

The background image shows three women from behind, walking on a dirt path in an urban area. They are carrying large green plastic jugs on their heads and hands. The woman on the left is wearing a blue and yellow patterned dress. The woman in the middle is wearing a yellow and black patterned dress. The woman on the right is wearing a blue and white patterned top and black pants. In the background, there are several buildings with corrugated metal roofs and a person in a blue headscarf walking away. The overall scene is slightly blurred, suggesting a candid moment in a community setting.

Promoting Women's Rights within the Context of Patriarchy

Help-Seeking for Domestic Violence in urban Uganda

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Key Question

What are the factors and contexts that affect help-seeking for domestic violence in urban Kampala, Uganda?



Multi-level, multi-sited ethnography



Donors



Policy

Government agencies

UN

Donors

Practice

Civil society organizations

Service providers

Duty bearers

Women

Kyegwelede Village,
Kawempe Division

Case using DVA outside
Kampala

Participant observation, living in Kyegwelede, informal interviews, semi-structured in-depth interviews (20 women), targeted focus groups, accompanying women – legal aid, police, courts

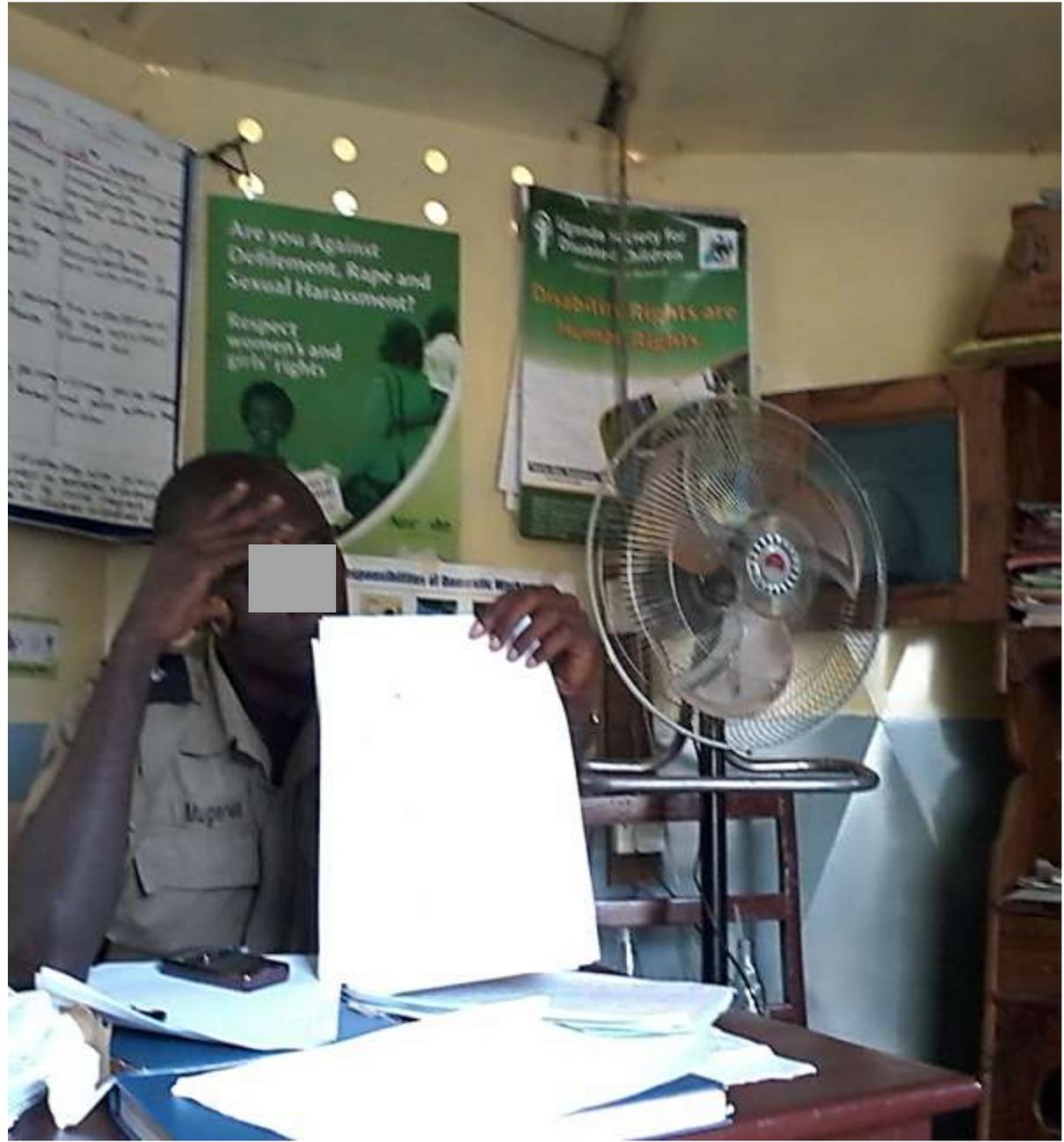
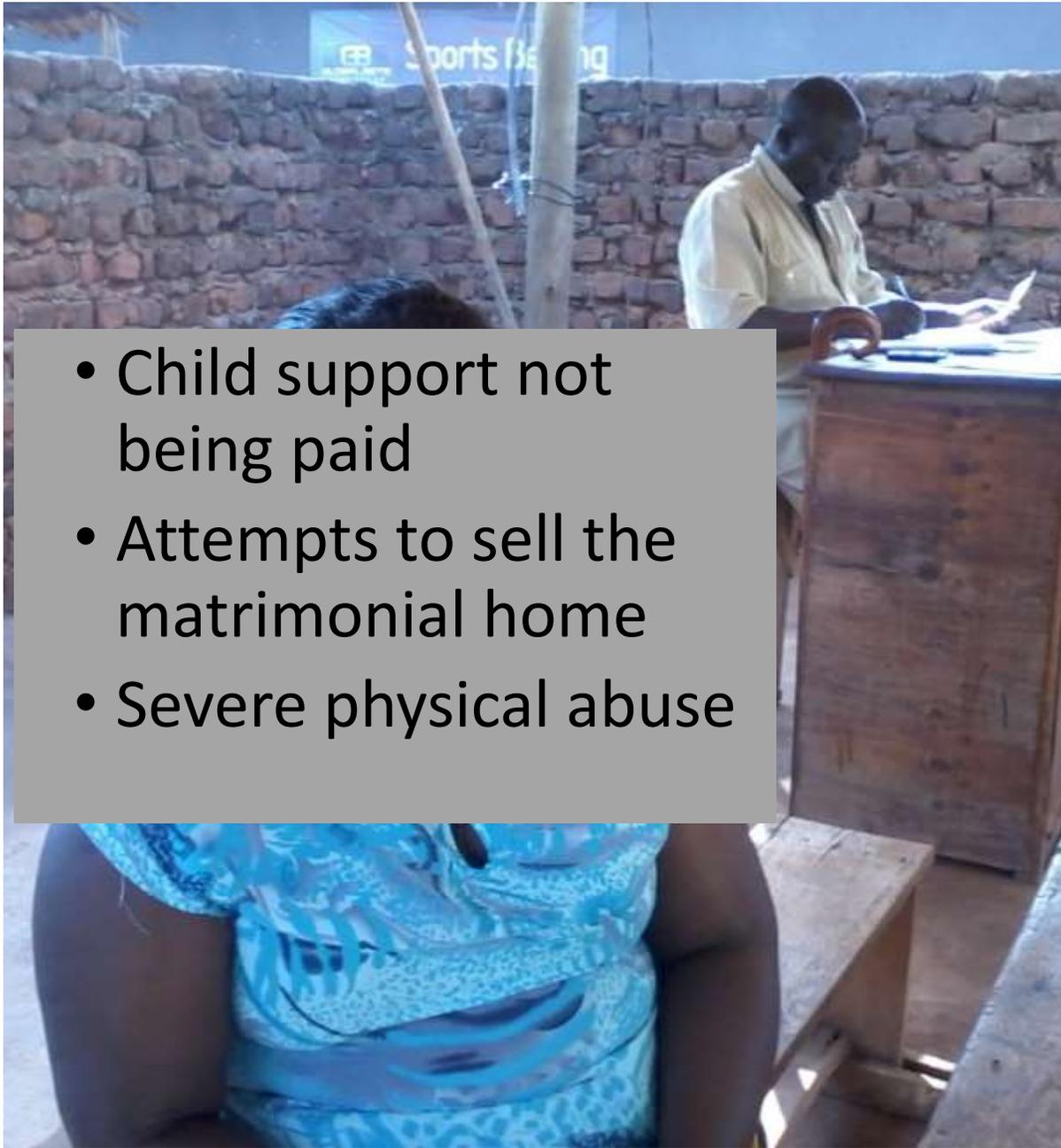
November 2013 – March 2015

Domestic violence in Uganda

- In Uganda, in 2016 Demographic Health Survey reports for women ages 15-49:
 - ▣ 20% experienced physical violence in the last year
 - ▣ 56% experienced physical or sexual violence at least once by a current or former spouse
 - Of those ever experiencing physical abuse, 39% sustained an injury
 - ▣ Most do not report outside the family (i.e. 69% of those experiencing physical abuse)

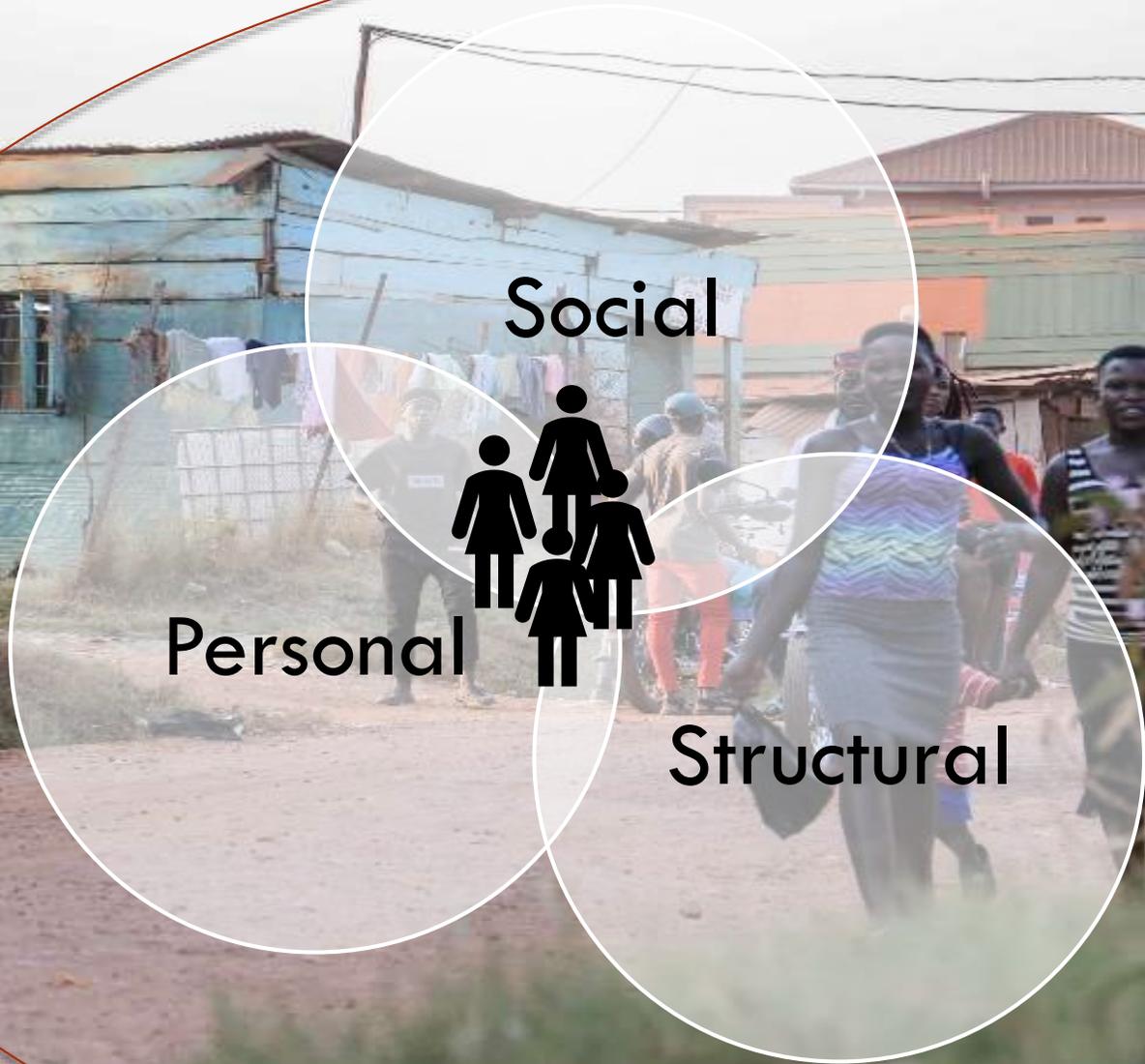
The Domestic Violence Act 2010

- Broad definition of DV
 - ▣ Includes physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, psychological, economic abuse
 - ▣ Covers relationship abuse not only between intimate partners
- Allows criminal and civil penalties
 - ▣ Including compensation to the victim/survivor
 - ▣ Protection orders can be an alternative to criminal prosecution
- Promotes reconciliation and mediation
- All courts can hear cases
 - ▣ Including Local Council (LC) court



- Child support not being paid
- Attempts to sell the matrimonial home
- Severe physical abuse

Factors Affecting Reporting



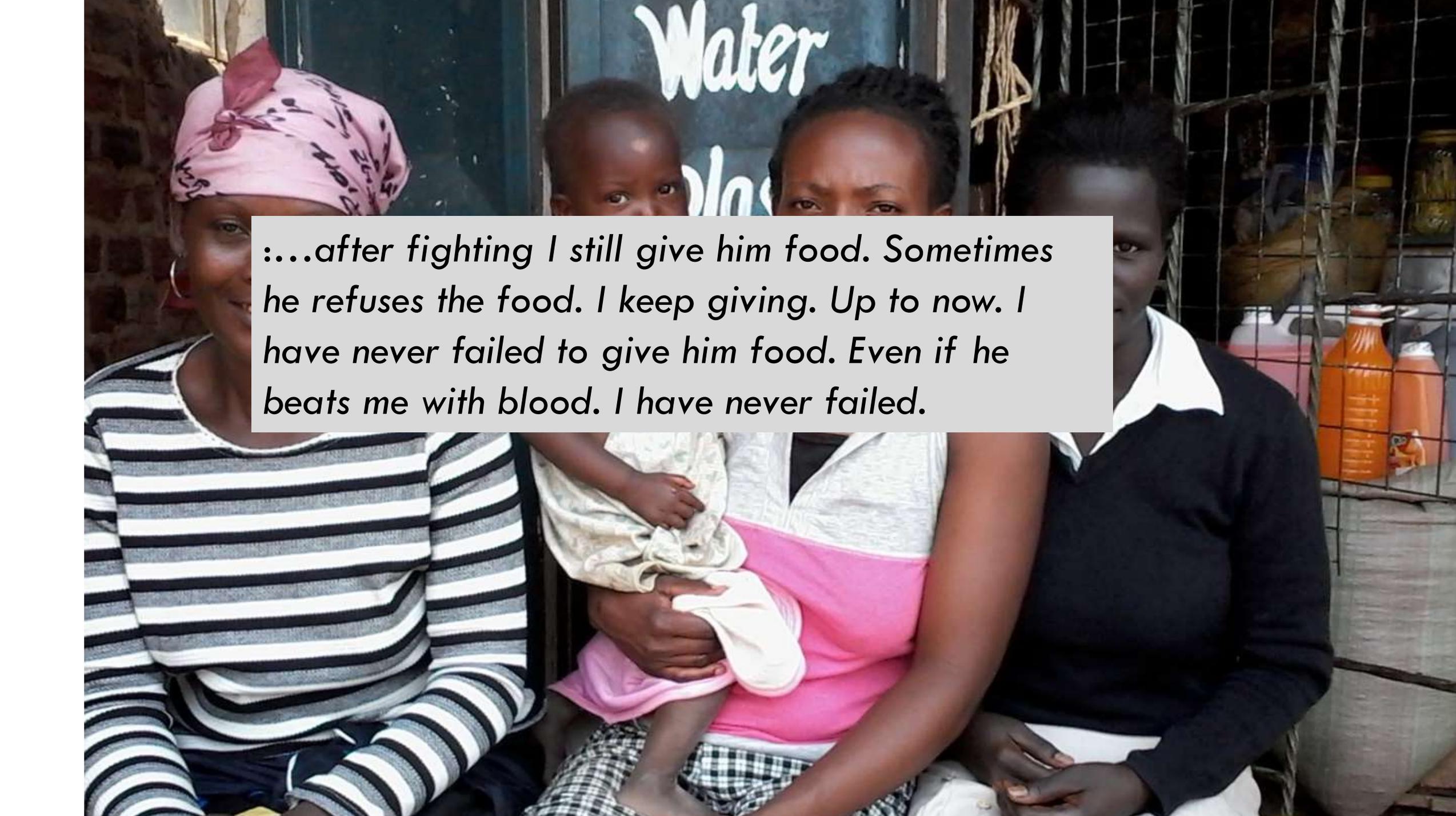
Social

Personal

Structural

Respect as Cultural Value & Social Norm

- Key to understanding how women think about and act when responding to DV
- Predict some behavior while sanctions other behavior
- Embodied and performed
 - ▣ Patriarchal and hierarchical power predict practices
- Not demonstrating respect can “justify” disciplining or punishing wife
- Humiliating a person = disrespect

A photograph showing three women and a young child. The woman on the left wears a pink headscarf and a black and white striped long-sleeved shirt. The child in the center is being held by the woman in the middle, who is wearing a white top and a pink wrap. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt. They are standing in front of a structure with a sign that says "Water" and "place". To the right, there are several orange plastic jerrycans on a metal rack.

:...after fighting I still give him food. Sometimes he refuses the food. I keep giving. Up to now. I have never failed to give him food. Even if he beats me with blood. I have never failed.

Economic insecurity – often with polygyny/infidelity

Of 19 women asked:

- 13 knew husband had at least one other woman in his life
- 6 of the 13 *knew* husband supporting another woman & children

Of 8 women in sample who had reported abuse:

- 4 cited polygyny/infidelity as a factor



Structural factors, including patriarchy

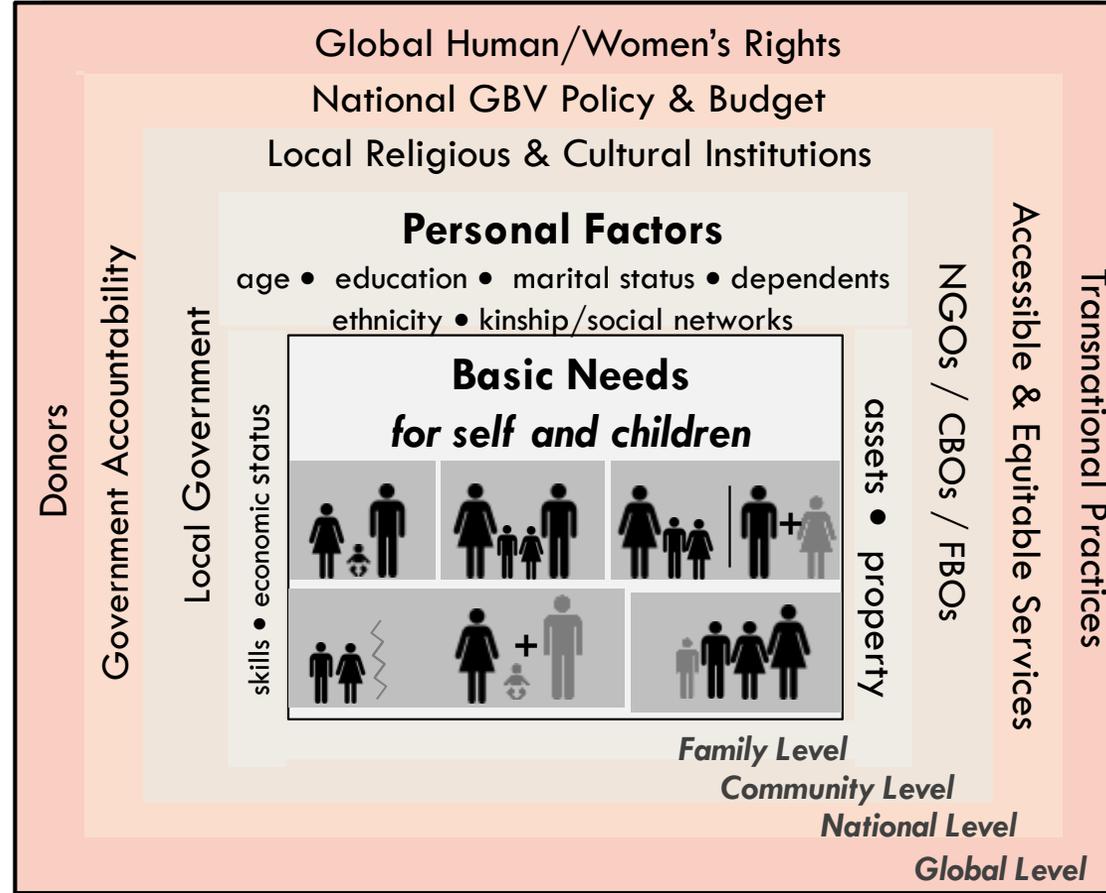
- Limited existence or capacity of entities to support reporting
 - ▣ Particularly legal-aid
- Lack of in-depth knowledge about DVA by duty bearers
- Structural violence resulting from patriarchal norms, customary laws, and some statutory laws
- Lack of budget allocation by Government of Uganda for implementation of the DVA

Model: Factors in Decision- Making

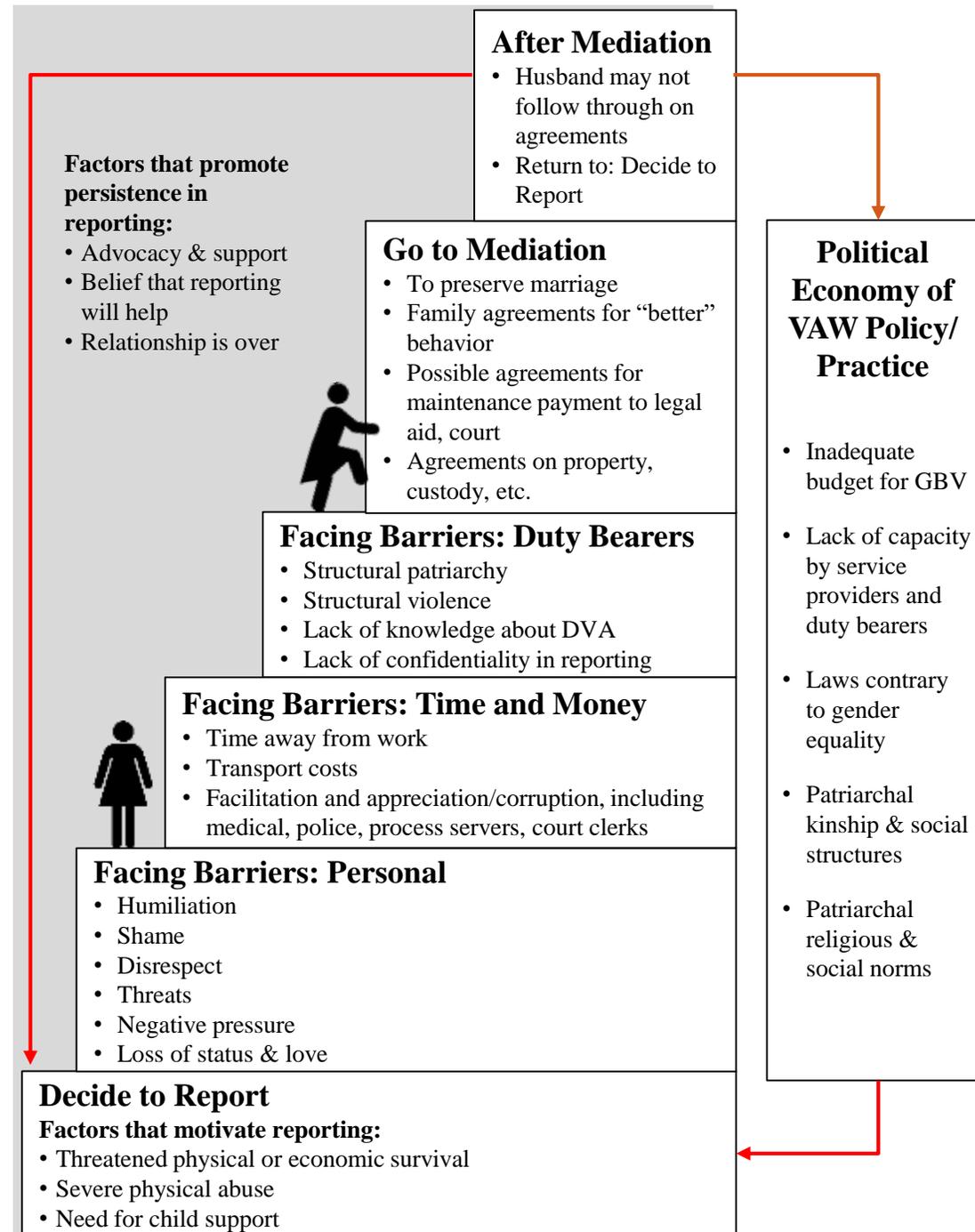
STRUCTURAL PATRIARCHY

<p style="text-align: center;">Decision to Seek Support</p> <p style="text-align: center;">friends, neighbors, kinship/social network, cultural/religious leader, shelter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Decision to Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">local council, police, magistrate court, practitioner (health clinic, legal aid)</p>
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humiliation • shame • blame • threats • pressure to persist fear of losing custody, economic security, love, respect • time • money • lack of confidentiality



Model 1: Why Women Do and Do Not Report



Conclusion

**Thank you to Deo
Kusemererwa for
many of the photos**

