



# Scoping Study Report **SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN PUBLIC SPACES IN MAPUTO CITY**

**Project Maputo: A Safe City Free of Violence Against Women and Girls**

Maputo, November 2016



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**Title:** Situation of Violence Against Women and Girls in Public Spaces in Maputo City

**Ownership:** UN Women

**Coordination:** Eduardo Mondlane University

**Desing:** Global Touch

**Print:** 250 Copies

**Funded:** UN Women

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Image 1. Research team

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Co-operation
CA-PAZ	Provide Peace and Empower Communities
CeCAGe	Gender Coordination Centre
CMCM	Maputo City's Municipal Council
EVCMR	Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls
IDS	Demographic and Health Inquiry
INE	National Institute for Statistics
WHO	World Health Organization
NGs	Non Government Organizations
ONU MULHERES	United Nations Agency for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
PRM	Republic of Mozambique Police
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UEM	Eduardo Mondlane University
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

There is no city in the country or in the World where women and girls can live without fear of violence, whether in the streets, in public transportation, fetching water or firewood, or even when going to school, to friends, relatives and neighbours' houses; at the market place or in any public place. In Mozambique, almost on a weekly basis, we do sadly witness news of deaths of girls whose bodies are found scattered all over the several hoods of various cities and provincial capitals with clear signs of violence and sexual abuse. These deaths are added up to other several forms of violence that are daily experienced by women and girls: sexual harassment, physical assault, verbal and psychological violence, forced marriages and the so-called economic violence. There are so many forms of abuse that condition the choices of women and girls and restrict their freedom to social and cultural life in general. Such violence constitutes serious violations of human rights and brings about high financial and non-financial costs to the society and the country as a whole. Apart from its impact on the health, rights, security, gender based violence is a burden to human development and national and global economic growth.

One in every three women in the World and 32% of Mozambican women are victims of domestic violence (2011 Health Demographic Survey). It is sadly known in reality that there are even high numbers of women and girls that are victims of any type of violence, within the domestic or public spheres. According to the present study, more than 60% of women and girls reported to have suffered some sort of harassment in public spaces in Maputo within the past 12 months. Meanwhile and despite its high prevalence, violence and harassment against women and girls, particularly in public spaces are issues that have been highly neglected and few are the laws and or policies that touch base with the issues. In order to face and tackle this reality, the UN Women launched in 2010 the Safe Cities Initiative to promote safer urban environments for women and girls, in partnership with sev-

eral world cities, municipal governments, local communities and civil society organizations.

Today, this Initiative is present in more than 20 cities all over the world, such as Kigali, Cape Town, Rabat, Marrakesh, Quito, Mexico City, Medellin, Tegucigalpa, Cairo, New Delhi, as well as New York and Brussels – The Safe Cities Initiative promotes local innovative responses to prevent sexual violence and harassment in public places, such as the improvement of public illumination, the review of urban planning and public roads and ways, training and sensitization programs directed to the police corps, the hiring of more women to the security forces, the adoption of safe transportation means for women and girls in rush hours, the organization and mobilization of sensitization community groups and denounce any violence to the authorities, the adoption of laws to criminalize sexual violence and harassment in public places and its respective supervision; furthermore, work with cooperatives in markets and use smartphones to map risks and denunciations and even engage the youth, men, community leaders, among other strategies to counter the phenomena. In this scope, the study on the security of women and girls in Maputo presents a diagnosis based on data, which allows for a response and more adequate actions and the necessary dialogue with members of the community. Simultaneously, the study aims at informing the design, adoption and implementation of a local adequate action strategy to the reality of the Mozambican Capital.

The safety of women and girls is at the centre of the 2030 Global Development Agenda of the United Nations, which is turn reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5 deals directly with the issue of equality amongst women and men and violence against women and girls as common goals to the Humanity, if we wish to attain a more sustainable and inclusive development. Within this context, the UN Women in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University and the Municipal Council of Maputo City, with the support of the Spanish Cooperation have carried out the present study as a way to launch the Safe Cit-

ies Initiative in Maputo and reiterate their commitment to the municipal authorities, the Government of Mozambique, to the women and girls and the people of Mozambique to end violence against women and girls in all its forms and contexts and as such strengthen the economic, social and political participation of women and girls onto all spheres to which they can contribute accordingly to benefit the growth of the country and fully enjoy their rights and freedom.

Florence Raes,  
UN Women Mozambique Representative

## Acknowledgements

The research team would like to thank UN-Women, the Municipal Council of Maputo City, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), to UN-Habitat and to all State institutions, Non Governmental Organizations and the Civil Society, who contributed to the materialization of this study. In particular, our thanks to all the people who are part of the Technical Committee, especially to Nurbai Calu, Albertina Tivane, from the Municipal Council of Maputo; to Florence Raes, Ondina da Barca Vieira and Fernanda Bernardo, from UN-Women; and Chiara Tomasseli, from UN Habitat, for the valuable contributions to the design and support during the implementation of the study.

Particular recognition is directed at the districts' administrative authorities of KaMaxaquene and KaLhamankulo and the community leaders of Maxaquene A, B, C and D and Chamanculo A, B, C and D who facilitated the entry to the neighborhoods, blocks and homes of the participants, as well as for guaranteeing the security conditions needed to carry out the field work.

This study would not have been possible without the involvement, openness and courage of teenage girls and boys and women and men, interested in sharing their sensitive stories and sometimes traumatic experiences. To all the participants of the study, and to all parents and tutors of those under the age of 18 years old, who allowed the interaction with their children, we send out thanks.

## RESUME

The present exploratory study, carried out between July and August, 2016 under the orientation of the Centre for Coordination of Gender Issues (CeGAGe) from Eduardo Mondlane University, is part of the “Safe Cities, Free of Domestic Violence Against Women” program, a global initiative promoted by the UN-Women in partnership with Maputo City’s Municipal Council (CMM) and financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The objectives of the project consist of developing and implementing, through a model, a broader program for prevention and fighting against sexual violence and other forms of violence in public spaces, based upon evidences and human rights. It is expected that the implementation will contribute to the sense of safety by women and girls in public spaces, in order for them to enjoy more of the public spaces and have an increased mobility in the cities, aiming at reducing the different forms of sexual violence in public spaces.

This is the first study with a broader coverage – thematic – carried out in the country, in respect of sexual violence’s multiple dimensions in public spaces. The results presented in this document are based on the combined use of quantitative and qualitative methods, whereby the perceptions, estimates, experiences and meanings of violence against women and girls in public spaces of Maputo City are illustrated, aiming at informing the designing of the program “Safe Cities in Maputo City”.



## 1. INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

In developing countries, women and girls have been experiencing and feared for various types of violence in public spaces - from sexual harassment to sexual violation attempts; from sexual violation to femicide (UN Women, 2016). Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a barrier to obtain gender equality, but it also constitutes a recognized challenge that women face in urban areas. Violence occurs in streets/roads, public transportation, parking lots, in schools (while going and coming back from), in the workplace, in public toilets, in water fountains and food distribution sources, in places where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed, recreational spaces and in the most diversified public spaces.

Violence and fear that it associated to it, are a seriously violation of women's rights and their possibility to circulate freely in cities, as well as actively engaging in economic, social and political activities. A number of factors facilitate violence against women and girls, whereby gender-based political, economic and social violence is more susceptible to occur. Thus, it is also necessary to cater for the construction of space as an inequality generator. Literature points out results of studies carried out within Safe and Inclusive Cities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that high density urban areas and the space's configurations may propitiate acts of violence of different types, including sexual ones, as well as may restrict control and police action (Briceno-Leon, 2016, Moser, 2016).

Despite the existence of specific constraints related to urbanizations, which function as significant dispositive in the perpetration of violence against women and girls, the violence also finds profound roots in ideologies and in the patriarchal strength. Regardless of the progresses made towards uncovering the private dimension of violence against women and girls, violence in public spaces is still neglected, with few laws and policies to pre-

vent and combat it. On one hand, the lack of data on violence against women and girls in public spaces in Mozambique, makes the task of drawing a typology of violence against these groups difficult. On the other hand, the existence of media reports of frequent cases of violence and tragic murder episodes of women and girls in Maputo city reveals the urgency in understanding that are the forces that configure it and to assess the possible intervention measures to prevent it.

## 1.2. Objectives of the study

### a) General Objective:

The general objective of this exploratory study is to promote the recognition of violence against women and girls in public spaces, and the necessary actions to support the development of a broad, integrated program, with actions by all relevant actors in order to resolve the problem.

### b) Specific objectives:

- Recolher dados e informações sobre a prevalência das diferentes
- To collect data and information on the prevalence of different forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces;
- To find out about the perception of different local actors (women, boys and girls) on VAWG in public spaces ;
- To identify the structural and socioeconomic factors and others that lead to VAWG in public spaces;
- To identify and characterize public spaces and the context in which violence occurs;
- To identify current interventions – policies, programs, campaigns, etc. – being practiced or prepared to respond VAWG in public spaces accomplished by all actors – institutions public, civil society including religious institutions, opinion leaders among others;
- To identify existing gaps in the interventions and prioritize the interventions needed to strengthen the response;

- To identify proposals of local actors, their contributions and those of other actors elsewhere in response to VAWG in public spaces from a human rights perspective; and
- To identify actions agreed by all actors for coordinated interventions.

## 1.3. Design and questions of the study

With the aim of understanding the VAWG phenomenon in public spaces, in the selected spaces, the study tried to respond to the following relevant aspects, related to women and girls' situation:

- How the spaces are defined (secure/insecure, types of violence in public spaces) and what are the specific local problems?  
What are the individual and different sector's perceptions about the phenomenon?
- What is the situation of women and girls, and which are the mechanisms to handle violence in public spaces?
- Which institutions and services are available in the study's locations and it's their intervention mechanisms for prevention and handling of violence against women and girls?
- What are the main characteristics of the study's locations and possible future interventions?
- What are the plans, strategies and relevant initiatives in progress, to handle violence?

## 2. REVISION OF LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUALIZATION

According to the World Health Organization (2002), it is considered violence the intentional use of force of physical power, real or threat, against oneself, against another person or against a group or community, which results or has a great probability of resulting in wounds, death, psychological damage, ill development or privations.

In its turn, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is largely used as synonym of violence against women, in order to highlight gender inequality in which most of the violence is based upon. However, as a result of debates, this concept evolved, thus turning to be understood as an act that physically, mentally and sexually damage a person or group of people, who become targets based on their gender, and being part of this definition the acts of coercion and any types of freedom (UNHCR, 2003).

Meanwhile, it is important to note that the predominant approach about violence against women and girls has been focusing more on domestic violence (Mejia et al., 2004; Romão et al., 2009, Zacarias et al.; 2012). Although being recognized, the high occurrence of violence in public spaces is still not subject to systematic interventions, even though the interest in studying and understanding it has gained more space.

The concept of public spaces is very broad and in constant evolution as object of analysis in many fields of the Social Sciences, and it is treated with some highlight since the 1960s. Associated with places like Cafes, theatres, etc., the use of the term goes beyond the concept of a specific physical space, to cover the movement or action behind its origin (Habermas, 1989). Most recently approaches of Geography, Architecture and Urbanistics, sensitive to newly emerging ways of life and to sociability forms, have highlighted the use of this concept to refer to physical spaces

accessible to the public for free. Public spaces include a private nature, which is present since the beginning, i.e., private spaces accessible to the public or private spaces of public nature, for example, shopping malls, museums, exposition galleries, bars, markets, etc. (Dessouroux, 2003).

In some contexts, the concept of public spaces appears as a synonym of public domain (political and economical), i.e., it represents an abstract space of debate about polis matters and that of market transactions (Arendt, 2001). Nevertheless, the dimension or approach of public spaces that we tried to understand in this study, have to do with the concept of “open space” brought about by Garden (1985) in studies about public harassment, according to which are considered public spaces to all places where the presence of any person is theoretically permitted.

In turn, the urban spaces, which are the object of this study, were understood for a long time as “safe places”, where people took refuge in order to improve their life conditions and run away from the insecurity of rural areas (Loforte 2000; Paulo 2005). The State’s incapacity to provide services in expansion areas and the outskirts of Maputo (Jenkis 2012), namely electricity, police stations and roads, propitiate situations of violence that affect especially women and girls. Urban violence, according to Morten (2015), Briceno-Leon (2016) and Moser (2016), has its own ways and is more perceptible in high density neighbourhoods, because it is where the higher rates of poverty, inequality, and criminality occur and are physically disorganized, such as Maxaquene and Chamanculo, which are covered by this study.

The negative impacts in women’s and girls’ lives, preventing them from benefiting from recreational moments, employment and/or studies, mainly at night, constitutes a problem that deserves particular attention, in view of the strengthening and/or creation of mechanisms of community networks for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls in public spaces EVAWG.

## Há sanções para estes actos

O MOTORISTA que condiciona que o indivíduo só apanhe o transporte público mediante troca de favores sexuais e toque nas partes pudicas incorre ao crime de assédio sexual e atentado ao pudor, respectivamente. Estes actos consubstanciam tipos legais de crime previstos e punidos pelo Código Penal moçambicano. Porém, dependem da queixa da ofendida, esclareceu a juíza Osvalda Joana.

Fez saber que o artigo 224 do Código Penal é claro quanto à questão do assédio sexual, pois aponta que aquele que, constranger sexualmente alguém com promessa de benefício de qualquer natureza, será punido com a pena de multa até dez salários mínimos.

O mesmo artigo, cita a Juíza, diz ainda que aquele que, abusando da autoridade que lhe conferem as suas funções para assediar sexualmente outra pessoa por ordens, ameaças ou coação, com finalidade de obter favores ou benefícios de natureza sexual será punido com pena de multa até vinte dias de salários mínimos.

Noutro ponto, o mesmo artigo, recorreu-se a juíza, diz que aquele que constranger alguém com intuito de obter vantagem ou favorecimento sexual, prevalecendo-se o agente da sua condição de superior hierárquico ou ascendência inerente ao exercício de emprego, cargo ou função, por meio de ameaça ou coação, será

punido com a pena de multa de vinte a quarenta salários mínimos.

No que tange ao atentado ao pudor, Osvalda Joana fez saber que as sanções para este crime são mais pesadas porque levam à pena de prisão de três dias a dois anos, segundo artigo 221 do Código Penal.

“Se, por exemplo, o cobrador ou o motorista condicionam que o passageiro apanhe o carro só depois do envolvimento amoroso é assédio sexual. Ela pode apanhar outro carro, mas não deixou de ser assediada. Ela foi sujeita a uma atitude de tudo reprovável e tem o direito de se queixar”, observou, apelando ao respeito e civismo.

The declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, in its article 1, defines violence against women as “any act of violence based on gender, resulting on or that may result on damage, physical, sexual or psychological suffering to women, including threats of such actions, coercion or arbitrary privation of liberty, occurring both in public life or privately”.

Violence against women and girls must, therefore, be seen as a broader concept that include a range of actors who are essentially linked to unequal power relations between women and men and who attempt against women’s integrity as a human being and holder of rights.

In Mozambique, violence perpetrated against women and girls became a subject of even more concern, due to the proportions of the occurrence, and the negative impact it has on the harmonious development of a person in the family and community.

Data from the Demographic and Health Inquiry (IDS)-INE, 2011 reveals that about 33% of women were victims of physical violence since the age of 15 years old, and 25% in the past 12 months prior to the inquiry. About 12% of women between 15 and 49 years old declared having been forced into sexual relations in their life. In these cases, most of the perpetrators of the reported violence are man with close ties with the victims (husband, ex-husband, boyfriend or relatives).

In fact, violence against women and girls may act as a barrier in the access to health care and influence their wellbeing. The same inquiry reveals the naturalization of sexual violence where almost one in four women in fertile age justify violence by husbands. Nevertheless, note that both among men and women, the acceptance marital aggression reduces significantly according to the academic level and improvement of the socioeconomic situation (IDS 2011).

Image 2. Article on sanctions against violence in public transports. Newspaper Notícias, 19/08/2016.

### 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY'S CONTEXT

The city of Maputo is one of the country's major urban centers, occupying an area of 167 square kilometers, and with the highest population density of 4086,2 inhabitants per kilometer. According to data from INE, (2015), it has a total population of 1,225,868 inhabitants, 48.1% of which are men and 51.9% women. In administrative terms, Maputo is divided in seven Municipal Districts, namely KaMpfumo, KaMaxaquene, KaMavota, KaMubukwane, KaNyaka, KaTembe and KaLhamankulo and 69 Neighbourhoods composed by Blocs and the Ten Housed (CMCM resolution N. 19/2000).

Maputo is the converging point of different cultures, where people of different origins around the country, apart from foreigners, of different social groups (Level of education, financial capacity, occupation) and different levels of integration in the city's social and economic dynamics. The notion of a properly illuminated, organized, safe and tarred urban space is, for the majority of the inhabitants, for example in KaMaxaquene, an illusionary promise and only a potential (Bertelsen et al 2014). The neighbourhoods where the present study was carried out are characterized by jammed houses, often disorganized, with narrow streets and lacking sanitary infrastructures and essential services. In poor neighbourhoods of the city, the emergence of spontaneous and disorganized housing constructions undermine the provision of social infrastructure and services for improving the environment's sanitary

The intense social mobility and the presence of "strangers" who rent houses for short times, are situations that have implications in the sense of belonging and safety (Paulo et al, 2011: 37). These Neighbourhoods are generally more problematic, with high criminality rates, with places of high concentration of unknown people, that causing insecurity conditions and, mainly for women and girls. The irregular and tortuous street plans and dead-

For a long time considered as a private problem of family level, domestic violence, particularly violence against women, today is a severe violation of human rights and punished by law. The Law n. 29/2009 prohibits all forms of VAWG, including in public spaces. The new Mozambique's penal code approved in 2014, which incorporated the Domestic Violence Law, had the merit of introducing significant changes, in order to secure sexual freedom and physical integrity, autonomy in the sexuality development and in the preservation of human dignity, but gaps and human violations still persist and are marked by gender inequalities. Note that the availability of legal instruments and dispositions does not necessarily mean its implementation, nor it secures the resolution of the problem. The juridical and psychosocial support to gender-based violence's survivors in the last years, remain relatively low, being this phenomenon often normalized in Mozambique (INE, 2011; Zacarias et al, 2012)

To understand the complexity of violence presumes the assumption that the spaces where the violence occurs are not isolated, fix and/or closed. The space conditions affect the behaviour and attitudes of the people living in it.

Having in mind the interventionist aim of this study and the profiling of the residents of selected areas, the reflections of Serra (2012), the studies of Bertelsen and colleagues (2014) and Vivet (2015) carried out in some of Maputo's neighbourhoods called our attention to concepts and notions of urban spaces, which must be seen in as fluid, complex, dynamic and "where the actors are in an incessant and contradicting movement between an outside and an inside world (Serra, 2012: 194)".

<sup>1</sup>A/RES/48/104. United Nations (1993). Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

ends facilitate the actions of criminals and sexual abusers, who can easily hide or trap their victims. Drug and alcohol consumption habits in the neighbourhoods are also indicated as causes of conflict, tensions and violence in families, and are associated with high criminality rates in communities (idem).

In this exploratory study, we selected the Municipal Districts of KaMaxakene and KaLhamankulu. The selection of Maxaquene A, B, C, D and Chamanculo A, B, C, D neighbourhoods followed the bellow criteria:

- Higher population density;
- Availability of places with high concentration of people, (such as terminal of semi-collective transports, commonly known as “chapas” and “my love”, “na Praça dos Combatentes”, in places where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed and markets); and
- Reports on and the occurrence of high criminality rates and violence, assaults and theft, with women and girls as the main victims.



Image 3. Passengers in the daily struggle to access to transport.  
Source: extract from Jornal Noticias,19/08/2016

## 4. METHODOLOGY

The study's design was based on UN Women's Guide for exploratory studies, which was adapted to the context where the study was carried out. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods was used, with emphasis on the qualitative techniques, in order to obtain a deep understanding about the nature of all forms, types, experiences and perceptions of violence against women and girls in public spaces of the selected areas.

A public space "is a public property or a place of public use, accessible and usable by all people for free, or without lucrative purposes. These are comprised free spaces (such as streets, passageways, plazas, etc.) and covered spaces created for common benefit and non profit making (such as schools, libraries, museums, markets and public transports, etc)!" *Thus, public space "is a common good, a key element of individual and social wellbeing, of the community expression of its common cultural and natural diversity patrimony and the foundation of the community's identity"*<sup>3</sup>

However, sometimes there is a conflict in the categorization of the space, for example, when a small place where alcohol is sold or a privately owned kiosk occupy a public space by being built in a sidewalk. The present study also includes such types of spaces and opted to consider some of the privately owned spaces. Thus, the main spaces considered in this space include: street, bar, nightclub, kiosk, bus stop, public transports (minibuses and open trucks), schools, churches and marketes . Violence against women and girls in these public spaces was measured in three areas, according to various standards, namely:

### *Psychological violence*

- Insults, whistles, insinuations, comments and sexual gestures, threats, theft (of handbags, mobile phones, money, goods) without the use of force,

### *Physical violence*

- Pushing, slap, spanking, Sexual violence or sexual harassment;
- Physical aggression, forced sex, touches on intimate body parts (breasts, legs and sex) without permission.

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<sup>2</sup>Available online in English: [http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/new\\_scoping\\_study\\_guidance\\_final\\_version.pdf](http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/new_scoping_study_guidance_final_version.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Definition of "Chart of Public Space" (18 May 2013, II Biennale of public space), adopted by UN-Habitat.

<sup>4</sup>Spaces defined as "public" are meeting points where people go to, open or closed, regardless of being public or private property.

## 4.1. Characterization of the Sample

### a) The place of the Study

The exploratory study was implemented in two Municipal districts of Maputo city, namely KaMaxakene and KaLhamanculo. The global target group represent 0.11% of the two districts' total and 0.05 of Maputo city's population. The data collection unit was the Bloc, thus covering 8 neighbourhoods, namely Maxaquene A, B, C and D and Chamanculo A, B, C, D.

### b) Population of the study

This study comprises two complementing parts:

#### Quantitative

For the inquiry component of the quantitative study, it was selected a sample by shares involving 501 people who met the criteria (specified above in line c). This method was adopted by recommendation of the UN Women's Operational Guide for the study of violence in the Safe Cities project, which uses small share samples. The aim is not to obtain a precise statistics, but rather an indicative measure about key issues. Thus, the following interest groups were involved: 12.5% of boys and 12.5% of men, and 35% of women and 40% of young girls.

The study considered girls and boys aged between 12 and 17 years old, adult men and women aged 18 to 65 years old. The sample of 501 people is representative for the two districts' population, where the study took place, but it is not representative for the whole city of Maputo.

The selection of the two districts (KaMaxaquene and KaLhamanculo) was determined by the following criteria: higher population density, which creates major difficulties to requalification

actions and urban and social Infrastructure construction for the benefit of the population., availability of high places of high population concentration, such as transport terminals, markets, alcoholic drinks selling points, spaces that may propitiate insecurity and violence conditions, mainly for women and for girls.

The selection of participants was based on availability.

#### Qualitative

The qualitative study, which combines observations and deep interviews techniques and focal group discussions, involved 102 people: teenagers and adults of both genders, transporters of minibuses, people from civil society organizations in the communities (neighbourhoods, market/kiosk sellers) and community leaders (Neighbourhood Secretaries, heads of Blocs and police stations).

The individual interviews and focal groups' ones took place in different locations (open and closed spaces), selected by the participants, of the above referred neighbourhoods. There were 41 in total, of which 6 were with community leaders (Neighbourhood Secretaries and Heads of Blocs) and civil society representatives. The last ones do not have sufficient data for an analysis. As for the remaining 35, detailed data is available in respect of age, Marital Status, children, profession, and academic level and finally for how long they have been living in the neighbourhood. The remaining 59 individuals were integrated of the 6 discussion groups.

Women and teenage girls constitute 66% of the individual interviews.

The established age groups are from 12 to 17 years old by girls and boys, for a total of 17 (13 girls and 4 boys), and from 18 to 65 years old by women and men, by a total of 18 (10 women and 8 men).

In respect of Marital Status, the categories applied identify single, married and those living together with a partner. The great majority (25/35) happened to be single, of whom almost all boys and girls (16) and, in all cases, people under the age of 30 years old (23).

The responses about the number of children vary between 0 and 6. 20 people declared not to have children, of whom almost the total of boys and girls (16), but 10 people declared having one or two children (5+5). The majority of interviewed women and men have jobs (8+8), similarly to almost all girls and boys (16/17) who are students.

Data collected through qualitative interviews indicate that from the total interviewees, there are 3 cases of lack of any type of training (1 woman and 2 girls). The majority of girls and boys are students and among women and men we have 10/17 who declared having completed primary school level (6), and lower secondary school level (4).

In order to easily identify and select participants for individual interviews, the snowball model was used. The researchers began the interviews with people selected during the application of the questionnaire and gradually managed new contacts of other known people.

The language used in the communication with the participants was predominantly Portuguese and, in some cases, Xichangana was used.



Image 4. Individual interview with a teenage girl  
Source: Researchers archives during data collection.

### c) Inclusion criteria

People who met the following inclusion criteria were involved:

- To be a Girl (from 12 to 17 years old), Woman ( $\geq 18$  years old) or Boy (from 12 to 17 years old), Men ( $\geq 18$  years old);
- Resident of the neighbourhood where the inquiry took place for more than six months;
- Ability and willingness to give a written permission, in the case of participants older than 18 years old;
- Girl or boy (from 12 to 17 years old), who have obtained permission from adult parents or guardians to participate in the study.

### d) Exclusion criteria

- Previous participation in this inquiry;
- Inability to provide informed permission (including people under the influence of alcohol or drugs);
- Be under the age of 12 years old;

- Not residing in the neighbourhood where the study was carried out, for less than 6 months.

#### 4.2. Participative Mapping

In collaboration with UN-Habitat specialists, a participative mapping was carried out in order to identify the critical points, areas considered of risk for women and girls. It is an efficient method, which uses fast and participative techniques that have the particularity of awakening people's awareness in the discovery of problems related to violence in public spaces. It is a methodological instrument that facilitates a rapid data collection from neighbourhood's residents' perspective, and provides evidence about priority actions for project implementation.

The mapping took place in Maxaquene C and Chamanculo C neighbourhoods. In total, 30 people participated, 11 of whom women (girls and 4 men (boys all residing in different Blocs of Maxaquene C, and the same number and composition of participants in Chamanculo C. In this neighbourhood, the mapping was carried out in its Centre for Requalification.

During the participative mapping, the locations in the bellow tables were pointed out as unsafe and dangerous places.

Assaults in public places occupy an important position among the problems affecting people's lives in general, of the residents and women in particular

There are police stations in Maxaquene C and Polana Caniço neighbourhoods, but the residents feel the need to have one in their own neighbourhood.

The participants said that in some places there were no public illumination, but they propose a rotating contribution by the residents.



Image 6. Part of participative mapping, in Maxaquene C.

Maxaquene C		
Location	Problems	Solutions
Some streets, ways and dead ends, mainly Luis Parruque, Alberto Machavele, Tenente General Fernando Honwana streets,	Lack of illumination and maintenance by the electricity utility company EDM, assaults in the dead ends.	Community patrolling, together with a policemen in the Blocks.
Lack of illumination and maintenance by the electricity utility company EDM, assaults in the dead ends.	Lack of illumination, insecurity	Illumination and maintenance of lights in public spaces, police patrolling
Community patrolling, together with a policemen in the Blocks.	Opening and sales of alcoholic beverages until late at night	Closure of bars and kiosks by midnight
Better control of the maintenance by EDM.	Sales of alcoholic drinks near the schools	Prohibition of sales of alcoholic drinks near schools
Carimbo, Compone (markets, kiosks, bars)	Agglomeration of people	
Opening and sales of alcoholic beverages until late at night	Agglomeration of people for exchange of foreign currency	
Closure of bars and kiosks by midnight	Lack of a support centre for women victims of violence	Installation of a centre for support of women victims of violence
Kurhula school	Lack of a police station	Installation of a police station

Table 1 a) Data from the participative mapping of Maxaquene C.



Image 6. Part of participative mapping, in Maxaquene C.

Chamanculo C		
Location	Problems	Solutions
Some ways in the neighbourhood, pathways and dead ends, particularly UFA street	Lack of illumination, insecurity	Illumination and maintenance of lights in public spaces, police patrolling
In the neighbourhood	Fires due to curt circuits	Maintenance of the electricity lines and fire brigades
Places where drugs are sold and consumed, the so called "Smoke Mouths"	Selling and consumption of drugs	Elimination of " Smoke Mouths", control and detention of drug dealers
Markets	Assaults and theft	Patrolling
Bars and Kiosks (La Botequita, Belucha, New place, UFA)	Opening and sales of alcoholic drinks until late at night	Closure of the bars by midnight
Unidade 13 school	Sales of alcoholic drinks near the school	Prohibition to sell alcoholic drinks near schools
In the neighbourhood	Assaults and theft	Patrolling
In the neighbourhood	Lack of a Centre for support of women victims of violence	Installation of a police station
In the neighbourhood	Lack of a police station	Installation of a police station
Mainly main streets in general, but the secondary and tertiary streets as well	Poor sewage sanitation, dump areas causing bad smell; children play in the ponds.	Construction of sewage systems

Table 1 b) Participative mapping data in Chamanculo C



Image 7. Part of the participative mapping, Bairro Chamanculo C.

### 4.3. Management and analysis of quantitative data

The quantitative data collected were sent to the CeCaGe office and inserted in a database managed by the institution. The entry base was developed in CSpro, version 6.3, a package developed for census and inquiry data, which allowed a double entry and avoiding typo mistakes. Descriptive data analysis was performed on SPSS, version 17. The data were analysed considering the District, but not the Neighbourhood or Block as unit of analysis, because these correspond to the District, not only the Neighbourhood.

### 4.4. Ethical considerations

The inquiry included questions on violence in public spaces, which is a sensitive subject. Before conducting the inquiry, all researchers participated in training about the key issues of the study, methodological procedures to carry out the interviews and ethics in researches involving human beings. The participation of the informants in the inquiry was done through informed consent in writing. In order to protect the identity of the participants, no personal identification was required.

Participants' anonymity and data confidentiality were guaranteed in the collection, processing and data analysis, through allocation of a number for each participant, without names or other personal identification data.

The application of the questionnaire to people under the age of 18 years old was done through parents and/or guardians' permission. All participants were informed about the possibility of obtaining psychosocial assistance and received guarantees of a follow up, if they wanted to report violence episodes in which they were the victims to police authorities. All participants received an incentive, made of a capulana (a garment traditionally worn by women).

During the inquiry, some women described violence experiences, whereby one of the cases had psychological support (summarized in the section on psychosocial implications - Victoria's case.) . Thus, the quick therapy technique was adopted, carried out by a ceCAGe psychologist, present-oriented, in order to modify thoughts, dysfunctional behaviours and test thoughts regarding the reality

### 4.5 Limitations of the study

501 people in the inquiry, circumscribed to two municipal districts and the neighbourhoods of Maxaquene and Chamanculo A, B, C and D of Maputo city is an important aspect to consider in the interpretation of the results of this study. They provide a real tendency, but which cannot be generalized to the whole Maputo's population.

Being an exploratory study and considering the diversity of geographical and cultural origins of its inhabitants, the results of the study per se, cannot be considered representative of the whole city.

Although the importance and the benefits of this study are emphasized throughout this document, it is important to also recognize that this study cannot provide a definitive and broad description of the situation in the intervention area. It is an exploratory study carried out in a pragmatic way, which provides a baseline for the assessment of the situation about violence against women and girls in public spaces.

Another limitation to be mentioned relates to data collection through community performance and interaction. Initially it was considered the integration and involvement of youths residing in the neighbourhoods in order to act as research assistants for registration of images of urban violence, exclusion and insecurity or what they consider to be a safe or unsafe location in pub-

lic spaces. However, due to ethic reasons, and in order to ensure confidentiality of the interviewed people, it was not possible to carry out the registration of images in parallel, by the neighbourhoods' youths.

#### 4.6 Violence in public spaces



Image 8. Article on “domestic violence” in public spaces.  
Source: Image extracted from the newspaper Jornal Noticias, 26/08/ 2016

## 5. RESULTS

A large amount of information was collected through the qualitative inquiry. The quantitative and qualitative approaches in the data collection, allowed an information triangulation. The qualitative study of violence allowed capturing subjective experiences of violence and making a deep analysis of the theme of the study. Thus, it was decided to present the results in an integrated way, emphasizing testimonies and experiences in boxes, which allow the reader to have a broad vision of each subject.

Thus, the results are organized as follows:

- i. Sociodemographic features of participants;
- ii. Prevalence of violence against women and girls in public spaces;
- iii. VAWG in public spaces: differences between women and girls;
- iv. VAWG in public spaces: different between districts;
- v. Locations of higher occurrence of VAWG in public spaces;
- vi. Sexual violence in public spaces;
- vii. Violence or sexual harassment AWG in public spaces, by district;
- viii. Places of occurrence of sexual violence in public spaces;
- ix. VAWG conducting factors in public spaces;
- x. Institutions/organizations dealing with matters of violence against women and girls;
- xi. Psychosocial implications of violence;
- xii. Responses and management mechanisms;

<sup>5</sup>Victória is a fictional name, used in order to preserve the privacy and confidentiality principle in the management of collected data. The psychosocial support was provided by a psychologist from ceCAGe.

### 5.1. Socio- demographic profile of the participants of the study

a) Distribution of participants by gender and by District  
 Table 2. below presents the distribution of participants of the study based on gender and District. 75% of the participants were females, of which 53.2% girls and 46.8% women. 25% of the participants were males, of which 50.4% boys and 49.6 % men. The district of KaMaxaquene had 49.9% of the participants, against 50.1% of KaLhamanculo.

Gender/Age	KaMaxaquene		KaLhamanculo		Total	
	N	%	n	%	N	%
Female	188	50	188	50	376	75.0
Girl	100	40.0	100	39.8	200	53.2
Woman	88	35.2	88	35.1	176	46.8
Male	62	49.6	63	50.4	125	25.0
Boy	31	12.4	32	12.7	63	50.4
Men	31	12.4	31	12.4	62	49.6
Total	250	49.9	251	50.1	501	100

Table 2. Distribution of participants by gender and by District

### b) Marital Status

Table 3. shows the Marital Status of the 501 participants of the study, where 78.4% were single, mainly girls (48.9%), followed by women with 25.7%, 16.03% boys and 9.4% men. 1.0% of the girls involved in the study were separated/divorced, 3.0% lived with a partners and 96% single ones.

Marital Status	Girls		Woman		Boy		Man		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	N	%
Single	192	96.0	101	57.4	63	100	37	59.7	393	78.4
Married	-	-	9	5.1	-	-	5	8.1	14	2.8
Live with a partner	6	3.0	52	29.5	-	-	20	32.3	78	15.6
Separated/divorced	2	1.0	8	4.5	-	-	-	-	10	2.0
Widow/widower	-	-	6	3.4	-	-	-	-	6	1.2
Total	200	100	176	100	63	100	62	100	501	100

Table 3. Marital Status of the participants

### c) Level of education

94.9% of female participants and 99.2% of male participants went to school, but 19.6% females and 18.5% males did not complete the first level of primary school, according to Table 4. Only 1.7% of female participants and 2.3% males attended to or completed university level. Most of the participants (60.9%) completed the full primary level, being 60.5% females and 62.1% males.

#### Level of education

Attended school once	Women		Men		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	357	94.9	124	99.2	481	96.0
No	19	5.1	1	0.8	20	4.0
Total	376	100.0	125	100.0	501	100.0
The highest level completed						
None	70	19.6	19	15.3	89	18.5
Primary (Lower and upper levels)	216	60.5	77	62.1	293	60.9
Secondary (Lower and upper levels)	65	18.2	23	18.5	88	18.3
Superior	6	1.7	5	4.0	11	2.3
Total	357	100.0	124	100.0	481	100.0

Table 4. Participants' academic level

### d) Alcohol consumption

In respect of alcohol consumption, 26.9% affirmed that they consume alcohol. The higher number of consumers was registered among men, where 8 in each 10 consume alcohol, against 1 in each 10 boys. 4 in each 10 women said that they consume alcohol, against almost 1 in each 10 girls.

Consumes alcohol	Girl		Woman		Boy		Men		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	N	%
Yes	9	4.5	71	40.3	8	12.7	47	75.8	135	26.9
No	191	95.5	105	59.7	55	87.3	15	24.2	366	73.1
Total	200	39.9	176	35.1	63	12.6	62	12.4	501	100

Table 5. Data on participant's alcohol consumption.

## 5.2. Violence against Women and Girls in Public Spaces

### a) Perceptions and Typologies

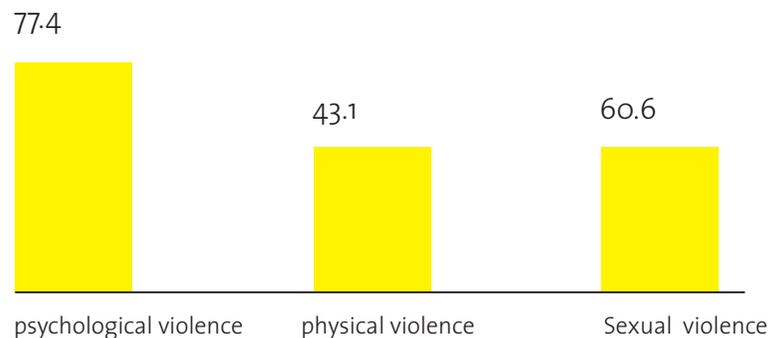
Violence in public spaces is understood as a source of suffering caused by a person on another. A set of forms and manifestations of oppression and violence of women's and girl's dignity and freedom have been presented and defined, yet not in a consensual and convergent manner. From deep interviews and group discussions we have managed to capture different manifestations and typologies of violence against women and girls. Psychological violence includes assaults, robbery, insults, threats, gross and sexual comments, gestures and innuendoes. Physical aggression includes assaults and robberies of goods with use of force, pushing, battering, choking, and stabbing. Sexual violence encompasses touching of intimate parts of the woman's body and forced sexual intercourse by one or several individuals, as can be observed from the examples below:

Violence is all about being found by a person here at the barracks on your way back from school or strolling and be stopped and have your belongings taken, such as mobile phone, money, and sometimes being rapped, choked, beaten, and or stabbed (48 year old Woman, Chamanculo C).

Violence is to manhandle someone. Manhandling would entail making one suffer, beat her/him and so forth. For example, there is a lot of violence, assaults, and insults, mobile phone muggings, pickpocketing at chapas stations, and this is one of the most practiced forms of violence on the streets (34 year old Woman, Maxaquene C).

The prevalence of violence against women and girls was attained by asking each on the 376 women and girls whether they had suffered some sort of violence act in public spaces. Graph 1 shows that psychological violence prevalence was of 77,4% and physical violence was at 43,1% and 60,6% for sexual violence and battering. The interpretation of sexual battering and violence prevalencies should take into account the influence these may have had from the number of interviewees that claimed to have been harrassed sexually and their intimat parts touched without their consent and not sexually rapped.

(%) Violence Prevalence agaisnt Women and Girls in Public Spaces N=376



Graph 1. VAWG in public spaces.

### 5.3. VAWG in Public Spaces: differences between Women and Girls

Girls make up the most vulnerable group and are subjected to biased judgements and stereotyped gazes over their lives and bodies. Sentiments of fragility and incapacity to self defend themselves against unwanted acts are perceptible from youngsters' narratives.

For me violence is when a man assaults a woman with no chances to defend herself, and when he has sexual intercourse without her consent, forcing her to (16 year old girl, Maxaquene C).

Violence is to beat someone and have sexual intercourse with someone against her will. Violence against women and girls in public spaces is to beat, push; assault a girl/woman on the street (15-year-old girl, Maxaquene D).

For me any act carried out against one's will, such as forced sexual intercourse, is violence (17 year old girl Chamanculo D).

It can be observed from Table 6, which depicts compared results

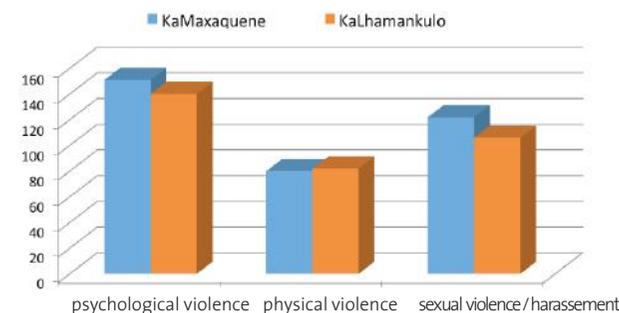
of violence prevalence against women and girls, that the rate is higher among girls (65,7%) than women (54,4%). In other words, this shows that almost 7 in 10 girls have claimed to have suffered some sort of violence in public spaces, contrary to 5 in 10 women. Both psychological and physical and sexual violence show a high prevalence rate for girls and women, although the significant differences are only seen with psychological violence (about 8 in 10 girls and 7 in 10 women) and with sexual violence (about 7 in 10 girls and 5 in 10 women);

	Girls		Women		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Psychological Violence	169	84.5	122	69.3	291	77.4
Physical Violence	88	44.0	74	42.0	162	43.1
Sexual Harassment and Violence	137	68.5	91	51.7	228	60.6
Prevalence of Violence in Public Spaces	131	65.7	96	54.4	227	60.4

Table 6. Compared results of violence prevalence against women and girls

#### 5.4. VAWG in public spaces: differences between Municipal Districts

Data from Graph 2 below compare the prevalence of violence against women and girls in the Municipal Districts (KaMaxaquene e KaLhamankulo), where the study was undertaken. Results in both districts show that approximately 6 in every 10 women and girls have been victims of violence in public spaces in the past twelve months prior to the study. In the meantime, it can be seen that psychological violence has the highest prevalence rates of 8 in every 10 women and girls and 7 in every 10 women and girls in KaMaxaquene and KaLhamankulo, respectively. On the other hand, sexual violence shows high rates of prevalence in KaMaxaquene than KaLhamankulo.



Graph 2. Prevalence of VAWG in two Municipal Districts.

### 5.5. Places of high VAWG occurrence in public places

*I do see women who come to the barracas and sit all night long. These are things only men can do because these are typical behaviours of men, not women (...). You know, a woman should stay at home; she was made to stay in the house. If she goes to school then she must go back home straight away to tend to house work and not roam around in the street, stay in bars drinking like men do, no! (A Male resident, Maxaquene B).*

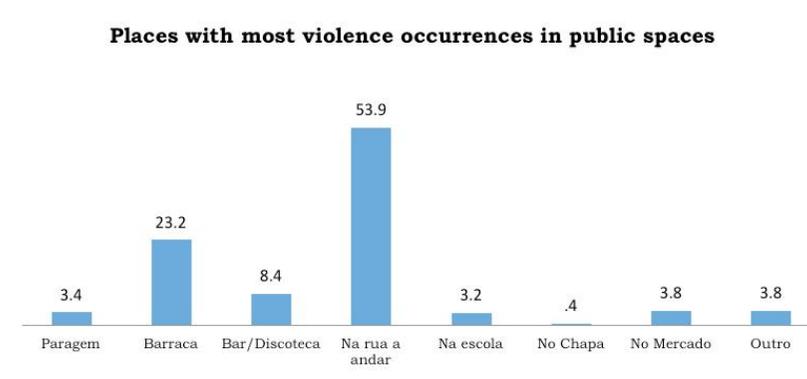
As it can be understood from the above testimony, this type of discourse is highly common among the participants of the study, mainly among male participants. Reference to rigid norms of space borders is mentioned, i.e. the existence of male territories, which exclude women and girls. The breaching of the borders serves as an alibi to perpetuate sexual violence and harassment, particularly against women and girls. Moreover, even in public spaces these borders are gender based delimited. For example, a woman and a girl are the main street prey to be subjected to violence. The testimonials below show the constraints women have to control their bodies, mobility and that of freely satisfying their leisure pleasures as male individuals do.

*... women have been going to barracas in groups and that is not good because it incites violence (Girl GF, Chamanculo).*

*... barracas are not for women let alone minors. (...) I did not know either that barracas are not recommended places for women (Girl, Maxaquene C).*

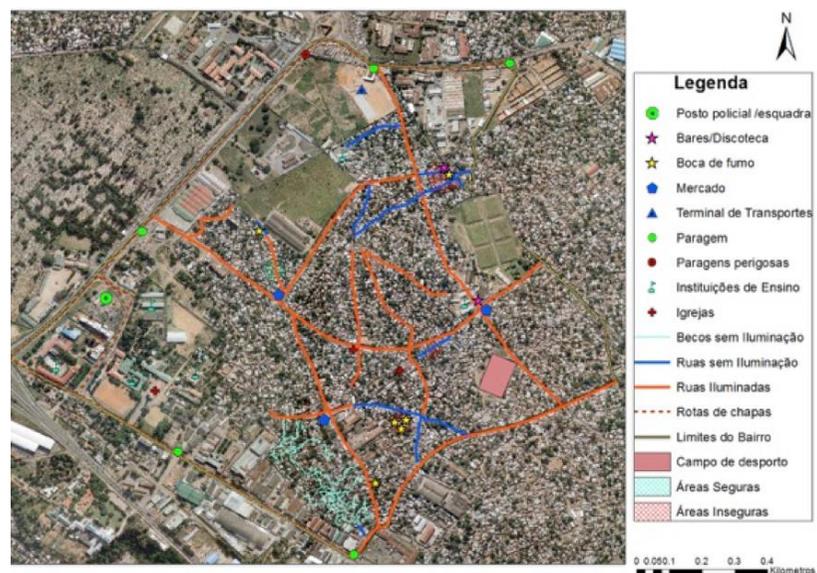
*There is no place for them, let alone the barracas, because sometimes at their age these girls need to learn a lot still and in the barracas their just learn how to smoke and drink and that's why I think this isn't an adequate place for them (Community Leader, Maxaquene D).*

As shown in graph 3 below, psychological and physical violence occur mostly in the street (53.9%), followed by violence in barracas with 23.2%, then bars or discos with 8.4%.



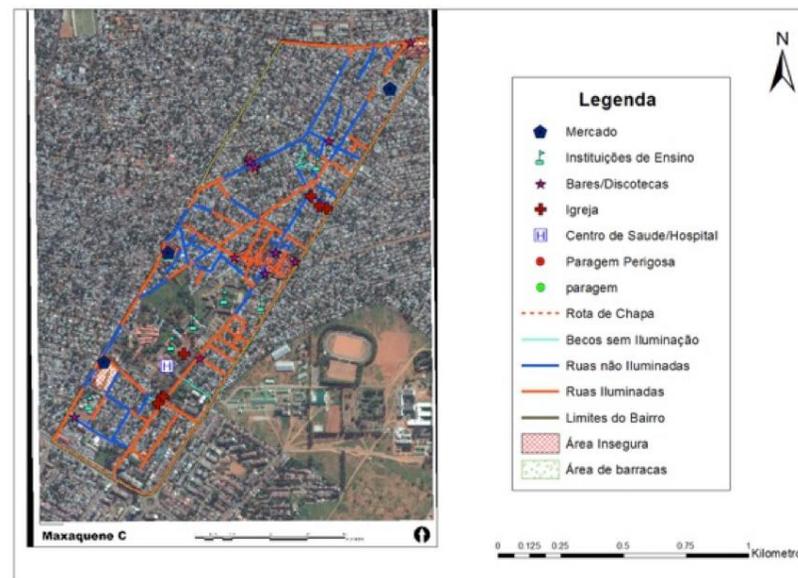
Graph 3. Places with most violence occurrences in public spaces

Mapping of insecure areas as per residents:  
Chamanculo C.



Map. 1 Air view of insecure areas/places in Bairro Chamanculo C.

Mapping of insecure areas as per residents



Map 2. Air view of insecure areas/places in Bairro Maxaquene C

## 5.6. Profile of practitioners of violence against women and girls

The participants in the study, male and female, consider that the practitioners of several types of violence are in their majority youngsters who consume alcoholic beverages and drugs. They are residents in the blocks of the very same neighbourhood but youngsters from surrounding areas join the groups, which they manipulate into committing crime and sexual harassment and violence. Their ages vary between 18 and 30 and they do not go to school or work. The testimonials below describe the profile of people who practice violence:

*They are youngsters! They're young people between 18 and 26*

*even up to 30 years old...this is it, as we hear and see, these are youngsters from other neighbourhoods who are manipulated by a local because he is the one who knows the tricks of how things should be handled (Community Leader, Chamanculo B).*

*These drug addicts that smoke here are great rapists because they are the ones who rape children, us and schoolgirls on their way back home (48 year old woman from Chamanculo C).*

I think they're from the neighbourhood or neighbouring blocks because I guess no one can leave here and go to Coop and do things of nonsense there for example; for if he does not know the are he cant run away, so the kids from here are the ones who know the place, the block and they might be our neighbours, our children that do that. They are young in their fifteenth and eighteenth and up to their twentieths and do to high consumption of alcohol, tentação, zed, and ... (Community Leader, Maxaquene D).

### 5.7. Sexual Violence or Harassment in public places

Data on sexual violence or harassment in public spaces in both Municipal Districts is presented in this section. Thus, as it can be asserted sexual violence and or harassment are “conquering” a woman or a girl and upon her refusal she is then insulted in a public space. Sexual violence and or harassment are also understood as “touching intimate body parts without permission”. “Assault followed by forced unconsented sex” is less reported. In this way, 61.0% of girls and 42.0% of women reported to have been “chatted up, refused and then insulted in a public space”. 41.4% of girls and 33.5% of women have had their “intimate body parts touched without permission”. And 4.5% of girls and 3.4% of women have mentioned to be “assaulted and forced to unconsented sex”. One other data that stands out is that in all forms of sexual violence occurrences girls are the ones who suffered the most in the past twelve months prior to the survey.

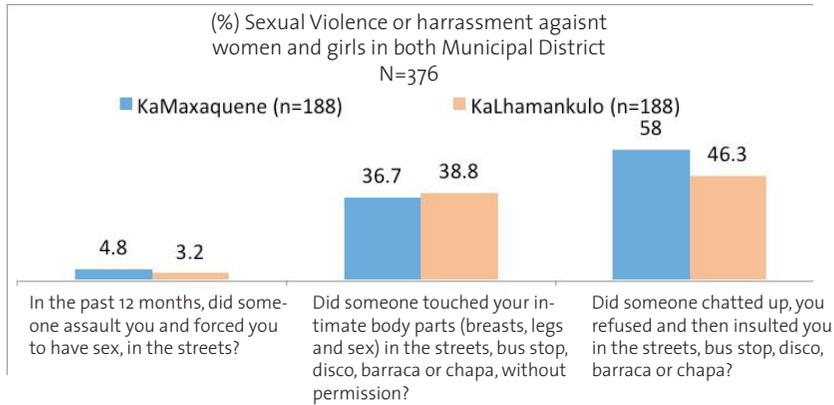
<sup>7</sup>The term “conquer” means to “manage to get” while here it simply means to “try to chat one up”.



Graph. 4 Data on sexual violence or harassment in public spaces

### 5.8. Data on sexual violence or harassment in public spaces per Municipal District

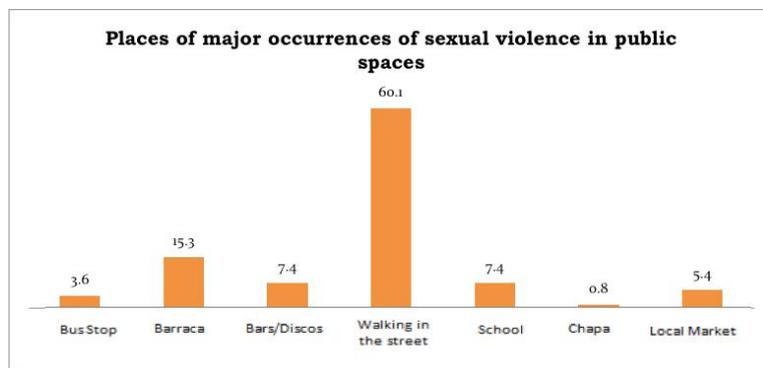
Graph 5 below shows in a specific manner the occurrence of sexual violence against girls and women in both Municipal Districts were the study was undertaken. Data shows that 4.8% and 3.2% of women and girls residing in KaMaxaquene and KaLhamankulo have reported to be “assaulted and sexually rape in public spaces”. On the other hand, the cases related to “touching intimate body parts without consent” have mostly occurred in KaLhamankulo (38.8%) than in KaMaxaquene (36.7%). “Trying to conquer a woman or girl, her refusal and followed by insult in public space” occurs more in KaMaxaquene (58.0%) than KaLhamankulo (46.3%).



Graph. 5 Occurrence of sexual violence against girls and women in two Municipal Districts

### 5.9. Places of sexual violence or harassment occurrences in public spaces

Similarly to the data in Graph 3 above, sexual violence occurs largely in the street, i.e. in public pathways (60.1%) then in barracas (15.3%). As it can be noted in Graph 3, violence in public spaces occurs in the same places, i.e. mostly in the street.



Graph 6. Places of major occurrences of sexual violence in public spaces.

Despite the significant difference between the two places, barracas and street, it can be understood that barracas is seen by the majority of male individuals and adult females as a forbidden space for women and girls, for it leads to “voluntary” catalyst to the occurrence of violence. Au contraire, the sentiment of violation of space among young girls seems unanimous, even though they are conscious of the potential risks they might face with their regular use of such spaces. It is thus important to stress that judgments against the behaviour of the youngsters and their penalization for frequenting such locations during the times defined for men are influenced by ideologies, moralism and rigid social norms which are discriminatory in power the relations and gender asymmetries.

### 5.10. Catalyst factors for the occurrence of Sexual Violence against women and girls in public spaces

A multiplicity of intertwined structural and sociocultural factors that overlap or manifest in isolation do contribute for the occurrence and perpetuation of violence in public spaces. Structural factors include the organisation of physical space, territorial and habitation, infrastructure conditions (availability and accessibility) of essential services, roads, transport, illumination, sanitation, public security and other aspects made evident by the participants to the study. Sociocultural factors do encompass normative cultural dimensions, ideologies regarding hegemonic masculinity, beliefs, regulatory social norms of the body and individual that are socially constructed and legitimated by different institutions (household, community, school, church ...).

#### a) Structural Factors

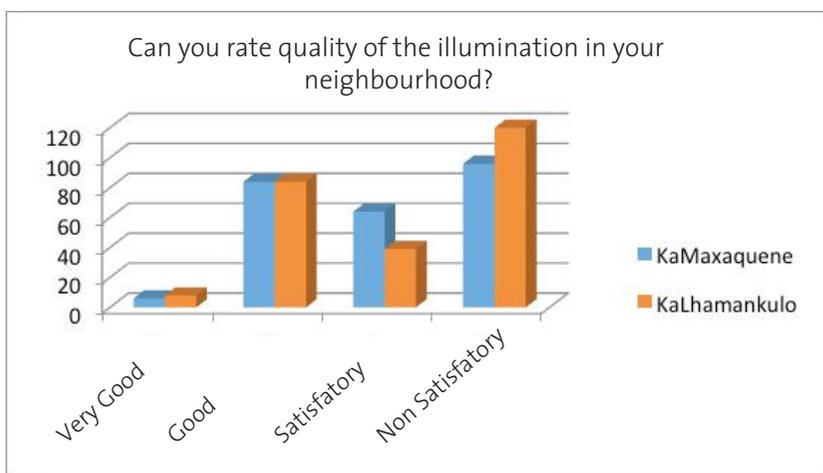
- Public Illumination

Table 7 shows the degree of public illumination coverage in the streets of KaMaxaquene and KaLhamankulo districts. Broadly speaking, 78.2% of the participants have reported the existence of public illumination in the streets that they use the most in their district,

where 80.4% in KaMaxaquene and 76.1% in KaLhamankulo. However, 43.1% have classified street public illumination coverage as non-satisfactory in both districts, where KaLhamankulo (47.8%) scored high than KaMaxaquene (38.4%).

	District		KaMaxaquene		KaLhamankulo		Total		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	N	%
Do you have public illumination in the places where you most frequent in the neighbourhood?										
Yes	201	80.4	191	76.1	392	78.2	15	24.2	366	73.1
Not	49	19.6	60	23.9	109	21.8	62	12.4	501	100

Table 7. Degree of Public Illumination Coverage



Graph 7. Perception regarding public illumination

Despite claims by a considerable number of participants over the existence of public illumination in the street, it is important to establish a distinction between main roads, narrow streets and alleys. The weak illumination or lack thereof in the blocks of the neighbourhood endangers the lives and livelihoods of the residents, mainly women and girls. The statements below reveal the concern of women and girls regarding wondering at night.

*The illumination conditions are not satisfactory for the safety of the neighbourhood because there are places which are not illuminated and it is these places where the delinquents hide to assault and mug the others (Boy from Maxaquene B).*

*It isn't satisfactory because it is normal to walk long distances without illumination and the bandits take advantage of this situation (Girl GF from Chamanculo).*

*For instance, in the street, mainly in neighbourhood like Chamanculo C which are so disorganized and do not follow urban planning structures. Many streets and ways are of difficult access and mobility and are in their majority made up of dark alleys, which people of dubious conduct use to hide. We have for example lack of vacancies in day shift schools that do not allow our children to study during the day, so when coming back from night school they encounter these people and suffer physical aggression or even sexual violence. There is also the question of abandoned houses. (Representative of an Association, Chamanculo).*

- Security conditions in the neighbourhood

Table 8 depicts the results regarding the times of the day in which the participants do not feel at ease when walking the streets of the neighbourhood they live in. Generally speaking, the times they do not feel at ease are between 22:00 hours and 24:00 hours and between 1 and 4 o'clock in the early hours of the morning, from Sunday to Thursday, with 79.2% and 94.6%

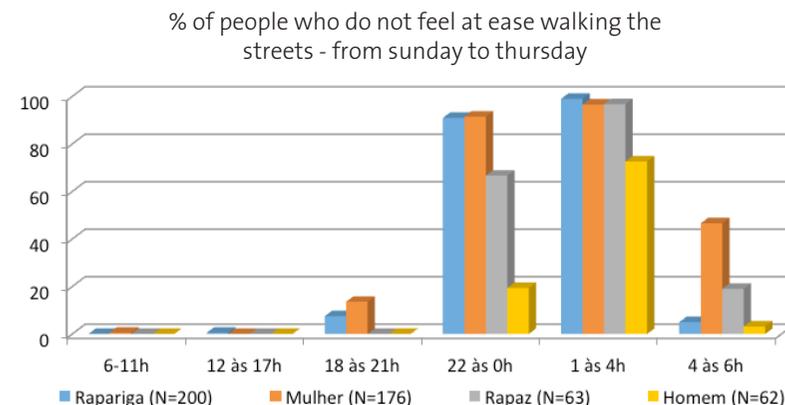
respectively; on Friday and Saturdays and during the same times of the day the figures show rates of 70.1% and 95.2%.

An analysis of the data using age and sex and variables we can see that more than 90% of the girls do not feel safe walking in the streets of the neighbourhood as from 22:00 hours to 4 o'clock in the morning, during the whole week.

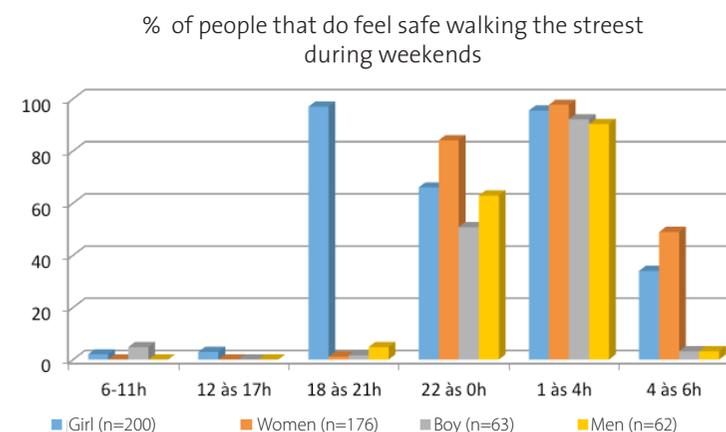
		Girl (N=200)		Woman (N=176)		Boy (63)		Man (62)		Total (501)	
Time of day	Hours	N	%	n	%	N	%	N	%	n	%
Friday and Saturday											
Morning	6-11h	0	0	1	0.6	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	12 to 17h	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Night	18 to 21h	15	7.5	24	13.6	0	0	0	0	39	7.8
	22 to 0h	182	91.0	161	91.5	42	66.7	12	19.4	397	79.2
Dawn	1 to 4h	198	99	170	96.6	61	96.8	45	72.6	474	94.6
	4h to 6h	10	5	82	46.6	12	19.0	2	3.2	106	21.2
Friday and Saturday											
Morning	6 to 11h	2	2	0	0.0	3	4.8	0	0.0	5	1.0
	12 to 17h	1	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.2
Night	18 to 21h	12	97	2	1.1	1	1.6	39	4.8	18	3.6
	22 to 0h	132	66	148	84.1	32	50.8	39	62.9	351	70.1
Dawn	1 to 4h	191	95.5	172	97.7	58	92.1	56	90.3	477	95.2

Table 8. Times of the day when participants do not feel at ease walking the streets

From participative mapping tables 1a) and 1b) we can assert that securing safety in the neighbourhoods is not an easy task, particularly in areas where roads and streets that give access to houses are like labyrinths without illumination. There are weaknesses for the efficient functioning of the institutions at community, municipal and local authorities' levels.



Graph 8. Times when people feel safe to move during the week



Graph 9. Times when people feel safe walking the streets on weekends

*Community policing..., it worked well sometime in the past but from then up to now I don't see the liveliness of community policing as it used to be; maybe there is lack of some principles for it to be so, but we have had several meetings on the issue and there were young people who volunteered to do the work, but anyway, it is not just people with a volunteering spirit, it about having the tools do the job* (Community Leader, Chamanculo B).

*In some neighbourhoods there are police patrols but the circulation is sometime limited to certain areas and it is thus inconsistent. The alleys and dead ends are excluded from police patrols and it here where rapes and assaults take place.*

*The insecurity in the hoods is an issue that questions the value and the significance of solidarity networks, mutual assistance mechanisms that exist among the residents to face cases of aggression in public spaces. Several women and girls have reported to hear cries for help, women crying which brings about a resented feeling of "lack" of solidarity and mutual help. Even when filled with good intentions to aid the victims, the neighbours feel afraid of eventual revenge attacks and fear adverse reactions from the delinquents. Therefore, and in order to defend themselves, they simply keep themselves "imprisoned" in their own houses.*

## b) Sociocultural Factors

The analysis of sociocultural factors suggest that beliefs and cultural practices sustain and perpetuate gender inequalities, which reserve a marginal social status to women and girls and this, exposes them to violence. Gender and power relations' area based on sexist and androcentric ideologies that consider women as passive and submissive beings to men's sexual desires. Sexist's discourses, the humiliations against women are ever present and expressed implicitly and explicitly in public spaces. Gender stereotypes and masculinity ideologies that for instance sustain "Friday as the day of the men" reinforce the accepted cultural ideologies,

which state that men are free to circulate and live freely their sexuality while women can't do so.

As the data from the present study reveal, there is a huge mobility and presence of women and girls hawking, selling in barracas and markets, who move at different times of the day. The young boys and girls who school at night are exposed to violence as reported by the participants to the study.

*There is a phenomenon that I do see till late hours of the night, girls who have families in the street going back to their homes. They move in groups, chatting, having fun and this is the gap in their own families because many a times the families only appear when the violence act has been consummated but when the girls are in the street at late hours of the night, the very same families do nothing; this is not however the reason for violence to occur but (if parents are present) it is one of the ways to provide security; age wise we cannot leave a child in the street till small hours of the morning and the parent do not go and look for her/him* (Community Association Representative, Chamanculo).

Men reported that the presence of women and girls during the night in places leisure to be one of the reason for them to be victims of any type of violence, thus building in them the sense of self guilty and resilience.

*(...) they (women and girls) are the guilty ones – they behave in this and that manner, so we should reflect with them and state that the victim is not guilty but the aggressor* (Community Association Representative, Maxaquene).

# Sofrer no silêncio

POUCAS são as mulheres que levam o caso à Polícia. Algumas porque acham normal ser-lhes apalpadadas as nádegas na rua, outras porque desconhecem as leis e onde devem se dirigir para reportar o facto, entende Elcídio Tamele, motorista de transporte público.

"Seria bom que se falasse mais do assunto e se responsabilizasse as pessoas que usam do poder que têm para se aproveitar das outras. Nós, homens, fomos educados para nos sentirmos superiores e achamos que podemos fazer o que quisermos com as mulheres", apontou Elcídio, reprovando a atitude.

Um dos estudos conduzidos pela Save The Children refere que algumas raparigas não informam aos pais, nem às autoridades, com receio de serem estigmatizadas no seio familiar e na sua comunidade, pois estes dois actores sociais, embora considerem o abuso um desvio às normas sociais, a vítima tem grande probabilidade de ser rejeitada.

Contudo, várias iniciativas têm sido desenvolvidas pelo Governo com vista a combater as diferentes formas de abuso e assédio sexual de mulheres no nosso país, aprovando políticas e leis, assim como ratificando instrumentos internacionais que defendem e

promovem os direitos da mulher.

Angelina Lubrino, directora Nacional do Género no Ministério do Género, Criança e Acção Social, fez saber que a questão do assédio sexual está contemplada no Plano Nacional de Prevenção e Combate à Violência contra a Mulher:

"É um problema que nos preocupa porque mexe na sensibilidade da pessoa", referiu.

Revelou que as vítimas podem fazer queixas nos Centros de Atendimento Integrado (CAI), onde se oferece assistência gratuita. Estão lá profissionais da Polícia, Justiça, Saúde e Acção Social.

Figure 9. News reports on the silence of victims of violence.  
Source: in Noticias Newspaper, 19/08/2016.

## • Institutions/Organizations dealing with issues on violence against women and girls

When questioned about the existence or not of an organization or institution in the Neighbourhood that deals with issues related to violence against women and girls that they can resort to when in need, only 16% of the participants knew about them, being 10.8% in KaMaxaquene and 21.1% in KaLhamankulo. However, when invited to mention some of the organizations or institutions in the Neighbourhood that they could resort to in a case violence against a woman or a girl, out of the 27 people questioned in Kamaxaquene, only 40.7% mentioned an association, 37% a hospital, 18.5% a police station and 3.7% a church; in KaLhamankulo only 32.1% mentioned a police station, 26.4% a church, 20.8% an association, 15.1% a hospital, 3.8% an NGO and 1.95% the municipal authorities.

District	KaMaxaquene		KaLhamankulo		Total	
	N	%	n	%	n	%
Do you know or not of the existence of an organization/institution in the Hood that deals with issues of violence against women and girls?						
Yes	27	10.8	53	21.1	80	16.0
No	140	56	137	54.6	277	55.3
Don't Know	83	33.2	61	24.3	144	28.7
Total	250	100	251	100.0	501	100.0
Which?						
NGO	0	0	2	3.8	2	2.5
Association	11	40.7	11	20.8	22	27.5
Church	1	3.7	14	26.4	15	18.75
Police Station	5	18.5	17	32.1	22	27.5
Hospital	10	37.0	8	15.1	18	22.5
Municipality	0	0.0	1	1.9	1	1.25
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0
Total	27	100.0	53	100.0	80	100

Table 9. Data on the existence or not of an organization or institution in the Hood that deals with issues related to violence against women and girls.

From the focal group conversations and individual interviews we could see some differences regarding the existence of associations or organizations that deal with issues of violence against women and girls in Chamanculo C and D. For example, it was observed that both community leaders and participants in the focal groups did not have the knowledge of their existence as it can be asserted by the extracts below:

*(...) we do not have any information about the existence of any association of the kind... (Focal Group Girl participant, Chamanculo).*

*I haven't heard of it, so I can say it does not exist (Community Leader, Chamanculo D).*

*Differently from Chamanculo C and D, Maxaquene C shows on going activities that deal with cases of violence as it can be seen from the extracts below:*

*(...) they even look for Horizonte Azul to denounce sexual, physical and any other violence types they may suffer. So it is....inside or outside the school, our themes are these, violence, do not accept gender-based violence. No one should take your body, touch it without your consent, regardless of age, age group, socio-economic condition and even when looking at premature weddings, adolescence pregnancies, when all these do not happen at the right age and legally allowed to happened, we are then faced with a violation, an aggression to your rights ... (Community Association Representative, Maxaquene).*

*(,,) it is a question that we are dealing with caution; we are an association that wants to do more but we do not have a specialist, a psychologist, so to say that we want people who suffer violence to come to us would be counterproductive for what will we offer to them? Without specialists, we will continue to study, and carry out some actions that may contribute in a way or the other... (Community Association Representative, Chamanculo).*

The previous observation above shows that despite the fear of revenge counterattacks and adverse reaction by the aggressor when one intervenes to save/defend a victim of physical violence (assault, mugging, rape), one does it at own individual risk. Our informants express indignation towards the increment of the phenomena and lack of action by the State. Many participants do witness daily scenes of harassment or rape and they try to save the victims whenever possible. In the meantime, they recognize that they can do nothing because the aggressors act in gangs. The testimonials below show how this happens:

When I see a woman being harassed or violated I do sometimes blow the whistle and make noise...because I carry a whistle with me. Once this happened and when I blew the whistle they left the girl and ran away; I don't know whether they thought I was a policeman calling other people (Male resident, Chamanculo D).

At least in chapas I am able to do something.... because I witness it once. A man was trying to rape a woman in a chapa and the driver did not want to stop at any of the bus stations and drove straight to a police station (Male resident, Chamanculo C).

(...) as per doing something as such, individually, I can't and have not done anything. But the times I do something are when I see the cops I warn them but because they are scarce I practically do nothing (...) (Man, Maxaquene B).

## 5.11. Psychosocial Implications of Violence

### The Case of Victória

We have decided to call Victoria a thirty plus year old woman, a key informant in the present study who accepted to share her own experience of violence against women and girls in public spaces of Maputo City. Her story is an example of collective violence, where her body was brutally and sexually appropriated by five men, when she was going to a health centre. Her disturbed infancy history, premature pregnancy and, couple with spirit possession while a child, seem to have traced from then her destiny towards a traumatic life filled with memories of violence. Her dramatic story of rape was shared at a restricted level in the household but never denounced to any external judicial authorities. Even when she went to the hospital seeking medical aid after being infected with HIV virus as a result of the rape, she revealed not to be a victim of rape in fear of revenge and adverse actions.

The rape act brought about traumatic negative psychological and social effect upon Victoria's life. The quality of her life has been amputated due to health problems, the disease, negative image bestowed upon her, low self-esteem in family relations, social life, that impact negatively on her sexual and affective relations. Her feeling of fear, low self-esteem towards the partner, depression and a guilty sentiment are evident.

Violence of any kind, type and form of manifestation can have implications of the most varied kind over the life cycle of the victim. The perceptions on psychosocial implications resulting from violence against women and girls in public spaces were attained from day-to-day life experiences from the victims, who live in fear and feel forever threatened by the perpetrators and aggressors. These feelings are rarely told in the first person but reported as someone else's experience. The case above was the only detailed experience given the psychological assistance provided during the study. The different voices explain the reasons behind the refusal to reveal and denounce rape cases by the victims.

Some are afraid because rapist states to know her and warns her not to come forth and report the case (to police) for he maybe be arrested but upon his release she is a dead person. So if the person is somehow like this she lets it be (Community Leader, Chamanulo B).

I'm always insecure. There are some young boys that have warned my uncle that they are expecting to find me in "Matlhomele", a very far place, one of these days with only 10 Meticais for chapa because I "show off" a lot and many asked me (for sex) and I'm not giving so they will find me there and the do it, they will do everything they want. So every time I see someone I think perhaps the boys sent someone for me and this might him (Woman, Chamanulo C).

Some women and girls that have been raped got infected with the HIV virus. They live in a weave of sentiments and restlessness, psychological trauma and fear. Others, young school girls, give up school in fear of being raped and meet the aggressor again or revenge as reported by one representative of the Association.

(...) she asked us to follow suit before the test because she did not want to be [psychologically affected]; it had be after the tests, she came back (...) shared with her family this year because the rapist

had warned her not to otherwise he would do her harm beyond her imagination (...) she said she wouldn't go back to school in fear for being raped again, and we did not know (Community Association Representative, Maxaquene).

(...) the example I gave you then, mentioned the girl who goes back to school – if she is raped she will quit school because of fear and we are then falling in terms of level of education and making that woman more fragile (Community Association Representative, Chamanculo).

### 5.12. Response and Management Mechanisms

This section presents some of the trials used to respond and manage violence episodes against women and girls in public spaces. From the 9 girls and 6 women that reported to have had suffered from physical aggression and which ended in sexual violence in public spaces, only 7 (46.7%) have denounced the act, i.e. 4 (44.4%) girls and 3 women (50%). However, only 2 (28.6%) of the 7 denounced the case to the police and the others to family members. None of the girls denounced the cases to the police but the family.

Girls		Women		Total		
N	%	n	%	n	%	
<b>Denounced the case</b>						
Yes	4	44.4	3	50.0	7	46.7
No	5	56	3	50.0	8	53.3
Total	9	60	6	40.0	15	100.0
<b>Where and to Whom</b>						
Police	0	0	2	66.7	2	28.6
Family	4	100.0	1	33.3	5	71.4
Total	4	100.0	3	100.0	7	100

Table 10. Data on cases denounced to the police.

The situation of violence against women and girls in public spaces demands responses and or mechanisms that take into account prevention, mitigation, as well as the reduction and or resolution of violence situations and provision of psychosocial assistance to the victims. The responses and mitigation strategies can be public/private initiatives by civil society organizations, community organizations and even individuals.

From individual interviews and group discussions we do underline the inexistence of concrete actions by public institutions, that is, local governments, to face the complexity of the violence phenomenon in public spaces. In the meantime, the participants in the study consider that their area actions that could be adopted at community level to avoid scenes of violence that affect girls and women, as could be noted from the following testimonials:

*The community coordinates with the Chiefs of the Hood and Blocks (and) the chief of the police sector; the population does not stand down and takes measures by giving information promptly. Yet monthly the population meets to adopt a mechanism to reduce crime. We have an office at the police station to assist and tend to women who are victims of violence. So I have not heard of any cases in the Neighbourhood ever since I have been here for the past two years and I know we have this office at the police station and assistance is accessible ... (Community Leader, Chamanculo D).*

*The actions adopted by the community to face violence against women and girls in public spaces are the following: the community sets up the CCS (Community Commission for Security) in each block to support the community in cases of violence and report immediately to the PRM (police force) given that they work in coordination. Yes there is a community programme to fight and reduce violence against women in public spaces and we seek to meet with the residents and urge them to enlarge straight pathways to allow people to walk freely in alleys and we ask them illuminate dark roads/streets so that people can recognize the delinquents that commit violence. Yes there are patrols in the Neighbourhood and this is done by the PRM and some soldiers and the CCS. They do it in alleys because the*

*delinquents like allays for their business. (Community Leader, Chamanculo D).*

*We do sometimes meet with the Neighbourhood Chief. Our Chief is a very active man; he is a man of great actions, very kind and he follows up on everything that happens in the Hood. Sometimes he meets with us as Block chiefs to share what he hears, given that people call him to report on cases in the Neighbourhood. So he is a very prompt man once he gets such news. After hearing certain information he convenes a meeting and says "I have received information on X, in Block 13 something Y happened, in Block 14 this and in Block 17 that has happened... so you as Block chiefs need to pay close attention at night and in places where there might be a party or playing music; you should go there sometimes and see whether the people that are there are honest or not; whether there are not intruders/party crashers wanting to disrupt the party or make any disturbances." So he gives us this type of counselling to us as our leader (Community Leader, Chamanculo B).*

*Yes do have municipal police and PRM in the Neighbourhood and we resort to them and report when we have situations here; and health wise we do have a health staff in the Neighbourhood. We have met once being this the first year and we devised our working mechanism, how we should be assisted at in the hospital, and when there are cases that can be resolved at the hospital we should report to them. (Community Leader, Maxaquene D).*

Meanwhile, and during focal group discussions, young girls sustained the invisibility of State and Civil Society Organizations' interventions towards the defence of their physical integrity and security, sexual and body autonomy. They sustained that the actions by institutions are not felt at all. The youngsters and women in particular, those who most need support, also lament about the quality (availability and accessibility) of the services, including the inexistence on health units with emergency services, police and judicial authorities. Even when these services are available in neighbouring the victims are not assisted. There are cases where the professionals are absent when the victims most need their support.

*There are certain girls who are raped and we know about it, and the girl might even know the person; the case is reported but it dies there. The offended person gives up chasing after the process due to the delay to take it forth; the offended is even charged favours when she goes after the case to seek help and as such she ends up giving up. It is in this manner that banditries are more influent because people are not serious enough to deal with the case when it is brought before them. (Community Leader, Chamanculo B).*

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Violence against women and girls in public spaces is a global problem but the approach to this theme is new in Mozambique. It has been scarcely documented but very present in the daily lives of women and girls. This study brings about new ideas and possibilities to turn such places (public spaces) safe and consequently develop the idea of safe cities.

The results of the present study indicate a high prevalence of violence against women and girls in public spaces, estimated at 60.4% of the 376 participants. In average, approximately 6 in 10 women and girls have suffered a type of violence in the past twelve months prior to the study. As for the prevalence of sexual violence in public spaces, the study reveals this is higher among girls between the ages of 12 and 18 (65.7%) than women with 18 and above (54.4%). About 7 in 10 girls and 5 in 10 women have been victims of sexual violence.

The participants recognize the streets, alleys, abandoned houses, barracas, discos, bars, market, bus stop, transports, chapa, and school in the vicinities of bars, as the unsafest places. Maps 1 and 2 and tables 1a) and 1b) show specifically the most insecure and dangerous places. In the street, public way, open spaces with or without illumination, are considered the places where psychological and physical violence occurs, i.e. 53.9% in the street, 23.2% in barracas, 8.4% bar or discos. It is worth noting that the rate of sexual violence or harass-

ment is the identical in schools and bars/barracas. Sexual violence has the highest prevalence rate in KaMaxaquene than KaLhamanculo.

The prevalence of psychological violence was of 77.4% followed by sexual violence or harassment (60.6%) and physical violence with 43.1%.

It was felt that the problem of the youngsters and young adolescents is very severe in the two districts and amongst. Lack of employment and the high cost of living makes the life of the population even harder. Consequently, many young boys dedicate themselves to illegal activities, delinquency, drugs and alcohol consumption and commit sexual violence against women and girls.

The several testimonials gathered by the study show the constraints women and girls face in their daily lives to control their bodies and livelihoods. They feel impeded/restricted to move freely, to go to school, work and places of leisure just like their male counterparts. So, they do not enjoy their rights as human beings. The study data reveal that more than 90% of girls do not feel safe to move around in the streets and roads after 22:00 hours, during the entire week.

The exercise of mapping the problems together with the residents of both Hoods, Maxaquene and Chamanculo, was very interesting for the team and the invited participants as well, for, they were very enthusiastic with the idea to see their space through an aerial photograph e could plan for a more safer environment.

We noted that the action of the police was precarious given the existence of one police post not a police station in Maxaquene C, thus not guaranteeing enough security for the Hood. The participants claimed that the “existing police station would cease to exist” in Chamanculo C.

The community leaders in KaLhamanculo are both men and women. However, the men are particularly biased regarding the attribution of spaces for women and girls to socialize and they tend

to place the guilty upon women when assaulted or raped. In some cases, the more adult women do consider the young ones guilty of suffering sexual violence because of the type of provoking clothes they wear, sustaining in this manner the mechanism of power reproduction and domination that favours men and boys’ behaviours and attitudes.

Community Leaders referred to the existence of a joint action between municipal police and PRM to control and reduce cases of violence. Yet, the majority of the women and girls lament the absence of patrols that facilitate the uncontrolled movement of delinquents and criminal activities.

Broadly speaking, it is recognized the precarious and lacking working conditions of the police to fulfil their duties efficiently. They also mentioned lack of transportation means. Further, the participants mentioned illegal solicitation of bribes in cases where the victims sought for police services to push the cases forth. Community leaders, chiefs of Hoods and Blocks feel incapable and with no means even when they are willing and forthcoming to do something.

In both districts reference to the existence of an office to assist and tend to violence victims in the KaLhamanculo municipal police post was made, and that of an Association named Horizonte Azul that provides assistance to women and girls victims of violence. However, this association in KaMaxaquene district, Maxaquene C shows a lot of fragilities such as lack of material means and specialized human resources (Psychologists) that can guarantee psychosocial assistance to the victims.

Apart from the structural barriers, lack of public illumination, poverty and social exclusion, the way the society constructs social, sexual and identity roles of male and female, the social status of women is a barrier to warrant her with the fundamental human rights.

Coupled with the precarious support services, victimization of the victims, i.e. the women and girls are culturally guilty of the violence acts they suffer, can be an inhibiting factor to reveal and denounce violence acts.

The women and girls live in fear to denounce the aggressors due to future revengeful acts. Thus, they silence the violence and live traumatized and in pain.

## Recommendations

- Improve structural and organizational conditions in the Hoods through the enlargement of alleys and securing adequate illumination in alleys and straight pathways, with regular maintenance by EDM in different sensitive areas;
- Requalify public spaces, squares; establish parks, sports fields, etc. Given the existence of space, i.e. the “The Centre for the Requalification of Chamanculo C Hood”, this should have better equipment thus creating a Polyfunctional Centre with different functionalities for children, women, and young people to attract good initiatives for the Neighbourhood.
- Secure police presence and community patrols in places with the propensity to violence acts (tight alleys and with no illumination);
- Install centres to assist and tend to women and girls victims of violence, equipped with psychologists and specialists in violence cases and provide the existing centre with enough capacity to deal with issues of violence in public spaces;
- Sensitize municipal authorities on the hipercentralization of urban investments in the urban areas of Maputo Municipality in detriment of the peripheral neighbourhoods:
- Carry out sensitization campaigns in partnership with community associations on VAWG issues in public spaces to informal transportation operators, alcoholic beverages hawkers, etc.;
- Set up partnerships with the owners of barracas to stick sensitizing pamphlets on VAWG and avoid the selling of alcohol after midnight.
- Promote activities with men and boys to incentivize them to recreate and transform insecure spaces into secure spaces to deconstruct violent attitudes and behaviours against women and girls;
- Sensitize parents, education tutors on the cares they should take with children and adolescents by setting up healthy minds and entertainment places;

- Develop coordinated actions between the different actors and sectors in the Neighbourhoods, and set up integrated and interactive spaces;
- Map and identify existing community associations in VAWG issues susceptible to lead campaigns and sensitization activities (i.e. theatre, community radio) and identify weak and strong points;
- Build capacity and sensitize the PRM, community leader, community associations and civil society organizations to deal with issues of VAWG in public spaces;
- Provide the actors with different collaboration capacities and advocacy skills to resolve VAWG in public spaces related problems;
- Develop campaigns in the neighbourhoods so that women and girls victims can feel comfortable and fearless to point out and denounce the aggressors when identifiable.
- Incentivise communities to develop inter support mechanisms to help the victims and or possible victims of violence acts.
- Study deeply the role of Community Courts and interaction between the formal and informal subsystems of justice on the management and resolution of conflicts related to gender in general and gender based violence in particular.

## Scoping Study Report **SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN PUBLIC SPACES IN MAPUTO CITY**

**Project Maputo:** A Safe City Free of Violence  
Against Women and Girls

Maputo, November 2016

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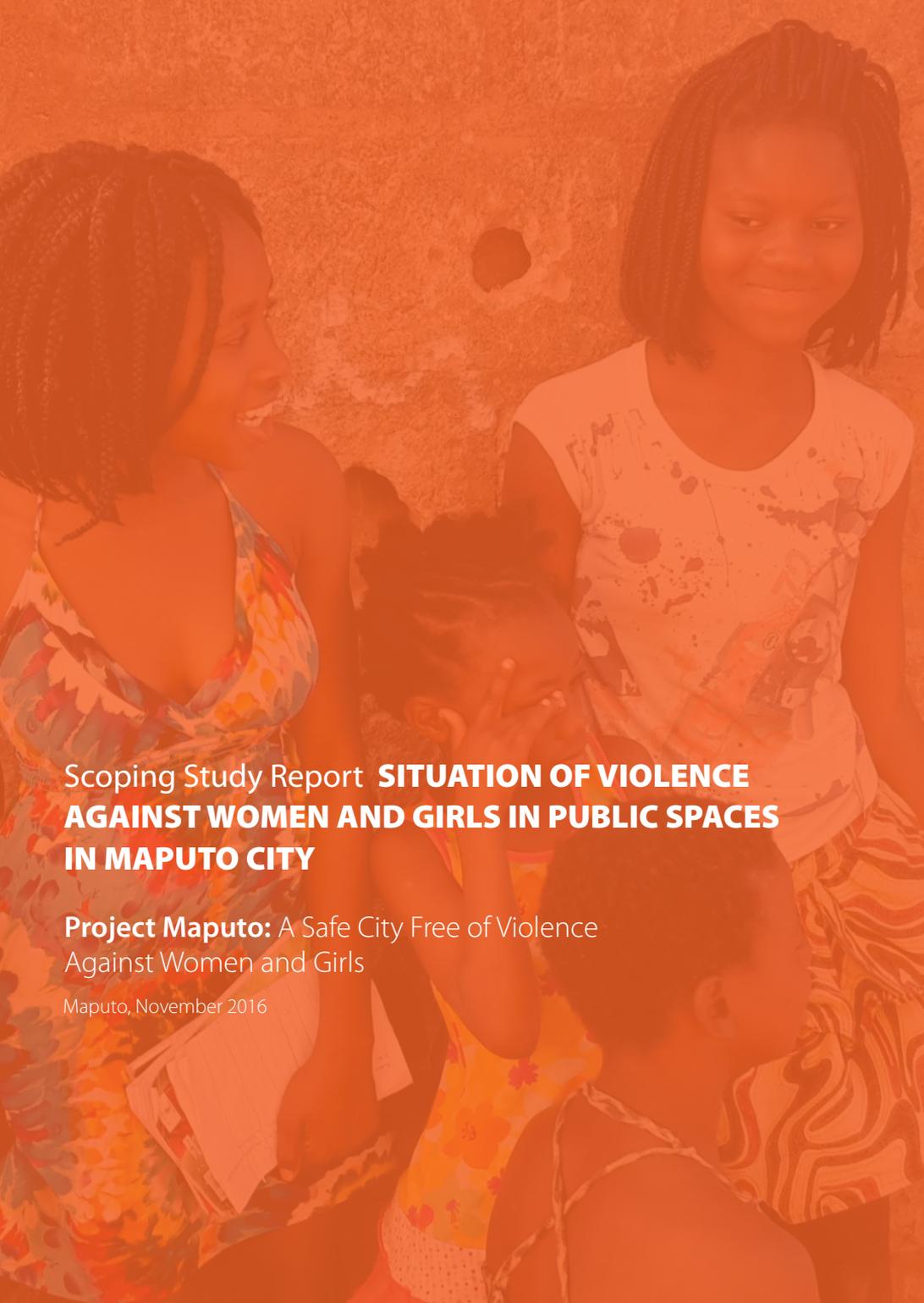
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Maputo, November 2016