

Subregional Conference



## Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in South Asia: Reflections and Way Forward for ADB

ADB

Paro, Bhutan | 04-07 October, 2022

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# Session #3: Persisting Gender Inequality Issues Faced by Women and People with Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identity and Expressions, Sex Characteristics

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## Topic: CSO initiatives for women's empowerment and gender equality

Tshering Dolkar, RENEW Bhutan



# Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW) Vision: A Just, Equitable and Happy society

**Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, Gyalyum Sangay  
Choden Wangchuck  
Founder and the President**



- **1999 - UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador**
- **2000 - RENEW conceptualized**
- **Recipient of the Individual Laureate in the region**
- **Established as a nongovernmental organization in 2004 & (2010 registered under CSOA 2007)**
- **Only CSO in Bhutan to provide emergency and integrated services to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence**
- **Gender equality through addressing inequalities, exclusion and vulnerabilities**
- **Empowerment of women and girls and other genders through income generating activities**



# Overall Message & Presentation Outline

*“No one Should be left Behind”*

**Exclusion and vulnerabilities must be addressed.**

We believe that every individual has the right to a safe, healthy, happy, equitable, just and fulfilling life.

- Institution of services for survivors of domestic Violence/ Sexual & gender-based violence;
- Mobilization of Community Volunteers (MSTF-CBSS) across the country
- Expansion and strengthening of partnership with key stakeholders
- Reintegration into the mainstream through livelihood skills development
- Engaging men and boys



# RENEW Services

## Preventive Services

- Advocacy & Awareness
- Education, Training & Networking
- Research & study
- Mobilization of Volunteers (MSTF-CBSS)
- Druk Adolescent initiative for Sexual Awareness Network (DAISAN-youth volunteers)
- Friends of RENEW

## Intervention Services

- Counseling (Single/joint/family/clinical)
- Legal aid
- Emergency medical aid
- Shelter (Gawailing Happy Home)
- Referrals

1900 women, girls & other genders trained

## Cross Cutting Services

- Micro finance (MF)
- Livelihood projects
- Educational scholarship

27,000 members availing MF in 11 districts

# Facts and Figures

More than 2 in every 5 women (44.6%) have experienced one or more forms of IPV in their lifetime in Bhutan

12.8 % children (1 in 10) face sexual violence in Bhutan. 330 teenage pregnancy cases in 2020.

44% PWDs face emotional violence while more than 42% face physical violence, 14% of PWD has encountered sexual violence

LBGTQI+ 409 suffered from mental health issues; 27 experienced stigma, 19 experienced violence, 16 bullied, 47 faced discrimination

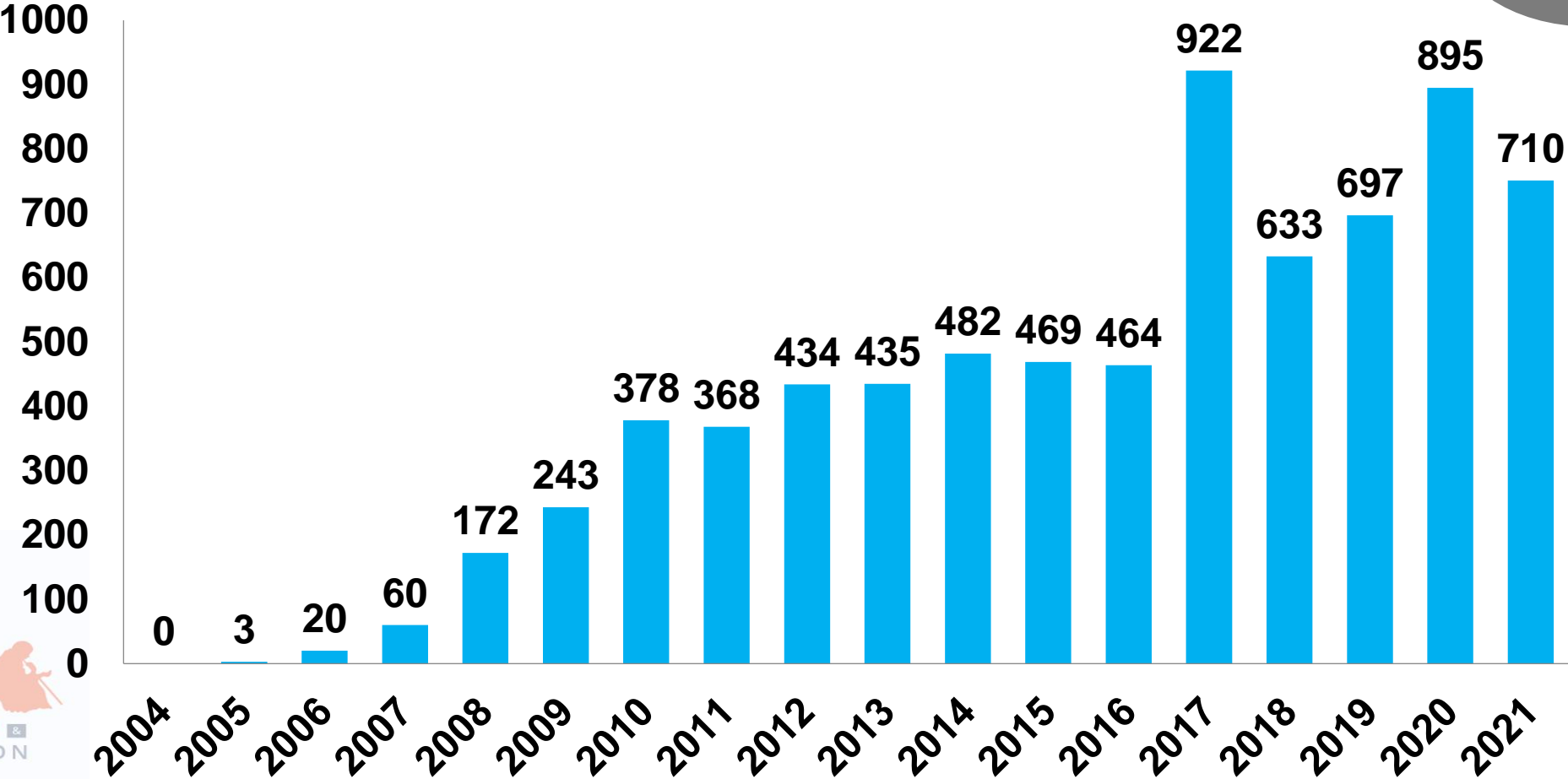
Male clients (90-2021) (40 -2022):  
RENEW Statistics



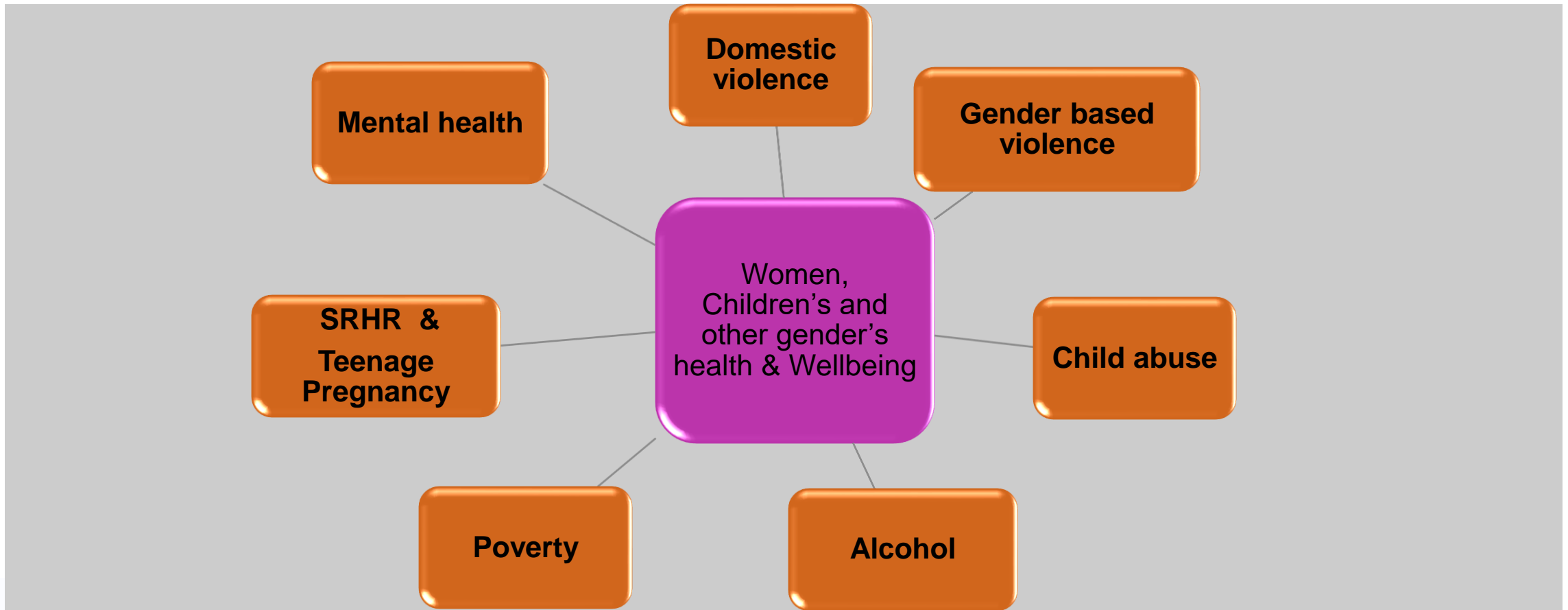
# Fact & Figures (RENEW): Total number of clients including CBSS record

**Total No. of Clients = 8080**

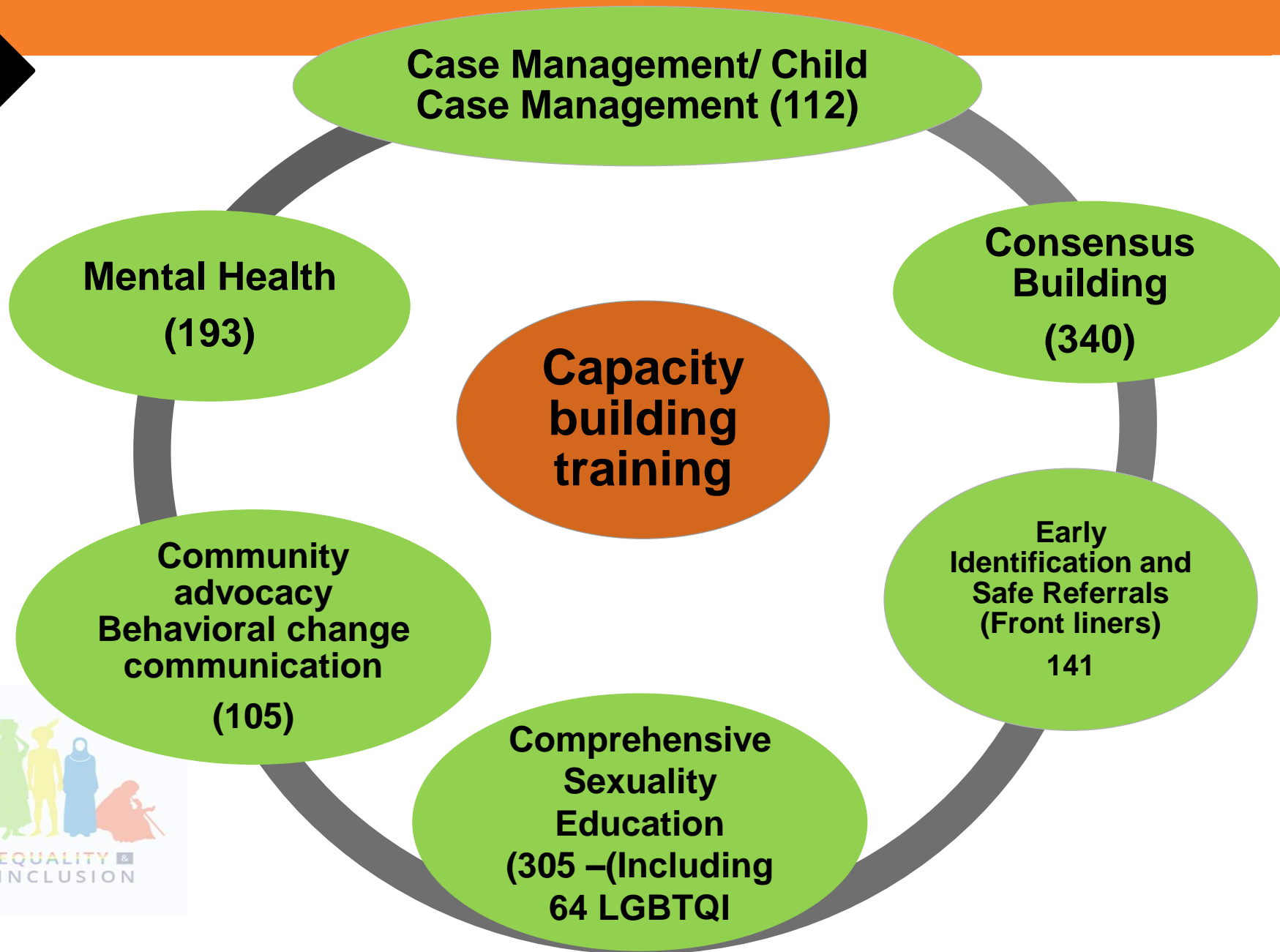
No. of Services  
259376



# Key Takeaways







# Common Challenges in the implementation

ISSUES

Limited coordination and collaboration

Lack of Effective Implementation

Gender planning not linked to budget

Lack of a uniform data management system

High prevalence of gender violence

Lack of Community Engagement

Lack of proper monitoring tool

Limited technical, financial and HR

Lack of conducive work environment



GENDER EQUALITY &  
SOCIAL INCLUSION

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# Way Forward

- Reinforcement of Policies and Acts for effective implementation at the district and gewog level
- Establishment of Community Service Centers in all 20 districts
- Capacity development of Community Volunteers Network to ensure sustainability (MSTF-CBSS)
- Expand and strengthen partnership with service providers & local government & CSOs for inclusive services
- Ensure availability & accessibility to customized services to ensure no one is left behind
- Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism
- Social protection schemes

