

Evidence Digest

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Latest evidence

Here is a selection of the latest evidence on violence against women and girls (VAWG), released in the last few months:

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
Analysis of population-based surveys (May 2015) There is limited evidence on the factors behind geographical differences in IPV, and how macro and individual-level factors interact to affect women's risk. In a recent Lancet published analysis of data drawn from 66 population-based surveys across 44 countries on women who had suffered partner violence in the last 12-months, Heise and Kotsadam found that gender-related factors at country and regional level help predict population prevalence of current partner violence - in

particular, norms relating to men's authority over women's behaviour including justification of wife beating. Strong negative associations found between GDP and current partner violence across countries were shown to be non-significant in light of norm-related measures. Cross-level factors such as women and girls' education and participation in the formal workforce proved to be more strongly associated with reductions in vulnerability to violence.

SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTIONS
Policy brief on school-based interventions to prevent VAWG (May 2015) Engaging with the education sector is critical to prevent VAWG. Schools, as settings where children and adolescents cultivate social and behavioural norms, can be

powerful entry points for prevention interventions. This policy brief developed by the Global Women's Institute gives an overview of the existing evidence base for selected school-based interventions, drawing on findings from nine recently published reviews alongside targeted hand searches.

The brief positions interventions across three categories ('effective', 'promising' and 'emerging'). Efforts deemed most effective at preventing VAWG were those that:

- were delivered over sustained time periods;
- worked with communities through a gender approach;
- focused on themes of empowerment; and
- provided participants with tools to question and challenge negative behaviour and attitudes.



Anti-violence march in Uganda (Source: STRIVE)



Aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan
(Source: Simon Davis/DFID)

VAWG IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

What works in addressing violence against women and girls? Lessons from the Typhoon Haiyan response (June 2015)

Women and girls' exposure to violence often intensifies in humanitarian settings. In a workshop hosted by DFID, partner organisations identified lessons learned in the prevention of and response to VAWG in the Typhoon Haiyan humanitarian response. Discussion included a focus on the low representation of protection and GBV concerns in key documents such as the Strategic Response Plan, and the underrepresentation of local organisations and government in cluster meetings. Recommendations covered the need for the protection/GBV community to shift efforts into making protection a 'mainstream' issue across all parts of a humanitarian response.

FEMALE SEX WORKERS (FSW) AND IPV

Masculinities, gender norms and intimate partner violence (IPV) affecting female sex workers

(May 2015) In a qualitative study by the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT), 17 female sex

workers (FSWs) and 34 intimate partners in northern Karnataka in India were interviewed to explore the impact of norms around masculinity, gender and violence on the dynamics of IPV among FSWs. Findings revealed that norms around masculinity, including infidelity, dominance and the legitimisation of violence as discipline, increased the risk of contracting HIV. It concluded that programming should pay particular attention to FSWs' non-paying intimate partners who exhibited 'low regard' for women, underestimated their own HIV risk and saw themselves as entitled to unprotected sex.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE-RELATED PREGNANCY (SVRP)

Respondent-driven sampling to assess mental health outcomes in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

(April 2015) Having a child from a sexual violence-related pregnancy in conflict settings may lead to complex psychosocial phenomena, including stigma. Whilst there is an increasing focus on mental health programming for survivors of sexual violence, there remains limited data on SVRPs. 757 adult women raising children from SVRP in DRC were interviewed.

The study published in the British Medical Journal found high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (58%), depression (49%), anxiety (43%), and suicidal tendencies (34%). The study highlights that reducing community stigma of SVRP may improve mental health outcomes in this population.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Prevalence of sexual violence against children and use of social services — seven countries, 2007–2013 (June 2015)

1 in 4 girls and young women experience sexual violence, according to analysis of national household surveys of children and youth aged 13-24 years conducted by the Together for Girls partnership in Cambodia, Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The lifetime prevalence of experiencing any form of sexual violence in childhood ranged from 4.4% of women in Cambodia to 37.6% in Swaziland, but exceeded 25% in most countries (low rates of disclosure mean that prevalence levels are likely to be higher). Less than 10% of survivors of sexual violence had received any health or child protection services.

CARING FOR CHILD SURVIVOR

In a recently finalised package of Caring for Child Survivors (CCS) Training Materials (April 2015) the International Rescue Committee (IRC) provide a series of modules designed to support staff to deliver training on the content of IRC and UNICEF's 2012 CSS Guidelines for field staff working with children and families affected by sexual abuse.

The training materials include a number of tools as well as a Facilitators' Guide, and can be downloaded from the GBV Responders website.

Policy and news

The **OECD** adopted a proposal to track and measure donor flows on VAWG in May 2015. The new purpose code to track DAC donors' aid in support of ending VAWG is expected to be applied from 2017 on 2016 donor flows.

In a landmark bill, **Croatia** passed **legislation** to compensate wartime rape survivors with a one-off payment of 100,000 kuna (\$14,504) and a monthly allowance of 2,500 kuna (\$362). Survivors will also be entitled to free counselling, legal and medical aid.

Egypt's Ministry of Interior launched a **new national strategy** on combatting VAWG, which includes increased numbers of patrols, higher response rates to VAW emergency calls and the hiring of additional female physicians. This forms part of a nationwide initiative to promote women's rights, critical in light of **survey** results revealing that 99% of women have experienced some form of sexual harassment, and findings from Egypt's 2014 **Demographic and Health Survey** that 1 in 3 (30.3%) ever-married women age 15-49 have ever experienced some form of spousal violence.

In May 2015, **Nigeria's Senate** passed a **Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Bill**, which aims to prohibit female circumcision or genital mutilation, and all other forms of GBV. This follows the efforts of women's groups, practitioners and activists over the past 13 years working to end impunity and hold the government to account.

UNESCO's Executive Board and 58 countries signed up to the **'Learning Without Fear'** decision on school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) in April 2015. Signatory countries have **committed themselves** to design and implement national policies and action plans to support safe, inclusive and effective quality learning environments for all children.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a report on **conflict-related sexual violence**, which occurred across 19 countries during 2014. The report outlines a series of challenges associated with weak monitoring, support services and accountability, and puts forward recommendations for governments to support bodies such as women's organisations and human rights defenders, and progress the delivery of sector-wide services.

DFID recently launched a new guidance note, focusing on how to address **VAWG in economic development programming**, where DFID aims to make progress towards two key impacts:

1. Women and girls in employment, trade, microenterprise and market places are free from violence.
2. Women and girls' increased economic activity and empowerment helps to reduce VAWG and protect women and girls.

Based on experience and lessons drawn from the Syrian crisis, a number of key principles on how to establish safe spaces in humanitarian and post-crisis contexts are outlined in a new **guidance note** developed by **UNFPA**. Safe spaces help reduce women and girls' exposure to violence as well as providing a safe entry point for services, information exchange and a platform to develop social assets.

VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

The query service has produced short reports and expert advice to DFID staff on the following topics:

- Child sexual abuse and grooming
- Violence against LGBTI people and links with VAWG
- Advice to UN Women on indicators for the UN Trust Fund to End VAW
- Impact of 'everyday media sexism' on gender relations and cultural norms around VAWG
- National Action Plans – effectiveness and lessons learned
- Measuring donor agency spend, impact and results in work on VAWG

Want to know more about how we can help you with research or advice? Send us an email or give us a call and we can discuss your request further.

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DFID-Funded Research

COMPASS

DFID have designed a three year pilot project, *Creating Opportunities Through Mentoring, Parenting and Safe Spaces* – COMPASS, which has just completed its first year. Implemented by the International Rescue Committee, the project aims to respond to violence against adolescent girls in humanitarian settings through safe space programming, asset building, and technical capacity building of key service providers. In consultation with girls, a diverse range of safe spaces for girls have been created in Pakistan, DRC and Ethiopia. Due to the sensitive nature of the project, strong community mobilization has been a key feature; consequently, there has been very limited resistance to the project to date.

Formative research carried out by one project partner - Columbia University - yielded findings in relation to the girls' skills and vulnerabilities. Innovative research and programming tools have been created as a result and will be soon shared with the wider humanitarian sector.

FGM/C Research Programme

In March 2015, DFID launched a new five-year **FGM research programme** that will inform policy-makers and practitioners on how to design new interventions to encourage communities in Africa to end FGM. Implemented by a consortium of research and practitioner partners, led by the Population Council, the programme has three main strands:

- **Building the picture:** where, when and why is FGM/C practiced?
- **Interventions – what is working, where and why:** looking at critical elements, contextual factors, integrated/sequenced programmes, and effective programming
- **Wider impacts of FGM/C and interventions to stop the practice:** looking at the impacts of interventions on women and girls, men and boys, families, and communities

The programme also has a strong focus on measurement and how to improve approaches to measurement and data collection on FGM.

With proposed primary research in six countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan) and small-scale studies in a further two countries (Burkina Faso and Senegal), the programme will generate evidence that will help African communities to design efficient and cost effective ways to eliminate the practice.

IDS Research on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

IDS researchers, in conjunction with national partners in Egypt, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda, are examining the ways in which collective action and the involvement of men and boys may influence the prospects of effectively changing community perceptions and values regarding sexual and gender-based violence.

In Year 4 of the programme, IDS will undertake a final case study in Uganda on male survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as an activist documentary and stories of survival. These will be published towards the end of 2015.

The final year of the programme will also bring together the emerging themes generated across the six countries on working with men and boys in collective action to address sexual and gender-based violence.

Towards this end, the programme will publish policy briefs unpacking intersectionality in relation to SGBV and on collective action and the intersection of networked activism around SGBV with men, and also engaging in a series of exciting 'e-contestations' addressing the themes from the programme.

COMPASS Theory of Change image: 'Output 1: Increasing resilience through asset building activities'



DFID-Funded Research

What works to prevent VAWG? Featuring new innovation project on changing family behaviours

DFID's flagship global research programme has three components:

Component 1: What Works to Prevent Violence: A Global Programme is currently supporting 18 research projects across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. One project is the innovation project: No More Violence: A gender transformative approach to building community resilience and responses to VAWG in Tajikistan.

International Alert will work with Cesvi and three Tajik NGO partners (ATO, Farodis, WoO) to build an innovative multi-component project to reduce the prevalence of VAWG within target families in selected villages.

This project will support the establishment of family based micro enterprise/business opportunities (primarily for women) as an entry point to working with family members

(including men and boys) on a range of interventions; business/ leadership skills, legal rights around domestic violence, communication skills, gender sensitisation etc. The intended result will be improved gender attitudes and changed behaviours amongst family members that can reduce VAWG (particularly for new brides) and improve the ability of women and girls to make and act on their own decisions within families.

Component 2: What Works to Prevent VAWG in Conflict and Humanitarian Emergencies continues to work on its implementation phase, with formative research in Kenya and South Sudan.

The Consortium will launch a number of research products in the coming months, including a report on how the specific needs of women and girls were taken in to account in the immediate aftermath

of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines to feed into thinking around revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender-Based Violence (IASC GBV) guidelines.

The Consortium will also publish an evidence brief summarising recent systematic reviews on gender-based violence in conflict and humanitarian settings. This will form the basis of a searchable online database being developed by the Global Women's Institute at the George Washington University to guide effective and evidence-based prevention and response to VAWG.

Component 3: Economic and Social Costs of VAWG launched in February 2015. The component will generate knowledge and evidence on the economic and social costs of VAWG to individuals and households, businesses and communities, and governments/ states.

What Works to Prevent Violence: innovation project in Tajikistan

No More Violence: A gender-relational approach to building community resilience and responses to Violence against Women and Girls



Source: Cesvi