



**Funding opportunity: Call for Pre-Application Notices**  
**Prevention of VAWG: intervention development, delivery, operations research and impact evaluation**



**Guidance notes**

**1. Innovation Grants**

**If you have new ideas for developing or adapting interventions to prevent VAWG<sup>1</sup> you may be eligible for an innovative grant**

The **primary goal** of the innovation grants is to fund innovative approaches to preventing violence in DFID priority countries. The **secondary goal** is to strengthen the capacity of Southern researchers in conducting rigorous operations research and impact evaluation research on VAWG interventions.

**What is an innovative approach?** To be innovative, interventions should be novel, a substantial advance on a previous intervention, a new combination of interventions, or an existing innovation adapted for a new setting (a new country or a conflict/displaced persons setting) or target group.. Interventions are more likely to be funded if they have potential to have greater impact on the field, or are to be used in a geographical or social setting where there has been relatively less VAWG prevention research and intervention.

**What is primary prevention?** This is the prevention of violence from ever occurring. It may include activities with men or boys who have already perpetrated violence if their goal is to stop further perpetration, or perpetration of another type of VAWG. It may include activities with women or girls who have experienced violence if there is a goal to prevent another experience, or experience of another type of violence.

**Types of programmes which innovation grants could fund:**

- Interventions which aim to stop violence before it starts – *primary prevention* of VAWG - through change in established risk factors<sup>2</sup>, including through addressing the risk of violence in childhood, and engaging men and boys
- Interventions to strengthen women's and girls' agency and empowerment which produce results that *strengthen their resilience* and protect them from VAWG

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<sup>1</sup> **Definition:** Notwithstanding the fact that there are many forms of violence against women and girls, for the purposes of this fund VAWG will be understood as intimate partner violence (emotional, economic, physical, sexual), non-partner sexual violence, or child abuse (emotional, physical, sexual)

<sup>2</sup> **Established VAWG risk factors which may be the focus of intervention include:** social norms on gender, gender inequitable constructions of masculinity, women and girls' lack of economic and social power, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, adolescent delinquency, harsh and abusive parenting, poor communication/relationship skills, social norms that condone violence

- Interventions which seek to develop and strengthen *response mechanisms* which are intended to prevent VAWG

**Types of *primary prevention* interventions that innovation grants could fund might include interventions that:**

- Work in schools through school environment change and curriculum
- Focus on changing ideals of masculinity and violent practices of men and boys
- Build relationship and communication skills
- Focus on male youth in gangs
- Work with parents to strengthen parenting and enhance child protection
- Focus on improving men's mental health and reducing substance abuse
- Changing social norms related to violence at a community level

**Types of *resilience strengthening* interventions that might be supported include:**

- Novel approaches to strengthening women's livelihoods and empower them to prevent violence
- Economic empowerment interventions using cash transfers or microcredit or other mechanisms
- Interventions to enhance girl's resilience through staying in and completing school
- Interventions to strengthen women's financial position after widowhood or orphaning

**Types of *response mechanisms* that aim to prevent VAWG that might be strengthened or evaluated:**

- Psychological support and treatment for rape survivors
- Responding to and preventing VAWG in conflict or displaced persons settings
- Security and justice sector interventions
- Shelters
- Perpetrator programmes
- Safe spaces
- Child protection interventions

***We particularly welcome combination interventions that seek to address several risk factors for VAWG or work ecologically across settings.***

**Am I eligible?** Innovation grants will only be made to national (or local) organisations or to international non-governmental organisations working in a DFID priority country. National organisations may be community-based organisations, academic institutions, or organisations linked to Government<sup>3</sup>. They will be non-profit. Other organisations may apply as supportive partners.

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<sup>3</sup> Except in countries where providing funding to Government is contrary to DFID policy

## 2. Operations Research and Impact Evaluation of existing interventions or combinations of interventions, and research on scale up

**If you have an established and already funded intervention to prevent VAWG or an intervention that seeks to meet the needs of survivors your project may be suitable for operations research or impact evaluation research or research on scale up**

We anticipate that we will have broadly five categories of evaluation:

- *Established interventions with promising preliminary evaluation findings:* these may be eligible for a rigorous impact evaluation undertaken in collaboration with the Consortium
- *Interventions that seek to combine two or more proven interventions:* these may be eligible for a rigorous impact evaluation undertaken in collaboration with the Consortium
- *Established interventions where there is insufficient preliminary evidence for impact evaluation:* depending on the project, these may be eligible for operations research that can enable project strengthening and learning, and if time permits an impact evaluation may also be possible
- *Systems-wide interventions (e.g. across the justice system or police) that are already underway on a large scale:* these may be candidates for operations research to enable project strengthening
- *Scale up of prevention programmes* that have been proven effective where research is required on logistical and economic considerations in going to scale

**How will interventions be selected for operations research and impact evaluation?** Interventions will be chosen where their evaluation has the greatest potential to advance the field through either generating knowledge on what works in an important and under-researched context, or through generating knowledge on what works for a less researched risk factor or intervention approach, or a combination intervention.

**When is an intervention suitable for operations research or impact evaluation?** Impact evaluation always requires a pre-intervention baseline round of data collection. An established intervention can be evaluated rigorously provided that enough of the target group will not receive the intervention until after the baseline has been conducted. If an intervention is comprehensive and the project cycle is underway it may be suitable for operations research rather than impact evaluation.

**When is an intervention suitable for research on scale up?** These interventions should have already been proven to be effective and scale up should be planned and funding secured. We would like to undertake research that may include the impact of scale up on costs, fidelity, impact and logistical issues.

**Must prevention of VAWG be the primary goal of the intervention?** We will consider interventions where it is a secondary goal, providing this is made explicit. For example an HIV prevention intervention that seeks to change sexual practices and includes a component to prevent VAWG, or an intervention that aims to strengthen police responses to VAWG survivors and has a social norm change component to try to prevent violence would be acceptable.