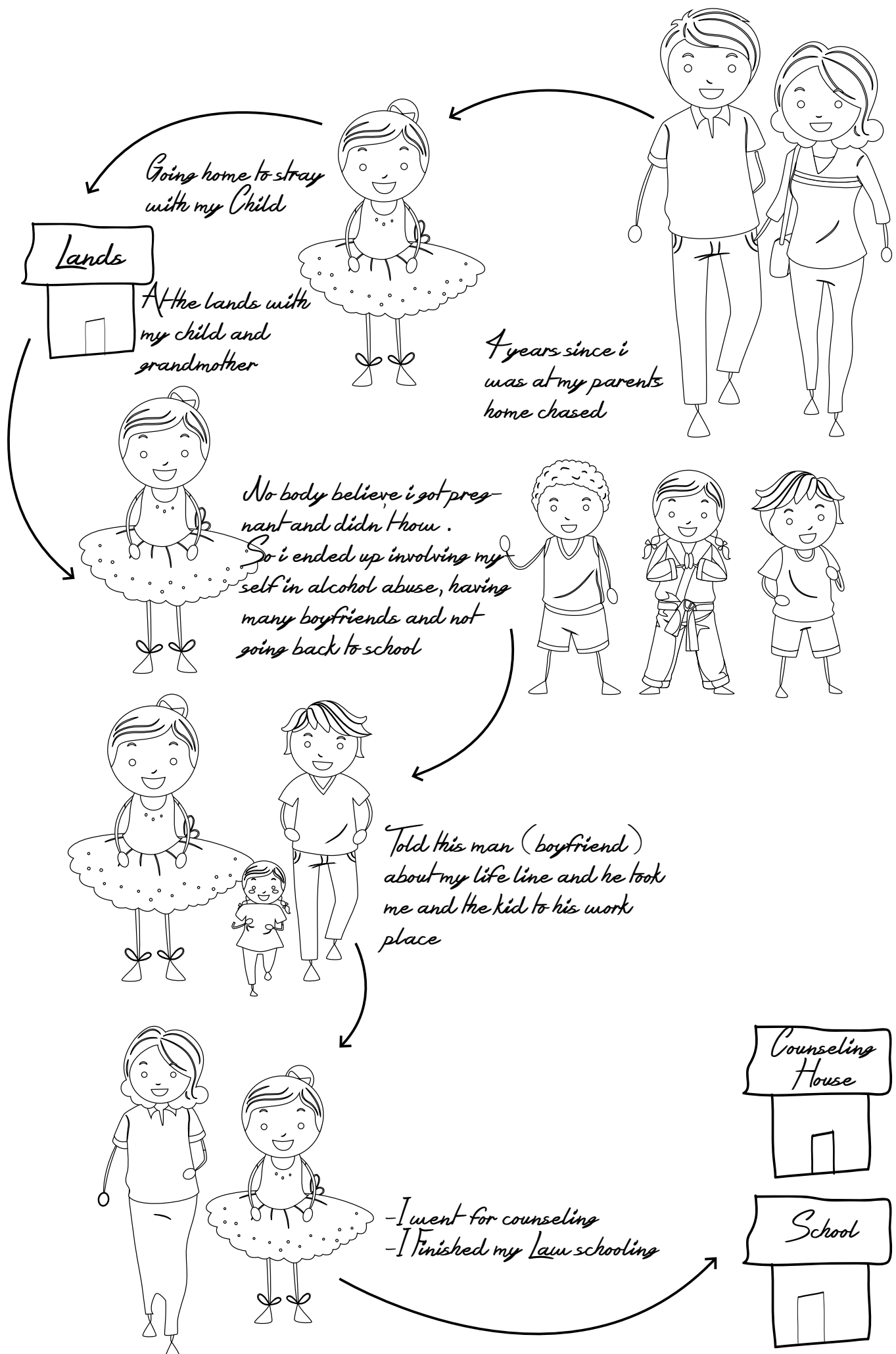
Reaction after GBV

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

BONELA



The Botswana
Network on
Ethics, Law
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