

# Measuring disrespect and abuse during childbirth in Kenya

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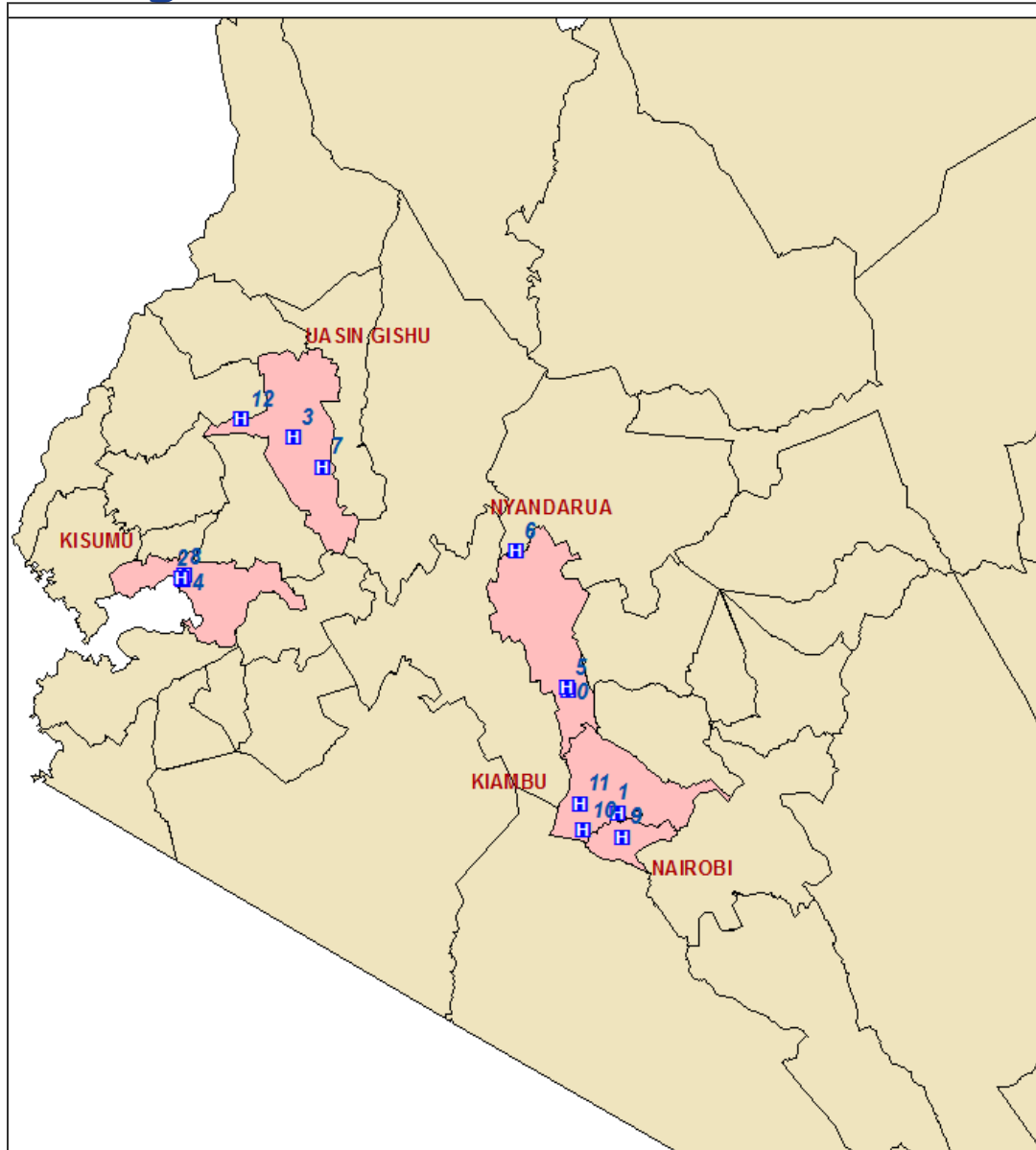
TRANSLATING  
RESEARCH  
INTO ACTION



 **Population Council**

- Certainly not every woman seeking care experiences disrespect and abuse (D&A)—but we can all agree any incident of inhumane treatment during childbirth is too much
- No one deserves to be treated this way
- No woman should experience being hit or shouted at - especially in childbirth

# Study sites



13 health facilities

- 3 Referral hospitals
- 4 District/sub district hospitals
- 3 Private hospitals
- 1 FBO hospital
- 2 Health centres

# Research Methods

## 1. Policy and governance

- In depth interviews with senior RH program managers/civil society leaders

## 2. Health facility assessments

- Facility inventories
- Structured observations of labour and deliver
- Exit interviews with postpartum women
- Provider in-depth interviews quantitative

## 3. Community research

- Case narratives with women affected by D&A
- FGDs with families, community members

## Policy level views

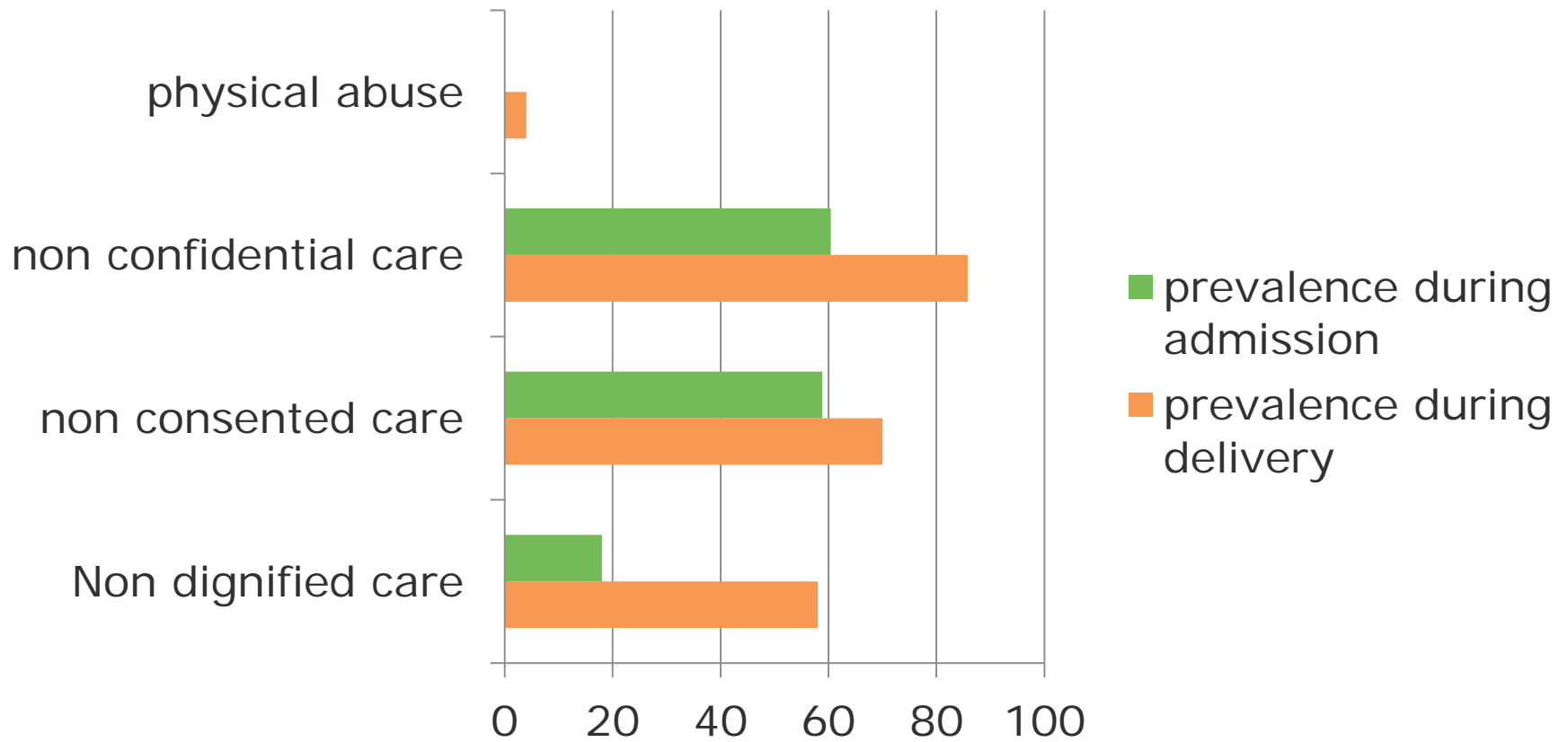
*“In some communities poor care during delivery has resulted in women not seeking care at the facility”  
(senior health manager)*

*“How do you expect a midwife to be in a good mood if she works with no break and has many clients to attend to in a dirty working environment”  
(health manager)*

# Structural attributes: equipment and supplies available to conduct deliveries

Scores for availability of:	Total
Delivery supplies and kits (0-5)	3.9
Delivery equipment (0-13)	11.8
Other delivery supplies (0-11)	10.6
Infection control supplies (0-6)	4.2
<b>Overall scores (0-35)</b>	<b>30.5</b>

# Prevalence of D & A observed during admission and delivery



## Physical Abuse

*“She slapped me on the thighs and I was being tossed around in unfriendly manner but we find it like it is normal to us”*

*(FGD women)*

*“Women need to be slapped so that they can conform and save the baby’s life”*

*(Provider IDI)*



# Types of D&A observed & reported during childbirth

Undignified treatment	Observed	Exit
Treated in humiliating manner	5%	20%
Use of undignified language (Stupid, scolding)	23%	18%
<b>Physical and verbal abuse</b>		
Verbally abused the mother	10.5%	4%
Physically abuse (Slapping)	3.5%	4.3%
Use of harsh tones	15%	18%

# Non –dignified treatment

*At xxxx you walk naked, that is they ask you to strip completely. All your clothes are torn. When you try to refuse that's where the beating starts. The clothes are thrown away; you cannot even trace them again after you recover. In other places you are only told to remove your skirt and inner clothes but they give you hospital gowns. (FGD, Women)*

*“You know why we say it is normal, when you go to a place, you follow the authority above, good or bad, you follow it.”*

*(FGD women)*

*They really threaten us and we fear them. I would rather disagree with a policeman but not a doctor. Doctor is next to God.*

*(FGD, men)*

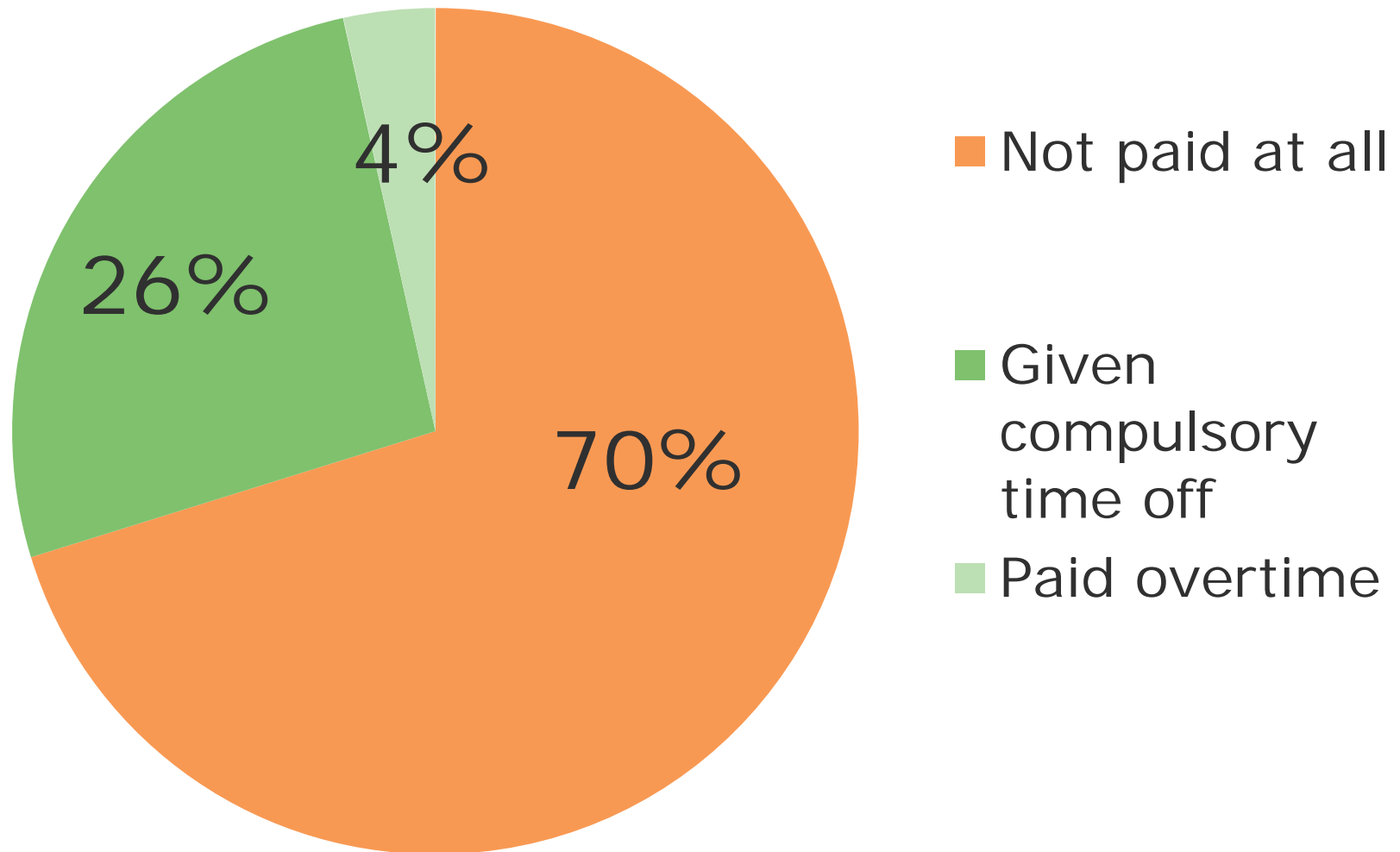
## Providers awareness of what might constitute clients' rights during childbirth (n - 67)

	%
Explain to clients on procedures to be performed	38.8
Obtaining consent for all procedures	50.7
Allow client to choose her birthing position	26.9
Respect her privacy	62.7
Keep her information confidential	37.3
Inform clients of danger signs during labour	29.9
Inform client of labor progress	32.8
Ensure procedures are done as per guidelines	29.9
Ensure privacy and confidentiality at all times	40.3

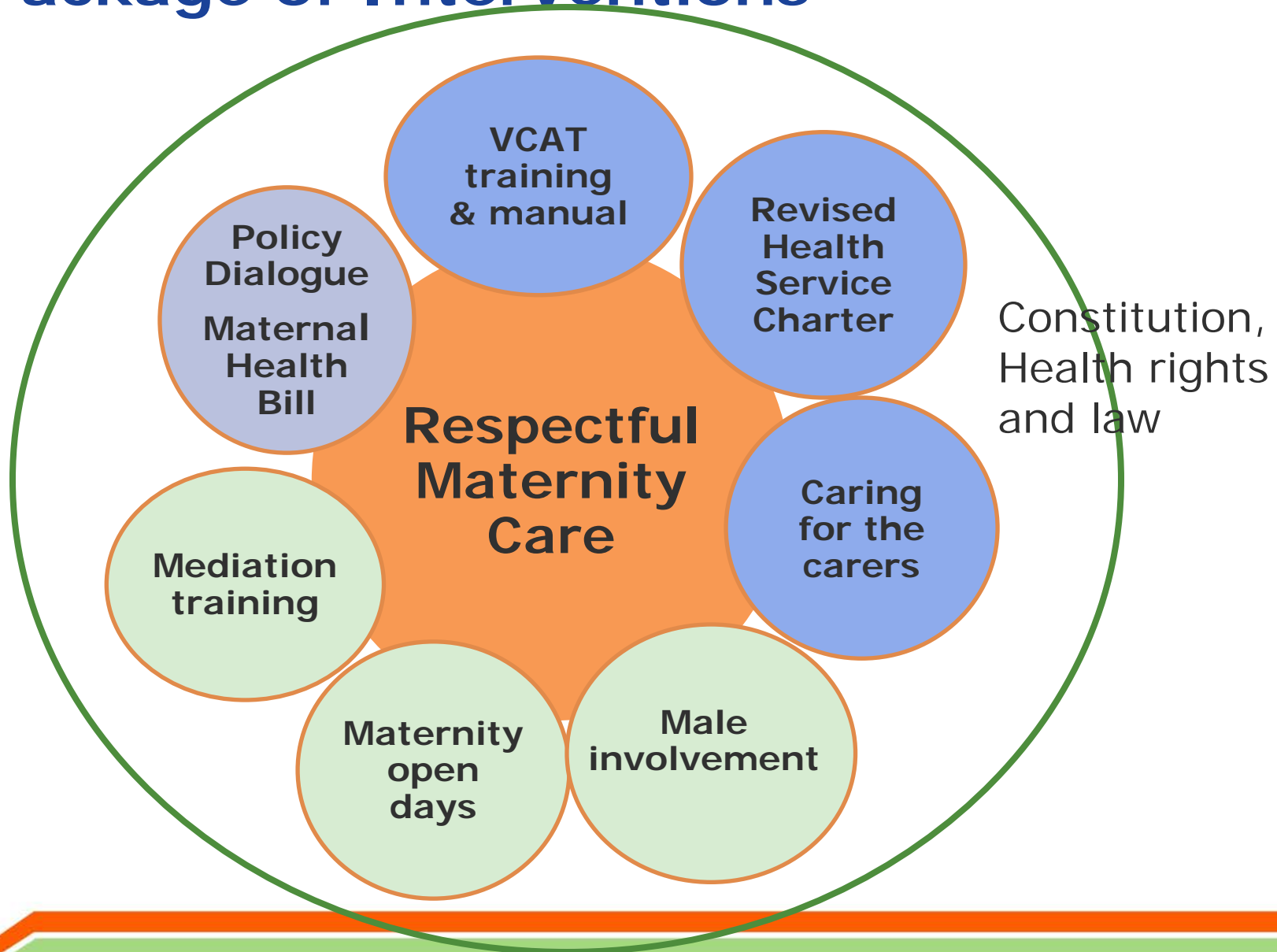
# Providers

- *How do you expect a midwife to be in a good mood if she works with no break and has many clients to attend to in a dirty working environment” (health manager)*
- 23% of providers said that they treat clients as if they were ‘impersonal objects’
- 29% felt like they are at ‘the end of their tether’
- 6% said they don't care what happens to these client

# 74% providers help out when maternity ward is busy



# Implementation Research: Heshima Package of Interventions



Thank you

