



TAFISA
The Association For International Sport for All



TAFISA WEBINAR– 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2026

Safe on Paper, Unsafe in Practice: Building a culture of safeguarding in
Sport for All

THE POLICY-PRACTICE GAP

- A gap is rarely just one thing. It usually sits between three questions:

KNOW

Do athletes/
participants know
where to report?

TRUST

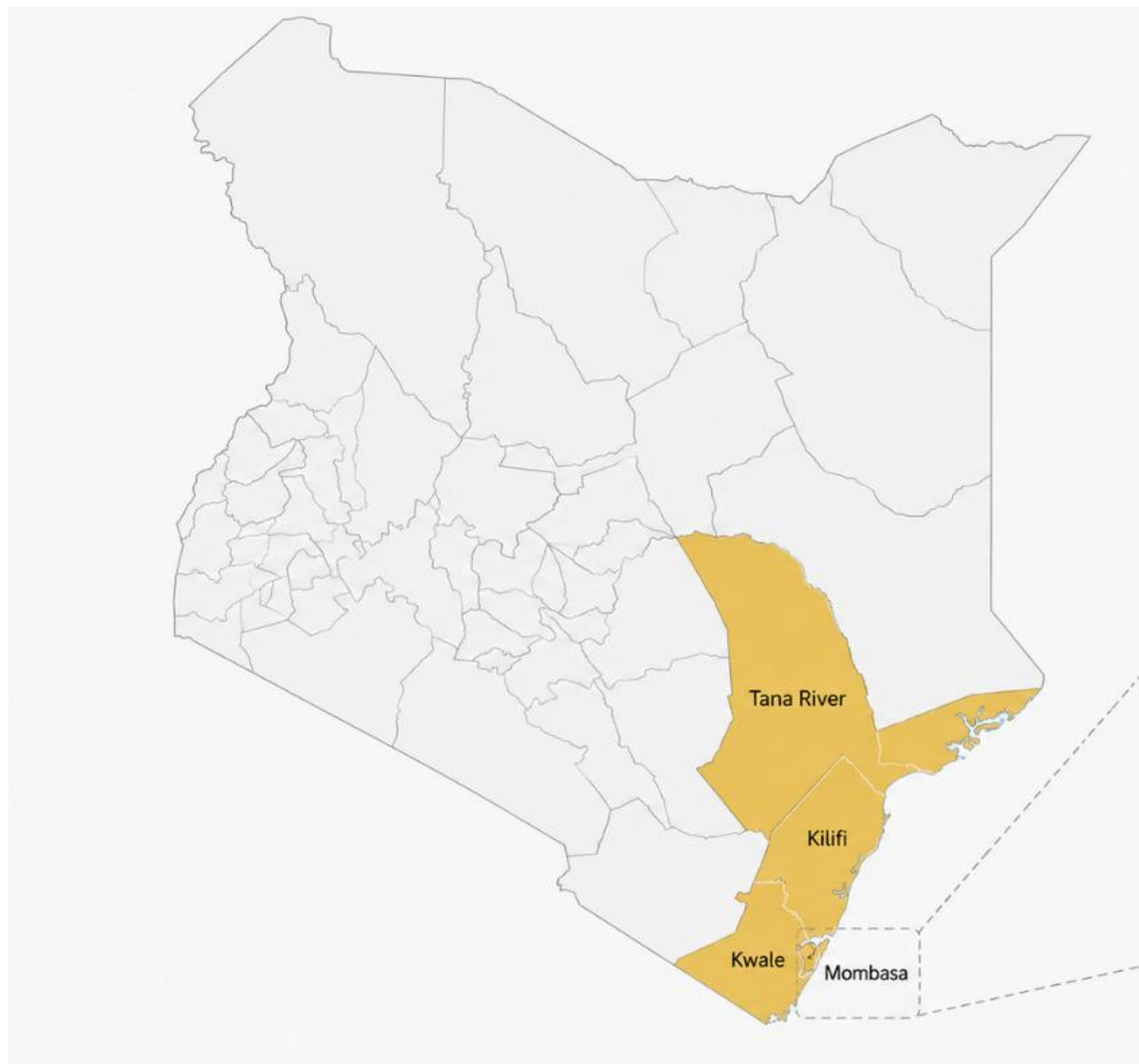
Do they believe
they will be heard
safely?

ACT

Does the safeguarding
system respond without
delay or blame?

A safeguarding culture is what makes the reporting pathway useable

MTG KENYA IN CONTEXT



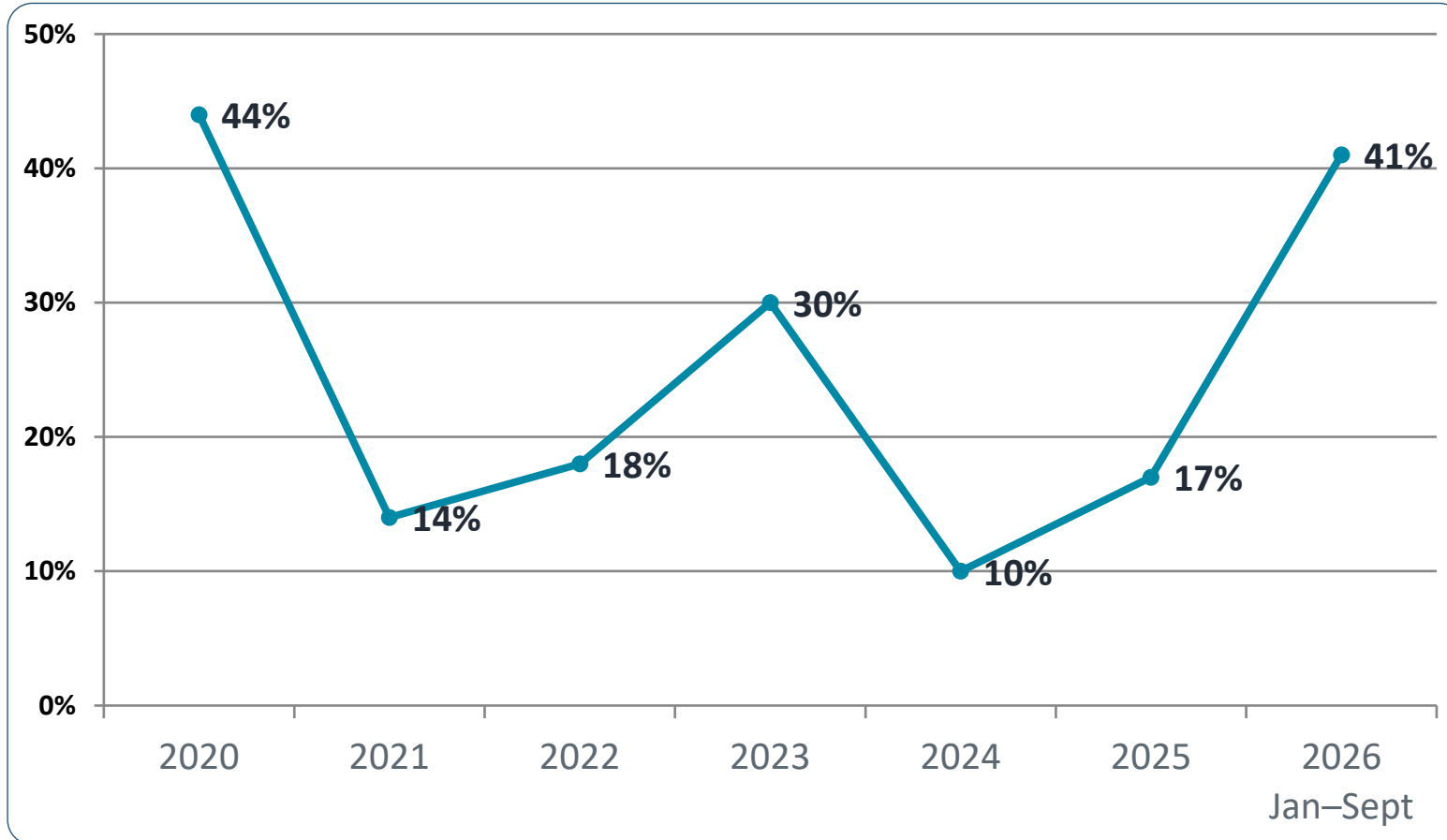
4 Counties

**53 League
Fields (safe
spaces)**

8000+ Girls

Weekly practice and leagues make football a familiar community space where girls play, learn and access support

WHAT OUR DATA IS TELLING US



- **41%** of incidents reported directly by the girls between Jan and Sept 2026
- Across 2020–Sept 2026, girls directly reported about **26%** of recorded incidents overall

THE MTGK RESPONSE: GIRL SAFEGUARDERS



How they are selected - Peer-elected or identified through league-field leadership structures; girls choose people they already trust

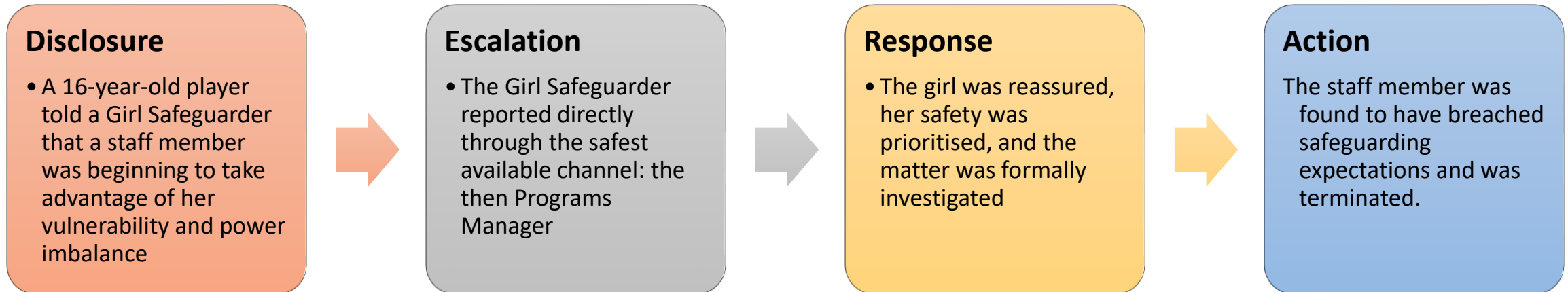
How they are trained - Rights, reporting pathways, confidentiality, active listening, boundaries, referral, and when to escalate

What they do - Notice concerns, receive basic disclosures, reassure peers, report through the agreed MTG channel

What they do not do - They do not investigate, mediate abuse cases, promise secrecy, or carry cases alone

CASE LEARNING – WHEN THE BRIDGE WORKED

How a Girl Safeguarder helped a serious concern reach the right level -*Anonymised and tightened to protect identity and confidentiality*



Learning - The peer channel worked because the girl trusted the Girl Safeguarder and the Girl Safeguarder judged appropriately and knew exactly where to report

Call to action



- 1 Map your first-disclosure points** -Who do participants, survivors or community members already go to?
- 2 Clarify roles and limits** -Peer intermediaries should know what to do and what not to carry
- 3 Build warm referral relationships** -Know the people behind the referral pathway before crisis hits
- 4 Keep survivors in the loop** - Even a small update can restore dignity and reduce fear
- 5 Review and improve** - After every case, ask what worked, what delayed, and what needs fixing

thank
you!

www.mtgk.org