Disrupting Harm

Evidence from 13 countries on the context, threats, and children's perspectives of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Detailed Analysis of the Frontline Service Providers Survey – Mozambique

Last updated 10/11/21

Introduction

The Disrupting Harm frontline workers survey aimed to explore the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to OCSEA that are presenting to those directly working to prevent and respond on the welfare frontline. Insights from frontline workers via this survey allowed us to more deeply explore findings from other research activities such as the national literature reviews and government interviews from the perspective of staff directly engaged in the response to this growing problem.

This report is the preliminary analysis conducted by ECPAT International. It is based on a convenience sample of 50 interviews were conducted with client-facing frontline child protection workers who were surveyed in each participating country. In order to participate in the survey respondents had to meet the following qualifying requirements:

1)   Be an adult over 18 years of age;
2)   Work the last 12 months (at least) in the field of social work, psychology or welfare;
3)   Manage their own case load directly in the last 12 months;
4)   Have caseloads that included children over the last 12 months.

The survey itself included a combination of 68 closed and open-ended questions. The data was collected via SurveyGizmo and administered by Disrupting Harm staff (either in person, or remotely via phone/Skype – due to COVID-19). Whilst the data collected is not statistically representative, it is still a vital snapshot in indicating scope and broadening our perspectives on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to OCSEA.

NOTE:
In Mozambique, the data collection for the survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic from February 17th 2021 to March 26th 2021 where movement restrictions were in place.

Basic Description of Survey Sample

The frontline workers who were surveyed in Mozambique (n=50) consisted of 22 females (44%) and 28 (56%) males.

Participants were asked to select a single category that best describes their organisation. In reality, these categories are sometimes not mutually exclusive, however the indications of a category that 'best' describes their organisation does help to depict the range of organisations that participants represent (Figure 1).
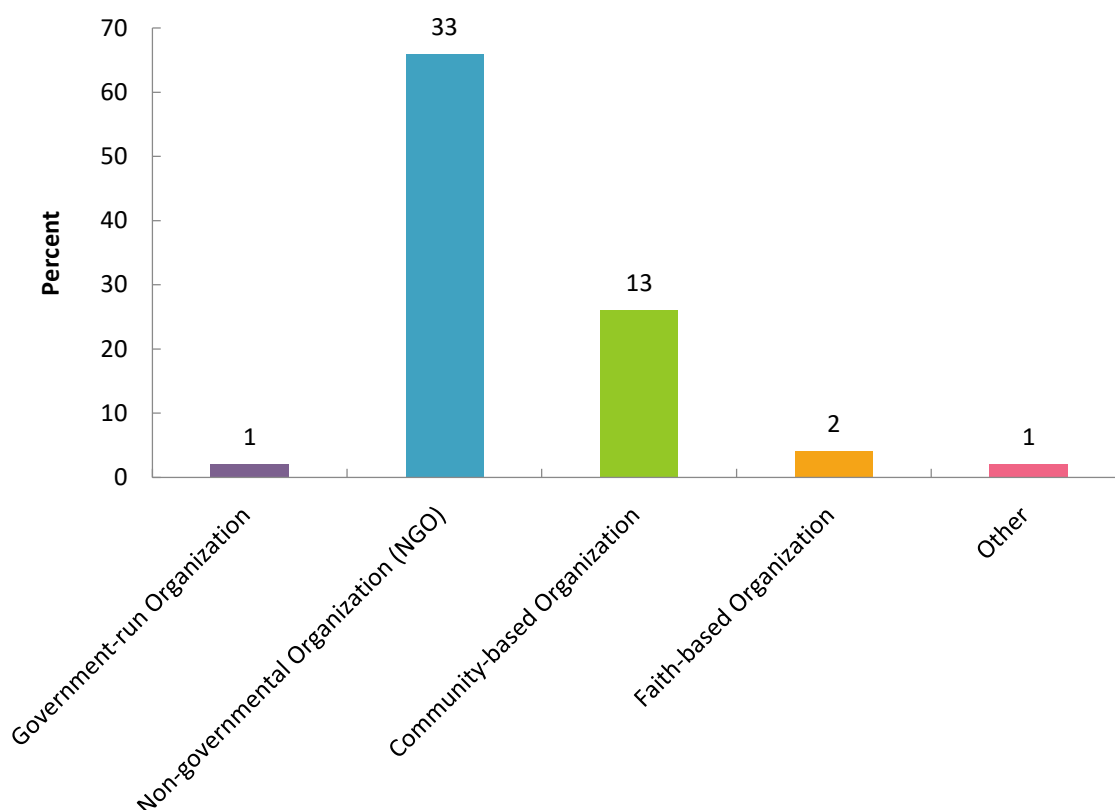

Figure 1. Types of participants' organisations. N=50

The majority of participants identified their organisation as non-governmental (n=33 – 66%), followed by community-based organisation (n=13 – 26%). Two respondents described their organisation as faith-based (n=2 – 4%), one as government-run (n=1 – 2%) and one as 'other' (n=1 – 2%).

The frontline social support workers were asked to detail what type of services their organisations provided related to children. The results are illustrated in Figure 2 below.
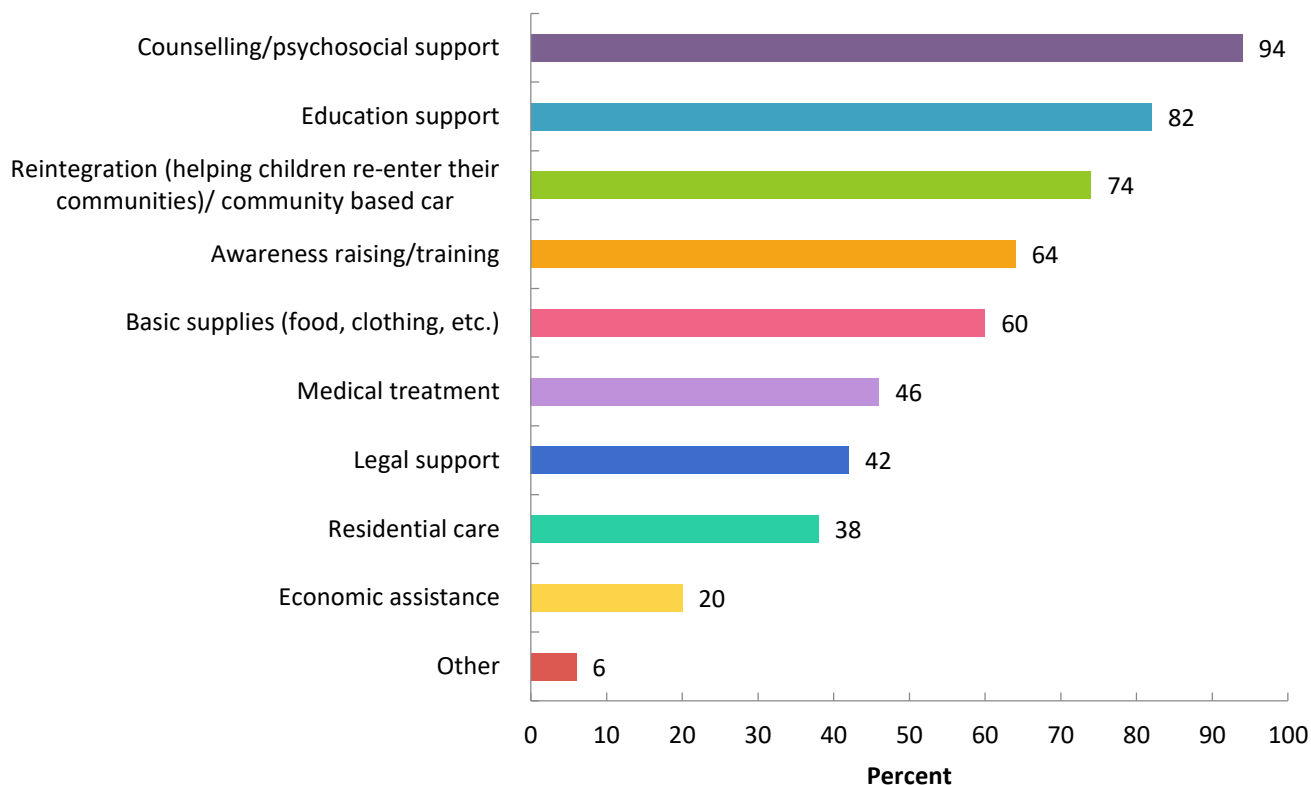
Figure 2. Types of services provided by participants' organisations. N=50

The majority (92%) of participants worked in organisations providing more than one service to children (n=46). As Figure 2 indicates, the most frequently reported services were counselling/psychosocial support (n= 47– 94%) and education services (n=41 – 82%). That was closely followed by reintegration/community-based care (n=37 – 74%), awareness raising/training (n=32 - 64%) and providing basic supplies (n=30 – 60%). About half of the respondents indicated that their organisations provided medical treatment (n=23 – 46%), legal support (n=21 – 42%) and residential care (n=19 – 38%). Economic assistance was the least commonly provided service (n=10 – 20%).

Other services mentioned by frontline social support workers were:
- Case management and referral of cases to relevant institutions
- School support
- Teaching children carpentry, sewing, handicraft, livestock management

Perpetrator Demographics

To expand on the current understanding of the context in which OCSEA happens in Mozambique, the survey sought to explore the typical relationships that were observed by frontline social support workers between offenders and child survivors when they reported having worked with OCSEA cases.

From the 38 respondents who had worked with OCSEA cases, men were more commonly identified as perpetrators and facilitators of OCSEA. Out of those who had managed cases that involved OCSEA during the past 12 months, the most commonly referenced relationship between the victim and perpetrator was said to be that the perpetrators were community members over 18 followed by parents/stepparents, family friends, strangers (nationals), siblings under 18, community members under 18 and other relatives over 18. Only one respondent mentioned that a case of OCSEA involved a foreign perpetrator.

Similarly, participants were asked about the most common relationships between facilitators and victims in the OCSEA cases they have managed. Of those cases that involved a facilitator, community members over 18, parents/stepparents and family friends were the other most commonly selected options.

When frontline social support workers were given the opportunity to provide additional comments about perpetrators and facilitators they encountered in OCSEA cases, they mentioned that:

"These cases happen, mostly, within the community because those who rape or harass are people known by the family and children look at them as family members who deserve respect. Sometimes children are abused and remain silent. Only later these cases of abuse are discovered." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

"Usually the perpetrators, i.e., those who practice sexual violence are part of the street population and it's difficult to track such sex offenders." (RA3-MZ-05-A)

"Usually, it's community members who know the family of the victim." (RA3-MZ-05-A)

"Orphan children are, mostly, victims of their uncles/grandparents/caregivers who facilitate their exploitation and abuse claiming poverty." (RA3-MZ-39-A)

Below are a number of quotes from participants describing their insights into some of the child sexual exploitation and OCSEA cases they worked with:

"[From] all the cases I have managed [...] most of them [involved] girls who were abused but [...] other cases are related to young boys abusing other young boys" (RA3-MZ-09-A)

"Girls have been the target group for this kind of abuse." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

"I have been receiving more cases involving boys." (RA3-MZ-22-A)

"I think these cases happen in many places but especially on the streets" (RA3-MZ-26-A)

"In most cases they are girl victims of early marriages." (RA3-MZ-04-A)

"In the district, we haven't had cases of OCSEA. We don't have any reported cases. I believe that this is a new phenomenon, the cases we have here are more physical." (RA3-MZ-41-A)

"It has been difficult to deal with these cases. I really need a way to overcome this." (RA3-MZ-53-A)

"It's very difficult for parents of children in the group age of 0-5 to inform us about these events." (RA3-MZ-49-A)

"These children were groomed by vendors of the market, who would call them offering money and making appointments via WhatsApp." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

"Usually, these children are influenced by watching pornography in their mobile phones." (RA3-MZ-07-A)

Scenarios

Participants were presented with four scenarios depicting situations in which at least one offender victimised a child through different modes of online sexual abuse and exploitation. After being provided with definitions of 'OCSEA', a 'perpetrator' and a 'facilitator' earlier in the survey, the participants were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that the child was a victim and that the offender had committed an OCSEA-related offence.[1] These questions were designed to elicit insights about how participants assessed different forms and situations of OCSEA. It should be noted that responses are likely based on a combination of the participant's knowledge on the issue, including how these issues may (or may not) be defined in law in a country, as well as influenced by social norms and beliefs. Irrespective of the basis for responses, the results indicate areas that are well understood (sometimes almost unanimously) and others where training and consistent messaging is needed to ensure consistent responses.

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[1] Names for the scenarios were changed to common names in each country for the translations but have been edited in the analysis to be consistent across all the Disrupting Harm reports

A four-point Likert scale was used to assess agreement with statements for the scenario questions. Where interesting indications in differences occurred, we note them, but otherwise combined 'slightly agree' and 'strongly agree' together and 'slightly disagree and strongly disagree' together, resulting in binary agree/disagree categories for the analysis presented here.

Scenario 1

Palila pays a 16-year-old younger relative, Tamah, to undress while filming and later posts it online. Mamo, who does not know Palila, watches this interaction online from home 30 miles away.
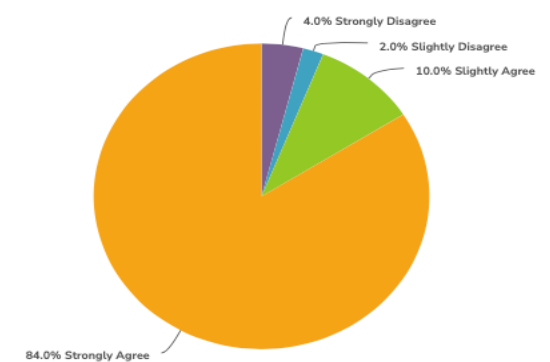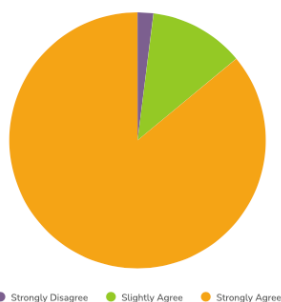

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		4.0%	2
Slightly Disagree		2.0%	1
Slightly Agree		10.0%	5
Strongly Agree		84.0%	42
			Totals: 50

Figure 3. Do you think Tamah is a victim of an OCSEA related crime?
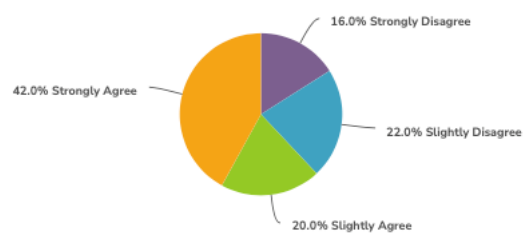
Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		16.0%	8
Slightly Disagree		22.0%	11
Slightly Agree		20.0%	10
Strongly Agree		42.0%	21
			Totals: 50

Figure 4. Do you think Mamo has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		2.0%	1
Slightly Disagree		0.0%	0
Slightly Agree		12.0%	6
Strongly Agree		86.0%	43
			Totals: 50

Figure 5. Do you think Palila has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

94% of the participants agreed that Tamah was a victim of sexual exploitation (n=47). Three participants disagreed (6%) (Figure 3).

Of the three circumstances in this scenario, participants seemed to struggle the most to identify if the remote third-party viewing the material had committed an OCSEA related crime. Out of 50 participants, 10 (20%) only slightly agreed that Mamo had committed an OCSEA-related crime and 19 (38%) disagreed (Figure 4).

Nearly all respondents (98%, n=49) agreed that Palila has committed an OCSEA related crime. One (2%) participant disagreed– Figure 5.

Scenario 2

Kaimi is a 17-year-old student. Kaimi has struggled to make good grades this year and is worried that Uli, a teacher who is a close family friend, will tell Kaimi's dad. Kaimi offers to send Uli naked pictures if he promises not to talk to the family. Uli accepts.
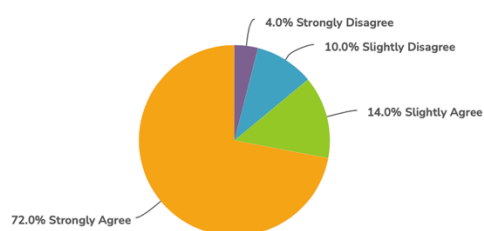

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		4.0%	2
Slightly Disagree		10.0%	5
Slightly Agree		14.0%	7
Strongly Agree		72.0%	36
			Totals: 50

Figure 6. Do you think Kaimi is a victim of OCSEA?

Slightly Disagree • Slightly Agree • Strongly Agree

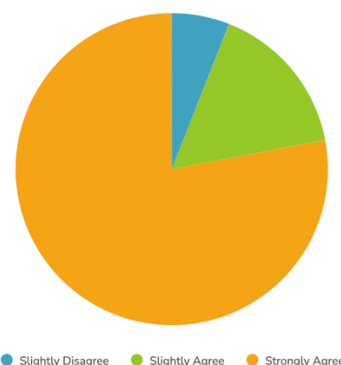| Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		0.0%	0
Slightly Disagree		6.0%	3
Slightly Agree		16.0%	8
Strongly Agree		78.0%	39
			Totals: 50

Figure 7. Do you think Uli has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

Forty-three participants (86%) agreed that the student (Kaimi) is a victim of OCSEA (36 strongly and 7 slightly), and 7 (14%) participants disagreed – see Figure 6.

As Figure 7 indicates, nearly all respondents agreed (39 strongly and 8 slightly) that the teacher (Uli) in a position of power has committed an OCSEA-related crime, and three disagreed (6%).

One participant who slightly disagreed that the student is a victim of OCSEA, explained: *"I think that "Kaimi would be a victim if Uli had suggested an action in exchange of grades." (RA3-MZ-18-A)*

"Kaimi is not a victim of OCSEA because she gave herself and Uli committed OCSEA because he accepted to receive such photos being an educator." (RA3-MZ-39-A)

"Most times, and because of soap operas and movies, our girls develop ideas and ambitions that go beyond their ages but an adult has to consider and be mindful of the ages of the women he gets involved with." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

Other comments included some tendencies to ascertain responsibility for the victimisation on the child:

"Even though she is the one offering/exposing herself, she is still a victim of OCSEA." (RA3-MZ-21-A)

"In this case, nobody acted correctly." (RA3-MZ-49-A)

"Kaimi is a child. I think that she did not consider the consequences of her actions but, on the other hand, the teacher is an adult and it is his duty to sensitize Kaimi and show how wrong her attitude was." (RA3-MZ-24-A)

"The teacher is to be blamed because instead of sitting down with the young girl and help her recover the grades, he took an advantage of her fears and despair to abuse her dignity." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

Scenario 3

Sam is a 10-year-old whose family struggles to make ends meet in their rural village. Sam's uncle, Alex, has a good government job and has always given money to help the family out. Recently, Uncle Alex wrote a message to Sam on Facebook asking to have a secret meeting at his house. When Sam arrives, Uncle Alex asked Sam to sit on his lap and began touching his private parts.
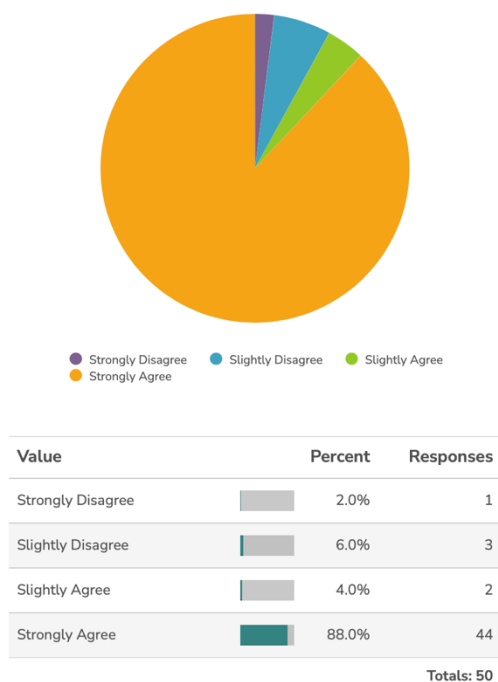
Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		2.0%	1
Slightly Disagree		6.0%	3
Slightly Agree		4.0%	2
Strongly Agree		88.0%	44
			Totals: 50

Figure 8. Do you think Sam is a victim of OCSEA?

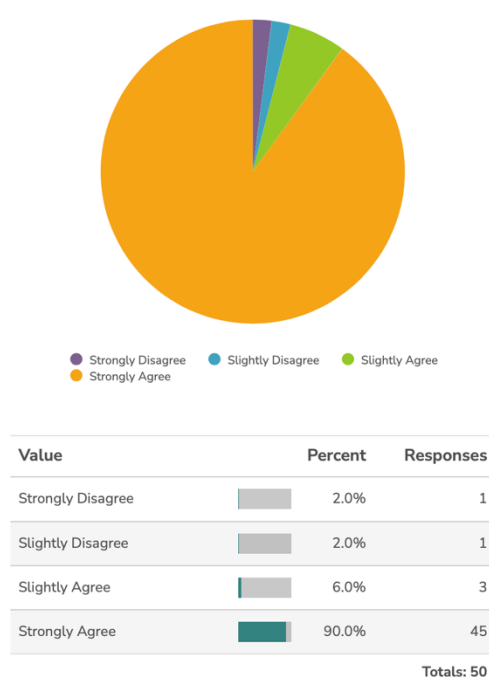| Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		2.0%	1
Slightly Disagree		2.0%	1
Slightly Agree		6.0%	3
Strongly Agree		90.0%	45
			Totals: 50

Figure 9. Do you think Alex has committed an OCSEA-related crime?

As Figures 8 and 9 show, nearly all participants (n=46; n=48, respectively) agreed that 10-year-old Sam is a victim of OCSEA and the adult, Alex, committed an OCSEA-related crime.

One participant who disagreed in both questions related to this scenario commented:

"I think that, in this case, even though they used a digital platform to communicate with each other, it might not be an OCSEA related crime because the digital platform was not used to spread nudes of the victim." (RA3-MZ-22-A)

Others commented:

"He committed a crime. Sometimes money gets in the way of our children. We might think that this only happens in the communities but major cities also have to deal with these kinds of crimes." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

"The uncle took advantage of the family's financial situation to abuse a minor. First because he used social networks and the child went to his house without even thinking that his uncle was setting him up. He violated one of the child's rights because being an uncle and family member, he has the right to oversee the minor and help the family." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

Scenario 4

Joe is 16, and his girlfriend Lucy is 15. They have been dating for a year and regularly have sex. Sometimes, when they can't be together, they send photos to each other of themselves naked. Joe's

friend Matt knows about this and breaks into Joe's phone and forwards naked pictures of Lucy to a group of their friends.
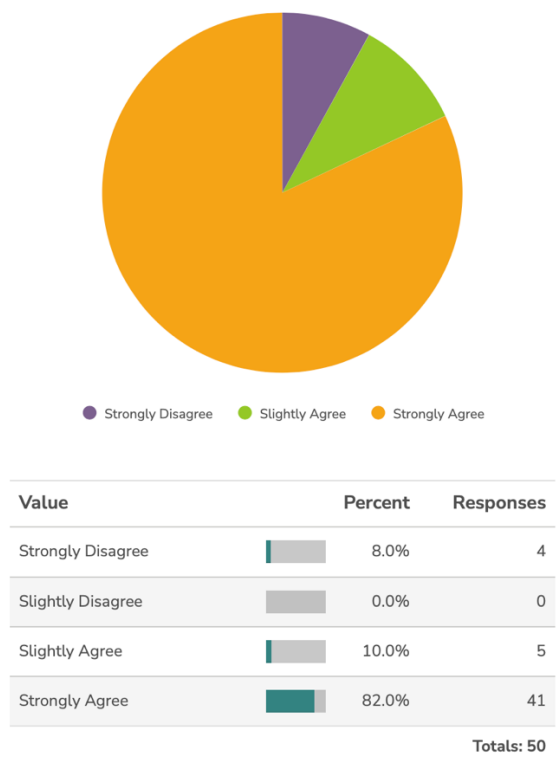

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		8.0%	4
Slightly Disagree		0.0%	0
Slightly Agree		10.0%	5
Strongly Agree		82.0%	41
			Totals: 50

Figure 10. Do you think Lucy is a victim of an OCSEA related crime?

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		12.0%	6
Slightly Disagree		10.0%	5
Slightly Agree		24.0%	12
Strongly Agree		54.0%	27
			Totals: 50
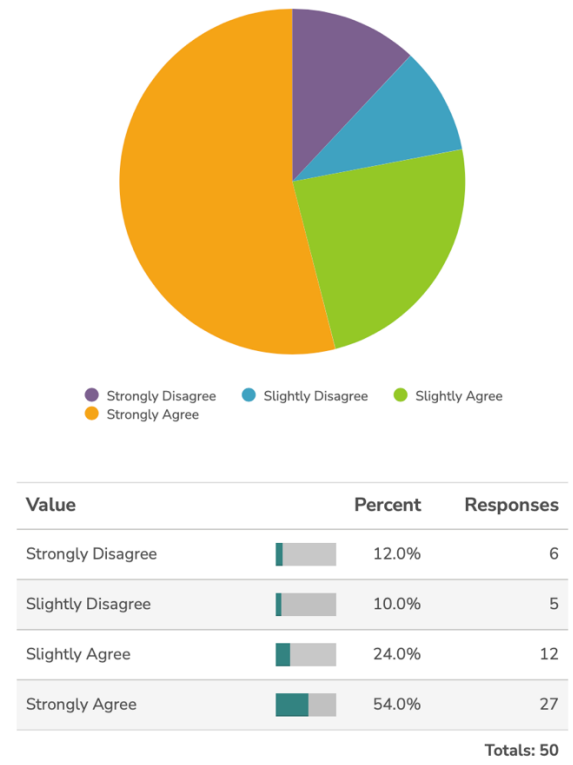
Figure 11. Do you think Joe is a victim of an OCSEA related crime?

Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		14.0%	7
Slightly Disagree		24.0%	12
Slightly Agree		28.0%	14
Strongly Agree		34.0%	17
			Totals: 50
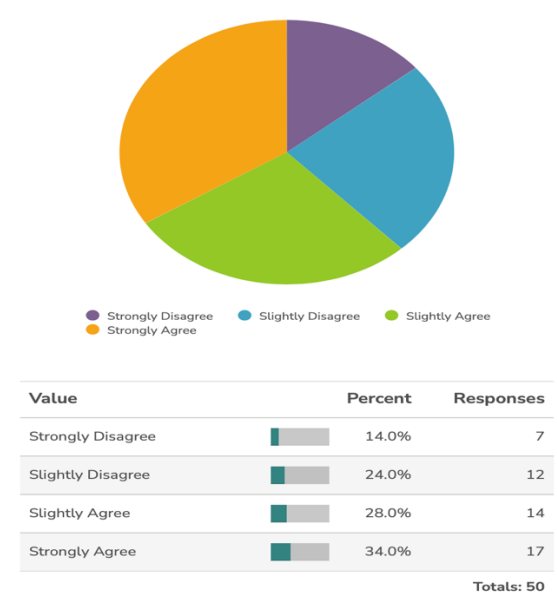
Figure 12. Do you think that Joe has committed an OCSEA related crime?

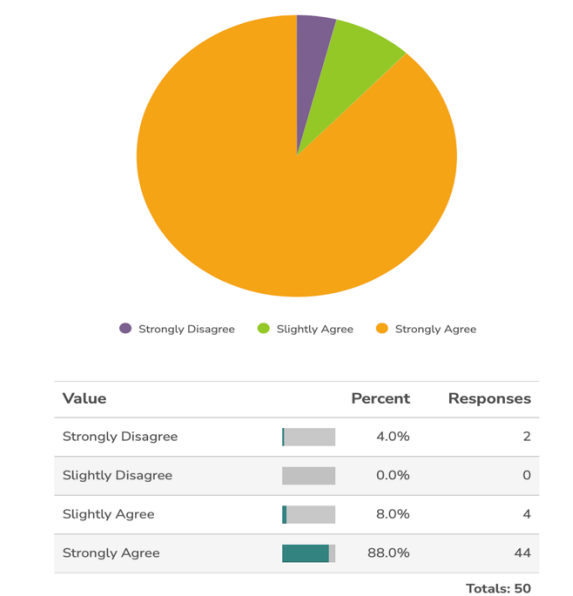| Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly Disagree		4.0%	2
Slightly Disagree		0.0%	0
Slightly Agree		8.0%	4
Strongly Agree		88.0%	44
			Totals: 50

Figure 13. Do you think that Matt has committed an OCSEA related crime?

As Figure 10 indicates, nearly all respondents (92%, n=46) agreed that Lucy is a victim of an OCSEA related crime and 8% (n=4) strongly disagreed.

While 78% of participants (n=39) agreed that Joe is a victim of OCSEA, a quarter of respondents (22%, n=11) disagreed – Figure 11. At the same time, 62% (N=31) agreed that he has committed an OCSEA related crime and 38% (n=19) disagreed – Figure 12.

As Figure 13 indicates, nearly all respondents (n=48 – 96%) indicated that Matt has committed an OCSEA-related crime.

In additional comments participants mentioned:

"A cell phone is private but on the other hand, we should inform to the youth that we should not take nude pictures because we don't know who wishes us good." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

"Because of the ages, maybe they were not aware but that is abuse." (RA3-MZ-58-A)

Summary

Participants overwhelmingly correctly identified the children as victims and the adults as offenders across the four scenarios. However, in three questions there were some divergences.

The first question related to the scenario (Scenario 1) in which an adult paid his 16-year-old female relative to undress while he filmed it and later posted it online. In this scenario, an unrelated individual, Mamo, who did not know the child or the other adult, watched the interaction online from home 30 miles away. Nearly all of the participants agreed that the child was a victim of sexual exploitation and that the adult who paid and filmed her had committed an OCSEA-related crime. However, out of 50 participants, 10 (20%) only slightly agreed that the unconnected adult viewing the abuse online had committed an OCSEA-related crime and 29 (38%) disagreed (11 slightly and 8 strongly) – Figure 4.

Secondly, in Scenario 2 where a student offers to share her naked pictures with her teacher so that the teacher doesn't tell her dad about her grades and the teacher accepts it, 7 out of 50 respondents disagreed that she is a victim of OCSEA – Figure 6.

Lastly, in a scenario (Scenario 4) in which a 16-year-old male, Joe, and his 15-year-old girlfriend, Lucy, who have been together for a year and were having regular sex and sometimes were sending each other naked photos. In that scenario, Matt, Joe's friend, broke into Joe's phone and forwarded naked pictures of Lucy to a group of their friends. The majority of participants agreed that the female was a victim of OCSEA and that the boy breaking into the phone and sharing images had committed an OCSEA related crime. However, 22% of respondents (n=11) disagreed that the boy depicted in the photos was a victim of OCSEA (Figure 11) and 62% agreed that the same boy had committed an OCSEA-related crime (Figure 12). While technically two children voluntarily photographing themselves naked is 'creating child sexual abuse material', there is ongoing debate about this characterisation. For example, if the images had remained between the two consenting parties, harm may not have been experienced. In a 2020 study on self-generated sexual content, it was found that children thought sharing such images could even provide advantages in their relationships and/or increase their self-

esteem.[2] On the other hand, when the materials are forwarded without permission, they may end-up circulating the web and being acquired by offenders.[3] Additionally, the normalisation of children sharing sexual images, videos and sexualised online conversations, may lead to victims underreporting because they may fail to perceive what is happening to them as abusive or exploitative.[4]

Vulnerabilities

Based on their knowledge and experience, participants indicated whether they believed a list of factors about the child and about society increased children's vulnerability to general sexual exploitation (i.e., all kinds) and more specifically to online forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- **Factors about the <u>child</u> identified as increasing vulnerability to general sexual abuse and exploitation.**
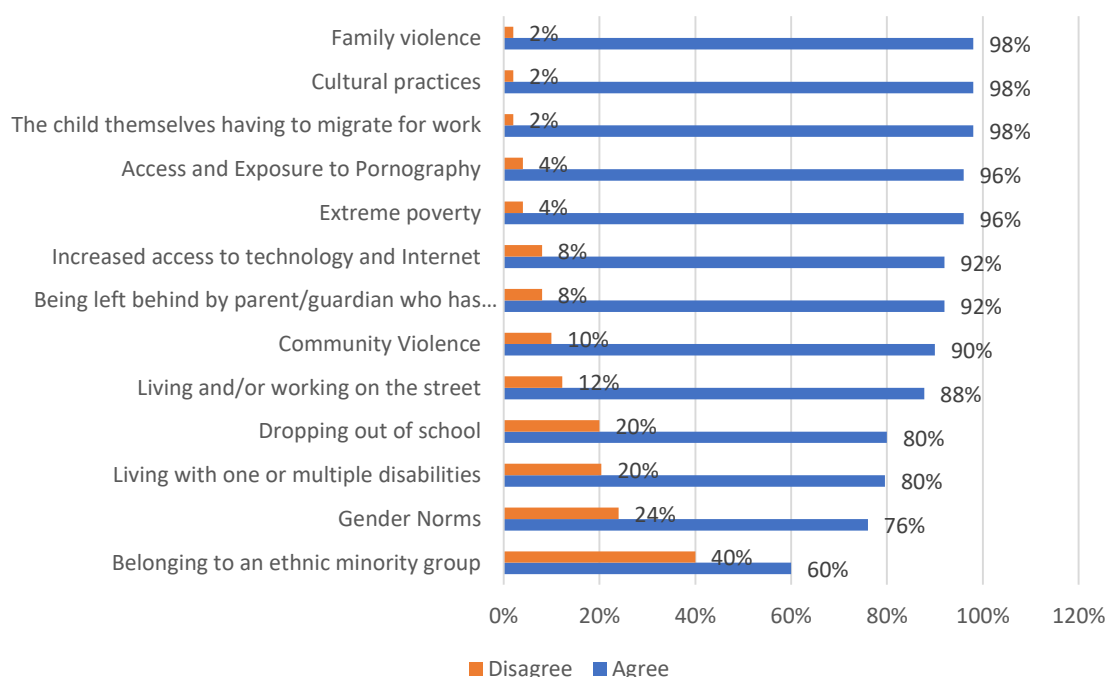

Figure 14. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *child* impacting children's vulnerability to general Child sexual exploitation. N=50*
The factors 'living with one or multiple disabilities' and 'living and/or working on the street' are based on 49 responses.

Figure 14 above shows that there was a broad consensus among the respondents regarding their ideas about which of the possible factors about the child can increase vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation in general in Mozambique. Over 95% of respondents agreed that factors such as family violence (98%), cultural practices (98%), the child having to migrate for work (98%), access and exposure to pornography (96%) and extreme poverty (96%) increase children's vulnerability to child

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[2] ECPAT Sweden. (2020, May). <u>"I början vart det lite läskigt men nu är det vardag" En rapport om yngre barn och egenproducerat material.</u> [Translated from Swedish].
[3] Bracket Foundation. (2019). Artificial Intelligence: <u>Combating online sexual abuse of children</u>. 10.
[4] Palmer, T. (2015). <u>Digital Dangers: the impact of technology on the sexual abuse and exploitation of children</u>. *Barnado's*. 35.

sexual exploitation in Mozambique. High agreement was found also around factors such as: increased access to technology and internet (92%), being left behind by a parent/guardian who had migrated for work (92%), community violence (90%) and living and/or working on the street (88%). More variation in responses was found around factors such as gender norms (76% agreed and 24% disagreed) and belonging to an ethnic minority group (60% agreed and 40% disagreed).

- **Factors about the <u>child identified</u> as increasing vulnerability specifically to <u>OCSEA</u>**
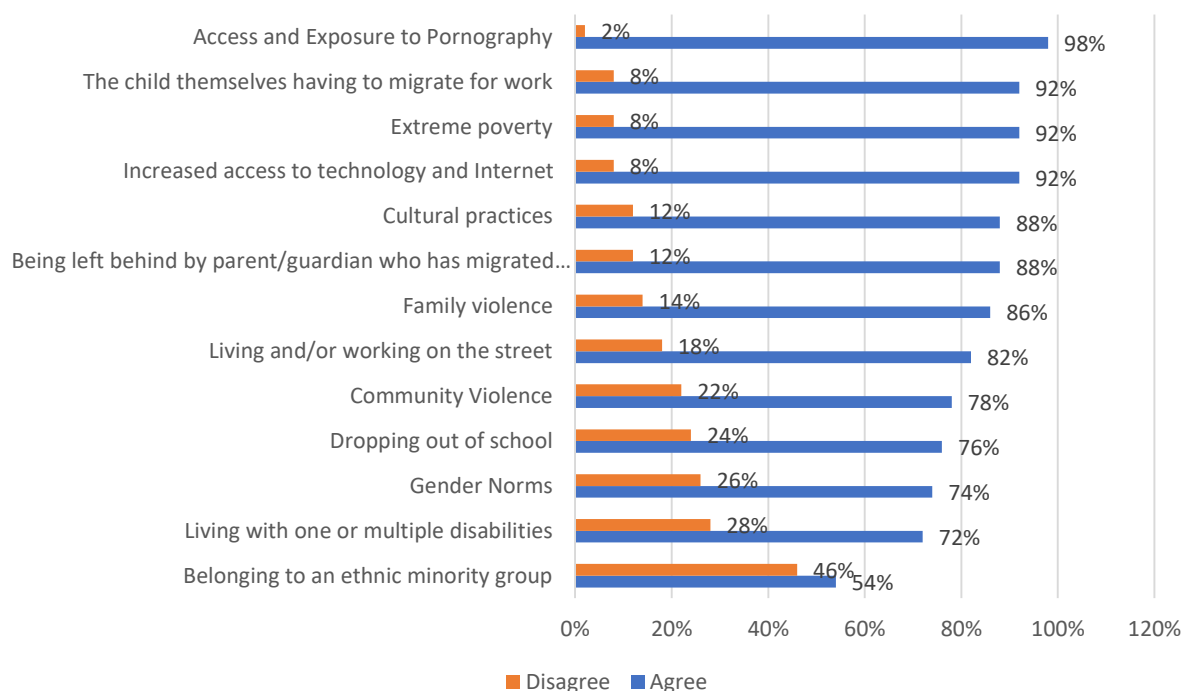

Figure 15. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *child* impacting children's vulnerability to OCSEA. N=50*

The factor 'Access and Exposure to Pornography' is based on 49 responses

Similarly, as in the case of children's vulnerability to general child sexual exploitation, respondents were in strong agreement in terms of what factors increase children's vulnerability to OCSEA (Figure 15). Biggest agreement was found around the 'access and exposure to pornography' factor, which was rated by 98% of respondents as a factor they believed increased vulnerability to OCSEA. Ninety-two percent of frontline workers perceived that having to migrate for work, extreme poverty, increased access to technology and internet increased children's vulnerability to OCSEA in Mozambique. Smaller consensus was found around the 'belonging to an ethnic minority group' factor (54% agreed, 46% disagreed).

When respondents were given the option to comment on other sources of vulnerability to OCSEA in their country, which may not have been included in the survey options, they mentioned:

- Being an orphan
- *Culture of short clothing (RA3-MZ-19-A)*

- Sexual harassment in school
- *Lack of attention from parents, children who are sold by their parents or lack of a place to live due to the lack of a family. (RA3-MZ-38-A)*

When participants were asked about the **similarities and differences in children's vulnerability when considering online forms of sexual exploitation and abuse in comparison to general sexual exploitation,** they noted the following:

Similarities:

"Children are vulnerable to OSCEA as well as to sexual exploitation due to their weakness in defending themselves and to determine what is good or bad for them." (RA3-MZ-03-A)

"I personally do not think that the OCSEA is different or similar from vulnerability to sexual exploitation generally because what happens in and out is quietly the same, I mean it's all a child abuse!" (RA3-MZ-26-A)

"In my opinion, child vulnerability to OCSEA is similar to the vulnerability to overall sexual exploitation, seeing that with the modernization and new technologies we have been witnessing many abuses without the victim and perpetrator being in the same place." (RA3-MZ-58-A)

"The vulnerability of children to OCSEA is similar to vulnerability to sexual exploitation in general because both stir the feelings of the child, making it perturbing mentally and physically, causing the child to become angry, distressed, shy, closed and isolated in society. And later, this kind of behaviour she returns to society." (RA3-MZ-48-A)

Differences:

"For a child to be victim of OCSEA, she needs access to technologies and in reality, not all have access to them. Exploitation in general does not require technology and because of this child are more vulnerable to general exploitation since perpetrators are everywhere." (RA3-MZ-37-A)

"The vulnerability of children to OCSEA is different because in this case social networks are used as a resource to exploit children." (RA3-MZ-19-A)

"The vulnerability of families has been contributing a lot for OCSEA, because children are subject to these situations in exchange of resources." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

- **Factors about the <u>society</u> identified as increasing vulnerability to <u>general</u> sexual abuse (any types)**

When asked "in your country, indicate if you think the following factors about society can increase vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation in general" – survey respondents reported the following factors as sources of vulnerability to general sexual exploitation:
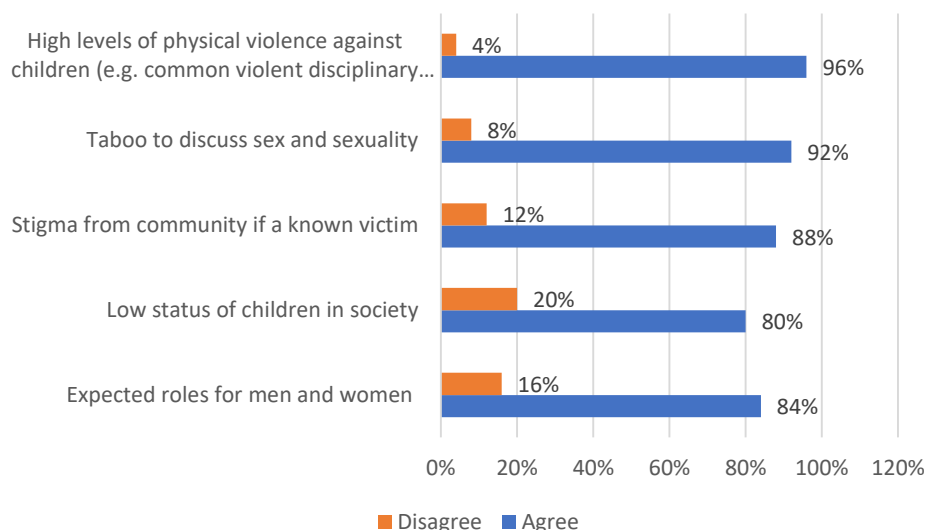
Figure 16. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *society* impacting children's vulnerability to general sexual exploitation and abuse. N=50

As we can see from the above (Figure 16), there was broad consensus among the respondents regarding their ideas around which of the above factors about society can increase vulnerability to general sexual abuse and exploitation. The agreement ranged from 84% (n=42) for expected roles for men and women to 96% (n=48) – high levels of physical violence against children. 92% of respondents agreed that taboos around discussing sex and sexuality increase children's vulnerability to child sexual exploitation and 88% agreed that stigma from community influences this kind of vulnerability. Eighty percent agreed that low status of children in society influences it.

When respondents were given the option to comment on other societal sources of vulnerability in Mozambique, which may not have been included in the survey options, they noted the following:

- Community traditions
- Lack of family structure (explained as 'children who live with strangers or step-parents')
- Low levels of knowledge of child protection laws

- **Factors about the <u>society</u> identified as increasing vulnerability specifically to online forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse**

When asked "in your country, indicate if you think the following factors about society can increase vulnerability to ONLINE sexual abuse and exploitation" – survey respondents reported the following factors as sources of vulnerability to online sexual exploitation:
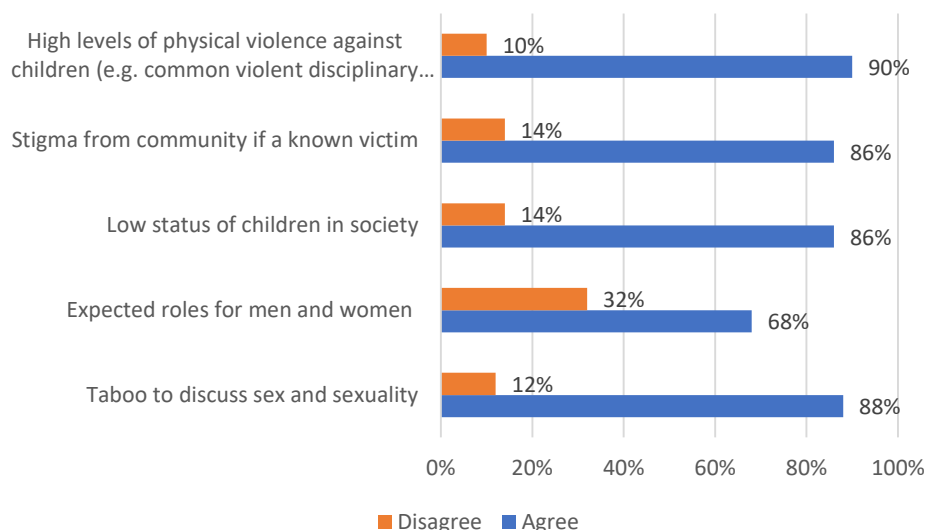
Figure 17. Participants' perceptions of factors about the *society* impacting children's vulnerability specific to OCSEA. N=50

A broad consensus was observed when participants were asked to identify if the same factors are sources of increased vulnerability to online sexual abuse (Figure 17). Within the options given, respondents identified high levels of physical violence against children as the largest source (90%) followed by taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (88%), stigma from the communities (86%), low status of children in society (86%) and lastly, expected roles for men and women at 68%.

Factors about society additionally mentioned by participants they believed strongly increased children's vulnerability to OCSEA were:

- Cultural practices
- Children and parents' low knowledge about sexual exploitation and online child abuse
- Low knowledge of ICTs by parents/tutors or caregivers
- *"Lack of education and absolute poverty." (RA3-MZ-31-A)*

When participants were asked specifically **why societal factors increase vulnerability to OCSEA differently to sexual exploitation generally** they often did not talk about differences, but rather the risk factors in general.

"Social practices leave children more vulnerable to OCSEA in the sense that there is no dissemination of information on how a child should use social networks and how to prevent from perpetrators of OCSEA. Thus, the child has no knowledge and may consider these practices as a common joke in the internet." (RA3-MZ-37-A)

"Sexual factors such as stigma make an individual feel inferior and, subsequently, used by others. Physical violence, especially in the house, makes other people take advantage of the situation because the child does not have family protection." (RA3-MZ-08-A)

"In our community, parents don't talk to their children. The society expects women to marry and have children, and from men to study and have a good job." (RA3-MZ-49-A)

"Vulnerability leaves children exposed to these cases, and often this practice is meant to improve the [financial] situation of the family." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

"With the addition of televisions, the internet allows children to explore unnecessary videos." (RA3-MZ-40-A)

Reporting

In order to explore what influences decisions about reporting cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse, participants were asked to indicate whether they believed particular social and cultural factors influenced reporting both on general child sexual exploitation (all kinds) and specifically related to OCSEA in Mozambique.
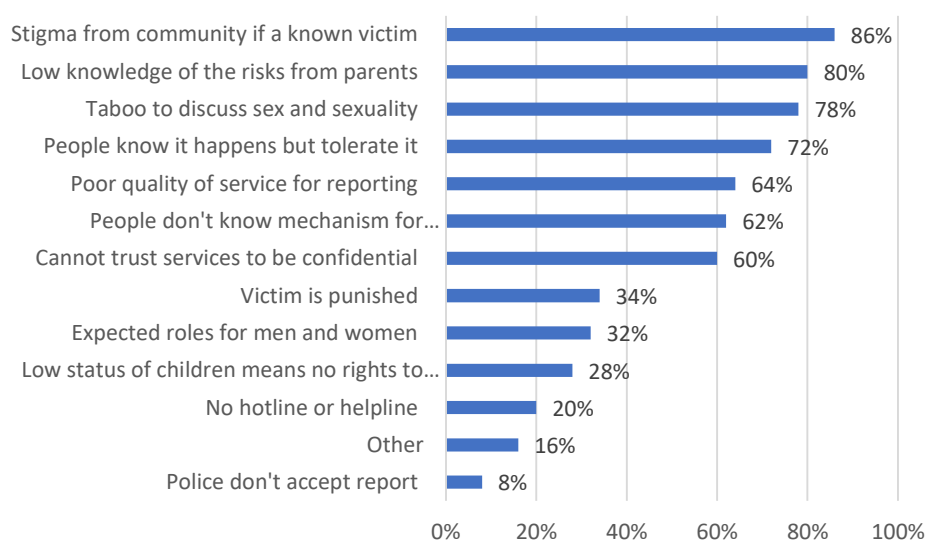

Figure 18. Social and cultural influences on reporting *Child sexual exploitation in general*. N=50

Figure 18 shows that stigma from the community (n=43 – 86%) as well as low knowledge of the risk from parents (80%) and taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (78%) were perceived as main factors influencing reporting child sexual exploitation. Factors rated by respondents as having the smallest influence from the listed factors were: no hotline or helpline (20%) and police not accepting reports (8%).

Outside of what was reported above, other factors mentioned by participants that influence reporting child sexual exploitation in general included:
-   *"Defendants are not duly punished and sometimes they are not even arrested". (RA3-MZ-37-A)*
-   *"Fear and shame" (RA3-MZ-46-A)*

- *"Fear of denouncing those who sexually exploited the child or abused then for being close relatives, choosing to charge money and shut up"* (RA3-MZ-48-A)
- *"Fear of losing the perpetrator"* (RA3-MZ-58-A)
- *"Fear of threats from the perpetrator's family"* (RA3-MZ-53-A)

When asked, "in your country what prevents reporting specifically about OCSEA?", survey respondents reported the following factors as reasons which prevent the reporting of OCSEA:
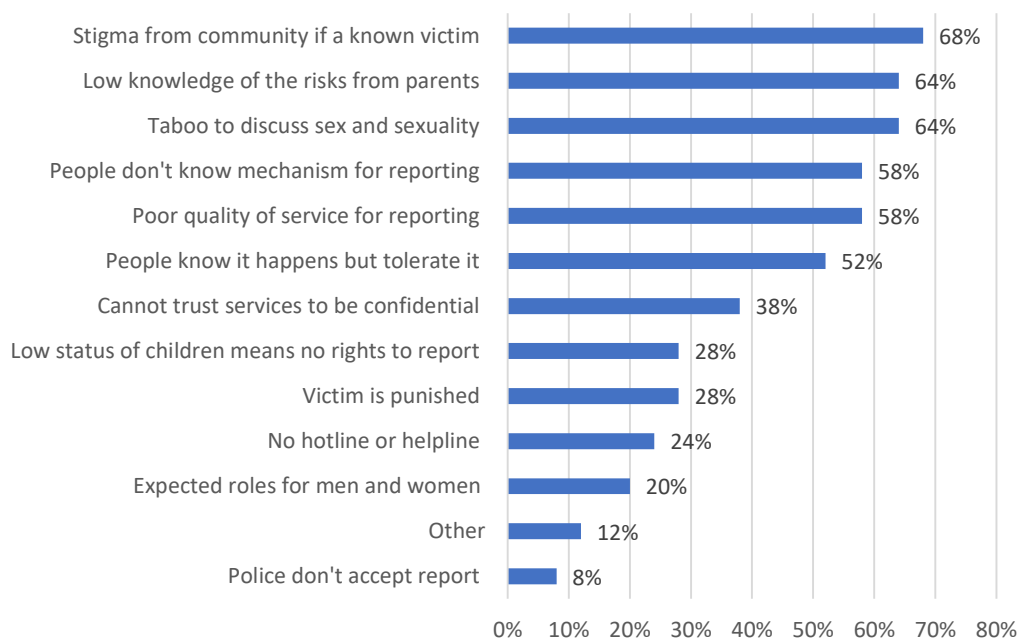

Figure 19. Social and cultural influences on reporting *OCSEA.* N=50

In regard to OCSEA, the same three factors were rated as having the highest influence on reporting, namely: stigma from communities (68%), low knowledge of the risks from parents (64%) and taboos around discussing sex and sexuality (64%). Similarly, as in cases of reporting child sexual exploitation, police not accepting reports (8%) was rated as having the least influence.

Other factors additionally named by participants as understood to influence reporting OCSEA included:

- *"Fear"* (RA3-MZ-46-A)
- *"In fact, many parents are not aware of these cases due to lack of dialogue in the families"* (RA3-MZ-37-A)
- *"The police is not good"* (RA3-MZ-51-A)

Other respondents shared some more detailed views on why OCSEA cases might not get reported:

"There are cases where children suffer abuse and don't report because they think they will be criticised by their friends or other adults." (RA3-MZ-20-A)

"Cases involving sexual exploitation using Information and Communication Technologies are under-reported." (RA3-MZ-23-A)

"Cases related to OCSEA in Mozambique are not a challenge yet because they are not regarded, by the society, as being a serious offence. Even if there is some awareness related to harassment of children (in the form of dissemination materials), most of the victims don't report such cases, fearing retaliations and/or because they don't know it's a crime that they should report or where to safely report for their own safety. It should also be noted that in rural areas, most of the population does not use online means (such as telephones and computers, for instance) but the complaints can be made offline. In these environments, the education level is low, which undermine, even further, the awareness on such crimes." (RA3-MZ-21-A)

"I agree that in the Center region there is still a lot of taboo because of the culture, in relation to the different practices of violence and the different forms of violence, psychological violence is the most vulnerable. We won't get tired of giving good living conditions to the children. It's my opinion that we should create basis or clubs in communities so that the communities would feel confident to open up, since they still have fears of disclosure." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

"In our society and mainly in the communities, there is a certain stigma towards girls who have been sexually assaulted. Community members discriminate these children and their parents, trying to keep them apart. Sometimes the child is obliged to move for her own safety." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

Availability of Support

Welfare workers were asked to evaluate the overall availability and quality of medical, psychological, legal and reintegration services for child victims of OCSEA.
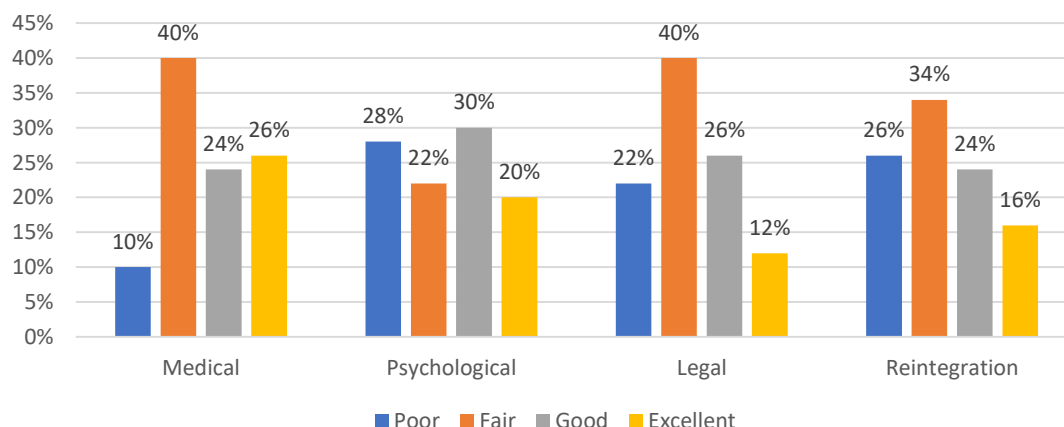

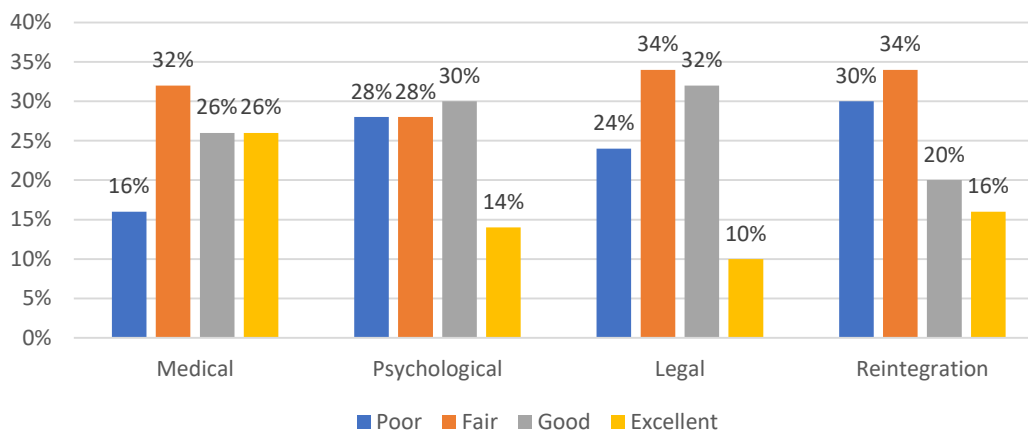*Figure 20.* Perception of *Availability* of Services, N=50

Figure 21. Perception of *Quality* of Services, N=50

Figures 20 and 21 show fairly consistent ratings between all services. Around half of respondents rated the availability and quality of those services as either 'good' or 'excellent'. Medical services were rated slightly higher than other services with almost a third of respondents rating their availability and quality as 'excellent'. Reintegration services, in turn, received slightly lower ratings with 64% perceiving their quality as 'poor' (30%) or 'fair' (34%) and 60% their availability as poor (26%) or fair (34%).

When respondents were given the option to explain their appraisals of the quality and availability of the services above, participants noted both strong and weak aspects of the support services in Mozambique. Some of their comments included:

"Children victims of OCSEA have priority to receive assistance. What happens is that there is fear in denouncing the perpetrator because sometimes it is a family member or a member of the community." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

"It should be noted that the access to these services is low." (RA3-MZ-21-A)

"The services exist but we have no recorded cases of OCSEA victims." (RA3-MZ-41-A)

"Whenever we request, the main justification is lack of financial resources." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

To better understand what affects the availability of support services for children, respondents were asked to indicate to what extent they believed particular factors had influenced the availability of services for children.
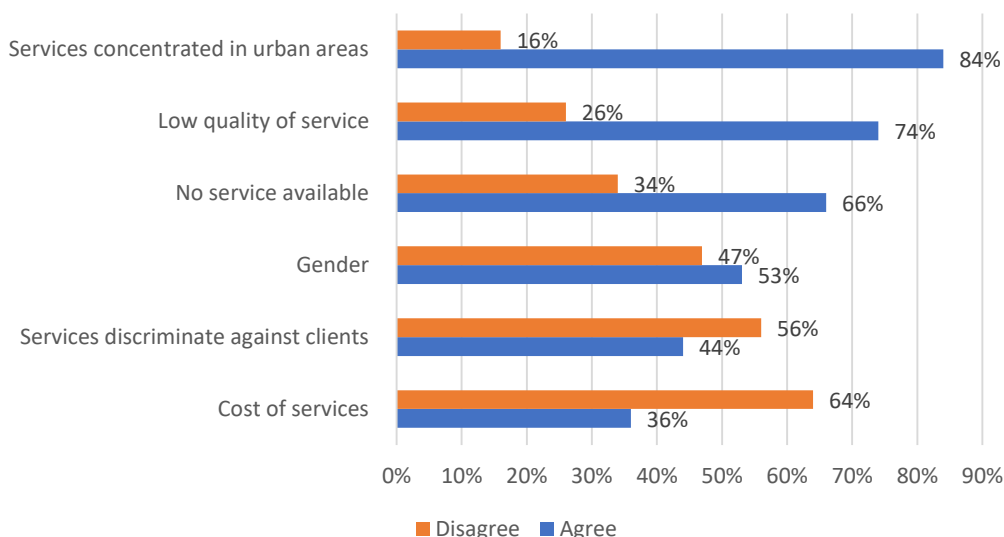
Figure 22. Factors affecting the availability of support services for child victims of *Child sexual exploitation,*
N=50*
The 'gender' factor is based on 49 responses

Figure 22 above indicates that factors perceived as having the biggest influence on the availability of support services for children recovering from child sexual exploitation was the location – 84% agreed that the fact that services are concentrated in urban areas has an influence on the availability of services - *"The services are available but they are concentrated in the town. In some cases, the mentioned support staff is not able to go to a victim's house due to the lack of resources." (RA3-MZ-04-A)*. That was followed by low quality of services (74% agreed) and no service available (66%). Around half of the participants agreed and half disagreed that gender and services discriminating against clients influence the availability of services.

Over two thirds of respondents disagreed that factors such as the cost of services (64% disagreed) affect the availability of help for child victims of child sexual exploitation in Mozambique.

Participants mentioned additional factors such as:

- *"Lack of humanism" (RA3-MZ-25-A)*
- *"No government control over [OCSEA] cases" (RA3-MZ-26-A)*

When participants were asked to indicate to what extent those same factors affect the availability of support services for child victims of OCSEA, the results were mostly similar (Figure 23), with a few slight differences.
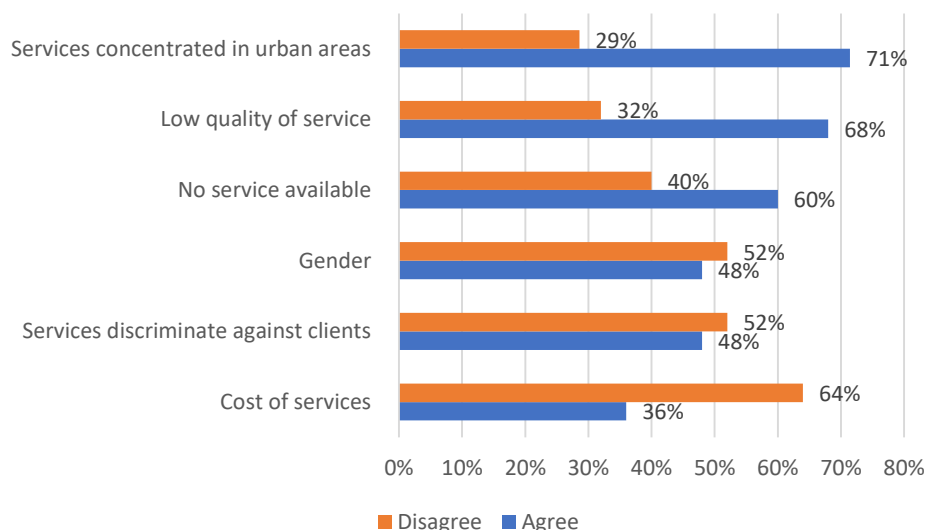
Figure 23. Factors affecting the availability of support services for child victims of *OCSEA,* N=50*
The 'services concentrated in urban areas' factor is based on 49 responses

A smaller number of participants agreed (71% compared to 84% for child sexual exploitation) that services being concentrated in urban areas influences the availability of support for child victims of OCSEA. The majority of respondents disagreed (as in the case of child sexual exploitation) that cost of services (64%) influence the availability. Slightly bigger differences were found around the discrimination against client's factor and gender – 48% disagreed, resulting in almost evenly spread ratings.

Respondents mentioned additional factors such as:

- *"Fear of exposure" (RA3-MZ-19-A)*
- *"Lack of many services" (RA3-MZ-25-A)*

When given an opportunity to share additional comments, frontline social support workers shared:

"I just think that if there was government control over those cases things would change to good." (RA3-MZ-26-A)

"In some cases, tutors and parents themselves do not pay attention to a child who has been a victim of sexual abuse and needs support, either moral, psychological, etc." (RA3-MZ-04-A)

"It is necessary to improve the quality of the existing services and expand them until sub-urban areas." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

"Lack of humanism in our society has a toll on the lives of our children." (RA3-MZ-25-A)

"Only those with rich relatives receive help." (RA3-MZ-38-A)

"Team work, free health control, strengthen the child." (RA3-MZ-40-A)

"The support services to children victim of violence exist but the fear that families have to denounce the assailant is overwhelming because sometimes is someone close to the family or is a family friend and because of that they solve the matter at family level and don't look for the services that are available." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

Investigations and Convictions

Participants were asked to estimate the number of OCSEA cases they managed in the last 12 months and indicate approximately how many of those resulted in investigations and convictions. It should be noted that these indications were merely estimates, not detailed counts of administrative data.

Twenty-six participants indicated that in the last 12 months, at least one of the OCSEA cases they managed directly resulted in a complaint filed to the local police/judicial authorities (total of 216 estimated cases).

Nineteen participants indicated that in the last 12 months, at least one of the OCSEA cases they managed resulted in an investigation (total of 167 estimated).

Twelve participants indicated that in the last 12 months, at least one of the OCSEA cases they managed resulted in a conviction (total 127 estimated).

The number of reported cases represent only a fraction of the number of OCSEA incidents that we expect are occurring, the majority of which continue to never to come to the attention of social workers or law enforcement.

Law Enforcement and Government Support

In order to understand frontline social support workers perceptions of responses by local law enforcement on the issue of OCSEA, respondents were asked to answer: "Based on your work which best describes local law enforcement's: 1) awareness of OCSEA crimes; and 2) response to OCSEA crimes. Their responses to this question are depicted in Figure 24.
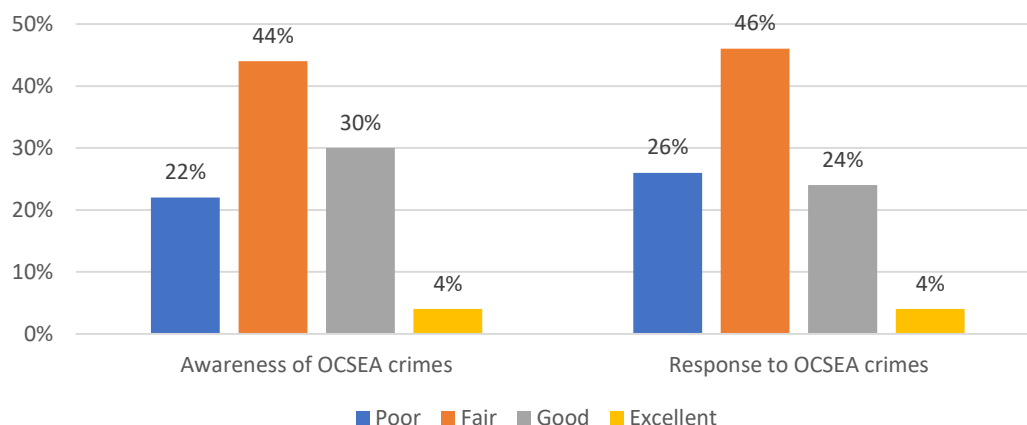
Local law enforcement's awareness and response received similar ratings. In both cases the 'fair' rating was selected most frequently – 44% rated awareness as 'fair' and 46% response as 'fair'. Around a quarter of respondents rated the local law enforcement's awareness and response as 'poor' (22% and 26% respectively). Thirty percent rated the awareness as good and 4% as excellent. In the case of response, 24% rated the response as good and 4% as excellent.

Respondents were given the option to provide additional comments to qualify their answers above. Some of their justifications are highlighted below:

"In these cases, the government needs to work hard and in close collaboration with all institutions and local personalities." (RA3-MZ-29-A)

"Legal institutions are already aware of the existence of these cases but they face many difficulties, including lack of budget to implement awareness raising activities, etc." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

"Our work is really connected with government entities such as police stations, community courts, CPJ and Social Welfare for a better follow-up of cases, depending on their origin." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

"People are aware of OCSEA crimes but there are no records of these cases. What they have been reporting are physical cases, sometimes when the situation is very serious or through third part complaints." (RA3-MZ-41-A)

"Several complaints are made but they don't go beyond that." (RA3-MZ-38-A)

"The government and the society need to come together in raising awareness of the population to discourage these actions." (RA3-MZ-05-A)

To better understand the ratings above, participants were next asked about their perceptions of the quality of efforts to address OCSEA (Figure 25).
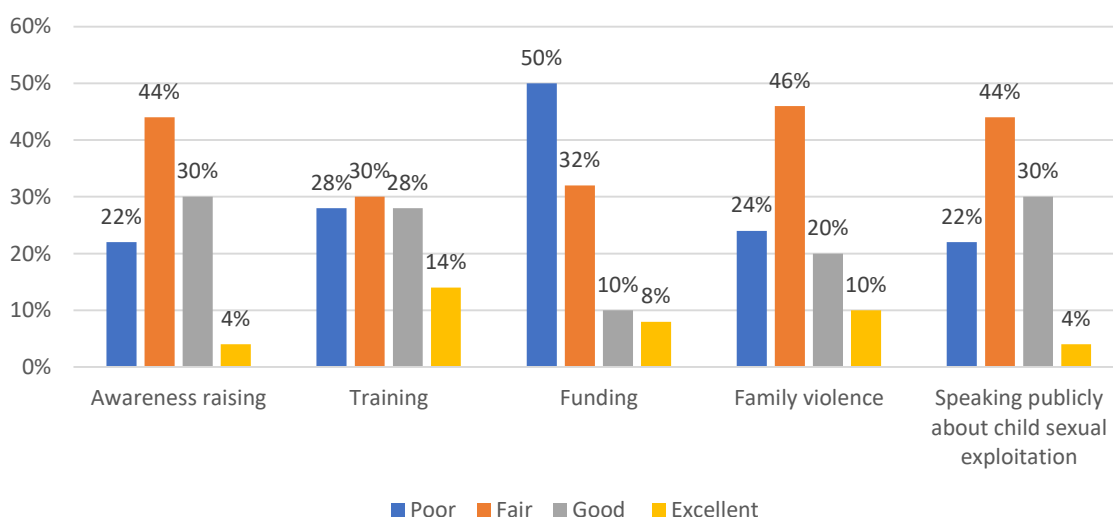
All of the government's efforts to address OCSEA listed were rated by the majority as 'fair'. While ratings were similar in all categories, funding received the lowest scores with 82% rating it as either poor (50%) or fair (32%).

Next, frontline social support workers surveyed were asked to assess the collaboration on OCSEA between non-government sectors such as NGOs, tourism companies, internet companies etc. The results are illustrated in Figure 26.
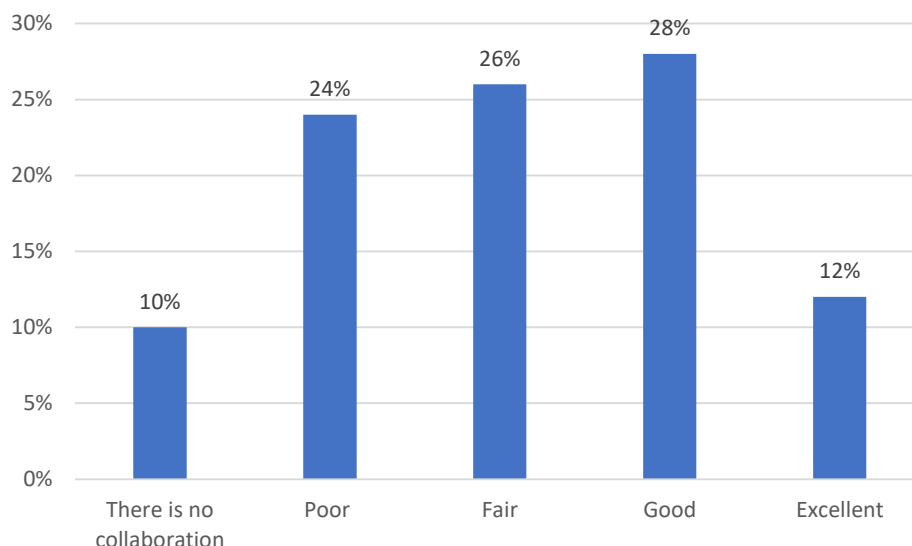

Figure 26. Participants perceptions of collaboration on OCSEA between non-government, N=50

As Figure 26 above indicates, the respondents rated the collaboration between non-government actors as good (n=14 – 28%), fair (n=12 – 24%). Twelve percent (n=6) rated the collaboration to be excellent and 10% (n=5) claimed there is no collaboration between the partners.

Public Awareness

Lastly, the survey attempted to ascertain the levels of public awareness around the issue of OCSEA in Mozambique. In order to do so, frontline social support workers were asked to subjectively appraise young people's awareness, parent's awareness and the general public's awareness of OCSEA – their responses are illustrated in Figure 27.
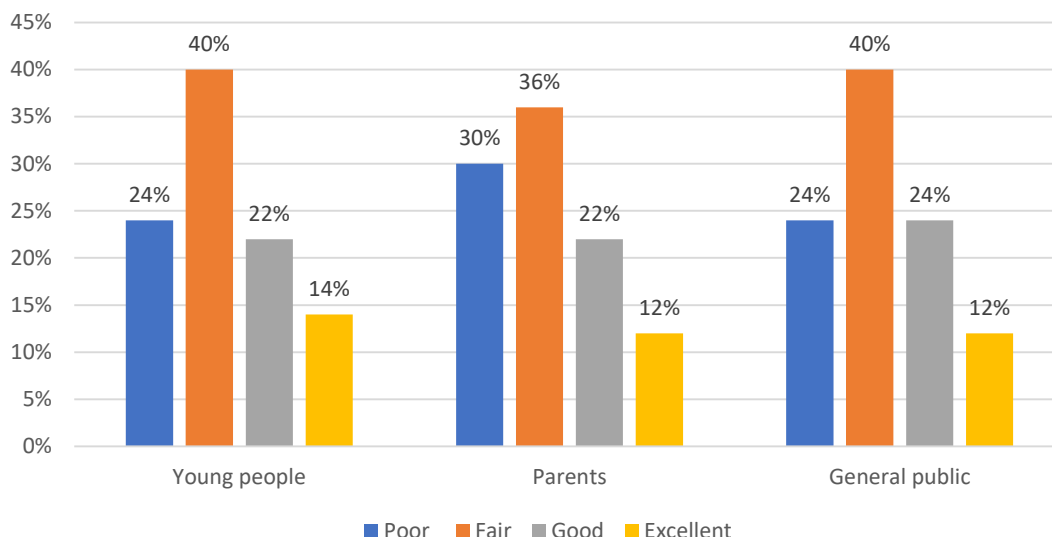
Figure 27. Awareness of OCSEA, N=50

The majority of frontline social support workers described young people's, parent's and the general public's awareness of OCSEA as either poor or fair. Twenty-four percent rated young people's awareness as poor, 40% as fair, 22% as good and 14% as excellent. Parents' awareness was rated by a third of respondents (30%) as poor, by 36% as fair, by 22% as good and by 12% as excellent. Similarly, the general public's awareness was rated by 24% of frontline social support workers as poor and by 40% as fair. As in the other two groups, only about a third of respondents rated the general public's awareness as good (24%) or excellent (12%).

Respondents were given the option to provide additional comments to qualify their answers above. Some of the responses included:

"It is necessary to conduct awareness raising activities related to this issue. Many people are not familiar with or ignore this practice." (RA3-MZ-11-A)

"It's difficult because some parents do not speak openly, with their children, about violence, turning them vulnerable to it." (RA3-MZ-33-A)

"There is lack of commitment in the communities, especially from parents (lack of dialogue)." (RA3-MZ-39-A)