

Abuse, Neglect and Violence against Older Persons



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Definitions

WHO *(adopted def. by Action on elder abuse UK) :*

“Elder abuse is a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship in which there is an expectation of trust, that causes harm or distress to an older person”

Definitions

Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons:

A single or repeated act or omission to the detriment of an older person that harms their physical, mental, or moral integrity and infringes the enjoyment or exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of whether or not it occurs in a relationship of trust.

Definitions

The NYC Elder Abuse Center:

”a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate actions, which causes harm, risk of harm, or distress to an individual 60 years or older and occurs:

a) within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust; and/or

b) within an intimate partner and/or familial relationship; and/or

c) when the targeted act is directed towards an elder person by virtue of age or disabilities.

Types of abuse	characteristics
Physical	Infliction of pain or injury (slapping, hitting, kicking, force-feeding, restraint...)
Psychological abuse	Infliction of mental anguish (verbal aggression or threat, social isolation, humiliating statements...).
Financial abuse	Improper exploitation and/or use of funds or resources(theft, coercion to deprive the older person of his or her assets)
Sexual abuse	Non-consensual contact of any kind (Suggestive talk, forced sexual activity, touching, fondling)
Neglect	Intentional or unintentional failure to meet older persons' needs (i.e. adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, or social . Social interaction)
Societal/structural abuse	Ageism, lack of social protection, discrimination

Community and societal/structural abuse

- **Abandonment, property grabbing, forced marriages, accusations of witchcraft, ejection from their homes**
- **Witch-burning and widowhood rites.**
- **Inheritance laws**
- **Lack of social protection**
- **Discriminatory practices in health care and other services**

The extent of elder abuse: Estimated prevalence

	Elder abuse in community settings (1)	Elder abuse in institutional settings (2)	
Type of abuse	Reported by older adults	Reported by older adults and their proxies	Reported by staff
Overall prevalence	15.7%	Not enough data	64.2% or 2 in 3 staff
Psychological abuse	11.6%	33.4%	32.5%
Physical abuse	2.6%	14.1%	9.3%
Financial abuse	6.8%	13.8%	Not enough data
Neglect	4.2%	11.6%	12.0%
Sexual abuse	0.9%	1.9%	0.7%

(1) Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Yon Y, Mikton CR, Gassoumis ZD, Wilber KH. Lancet Glob Health. 2017 Feb;5(2):e147-e156. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28104184>

(2) The prevalence of elder abuse in institutional settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Yon Y, Ramiro-Gonzalez M, Mikton C, Huber M, Sethi D. European Journal of Public Health 2018. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29878101>

Lifetime Prevalence of intimate partner violence by age group among ever-partnered women - WHO

Age group, years	Prevalence %	95% CI, %
15-19	29.4	26.8 to 32.1
20-24	31.6	29.2 to 33.9
25-29	32.3	30.0 to 34.6
30-34	31.1	28.9 to 33.4
35-39	36.6	30.0 to 43.2
40-44	37.8	30.7 to 44.9
45-49	29.2	26.9 to 31.5
50-54	25.5	18.6 to 32.4
55-59	15.1	6.1 to 24.1
60-64	19.6	9.6 to 29.5
65-69	22.2	12.8 to 31.6

Sexual Violence in Eastern DRC

Age	Number	Percentage
< 15	252	5.9
16-24	809	18.8
25-34	841	19.5
35-44	988	22.9
45-54	752	17.4
55-64	211	4.9
> 65	458	10.6
Total	4,311	100

Age is no Protection

Table 2: Prevalence of incidents of sexual violence associated with conflicts

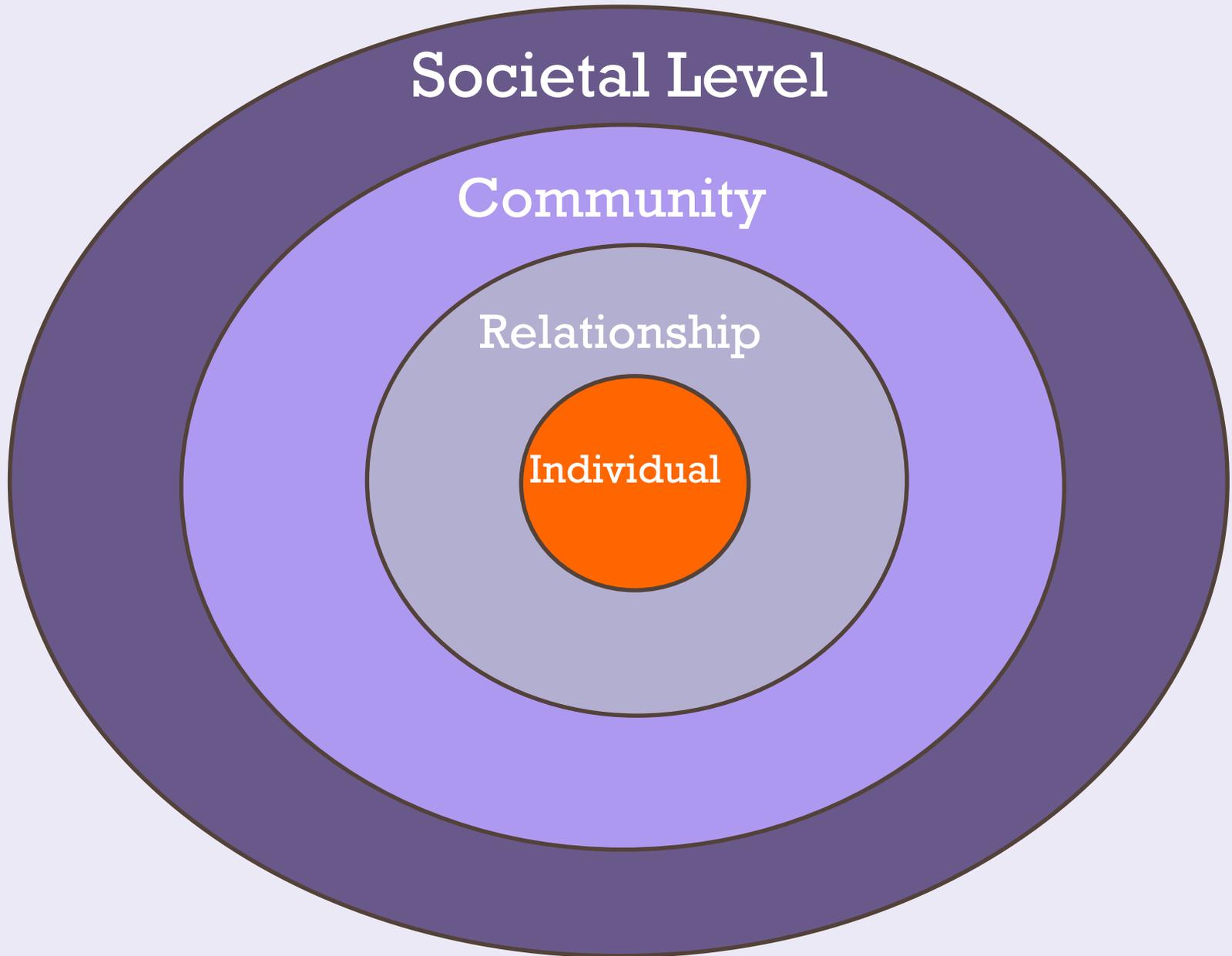
	Uganda (Sudan)	Uganda (DRC)	Kurdistan (Iraq, Palestine)	Pakistan (Afghanistan)	Panama (Columbia, Cuba)	Averages		
						Overall	Women	Men
Forcibly kissed	5%	4%	1%	6%	8%	5%	6%	3%
Forcibly stripped naked	9%	9%	1%	0%	11%	6%	7%	5%
Forcibly touched sexually	8%	5%	0%	7%	11%	6%	7%	4%
Forced sexual relation	8%	4%	0%	0%	9%	4%	7%	1%
Any of the above	14%	14%	1%	7%	17%	11%	11%	9%

Age is no Protection

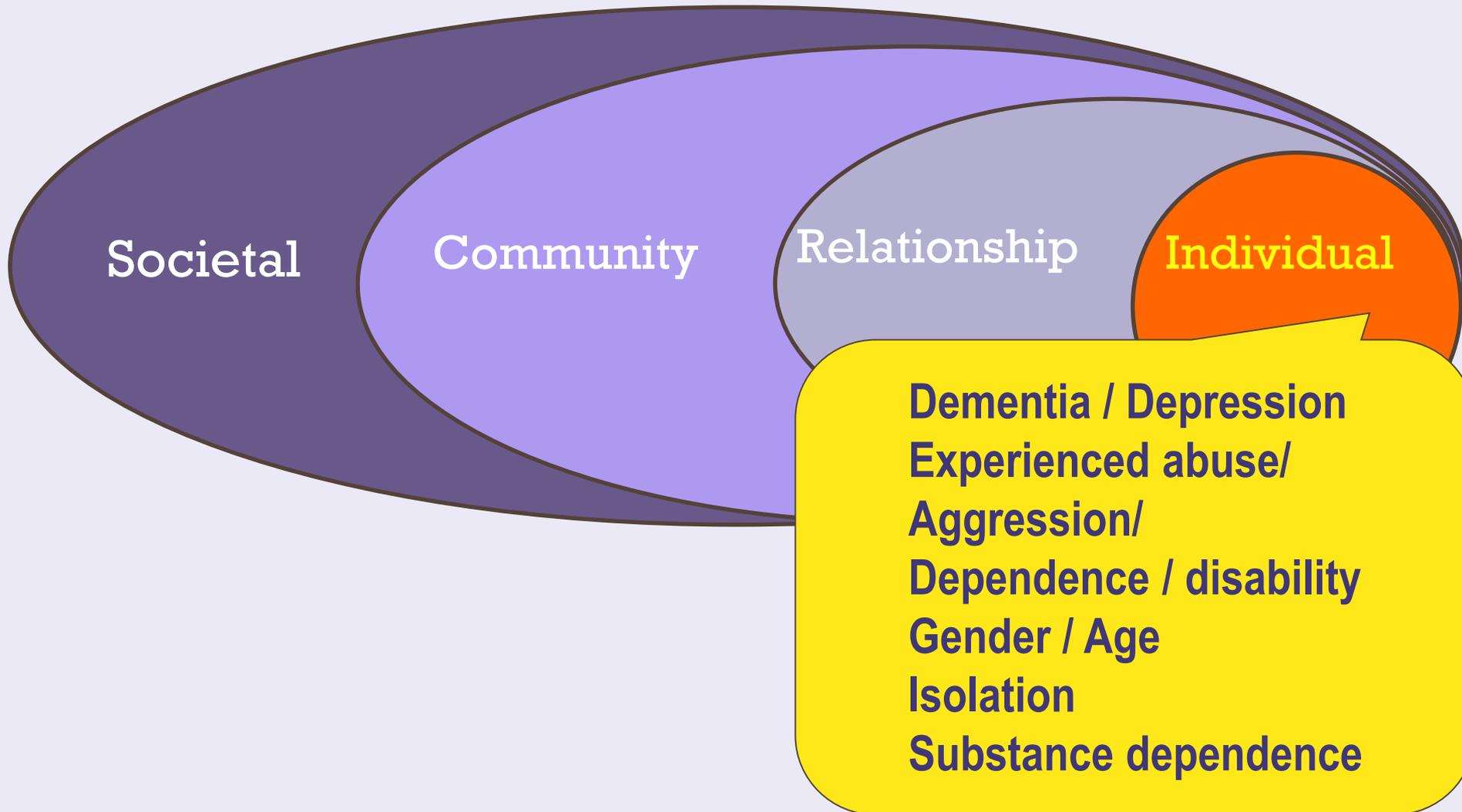
Table 6: Prevalence of exposure as a witness to forms of violence associated with conflict and displacement

	Uganda (Sudan)	Uganda (DRC)	Kurdistan (Iraq, Palestine)	Pakistan (Afghanistan)	Panama (Columbia, Cuba)	Averages		
						Overall	Women	Men
<i>Events witnessed:</i>								
Looting	70%	56%	36%	27%	57%	49%	46%	52%
Beating	69%	57%	16%	26%	46%	43%	39%	47%
Killing – household	56%	45%	13%	30%	26%	34%	33%	37%
Killing – other	60%	54%	28%	33%	50%	45%	39%	53%
Rape / sexual abuse	34%	26%	3%	10%	14%	18%	16%	19%
Any event type	80%	77%	49%	43%	81%	66%	65%	68%

Ecological model



Risk factors



Societal

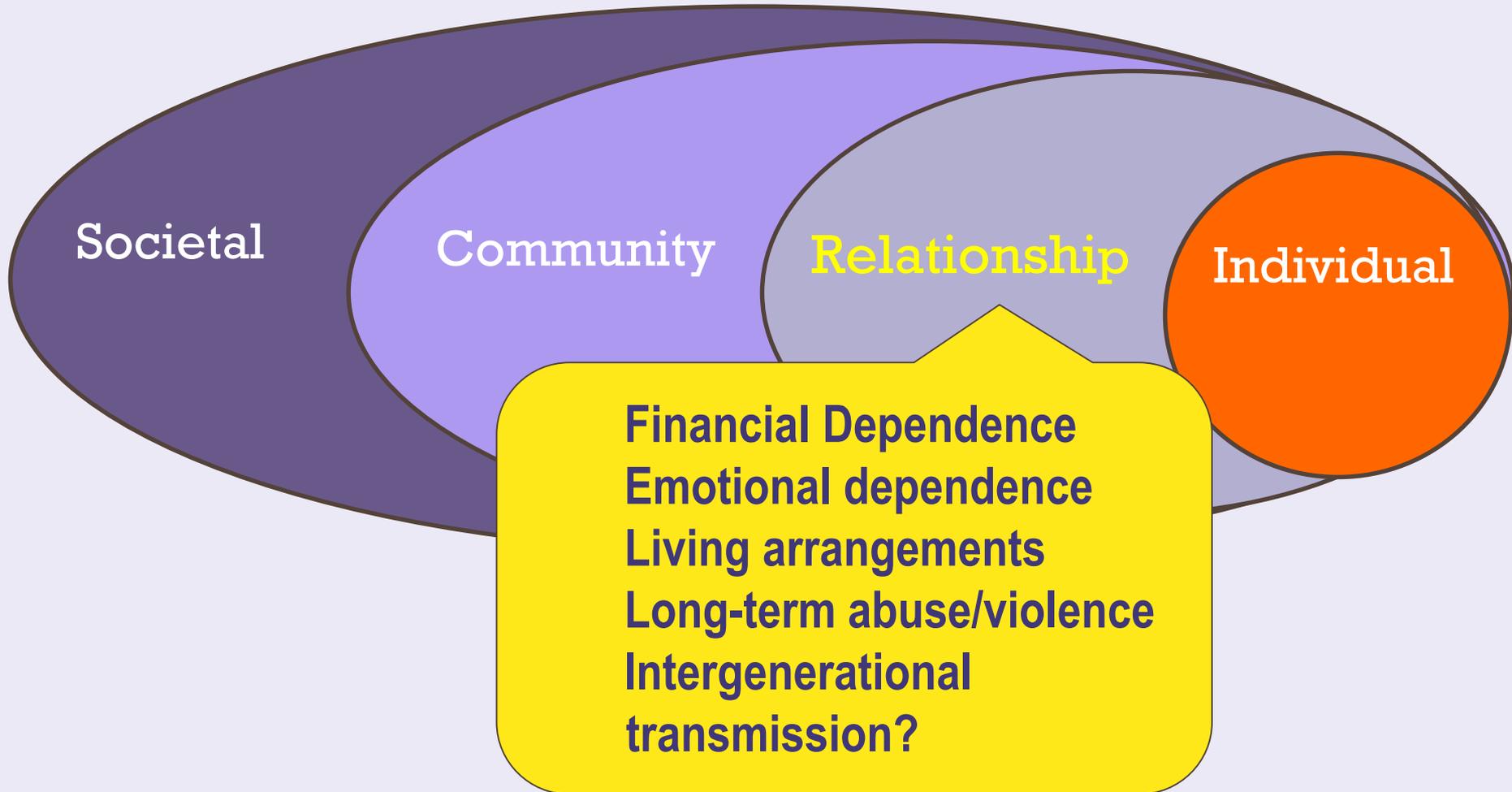
Community

Relationship

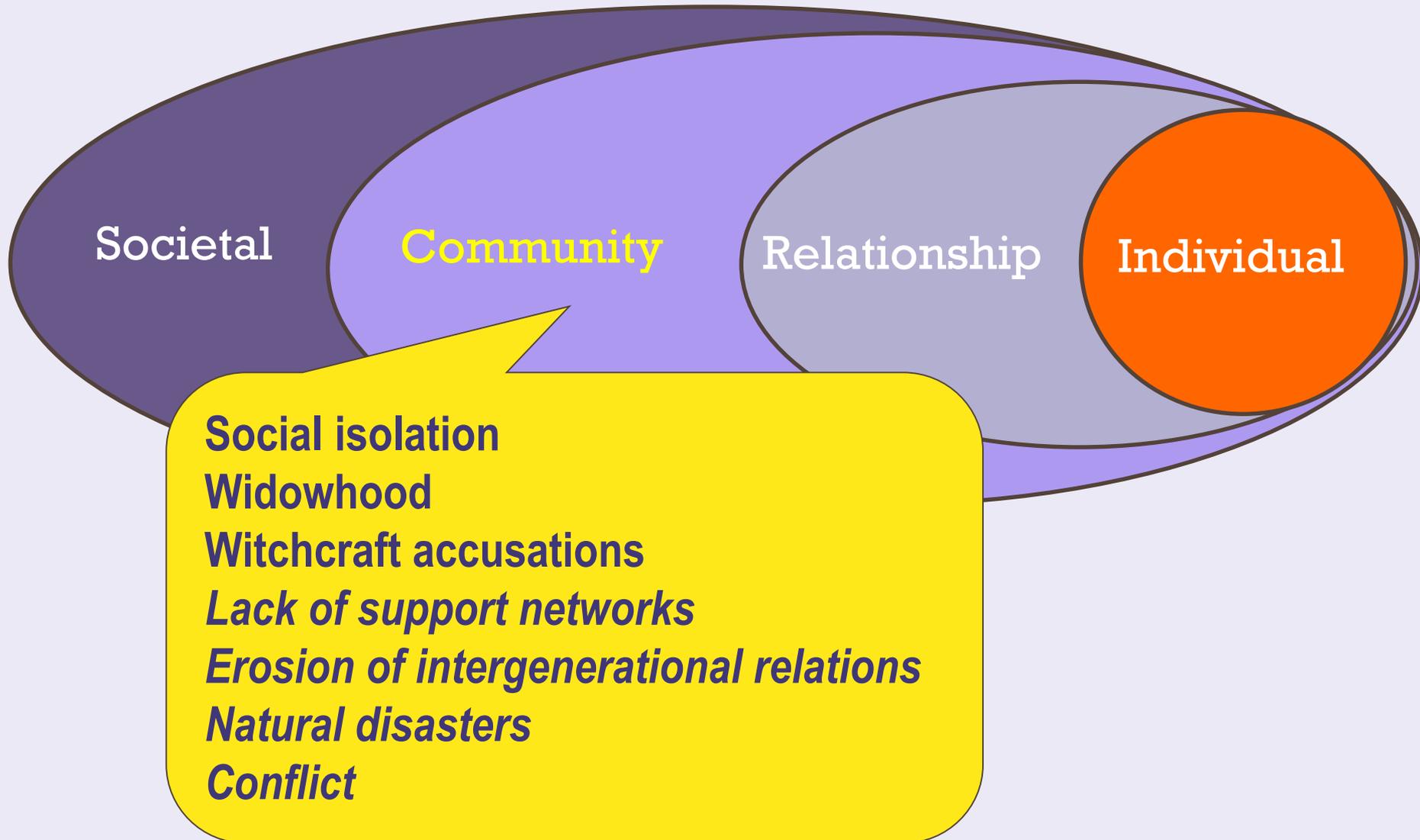
Individual

Dementia / Depression
Experienced abuse/
Aggression/
Dependence / disability
Gender / Age
Isolation
Substance dependence

Risk factors



Risk factors



Risk factors

Societal

Community

Relationship

Individual

Ageism, wide discrimination/exclusion

Sexism/ racism

Socio-economic factors/concentration of poverty

Lack of Social protection/Inheritance systems

Weak police/criminal Justice

Migration of the young

Natural Disasters/Conflicts/ War

Displacement

Dispelling the myths

- **Myth:** Abuse is an issue of developed countries
- **Myth:** Older persons do not contribute to society
- **Myth:** All older people are frail
- **Myth:** In our culture we respect our elders

Global Status report on Violence Prevention 2014

Countries implementing violence prevention programs

All regions

Any survey data on elder abuse	17%
Public information campaigns	27%
Professional awareness campaigns	37%
Residential care policies	39%
Caregiver support programs	51%

Who deals with elder abuse?



Policy response

Coordinated action

- **Data collection**
- **Prevention**
- **Detection**
- **Training**
- **Intervention**

Policy response

Data collection

- Scope : incidence, prevalence disaggregated by gender, age cohorts, disability
- Victims and perpetrators
- Participatory research

Prevention, Detection, Intervention

- Awareness raising and training:
 - » Professionals, humanitarian teams
 - » Public information campaigns
- Legislation
- Access to remedy
- Life-long and human rights education
- International binding human rights treaty

Policy response

Data collection – Specific issues

- GBV
- Cash transfers
- Levels of participation
- Access to services and remedy

NICE- Canadian pocket tools

PREVENTION	DETECTION	INTERVENTION
Coordinated Community Response	Elder Abuse Suspicion Index – EASI	In Hand – An Ethical Decision-Making Framework
Train the Trainer	Brief Abuse Screen for the Elderly (BASE)	Police Tool 1 - Elder Abuse Assessment and Intervention Reference Guide
	Caregiver Abuse Screen (CASE)	Police Tool 2 – Theft by Person(s) Holding Power of Attorney
	Indicators of Abuse –(IOA)	Police Tool 3 - Elder Abuse Risk Assessment – EARA
	Resources for Older Women	Being Least Intrusive: An Orientation to Practice
		Financial Exploitation Self-Report Measure

NICE- Canadian pocket tools



Thank you!