



Social and Community Listening (SCL)

SCL Insights Report: Q3-2026

Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) - 1 July to 30 September 2026





This report presents the findings of a comprehensive social and community listening (SCL) study conducted to analyze social media conversations across East and Southern Africa (ESA) related to the topics of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Using a methodology grounded in qualitative and quantitative social media analysis, the research identifies key trends and narratives, country-specific nuances, as well as the risks and opportunities for UNICEF and partners associated with these critical topics. The report aims to inform actionable recommendations for advocacy and communication strategies to support objectives in the region. Please note that any views reported on as part of the social media landscape analysis do not necessarily reflect the views of UNICEF or partners.

This report is produced with support from 2gether4SRHR, a joint UN Regional Programme, in partnership with Sweden, which brings together the combined efforts of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all people in Eastern and Southern Africa. For a one stop shop of information and resources in Africa, please visit the [SRHR Knowledge Hub](#).

Due to public data privacy and ethical considerations, this report is not intended for public distribution.

Executive Summary

This SCL Insights Report covers SRHR conversations across Eastern and Southern Africa for Q3 2026 (July to September), under the 2gether4SRHR joint UN programme with Sweden. This report collected and analyzed 26,400 results from 12,400 authors, with 824,600 engagements.

Violence set the agenda. Crime and Violence appeared in two thirds of all results and three quarters of engagement, with net sentiment of -94%. For most audiences this quarter, the SRHR conversation was about the safety of women and children and whether institutions can deliver it.

Content travelled further while people engaged less. Potential reach grew by 364M on the previous three months as engagement fell by 475K. News media are carrying SRHR stories to large audiences, and fewer people are responding, sharing or joining the discussion.

Three media markets shape the regional picture. South Africa produced 40% of results and half of potential reach; with Kenya and Uganda the share of results reaches 70%. Voices from smaller countries are easily missed and need more deliberate listening.

Solutions earn a different response. Menstrual Health was the only programme topic with positive net sentiment (+17%), and HIV/AIDS results rose by 943 with improving sentiment as long-acting prevention reached scale. Rwanda was the only country with positive net sentiment.

Trust in protective systems is the central risk. Killings of women in South Africa and cases of police officers accused of abusing girls directed public anger at police and courts. Messages asking survivors to report will be judged against that experience.

HIV prevention has its strongest public story in years, and this momentum is at risk. Long-acting injectable prevention is reaching tens of thousands of people as external health funding is withdrawn. Continuity of supply and services is the reputational and programme risk to watch.

Adolescent girls appear mainly as victims. Adolescent Pregnancy held net sentiment of -84% and was framed through rape, school dropout and court cases. Rights-based content on choice, services and returning to school has room to grow, and menstrual health shows it can land.

The programme's own voice is relatively low. Content tagged to 2gether4SRHR totalled 35 results from 15 authors and 327 engagements, almost all from official UN accounts. Investment is needed to generate greater visibility through partner, youth, and community voices carrying the programme's messages.

Three priorities follow for the next quarter: align programming with protection and justice actors as governments respond to femicide and child abuse; prepare public communication for funding shocks or transitions in HIV services; and invest in community-led content that invites greater participation.

Methodology



This [social listening and community \(SCL\)](#) insights study was conducted in October 2026, covering 3 months of data between July and September 2026 across the Eastern and Southern Africa region in five languages (English, Portuguese, French, Arabic and Swahili). The study employed online social listening and community feedback data (where available) to analyze concerns, questions and potential misleading and harmful content from the public.

Social listening tool “Talkwalker” and community insights research were used to capture relevant conversations across target countries, with thematic categorization and sentiment analysis applied to structure the findings. While the dataset is extensive, the study acknowledges limitations, including restricted access to private data and potential bias inherent to SCL insights research.

Due to ongoing improvements in the data collection query, and resulting baseline shifts, presented data points in this report are not directly comparable to previous report.

Research Questions

- What trends and issues are the most and the least visible online and in the media?
- What positive and negative narratives are emerging online?
- Misconceptions and Disinformation: what barriers exist to promote programme responses?
- What is the tone and language used to describe all issues selected?
- Which individuals and entities are shaping the debate?
- What are the major behavioral and communications risks, and opportunities to act based on insights provided in the report?
- Which resources can be used to provide a response?

Key Insights



- Topline: 26.4K results from 12.4K authors produced 824.6K engagements and a potential reach of 4.2B. Against the previous three months, results fell by about 3K and engagement by 475K, while potential reach grew by 364M.
- Crime and Violence led every measure: 17.3K results, 622K engagements, 2.8B potential reach and net sentiment of -94%. Rape and defilement of children, femicide and police conduct made up most of the content reviewed.
- HIV/AIDS was the second largest topic at 7.6K results, up 943, and its net sentiment improved by 11 points to -20% alongside wide coverage of lenacapavir. South Africa reported 55,123 people initiated by 7 September, 71% of them women.
- Menstrual Health (2.3K results) was the only programme topic with positive net sentiment, at +17%, with coverage of pad cost plans in Kenya and a national education package in Zimbabwe. Adolescent Pregnancy was small (343 results) and strongly negative (-84%).
- South Africa produced 40% of results and half of potential reach, followed by Kenya (15%) and Uganda (14%). Rwanda was the only country with positive net sentiment (+35%); Botswana (-94%) and South Africa (-87%) were among the most negative.
- Femicide in South Africa drew a national response. After at least 11 women were found dead in Ekurhuleni, the President set 60 to 90 day deadlines on unresolved cases, forensic backlogs, municipal safety audits and alcohol-related violence.
- Trust in police and courts was tested. Media reported senior police officers charged with sexual offences against girls in South Africa and Kenya, wholly suspended sentences in cases involving minors, and a fine offered in place of prison in Malawi.
- Funding cuts and displacement are interrupting care: closed youth HIV clinics in Kenya, the end of United States health funding in Zimbabwe, condom shortages in Uganda, and more post-abortion care cases in Malawi linked to repatriation.
- Sex work moved into policy debate. A decriminalisation bill is returning to South Africa's Parliament and a motion in Botswana met church-led opposition, while users in Uganda and Kenya described selling sex as a response to unemployment.
- Public attitudes are supportive in principle and restrictive in practice. An Afrobarometer survey found that 79% of East Africans back sexuality education in schools, yet 51% oppose contraceptives for everyone regardless of age.

Topline Data

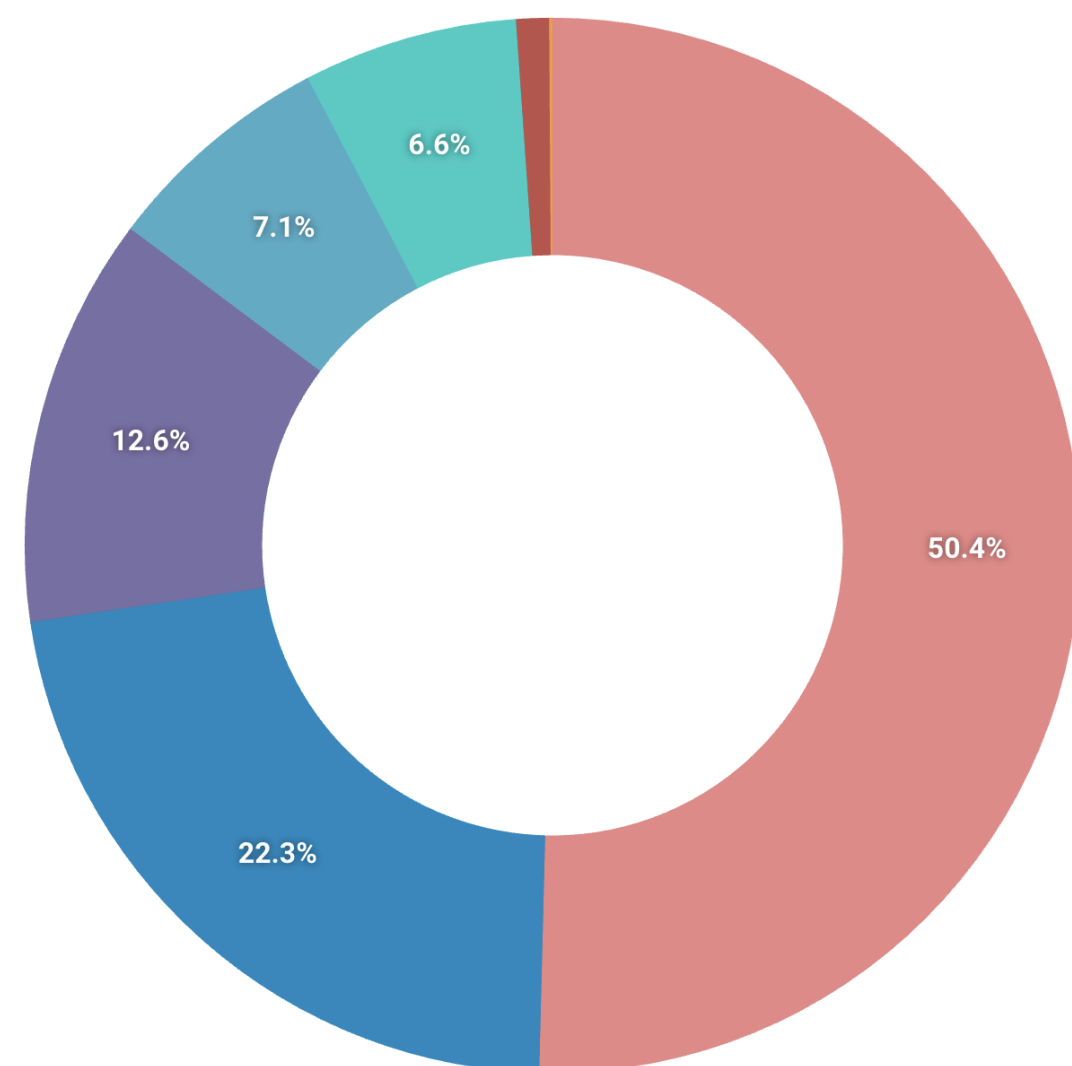


RESULTS	UNIQUE AUTHORS	ENGAGEMENT	POTENTIAL REACH
<div>26.4K</div> <div>⬇️ -3K</div> <div>Compared to the previous period</div>	<div>12.4K</div> <div>⬇️ -1K</div> <div>Compared to the previous period</div>	<div>824.6K</div> <div>⬇️ -475K</div> <div>Compared to the previous period</div>	<div>4.2B</div> <div>⬆️ 364M</div> <div>Compared to the previous period</div>

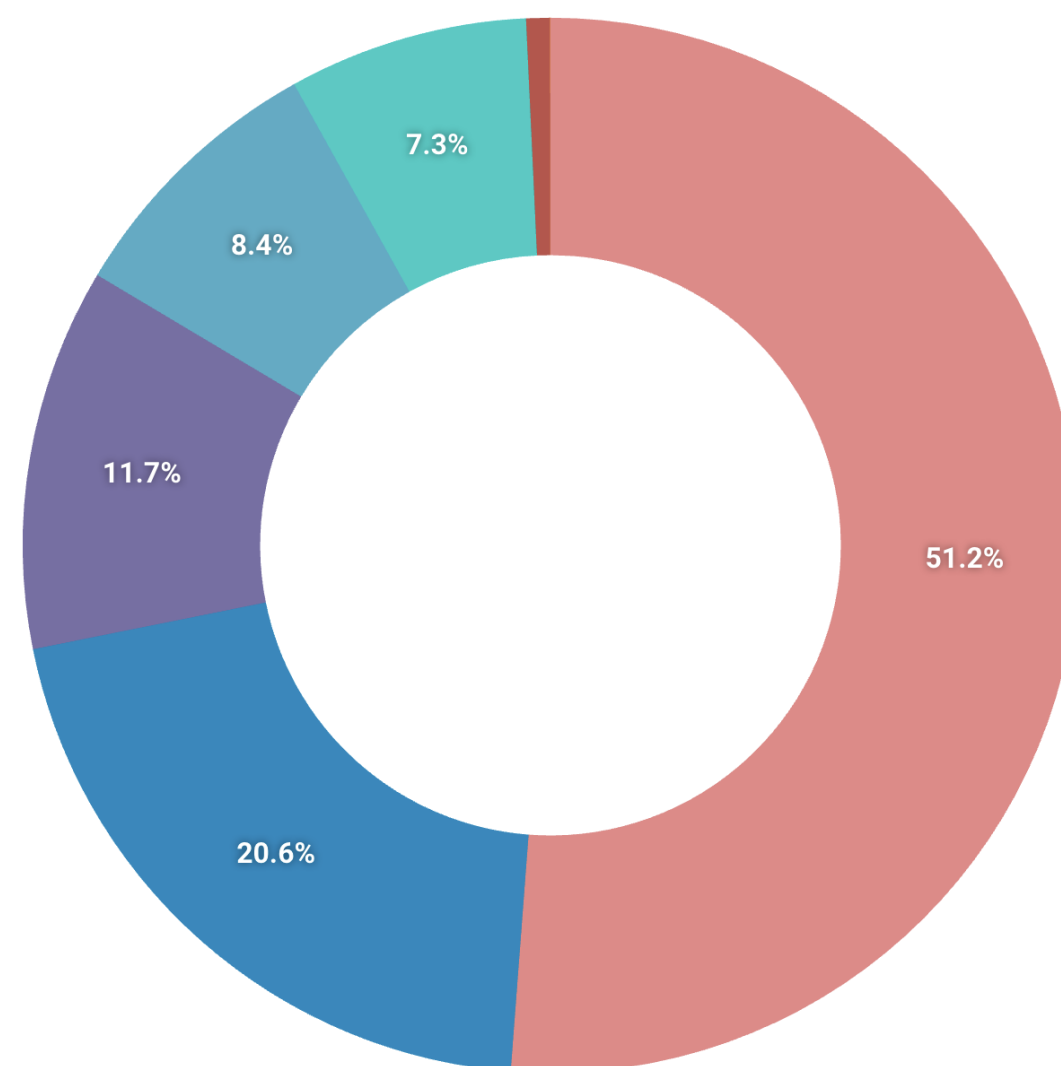
OVERVIEW					
Custom Filters	Results	Authors	Engagement	Net Sentiment	Potential Reach
Crime and Violence	<div>17.3K</div> <div>⬇️ -3K</div>	<div>8.9K</div> <div>⬇️ -1K</div>	<div>622K</div> <div>⬇️ -388K</div>	<div>-94%</div> <div>⬆️ 2</div>	<div>2.8B</div> <div>⬆️ 483M</div>
HIV / AIDS	<div>7.6K</div> <div>⬆️ 943</div>	<div>3.7K</div> <div>⬆️ 46</div>	<div>158.5K</div> <div>⬇️ -70K</div>	<div>-20%</div> <div>⬆️ 11</div>	<div>1.1B</div> <div>⬇️ -159M</div>
Mental Health	<div>4.3K</div> <div>⬆️ 620</div>	<div>2.4K</div> <div>⬇️ -123</div>	<div>74.8K</div> <div>⬇️ -46K</div>	<div>-65%</div> <div>⬆️ 4</div>	<div>649.8M</div> <div>⬆️ 91M</div>
Diseases	<div>2.4K</div> <div>⬆️ 393</div>	<div>1.4K</div> <div>⬇️ -35</div>	<div>48.2K</div> <div>⬇️ -12K</div>	<div>-33%</div> <div>⬆️ 11</div>	<div>463.7M</div> <div>⬆️ 143M</div>
Menstrual Health	<div>2.3K</div> <div>⬇️ -346</div>	<div>1.3K</div> <div>⬇️ -136</div>	<div>35.3K</div> <div>⬇️ -4K</div>	<div>17%</div> <div>⬇️ -7</div>	<div>406.6M</div> <div>⬆️ 6M</div>
Adolescent Pregnancy	<div>343</div> <div>⬆️ 12</div>	<div>297</div> <div>⬆️ 14</div>	<div>12.1K</div> <div>⬆️ 7K</div>	<div>-84%</div> <div>⬆️ 5</div>	<div>40.3M</div> <div>⬇️ -90M</div>
2gether4SRHR	<div>35</div> <div>⬇️ -1</div>	<div>15</div> <div>➡️ 0</div>	<div>327</div> <div>⬇️ -668</div>	<div>71%</div> <div>⬆️ 59</div>	<div>655.6K</div> <div>⬇️ -2M</div>

Multiple filters and labels can apply to one result which, when combined, can exceed the total results in the dataset

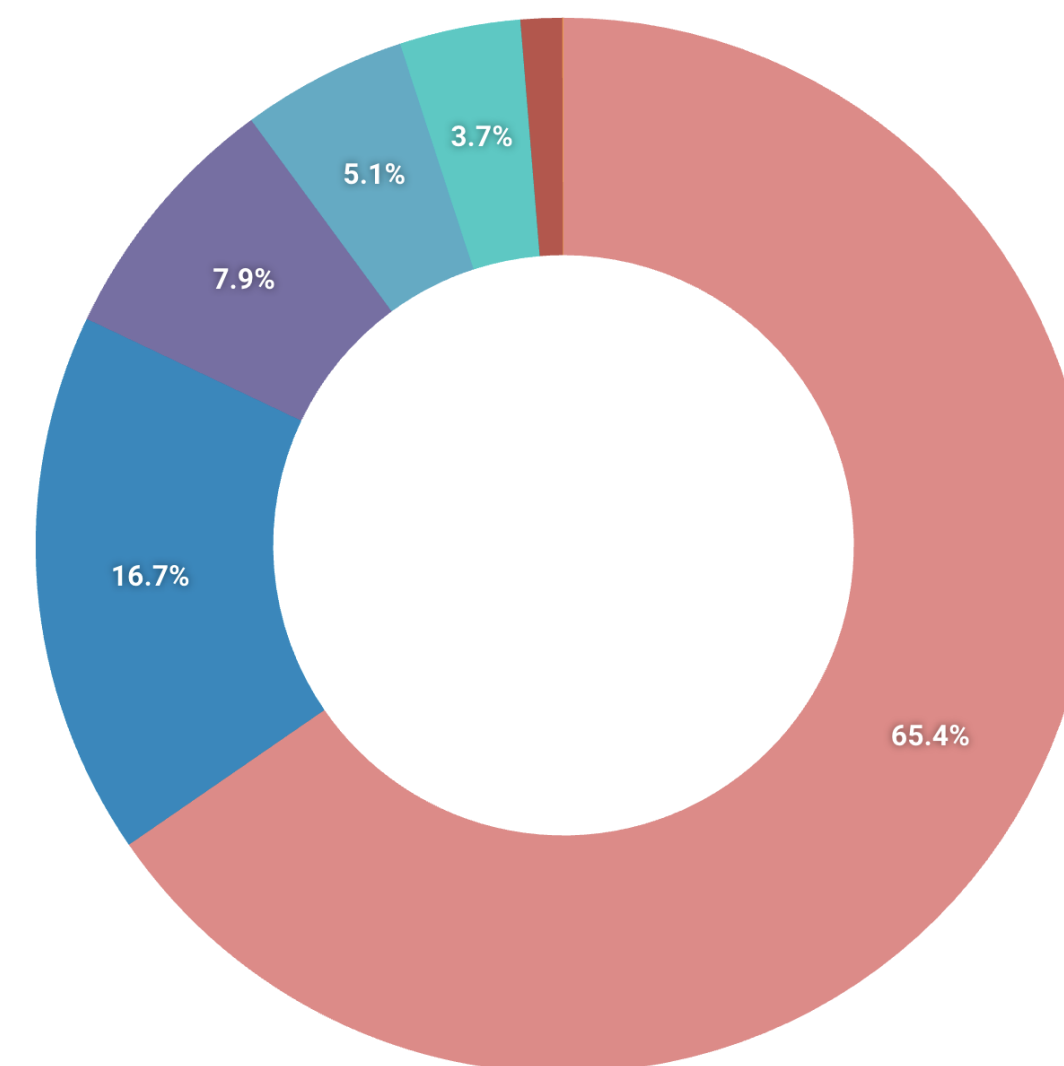
Topic Interest



Share of Conversation



Share of Reach



Share of Engagement

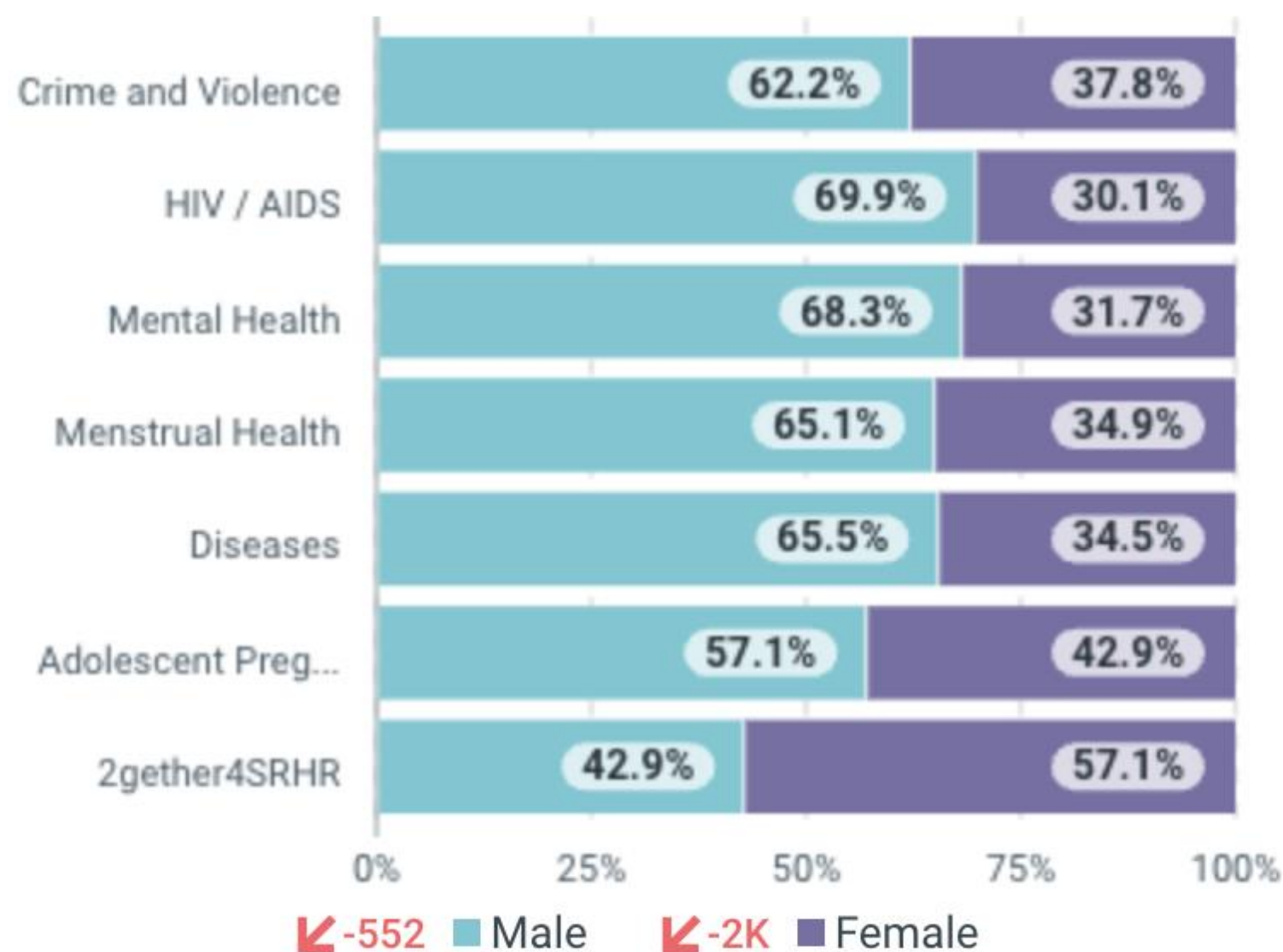
● Crime and Violence ● HIV / AIDS ● Mental Health ● Diseases ● Menstrual Health ● Adolescent Pregnancy ● 2gether4SRHR

Demographics



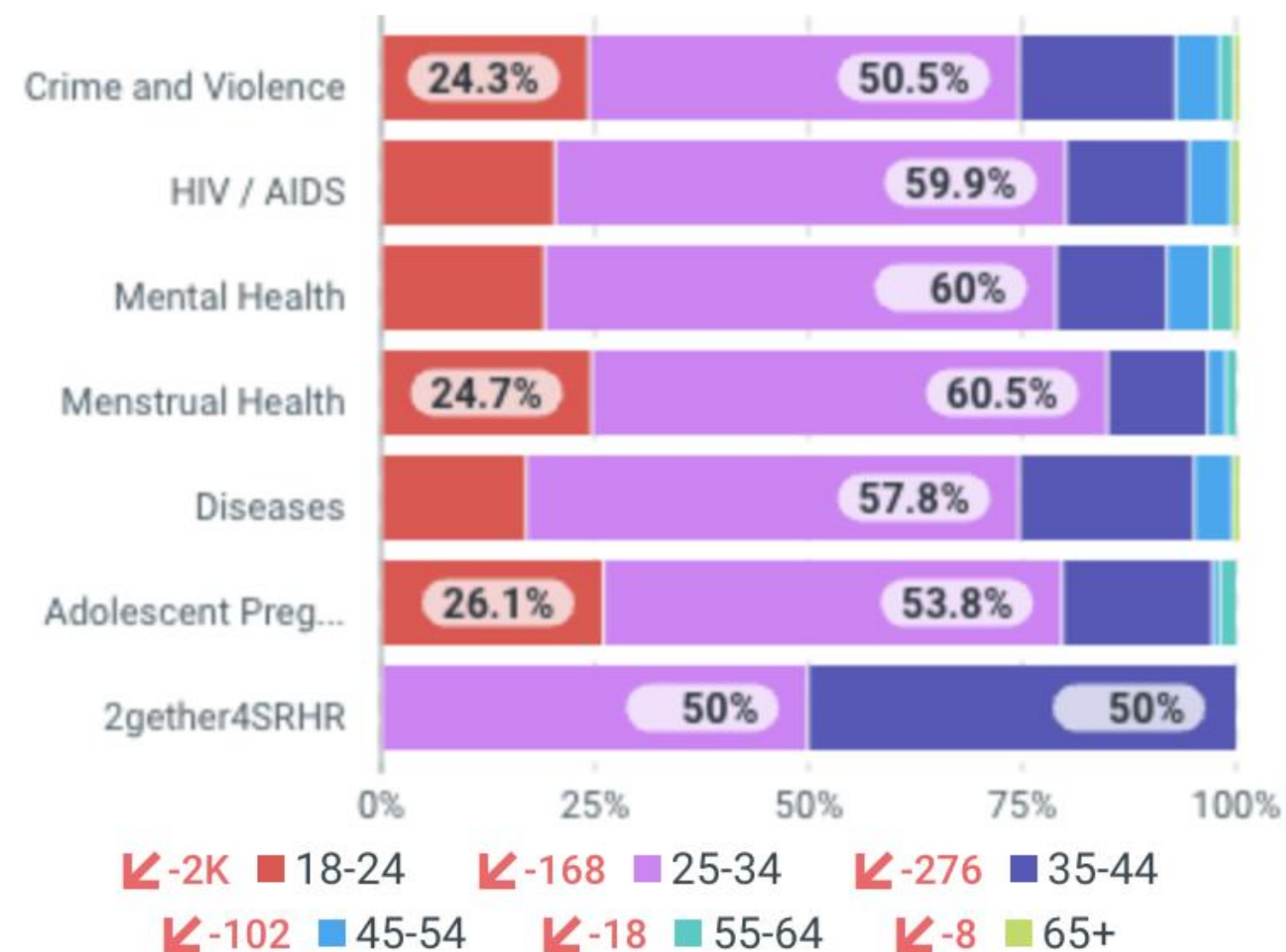
GENDER

by filter



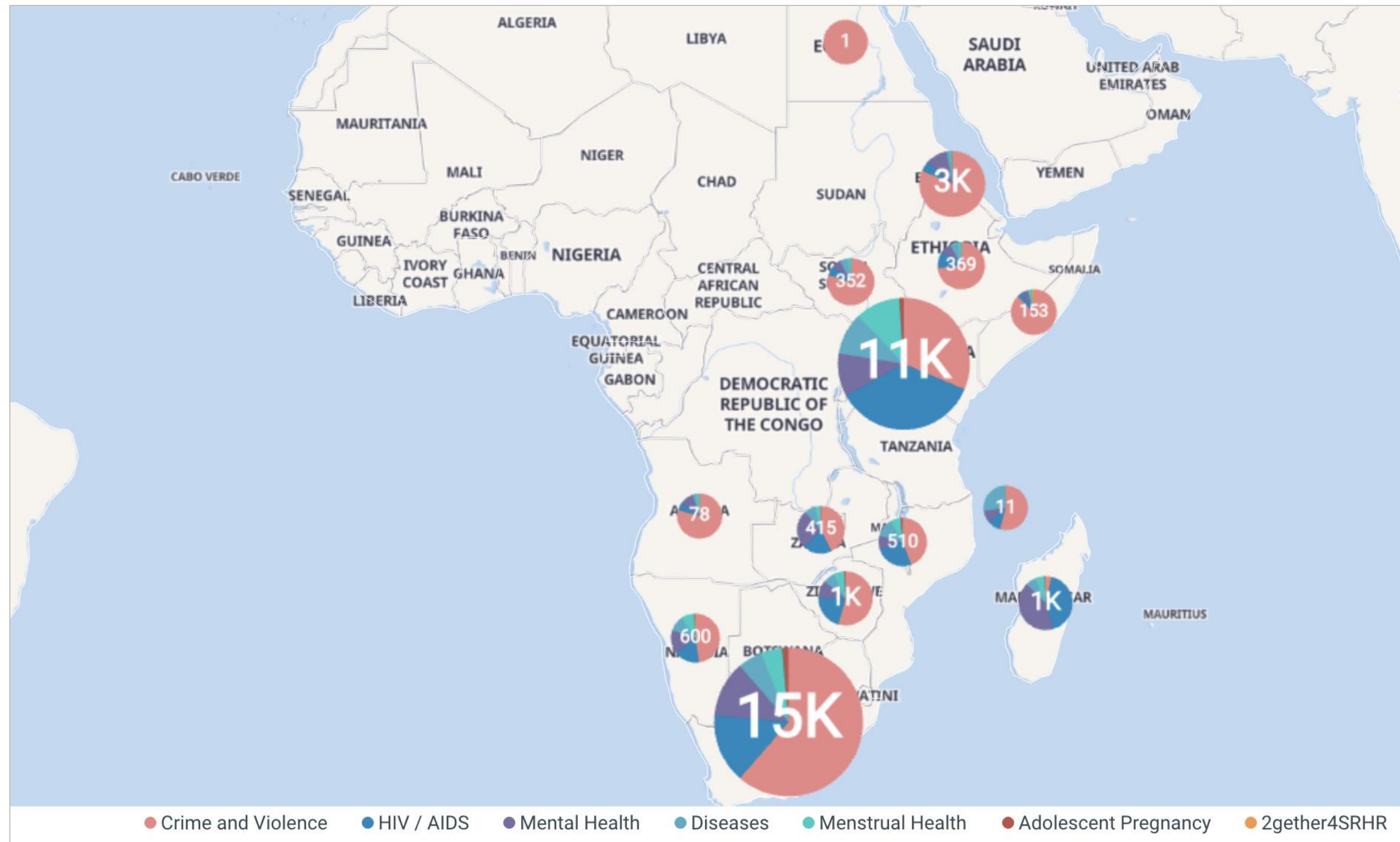
AGE

by filter



Use with caution, demographic data is not available for all results, is self-reported, or is automatically inferred. High margin of error is likely.

Geographic Distribution



Location data can be spoofed or faked, use with caution.

Top Themes



Data visualization based on 2-word phrase / keyword incidence.

Trend: Femicide in Spotlight

The Ekurhuleni Killings

From July to late September, media reported at least 11 women found dead in Ekurhuleni, east of Johannesburg, South Africa many around Kempton Park [\[1\]\[2\]](#). Residents and commentators spoke of a serial killer; police said the cases had not been linked to one perpetrator and made arrests in some of them [\[3\]\[4\]](#). International outlets carried the story to a global audience.

Who Carries the Burden of Safety

Police advised women to avoid walking or running alone, and a national shelter network replied that responsibility for violence lies with perpetrators and protection with the state [\[2\]](#). The President said the burden of male violence had been placed on women [\[5\]](#), that he was ashamed of what men are doing to women [\[6\]](#), and that the solution cannot be to make women less free [\[7\]](#).

A Response With Deadlines

The 29 September address by the President set four measures with 60 to 90 day deadlines: recovery of unresolved murder and rape cases, a funded plan for forensic backlogs, municipal women's safety audits and action on alcohol-related violence [\[8\]\[9\]](#). It followed a high-level investigation team [\[10\]](#) and the appointment in August of the first statutory council on GBV and femicide [\[11\]](#).

Civil Society Asks for Proof

A petition called for a permanently funded serial crime task team [\[3\]](#), a shack dwellers' movement set a seven-day deadline for a public report on the investigations [\[12\]](#), and commentators wrote that declarations alone do not save lives [\[13\]](#). A shelter conference heard that 569 women were murdered between April and June [\[14\]](#); the national GBV helpline logged 6,782 calls in 16 days [\[15\]](#).

Echoes Across the Region

In Kenya, a former governor was convicted of the 2018 murder of a pregnant young woman, a verdict activists called "relief wearing a mask of justice" after eight years [\[16\]\[17\]](#). Namibia's President ordered protection orders served within 24 hours [\[18\]](#), and Zambia's public protector urged police to change how GBV complaints are handled [\[19\]](#).

COMMUNITY VOICE: SOUTH AFRICA

"Our communities live in fear. Women cannot walk at night, cannot work late shifts and cannot even sleep in our shacks without fear."

Trend: Child Sexual Abuse and Justice

Protectors Among the Accused

A suspended deputy national police commissioner in South Africa was charged with raping an 18-year-old and sexually grooming a 16-year-old [20][21]; the acting police minister said such cases must be investigated regardless of rank [22]. In Kenya, a station commander pleaded not guilty to defiling a 14-year-old [23], and Ugandan police arrested an officer over a 15-year-old [24].

Abuse Inside the Home

Much of the reporting involved fathers, stepfathers and grandfathers: a 16-year-old testifying against her father in Kenya [25], a grandfather jailed for 21 years in Malawi [26] and a stepfather given two life terms in South Africa [27]. Northern Cape police said 134 of 284 reported rapes took place in homes [28]. A Kenyan survivor was cast out by relatives for speaking up [29].

Uneven Outcomes in Court

Courts handed down life in Kenya for the defilement of a six-year-old [30] and upheld a 26-year term on appeal in Uganda [31]. Other outcomes drew criticism: a wholly suspended sentence for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old in South Africa [32], a fine offered in place of prison in Malawi [33] and an acquittal in Zambia over defects in a clinic card [34].

Settled Outside the Law

In Zambia, a mother asked a local court to award her two cows from a man accused of impregnating her 15-year-old daughter in place of a police report [35]. A Kenyan family said an accused officer offered them Sh20,000 and threatened them [36]. Police in Mchinji, Malawi, said that hearing rape cases only in traditional courts is fuelling offences [37].

Early Pregnancy and Online Harm

South Africa's Parliament began an enquiry into statutory rape [38]. Western Cape data showed 292 births to girls aged 10 to 14 [39], and activists asked that pregnancies under 16 be treated as potential rape [40]. Broadcasters investigated child abuse material traded on the dark web [41], and police arrested a 16-year-old linked to an international abuse network [42].

COMMUNITY VOICE: RWANDA

“A woman's or girl's outfit never gives anyone the right to harass, abuse, touch, or rape her.”

Trend: HIV Prevention and Funding Cuts

Long-Acting Prevention at Scale

Media reported 55,123 people initiated on lenacapavir in South Africa by 7 September, 71% of them women [43][44], with a launch in Malawi [45] and first shipments to Zambia [46]. A Kenyan firm was licensed to manufacture an investigational monthly prevention pill [47]. Coverage also raised supply limits and the need to explain the injection in community settings [48][49].

Funding Withdrawal and Continuity

Reports described youth HIV clinics closing in Kenya after United States funding stopped [50], the end of United States health funding in Zimbabwe [51] and reduced support in Namibia [52]. People living with HIV in Kenya demanded quality ARVs amid reported shortages [53], and sex workers in Uganda reported shortages of condoms and lubricants [54].

Young People and New Infections

Kenyan broadcasters reported an 82% fall in new infections over a decade, with 41% of new infections among 15 to 24 year olds [55][56], and the First Lady relaunched a campaign on HIV, teenage pregnancy and GBV [57]. Uganda reported four new infections every hour [58], Zambia a syphilis surge among youth [59], and Eswatini falling condom use among pupils [60].

Mobility and Interrupted Care

Anti-migrant violence in South Africa displaced tens of thousands of people and prompted an MSF emergency response [61]. Zimbabwe's health ministry said people returning home would keep receiving ARVs through community refill groups [62], and health officials in Machinga, Malawi, linked repatriation to a rise in post-abortion care cases [63].

Who Is Being Reached

Women account for 71% of South Africa's lenacapavir users [44], and a sex worker and peer educator described the injection as a relief after years of daily pills [64]. An organisation at a national boys' gathering said most men are afraid to test for HIV [65], and Zambia's AIDS council reported men over 50 acquiring HIV through relationships with younger women [66]. A Ugandan user asked for an end to "moral policing", describing transactional sex among youth as an economic crisis [67].

COMMUNITY VOICE: UGANDA

"This girl has made a record as the first Ugandan girl to ever come out publicly and state she is HIV positive."

Survey: SRHR Attitudes in East Africa

Women's Autonomy

Across seven East African countries, 80% of citizens say girls and women should decide for themselves whether and when to marry, and 73% say women should decide when and how many children to have. Support for autonomy in childbearing is higher among women (79%) than men (66%) and lowest in Comoros (59%), Kenya (66%) and Uganda (66%).

Schools as Common Ground

Sexuality education in schools has the backing of 79% of citizens, from 95% in Madagascar to 72% in Kenya, 61% in Tanzania and 60% in Uganda. The same share (79%) say girls who become pregnant or have children should be allowed to continue their schooling: 91% in Kenya and 84% in Uganda, against 59% in Tanzania, where 39% disagree.

Contraceptive Access Divides Opinion

A majority (58%) would make contraceptives available regardless of marital status. Fewer (42%) would do so regardless of age, and 51% are opposed. Support for access regardless of age stands at 56% in Madagascar and Mauritius, 38% in Uganda, 24% in Kenya and 23% in Tanzania. Support grows with education, wealth and urban residence.

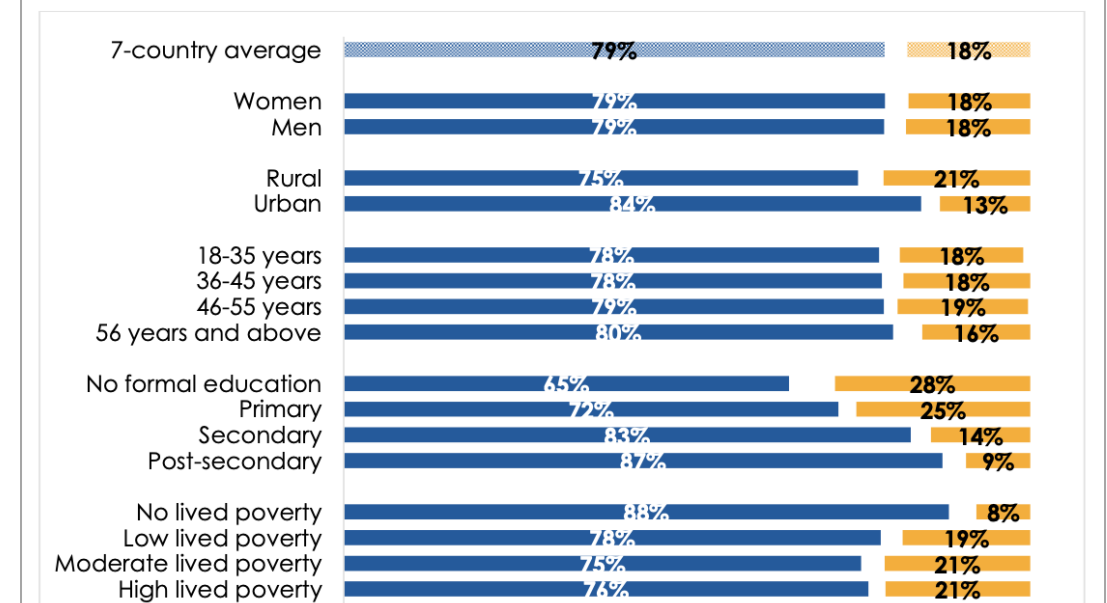
Abortion Views Depend on Circumstance

Two thirds (67%) say ending a pregnancy is sometimes or always justified when the woman's life or health is at risk. Views split on rape or incest: 47% say it can be justified and 49% say never, with acceptance at 40% in Kenya, 36% in Uganda and 20% in Tanzania. About seven in ten say it is never justified for economic hardship (68%) or an unwanted pregnancy (71%).

About the Survey

Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 1232, published on 16 September 2026, draws on 12,000 face-to-face interviews in Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda, conducted between January 2024 and June 2025. Country results carry a margin of error of 2 to 3 percentage points. Southern African countries are covered in a separate dispatch.

Figure 5: Should schools teach sexuality education? | by demographic group
| 7 countries | 2024/2025



Highest Reach Influencers

Influencer 	Network	Posts	Sentiment	Reach ↓	Reach per mention	Engagement	Engagement per mention
 Citizen TV Kenya http://www.facebook.com/		25 ↑16	<div><div></div></div>	204.4M ↑62M	8.2M ↑658K	4.9K ↓-9K	194.6 ↓-519
 SA Police Service   @SAPoliceService		127 ↑21	<div><div></div></div>	173.9M ↑29M	1.4M ↑4K	4.3K ↑3K	33.8 ↑18
 Citizen TV Kenya  @citizentvkenya		24 ↑6	<div><div></div></div>	164.7M ↑41M	6.9M ↑16K	293 ↑92	12.2 ↑1
 Zodiak Online http://www.facebook.com/		52 ↑12	<div><div></div></div>	113M ↑29M	2.2M ↑82K	15.1K ↑5K	289.6 ↑45
 Daily Nation  @NationAfrica		26 ↓-37	<div><div></div></div>	111M ↓-158M	4.3M ↑3K	172 ↓-340	6.6 ↓-2
 Standard Digital http://www.facebook.com/		23 ↓-4	<div><div></div></div>	101.5M ↓-16M	4.4M ↑69K	3.1K ↑228	135 ↑28
 NTV Kenya http://www.facebook.com/		15 ↓-5	<div><div></div></div>	95.3M ↓-29M	6.4M ↑144K	7.2K ↑5K	479.9 ↑386
 eNCAnews http://www.facebook.com/		19 ↑4	<div><div></div></div>	91.4M ↑28M	4.8M ↑581K	16.4K ↑14K	865.4 ↑711
 Nation http://www.facebook.com/		22 ↓-26	<div><div></div></div>	91.1M ↓-104M	4.1M ↑71K	2.2K ↓-2K	99 ↑21
 eNCA  @eNCA		17 ↑8	<div><div></div></div>	84.4M ↑40M	5M ↑21K	4.6K ↑4K	273.1 ↑257

Individuals and organizations listed here may not be supportive of the SRHR agenda and may sometimes have low programme relevance.

Most Engaging Influencers

Influencer 	Network	Posts	Sentiment	Reach	Reach per mention	Engagement ↓	Engagement per mention
 IRAN EMBASSY in KENYA ✓ @IRANinKENYA	X	1	<div><div></div></div>	23K	23K	25.5K	25.5K
 Kalemba http://www.facebook.com/	f	8 ↓-6	<div><div></div></div>	11M ↓-6M	1.4M ↑195K	24.7K ↓-11K	3.1K ↑506
 Botswana Police Service http://www.facebook.com/	f	4 ↑3	<div><div></div></div>	2.9M ↑2M	718.1K ↑39K	21.5K ↑21K	5.4K ↑5K
 Bassie  @BassieLastrassi	X	1	<div><div></div></div>	66.9K	66.9K	17K	17K
 The Yorkshire Lass ✓ @real_shirelass	X	20 ↓-4	<div><div></div></div>	1.8M ↓-200K	87.6K ↑6K	16.9K ↓-63K	844.8 ↓-2K
 eNCAnews http://www.facebook.com/	f	19 ↑4	<div><div></div></div>	91.4M ↑28M	4.8M ↑581K	16.4K ↑14K	865.4 ↑711
 TV Miramar http://www.facebook.com/	f	2 ↑1	<div><div></div></div>	9.5M ↑5M	4.7M ↑112K	16K ↑8K	8K ↓-289
 Zodiak Online http://www.facebook.com/	f	52 ↑12	<div><div></div></div>	113M ↑29M	2.2M ↑82K	15.1K ↑5K	289.6 ↑45
 IOL News http://www.facebook.com/	f	11 ↓-12	<div><div></div></div>	13.2M ↓-11M	1.2M ↑152K	13.1K ↑11K	1.2K ↑1K
 Petite Ebony Girl  @PetiteEbonyGirl	X	12 ↑7	<div><div></div></div>	177.9K ↑108K	14.8K ↑813	12K ↑12K	1K ↑995

Individuals and organizations listed here may not be supportive of the SRHR agenda and may sometimes have low programme relevance.

Country Snapshots



South Africa

Ekurhuleni Killings: Media reported at least 11 women found dead in Ekurhuleni since July, prompting protests, a petition for a permanent task team and a presidential address on 29 September announcing four measures with 60 to 90 day deadlines.

Police Leadership in Court: A suspended deputy national police commissioner appeared in court on five charges including rape, sexual grooming of a 16-year-old and trafficking; coverage asked how the case affects confidence in the police.

Lenacapavir Uptake: The health department reported 55,123 people initiated by 7 September at 360 facilities in six provinces, 71% of them women, most pregnant or breastfeeding.

Child Pregnancy Framed as Rape: Western Cape figures showing 292 births to girls aged 10 to 14 led activists to call for automatic protection responses; a broadcaster reported 49,000 of 400,000 teachers vetted against the Child Protection Register.

Kenya

Triple Threat Campaign: The First Lady launched a new phase of a campaign on HIV, teenage pregnancy and GBV; officials cited 41% of new HIV infections among 15 to 24 year olds.

Clinics Lost to Aid Cuts: A national daily reported youth HIV clinics in Laikipia closed after United States funding stopped; people living with HIV demanded quality ARVs amid reported shortages.

Schoolgirl Pregnancies: Police opened investigations after 36 girls at one Webuye school became pregnant; a Nyamira school credited weekly sexuality education for five years without a case.

Menstrual Health: The government unveiled plans to lower sanitary pad costs through local manufacturing and tax incentives; endometriosis disclosures by public figures drove coverage of painful periods.

Police Accountability: A police station commander was charged with defiling a 14-year-old girl in Kakamega, and the police oversight authority took over the investigation.

Uganda

Four Infections an Hour: The AIDS Commission reported 34,400 new HIV infections in 2025, 40% among young people, and named transactional sex, low condom use and complacency as drivers; commentary described HIV as a poverty problem.

Condom Shortages: Sex workers in Kasese and Global Fund coordinators in Bunyoro reported shortages of condoms and lubricants.

Male Engagement Strategy: UN agencies and ministries launched the strategy in late September with Swedish funding through 2gether4SRHR; separately, a group of women called for family planning aimed at men.

Girls Under 15 in Antenatal Care: Busoga's health review recorded at least 419 girls under 15 registering for antenatal care; a girls' festival in Yumbe aired testimonies on GBV and child marriage.

Period Poverty: A transport alliance launched a "1 Million Pads for 1 Million Girls" campaign; several posts linked lack of pads to transactional sex and missed school.

Country Snapshots



Tanzania

Five Threats to Young People: A national adolescent health meeting on 29 and 30 September named HIV, teenage pregnancy, STIs, GBV and mental health as priority threats; the health ministry said 22% of girls aged 15 to 19 have begun childbearing.

Mother-to-Child Transmission: The national AIDS programme reported infant HIV transmission falling from 11% in 2021 to 6.9% in 2025, and more than 330,000 HIV self-test kits distributed in Dar es Salaam in 2025.

Behavioural Capacity: Through 2gether4SRHR, 52 facilitators and health focal points from all eight councils in Kigoma were trained on the COM-B framework to identify behavioural barriers to family planning.

Public Attitudes: Of seven East African countries surveyed by Afrobarometer, Tanzania showed the lowest support for contraceptive access regardless of age (23%) and for pregnant girls staying in school (59%).

Malawi

Lenacapavir Launch: The government launched the injection on 2 July with 38,000 doses supplied by the United States, aiming to cut annual new HIV infections from over 12,000 to below 4,000 by 2030.

Male Engagement Strategy: The gender ministry and the National AIDS Commission presented the strategy to district councils, saying that leaving men out is slowing efforts to end GBV.

Returnees and Post-Abortion Care: Machinga health officials linked repatriation from South Africa to a rise in daily post-abortion care cases from seven to nine, citing unsafe methods used out of fear for marriages.

Sentencing Debates: A child rights activist challenged a court order offering a K5 million fine in place of prison for sex with a minor; police in Mchinji said handling rape in traditional courts fuels offences.

Teenage Pregnancy and STIs: Salima reported that about 25% of pregnancies registered since 2025 involve teenagers, with 362 STI cases in August alone.

Zambia

HIV Targets at Risk: The National AIDS Council said Zambia is yet to be safely on course for fewer than 15,000 new infections by 2030, with about 23,000 a year and 37% among adolescents and young people.

Syphilis Campaign: The health ministry launched a Stop Syphilis Campaign with condom distribution, reporting the highest STI burden among 15 to 25 year olds and rising cases among pregnant women.

Lenacapavir Arrives: About 19,200 doses funded by the United States arrived in August, with emphasis on pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Intergenerational Relationships: The AIDS council reported men over 50 increasingly acquiring HIV through relationships with younger women and is expanding men's clinics and dialogues with traditional leaders.

Menstrual Health at UNGA: A Zambian youth advocate told a UN General Assembly event that 5% of schools have basic WASH services and asked leaders to treat menstrual health as part of school WASH.

Country Snapshots



Zimbabwe

United States Health Funding Ends: The United States ambassador said all health funding would stop at the end of September after the government declined a new bilateral agreement; affected lines reportedly include ARVs, PrEP, condoms and family planning.

Returnees on HIV Treatment: The health ministry said it is using community ART refill groups to support people returning from South Africa and dismissed reports that their supplies would be cut.

Menstrual Health Package: The government, UNFPA and the World Bank launched a National Menstrual Health Education Package and a “Zero Taboos” game on 14 September to standardise teaching in schools and communities.

Youth-Led Listening: After the AIDS council named two Bulawayo suburbs as emerging HIV hotspots, a youth centre’s street interview series asked residents about causes and stigma; a radio station asked whether young people fear pregnancy more than HIV.

Namibia

Presidential GBV Measures: The President announced an assessment of GBV Protection Units, protection orders served within 24 hours and a review of rape and domestic violence laws.

Child Sexual Abuse Reports: Police reports from northern regions were a constant feature, with boys among the victims; an unregistered school was closed amid rape allegations involving girls aged five to ten.

Boys and Young Men: A foundation launched by the First Gentleman highlighted boys’ falling school participation; a youth conference in Windhoek discussed men’s mental health.

HPV Hesitancy: The health ministry said 79,093 of about 232,000 targeted girls had been vaccinated by June 2026, citing misinformation and parental concerns.

HIV Targets and Transition: UNAIDS placed Namibia among 11 countries meeting the 95-95-95 targets; the United States is reducing support, with about N\$718 million pledged for transition.

Eswatini

HIV Prevention Indaba: The Prime Minister launched a national prevention report themed on values and norms, noting about 4,000 new infections a year and calling for stronger family communication.

Risk Among Pupils: A school health survey found sexual activity among 13 to 17 year olds rose from 20.6% in 2013 to 28.3% in 2025, while condom use fell from 62.4% to 55.3%.

Poverty and Transactional Sex: The Indaba study reported some textile workers selling sex for E20; a separate survey linked unprotected sex among youth to partner pressure and financial hardship.

Sentencing Controversy: A magistrate defended wholly suspended sentences in rape cases involving minors as consensual relationships between young couples; judicial officers called for the sexual offences law to be amended.

Youth Communication: A newspaper opinion argued that the national HIV council needs a digital-first youth strategy; peer educators took prevention messages to the annual Reed Dance.

High Engagement Visuals



Botswana: Facebook reel video from Botswana Police Service with the title “Speak Up! Protect Our Children! Stop Defilement!”



Mozambique: Video accompanying a news that a 19-year-old man is being held in Xai-Xai, accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl.



Zimbabwe: Video with a news story about a man wrongfully accused of rape, rebuilding his life.



South Africa: Viral podcast video where a musician is justifying keeping a sex tape to avoid any future rape or non-consensual sex allegations.



Tanzania: Image accompanying news that Kenya has been given the license to manufacture alimatravir HIV medicine in Africa.

Opportunities to Act



- Align SBC content in South Africa with the government's 60 to 90 day measures: place responsibility on perpetrators and institutions, avoid advice that restricts women's movement, and build on the presidential call for men to act.
- Where police officers are among the accused, publicise survivor-centred reporting routes such as one-stop centres and helplines, and work with oversight bodies so that survivors and caregivers can see how complaints against officers are handled.
- Work with health, education and police partners on referral protocols so that pregnancy in girls under 16 triggers a child protection response, building on the public debate in South Africa and cases reported in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.
- Engage traditional leaders and local courts on defilement cases settled through compensation, pairing legal literacy for caregivers with messages on what silence costs children, and add online safety content for parents and adolescents.
- Pair the lenacapavir rollout with community-level explanation in local languages, using peer voices already featured in coverage, be open about supply limits, and add outreach to men, who are a minority of users and are described as afraid to test.
- Provide clear public information on where HIV, family planning and post-abortion care remain available as funding shifts, and coordinate cross-border referral messaging for people returning from South Africa to Zimbabwe and Malawi.
- Support country offices to act on the Lancet call for pregnant and parenting adolescents: package peer mentor models, integrate brief group therapy into antenatal care, and use the 79% public support for continued schooling in school re-entry messaging.
- Shift 2gether4SRHR visibility from institutional posts towards partner, youth and community voices, and set up dedicated listening in lower-volume countries, since three media markets produce 70% of results.



Thank You