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Strengthening the Social Welfare Workforce to address Violence against Children in care



| for every child

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What's wrong with this picture?

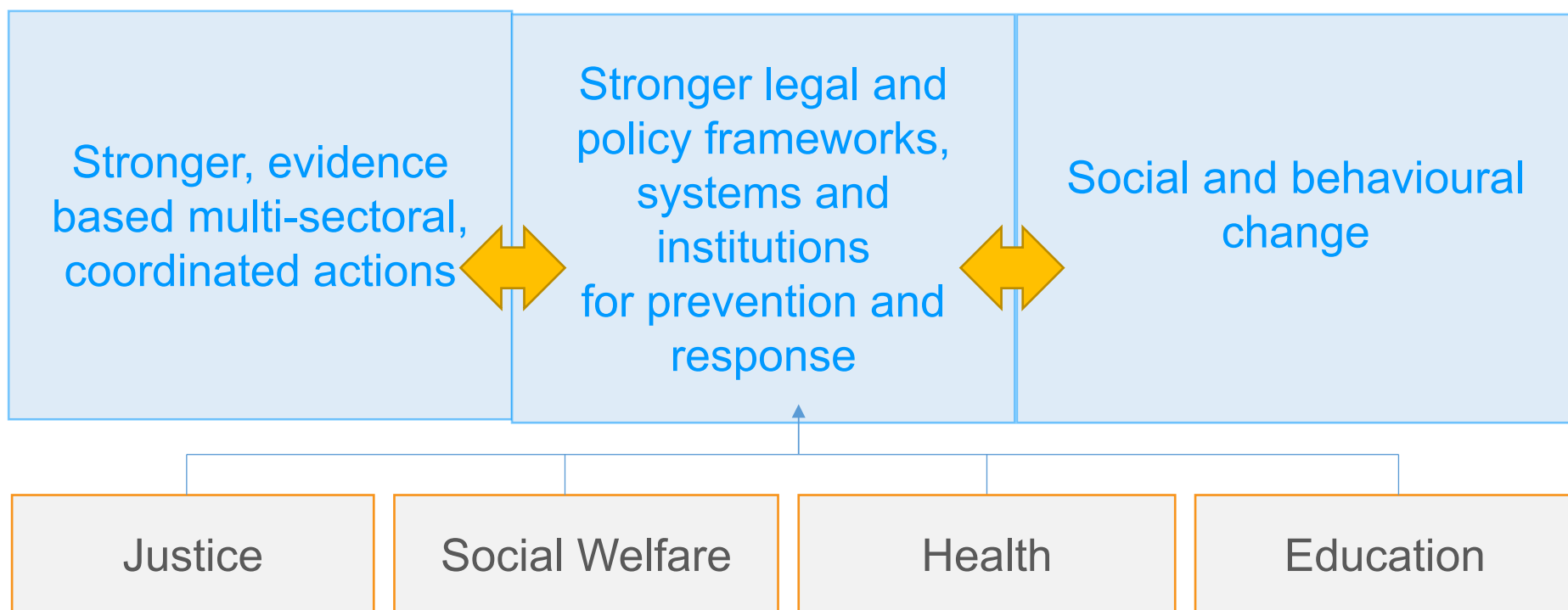
Help-seeking behavior reported by 18 to 24 year olds* who experienced childhood sexual violence



* Reported by 13-24 year olds in Tanzania

What works in VAC prevention and response

- Violence against girls and boys is preventable
- Action is required at all levels of the ecological model



- Whole system/institution strengthening is more effective than narrow policy changes, short-term projects, and vertical programming

Strengthening the Social Welfare Workforce

Capacity Development

- **National education and training institutions (have good coverage and quality courses)**

Public Financial Management

- **Government budgeting and financial planning of social welfare workforce**

Quality Assurance

- **Part of the child protection normative framework**
 - protection functions clearly defined,
 - licensing/accreditation for social workers and auxiliary professionals,
 - supervision/support to staff,
 - data collection on type and quantity of case work to inform further policy making

Advocacy

- **Citizens and policy makers recognition of the social welfare workforce as critical for the protection of vulnerable members of society**

Example from Rwanda

- Since 2012 the Rwanda has been engaged in a child care reform aiming at promoting family based care and reducing children living in residential care facilities.
- Using social welfare workforce to prevent and respond to VAC in all care settings, but using the deinstitutionalization as an entry point.
- GoR strengthening the professional and volunteer social workforce to work with communities, children and families to prevent cases of violence and separation, and to provide referrals to appropriate services.
- National Commission for Children absorbed 60 social workers and psychologists into the government system demonstrating a commitment to supporting child protection and violence prevention.
- 29,674 volunteers called 'friends of the family', also under the NCC have been deployed across the country, 2 per village. This cadre has received pre-service training and will be working directly with families and children in communities to mitigate and prevent violence.

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