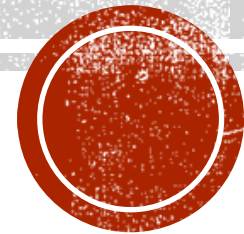


GENDER STATISTICS: COVID-19 AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KENYA

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- COVID 19 & VAWG Challenges
- COVID 19 & VAWG in Kenya
- VAWG data trends in Kenya
- Conclusion
- Way Forward



INTRODUCTION

- The Director General of the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020 declared coronavirus (COVID-19), a global pandemic (WHO 2020).
- In tandem, the President of the Republic of Kenya delivered a speech on 25 March 2020, outlining a number of measures aimed at cushioning Kenyans against the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.
- In quick succession the National Council on Administration of Justice (“NCAJ”) resolved to scale down operations across the entire justice sector in order to reduce interactions with the public as a way of stopping the spread of Covid-19.



COVID 19 & VAWG CHALLENGES

- There was limited time to examine the gendered implications of;
 - The containment measures including travel restrictions (lockdowns), social distancing, working from home, curfews, quarantines among others.
 - Women and men's different physical, economic, security, and sanitary needs.
 - .
 - Socio-cultural biases, patriarchal norms and a history of subjugation borne by women, girls and children in Africa.
- As a result, COVID – 19 pandemic containment measures inadvertently produced a lethal shadow pandemic that further exposed the vulnerability of women and girls.
- Cognizant of the scale of VAWG, The President of the Republic of Kenya tasked the National Crime Research Agency to undertake a comprehensive study on GBV to inform government actions.



VAWG CHALLENGES IN KENYA

- Besides, in Kenya despite the enactment of laws and policies to fight VAWG, the crime has continued to be endemic.
- The KDHS 2014 indicated that 4 out of 10 women in Kenya aged between 15-49 had experienced some form of VAWG.
- According to the Gender Based Violence Recovery Centre documents that “one in three Kenyan females has experienced an episode of sexual violence before attaining the age of 18” while between 39% and 47% of Kenyan women experience GBV in their lifetime.
- Further, access to Justice by victims of VAWG in Kenya has been frustrated by among others “serious lapses by the police and judiciary in responding to the survivors’ plight” by among other factors, delays in the justice system and decisions by families to opt for traditional systems on resolution of disputes which are not necessarily geared towards access to justice.



COVID-19 & VAWG CHALLENGES

- Amidst the aforementioned challenge, the collection and collation of data on VAWG and tracking of factors became difficult.
- While some attempts at collecting and collating data have been wide and in between resulting in gaps.
- As such the real extent of the impact of COVID – 19 on violence against women and girls may remain unknown.
- This is also coupled with the non – existent standard statistical estimate of the incidence and prevalence of VAWG as a majority of the cases remain either undocumented or unreported.



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

- The data on prevalence of VAWG during COVID-19, was obtained from the 1195 that is run by the State Department for Gender.
- The national data covers ten months from June 2020 to March 2021 while for the Counties it spans January 2019 to December 2020 and includes both women and men.
- Data was also obtained nationally and also disaggregated by sex and age.



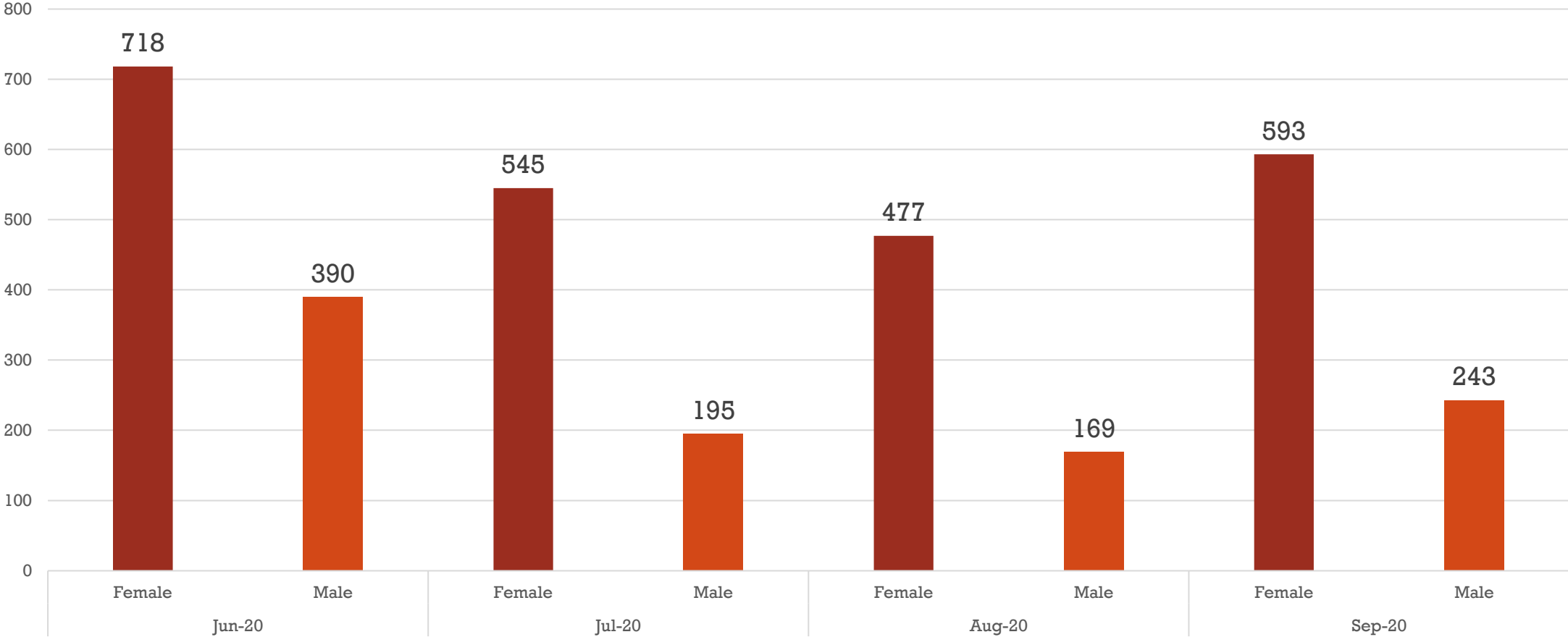
VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

- Data from 1195 based on actual reporting shows that the between June to September 2020 there was high reporting of VAWG
- The highest reporting was in June where 718 VAWG cases were reported before dropping to 477 VAWG cases in August then increasing to 593 in September.
- Violence against men was coincidentally also high during the same period.
- This period coincided with the toughest COVID-19 containment measures.



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

CCGD 1195 DATA- JUN-SEP 2020



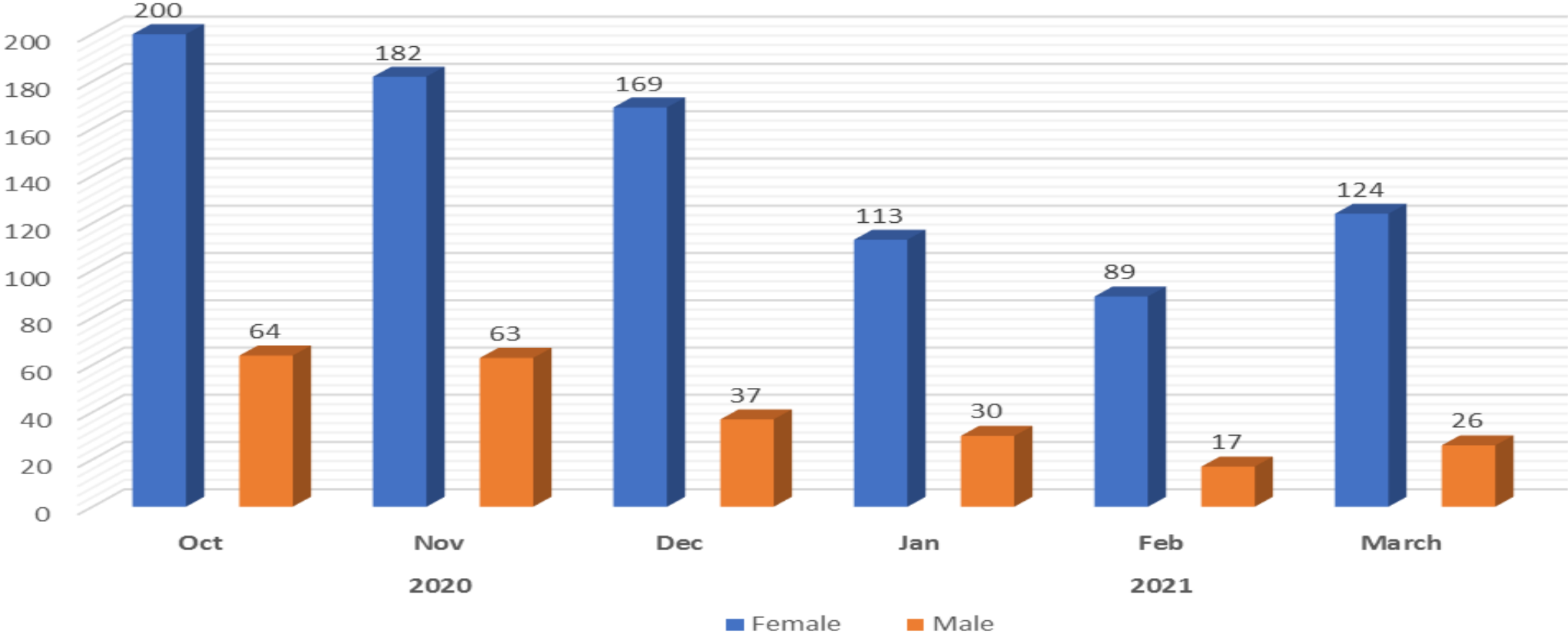
VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

- Data from 1195 based on actual reporting shows that the between October 2020 to March 2021 incidences of VAWG reduced significantly.
- The highest reporting was in October 2020 where 200 VAWG cases were reported before dropping to 89 VAWG cases in February 2021 then increasing to 124 in March 2021.
- During the same period, violence against men was reportedly low when compared with that of women.
- This period coincided with the easing of some COVID-19 containment measures.



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

HAK 1195 DATA OCT 2020-MARCH 2021



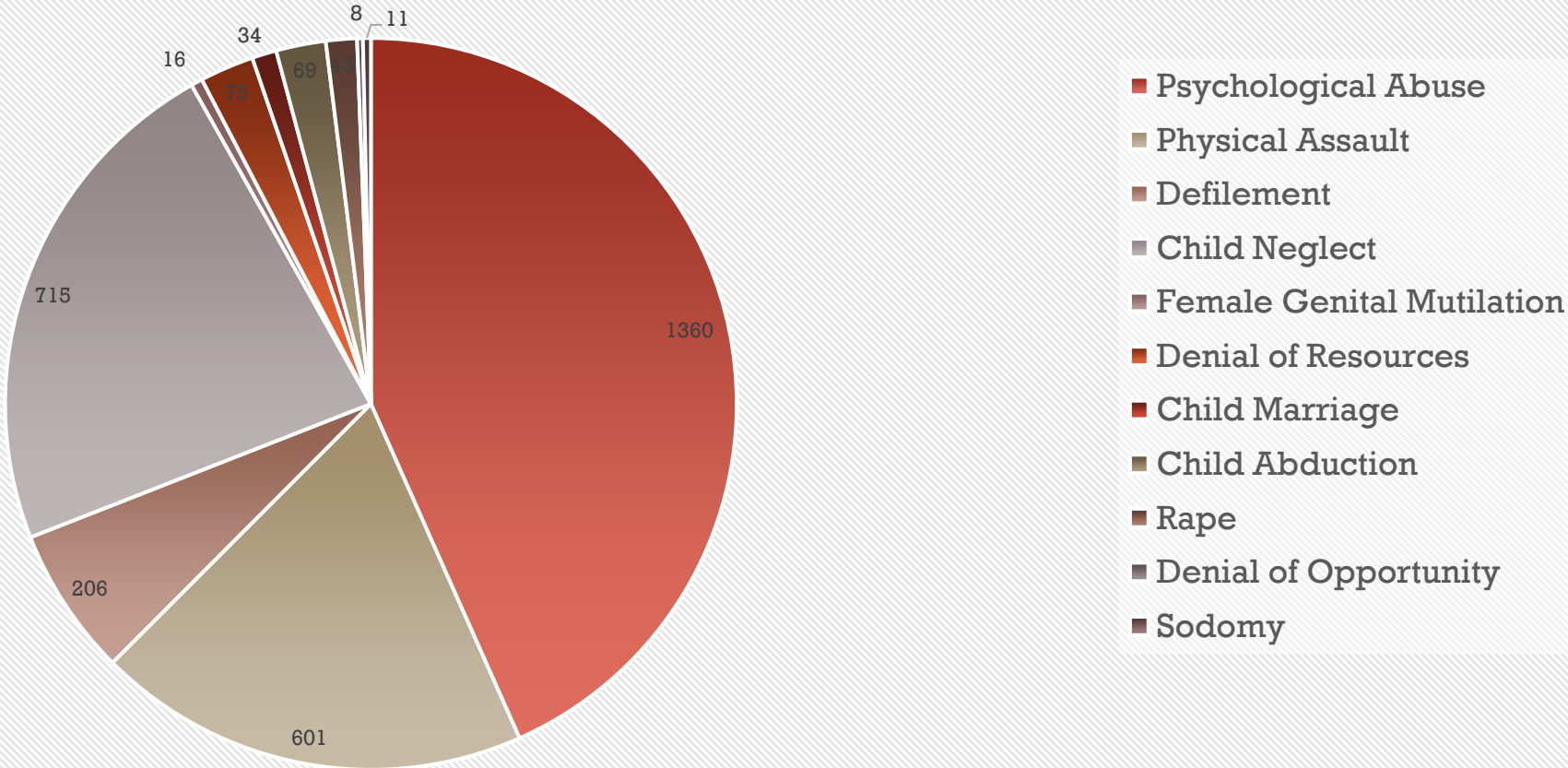
VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

- Data in terms of actual cases reported to the 1195 hotline between June 2020 to September 2020 and shows that psychological abuse (1360) as the leading type of abuse, followed by child neglect (715), physical assault (601), then defilement (206) and child abandonment (125)
- By distribution of actual reported cases, Child related abuse cumulatively (1,184) comprised the second overall most reported crime between June to September 2020. This period coincides with the discontinuation of in person learning.



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

Type of Abuse



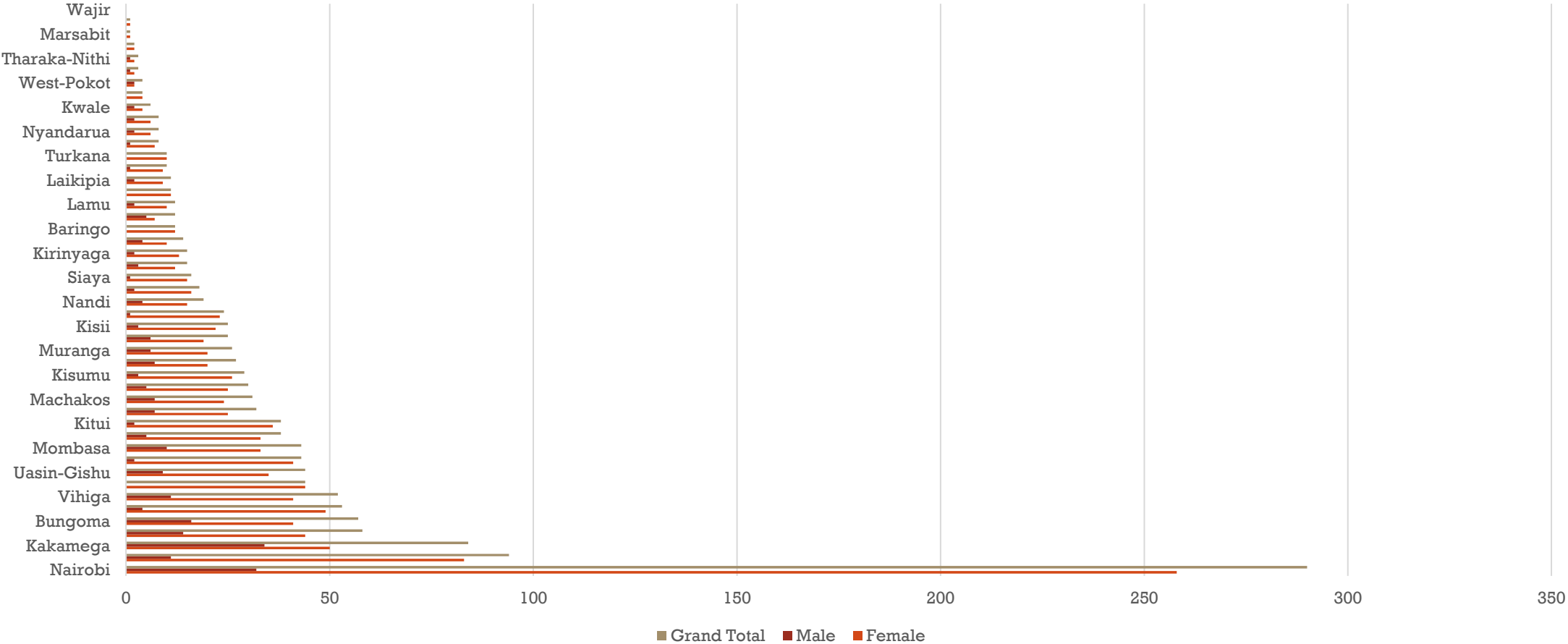
VAWG DATA TRENDS IN COUNTIES

- Data in terms of actual cases reported to the 1195 hotline between Jan 2019 to December 2019 and during similar period in 2020 shows that actual case reporting either doubled or tripled.
- For instance, in Nairobi, the reporting to 1195 in 2019 was 290 actual cases as compared to 720 cases in 2020. This pattern is replicated across other counties where reporting increased.
- Disaggregating the data by sex, women seemed more likely to report cases.



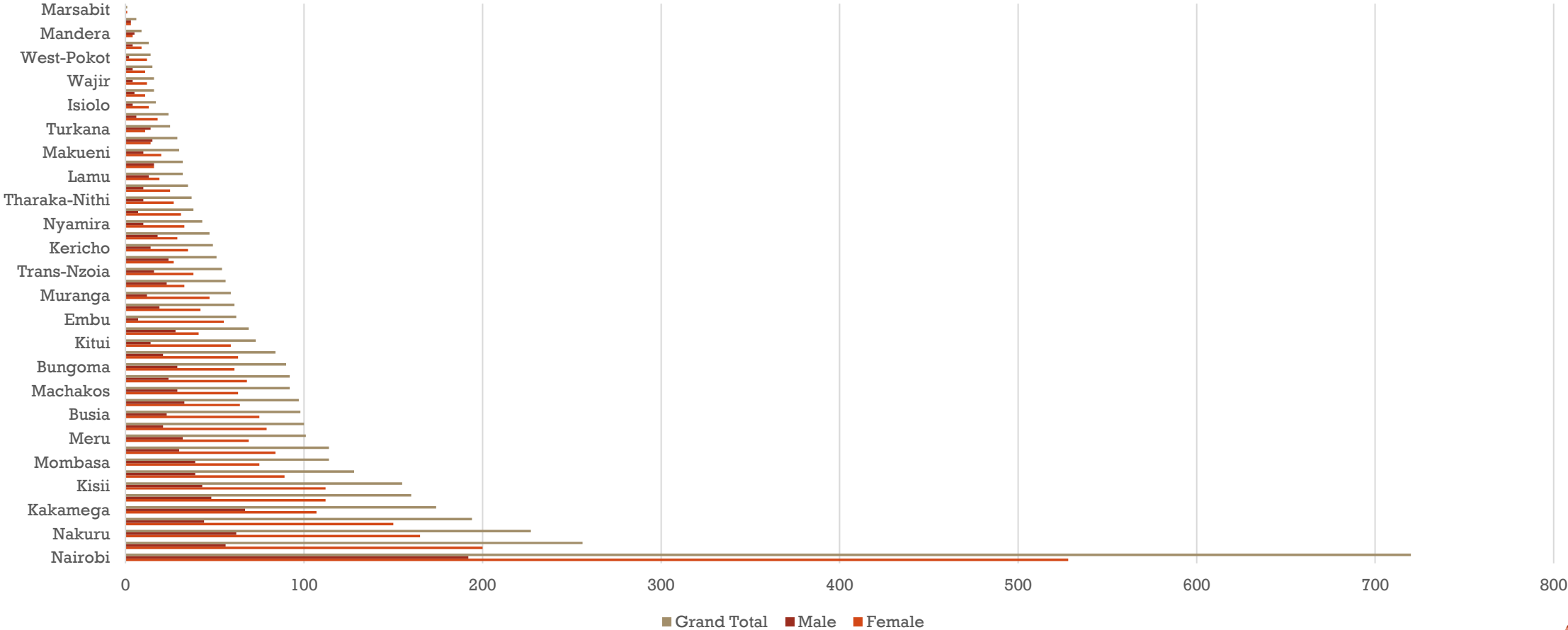
VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

VAWG Cases by County Jan-Dec 2019



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN KENYA

VAWG Cases by County Jan-Dec 2020



VAWG DATA TRENDS IN COUNTIES

- Data on referral systems for actual cases reported to the 1195 hotline between Jan 2019 to March 2020 shows that most cases were referred to in this order;
 - Various Children's Office.
 - Local administrative Offices.
 - Health facilities
 - Police Stations
 - Back to the Family unit
 - Legal Aid



CONCLUSION.

- Noteworthy is the increased reporting by the public which demonstrates a high level of awareness by the public.
- Linked to the above is the major use of proximate local government offices such as Chiefs office, Police Stations, Health Facilities which demonstrates confidence by survivors but also availability of capacities.
- The emergence of psychological abuse as major VAWG perpetrated on most survivors
- The increasing cases of child abuse as exhibited by both actual reporting and referrals to various children offices



WAY FORWARD.

- There is need to;
 - Integrate such VAWG gender statistics into M&E frameworks and approaches
 - Increase appreciation of gender statistic by M&E experts and their integration into the larger data because they have their own story to tell and contribution to development



END

