Adapting a safety planning mobile application for Brazilian women experiencing intimate partner violence: a participatory approach with the House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba

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INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of VIP in Brazilian adult women during the last 12 months was 7.6%, the equivalent to 4,950,000 women (SIGNORELLI, 2022).

Brazil occupies the 7th place in the ranking of the 83 nations with the most cases of femicide. (CERQUEIRA et al., 2017).

Public Policies

In Brazil, there is a social protection system for women in situations of violence.

Femicide Law nº13.104/2015
Psychological Violence Law nº14.188/2021
Previous Projects

Some studies developed in **high-income countries** supported the app adaptation.

- **myPlan**, United States
  (Glass et al, 2010; Eden et al, 2016).
- **iCan**, Canada
  (Ford-Gilboe et al, 2017).
- **iDecide**, Australia
  (Hegarty et al, 2015; 2019).
- **iSafe**, New Zealand
  (Koziol-McLain et al, 2018).
To cross-culturally adapt a safety planning app to support Brazilian women experiencing IPV.

To develop a prototype of the app, adapted to the needs of the Brazilian women, so it can be tested in the next stage of the research.

Methodology

Triangulated Data analysis.

Community Participatory Research.

Ethics Committee: 2.754.448.

House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba
Specialized care for women in situations of violence.
METHODOLOGY

1. Translation and cross-cultural adaptation of the survey instruments (12 participants).

2. Focus groups (n = 3) for safety planning adaptation (18 participants).

3. Focus groups (n = 3) for pre-testing of the prototype version of the EU-DECIDO (“I-DECIDE”) app (20 participants).

Adapted version of stages for cross-cultural adaptation (Rocha, 2021).

Modules: “Children”, “Feelings for partner”, “Health and well-being” and “Security and resources”.

Legal review – Human Rights Clinic.

Questionnaires
- Danger Assessment – Brazil
- Composite Abuse Scale – Brazil
- Unsafe Relationship
- Tech Abuse
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Decisional Conflict Scale
- Preparation for Decision Making
- Mental Health – CESDR
- Safety checklist

House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba
During cognitive interviews, the goal was to verify the interviewed women’s understanding of the app’s contents and identify their needs. Some of the issues raised were:

— Accessible/understandable language.
— Clear and up-to-date information.
— Victim status identification.
— Comprehension of the Decisional Conflict Scale.

RESULTS
Axis 1: Cognitive Interviews (n = 12)

There are many things here, and some have got me thinking. I had no idea I had rights, nor that I could go to a precinct, nor that I would have a shelter. It seems that type of information had never reached me. It’s really interesting.
Axis 2: Safety Planning Modules (n = 18)

1st Round of Focus Groups

Emerging Categories:

Legal Support
If women leave the relationship, how they should proceed with divorce/property and child custody issues, for example, and how to access legal assistance.

Intersectoral Network
How to have access to the House of the Brazilian Woman, the Police, the Municipal Guard, the Public Defender’s Office, the Court, the Healthcare Network, the Social Assistance Network and the School.

Security Strategies
Clear, objective and up-to-date security planning. Priorities: “Children”, “Security”, “Resources”, “Well-being” and “Feelings for partner”.

"I think that “safety planning” is designing paths to promote security. A path: is there the aggressor? I’m going to a public place. It there a way to satisfy this idea of security? What is security? What is feeling safe? And what paths will I take to feel safe?"

"How are you going to share custody of a child if you can’t talk to the father? There must be a mediation. You need a court agreement. You cannot remain informal."
Axis 3: Application of the EU-DECIDO prototype (n = 20)

2nd Round of Focus Groups

Strengths
— Survivor’s perceptions of finding a support network.
— Decision-making tool.
— Safety planning.
— Construction of the action plan.
— Prioritization.
— Layout (nice and cheerful).
— Digital abuse prevention strategy.

To be improved
— Accessible language.
— Long/many scales and questionnaires.
— Similar topics.
— Interconnection of the women’s protection network app (for monitoring).

I found these parts of the app very good. Another important issue was the informational part, about access to legal abortion in case of sexual violence. That I thought was pretty cool.

That’s exactly why this app is so important. Because it is an exit planner, right? Way out and breaking the violence cycle. When you are a woman, everything in your life has to be planned.
EU-DECIDO PROTOTYPE
NEXT STEPS

— To finalize the **prototype version of EU-DECIDO**, incorporating the **participants’ suggestions**.

— In partnership with the **Federal University of Paraná’s IT department**, to develop a tool for **constant updating** of the contacts of the intersectoral support network and **secure data storage**.

— To have available a tool that promotes **women’s empowerment**, helping them to **develop a safety plan** and supporting **decision-making** in abusive relationships and the connection of these women with social services.

— To continue the preparation of the project for **submission of public notice**, in order to apply for **funding** to increase the prototype version and testing with a **wider sample** of users (clinical trial or pre-post study).

Thank you,
gracias, obrigada!

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