

Young men's social networks: implications for interventions



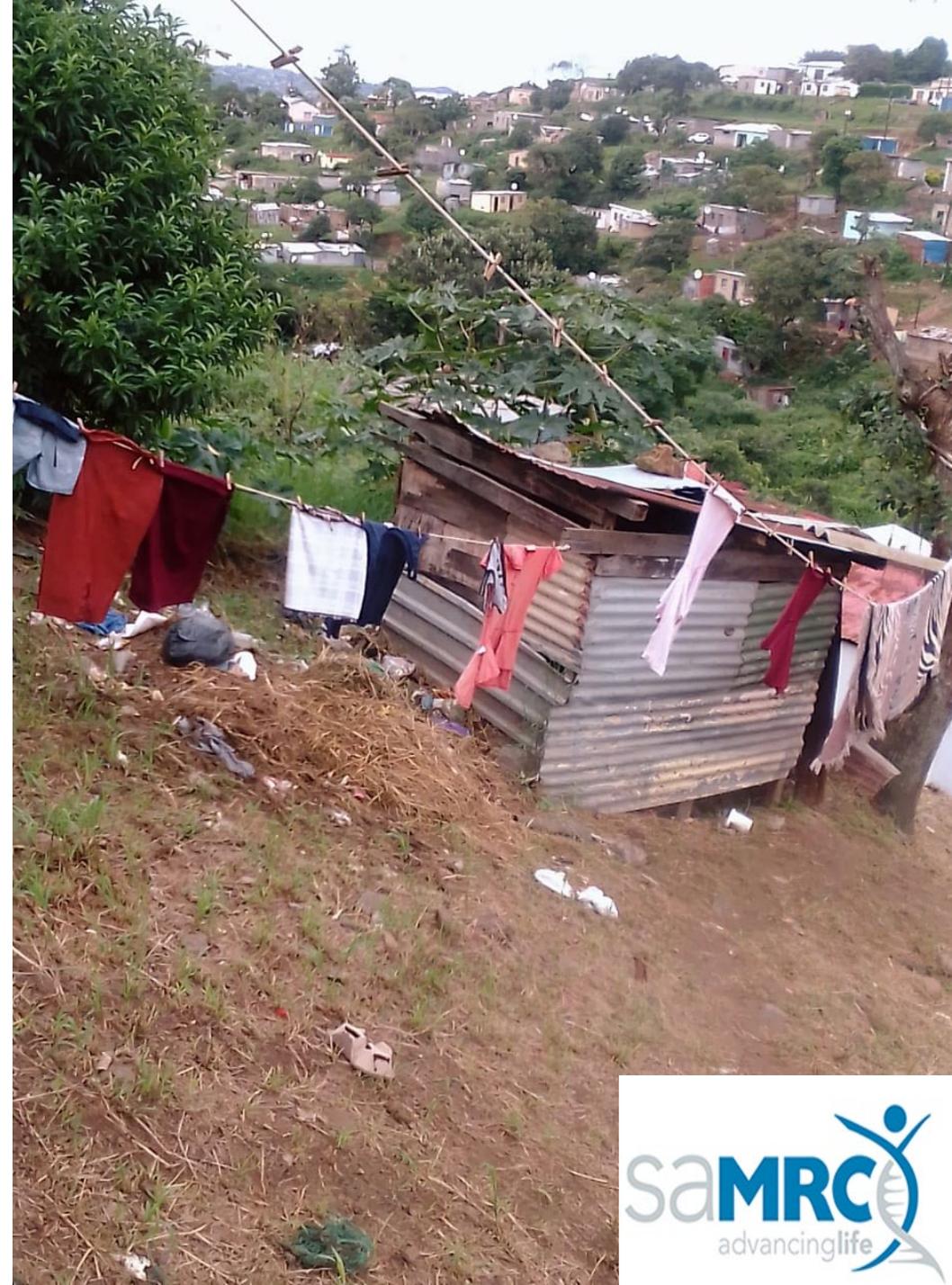
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Young men living in informal settlements

- Youth unemployment
 - Unemployment in South Africa is 34.5% in the first quarter of 2022
 - 47.8% of the unemployed is youth (aged 15 – 34).
 - In eThekweni municipality, unemployment is 37.9% in the first quarter of 2022.
- Informal settlements -
 - According to the eThekweni Municipality, there are 569 informal settlements
 - 250,000 households
 - Home to more than a quarter of the total population.

Men's perpetration of violence

56 % of young men said that had perpetrated IPV in past 12 months (2016)



Methods

- Participatory research methods

- Participants represent their lived experiences through their perspective, rather than it being informed by others

- Co-development

- Enables research participants to collaborate with researchers to develop an intervention that will benefit them.

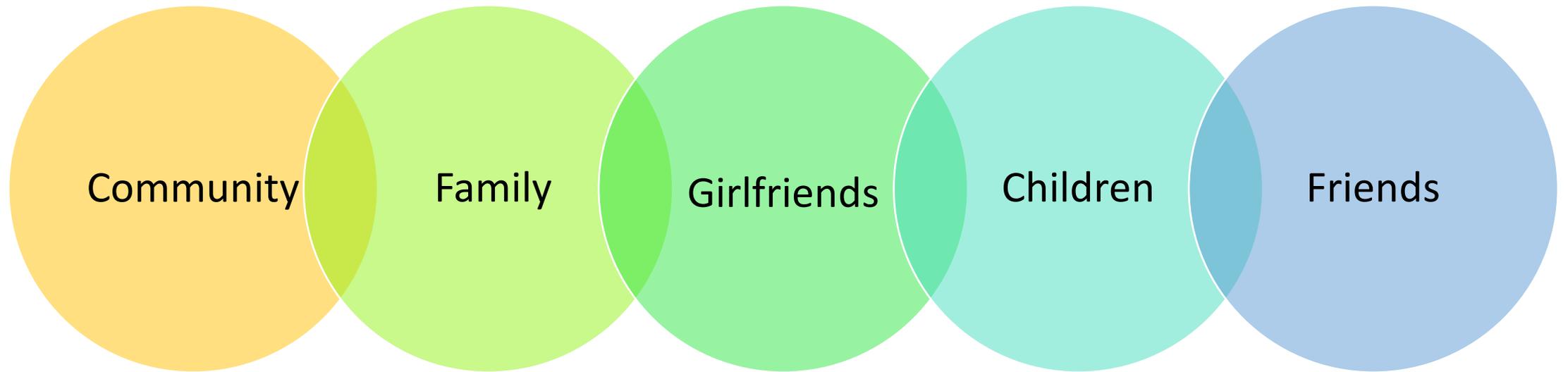


Activities

- Artifacts collection
 - Photos, videos, texts, and voice notes
- Daily activities
 - Text, voice notes
- Significant people in my life
- Life histories
- Theory of Change
- Capabilities



Findings: Young men's networks



Community

Young unemployed men are treated with derision and suspicion by community members:

“someone comes and starts to shouts at you, telling you that you just sitting doing nothing”

Family

Young men describe the pressure they experience from extended family networks to provide:

“at home, they monitor every move you make particularly when it comes to food and how much I eat per day. They will say horrible things about everything you are doing, and they will watch every move you make.”

Girlfriends and mothers of children

- Pressure to provide
- Volatile and lots of conflict



He is a 😬 dog for not buying my son clothes 🤔😬😬😬😬😬😬😬👎👍😬😬😬😬





Children

Important, innocent and loving
Pressure to provide



Friends

“ Friends will remember that the time you were working you used to provide for them, so when you are not working or you do not have money, they do not push you aside”

A refuge

Material and practical support

Acceptance

Safety





But....

- Alcohol and drugs
- Crime
- Violence against intimate partners

“They will influence you to use violence in that situation”

Discussion

- Young men are dependent on friendship groups for material and emotional survival and interventions have to work with friendship groups
- We have to address the emotional and material poverty young men experience
- Under pressure to conform to group norms : for IPV prevention this is both a threat and an opportunity
- Friendship groups are spaces to intervene and encourage new ways of thinking and acting especially in intimate partnerships

Conclusion

- Need to better understand how to design interventions that encourage positive change in friendship groups



Thank you

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