TOOL**FOUR**

THE VIOLENCE TREE
Analysis of Cause-Effect Relationships Between Risk Factors

What needs to be in place before you can use this tool:

Risk factors for violence must already be identified for analysis.

Objective:

To identify and understand causes and effects and to understand the relationships between the identified risk factors. This is an important step for later planning and defining measures or action steps.

Aspects of Data Collection/Analysis:

Risk factors and cause-effect relationships.

Material needed:

Big brown paper, moderation cards, markers.

Preparation:

Write the identified risk factors on moderation cards (one risk factor per card). The cards are laid out on the floor. A big tree with roots and branches is drawn on a separate big brown paper (about 1.5 x 2.5 m).

Procedure:

This work is done with the whole group.

In a first step, the participants arrange the cards into clusters by categorising the risk factors according to problem areas. These problem areas are also often called focus areas. If different risk factors are identified for girls and boys, men and women, it is important to indicate this clearly on the cards (e.g., using symbols for different sexes). It might be possible to group some risk factors to several problem areas. In that case, you can write more than one card with the same risk factor.

Possible problem areas or focus areas:

- Health (drugs, HIV/AIDS);
- Work/prospects for the future;
- Community cohesion/youth in community;
- School/education.

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These are only examples to provide orientation. The areas can be named after the clustering has been completed.

Step 1:

Please have a look at the risk factors, and group them according to problem areas. Which ones belong together? Once finished with grouping them, write the name of the relevant problem area in bold on a card and place this alongside the relevant group of risk factors. If one risk factor belongs to more than one problem areas, participants can write the same risk factor on more than one card. In this way, one risk factor can be used in several problem areas.

In a second step, the most relevant or "burning" problem area will be selected by the participants. This is the one to start with.

Step 2:

Which is the problem area which is most relevant or "burning" in your community? Which is the one you want to analyse first?

A third step includes the identification of a central risk factor or problem (trunk) and the causes (roots) and effects or consequences (branches) of this central risk factor for violence. The risk factors are related to each other again with cause-effect relationships. This means: a risk factor can be the consequence of another risk factor, and at the same time the cause of a third one.

Step 3:

In the third step, we focus on this burning problem. The third step of the exercise includes the identification of a central risk factor or problem (trunk) and the causes (roots) and effects or consequences (branches) of this central risk factor for violence. The risk factors are related to each other again with cause-effect relationships. This means: a risk factor can be caused by another risk factor, and at the same time be the cause of a third risk factor. These are the instructions to use with participants as you work on **Step 3**:

1. Please select the risk factor you consider to be the main problem (trunk).

2. Which are causes of this risk factor/problem (roots), which are the effects or consequences (branches)? Place the cards accordingly on the tree.

See the following illustration, where the main problem is shown in the middle of the length of the tree. The causes are shown as the roots, and the effects as the branches.

THE VIOLENCE TREE

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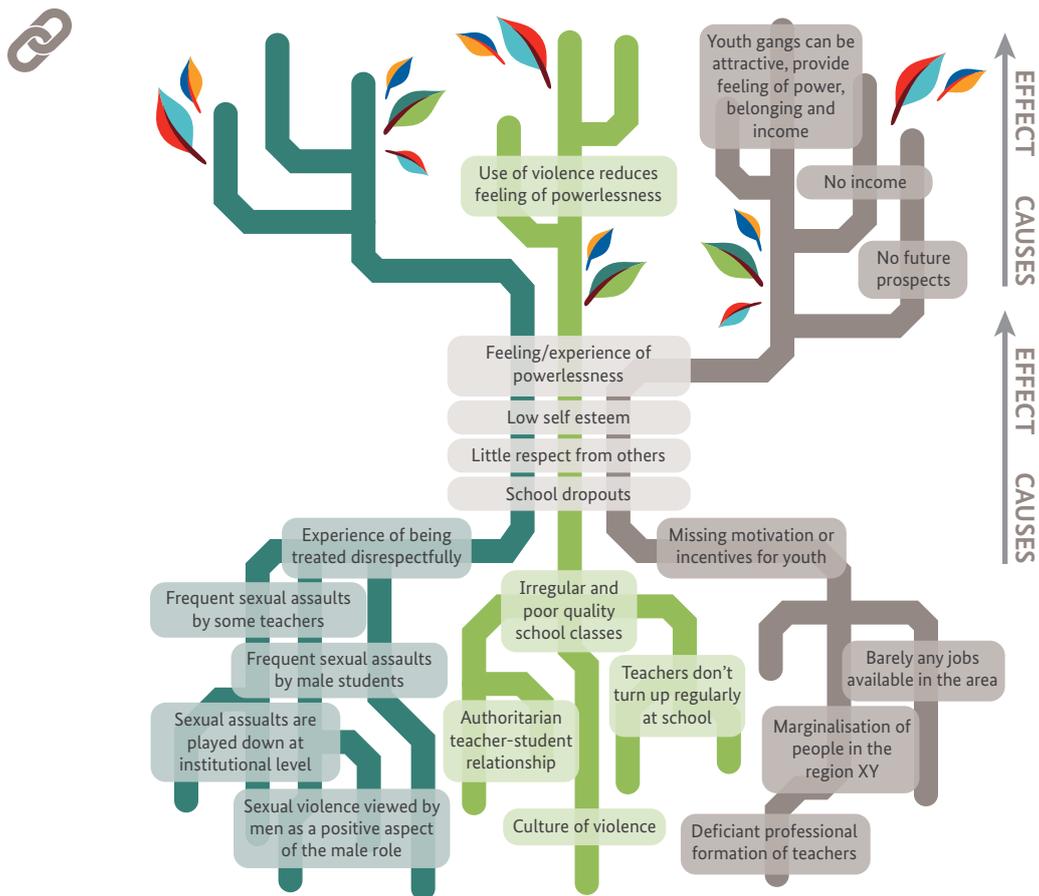

Figure 4: Violence tree for problem area: education, future prospects

Observations: (Additional notes for the facilitator)

New risk factors can be added at any time during the exercise. "Problem trees" can be drawn for each problem area, and prioritised.

End Product:

By the end of this activity, participants would have identified, and understood, causes and effects and as well as the relationships between the identified risk factors established.

1hr 30

During the process, participants would have produced the following:

- The formulation of problem areas.

- The development of a problem tree with cause-effect relationships through a process of thorough discussion and analysis.