This section begins with a diagram drawn by older women, many of whom had no literacy skills in the original village in Uganda where the first Stepping Stones programme was conducted, 16 months after the original workshop. This diagram, to the uninitiated, might just look like a jumble of vague sketches. But it contains some rich analysis of the changes that had taken place, according to these women, in their lives since the workshop. By asking each peer group separately “what has changed for you in this community since the workshop”, there is an opportunity for triangulations of feedback, through a simple comparative table. If 3 peer groups out of four mention a similar change, this would seem to be a fairly strong indication that something has changed. For more information about this, see the report on the Participatory Evaluation from the Gambia on the www.steppingstonesfeedback.org website.
Here we can see in this diagram what the issues were which the older women in this community said had changed, in their view, since the workshop 16 months previously: prevention education; condom distribution; property and inheritance rights; a reduction in gender violence and greater harmony in the household; reduction in alcohol consumption (ie less expenditure also); and, critically, greater care and support for people with HIV and their carers.