

# Evidence Digest

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## Latest evidence

Here is a selection of the latest evidence on violence against women and girls (VAWG):

### EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

#### Lessons from Do Kadam Programme in Bihar (March 2017)

This policy brief outlines lessons learned in implementing and evaluating DFID-funded *Do Kadam Barabari Ki Ore* (Two Steps Towards Equality). The programme comprised four interventions targeting boys and young men aged 13-21, married women aged 18-49 who were members of self-help groups and their husbands, locally elected representatives, and frontline health and community workers. The intervention partially changed attitudes around gender roles of the target groups, including their notions about men's perceived entitlement to control women and

commit violence against them. However, one of the key challenges of the programme was reaching men and boys and ensuring their regular attendance. Reaching younger women, particularly the newly married women, also proved challenging.

#### An impact evaluation of Living Peace in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (April 2017)

This qualitative, time-series evaluation assessed the impact on IPV of a pilot intervention called Living Peace. The programme targeted the husbands of women who had experienced conflict-related rape and IPV in eastern DRC.

Most male participants reported that the intervention helped them adopt more equitable, nonviolent attitudes and behaviours, and had made positive impacts in their intimate and family relationships. After their husbands participated in Living

Peace, many women reported that they felt more respected and supported, with either complete cessation or reduction in IPV incidences. The report highlights how psychosocial interventions can facilitate behavioural change and combined with educational approaches, combat IPV.

### POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS TO PREVENT VAW

#### Exploring couple's processes of change in the context of SASA!, a VAW and HIV prevention intervention in Uganda (Feb 2017)

Understanding the dynamic process that brings about the cessation of IPV is essential for understanding how interventions work (or do not) to reduce IPV. Using qualitative research methods, this study examines the processes that lead to change in relationships of couples exposed to SASA!, a multi-level community mobilisation intervention aimed at VAW and HIV.

The results reveal that focusing on relationship values such as respect, love and fairness are more effective in creating positive relationship dynamics than prescriptive measures around distribution of household tasks. The study also highlights the importance of working with men, women and couples to prevent IPV, and the need to include relationship skills building within community mobilisation interventions



Community event as part of *Do Kadam* project. Photo credit: British High Commission Delhi

# Latest evidence

## IPV AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

**Exploring opportunities for coordinated responses to IPV and child maltreatment (CM) (Feb 2017)** This scoping review identifies opportunities for greater coordination between IPV and CM programmes in LMICs. The researchers identified six studies published between 2013 and 2016 on programmes that demonstrated some form of coordinated response to IPV and CM.

The results show that the emphasis on gender and gender norms varied between programmes. Except SASA! in Uganda, all were parenting education programmes that primarily focused on improving parent-child relationships.

Some parenting programmes address gender inequity indirectly by promoting open communication and joint decision-making between caregivers, although in most cases, the caregiver participants were female. There is limited conclusive evidence and the study suggests more robust research and interventions that target fathers.

## PARENTING, IPV AND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

**Pathways between childhood trauma, IPV and harsh parenting (May 2017)** Although childhood trauma and violence against women (VAW) are global public health issues, few population-based data from LMICs exist about the links between them.

This multi-country study conducted from 2010 to 2013 across six countries in Asia and the Pacific region explores the complex and intersecting pathways that connect childhood trauma and VAW.

The results show men's experiences of childhood trauma are associated with their perpetration of all forms of IPV. Women's childhood trauma increases the risk of experiencing IPV in adulthood.

Additionally, emotional child abuse on its own was found to be associated with both perpetration and experiences of violence in later life.

The study calls for multi-level interventions that promote positive parenting, address gender inequality and challenge normalisation of violence across the life course.

## INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICE

**Barriers and facilitators to integrating health service responses to IPV (April 2017)** This systematic review synthesizes 11 studies of health-sector responses to IPV in LMICs. Factors that enable comprehensive integrated care include: availability of clear guidelines, policies, or protocols; management support; coordinated, clear and accessible on-site and off-site referral options; and adequate, trained and supportive health workers/ staff.

The study recommends inter-sectoral collaboration within and beyond the health sector, and adoption of a systems approach to achieve a comprehensive response to IPV.

## ASSET OWNERSHIP AND IPV

**Women's individual asset ownership and experience of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) (May 2017)** This study examines the often perceived protective relationship between women's asset ownership and the experience of IPV in the previous 12 months. The researchers analysed Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) data collected in 28 low- and middle-income countries from women aged 15 – 49 years.

Findings show that there was no significant relationship between asset ownership and IPV in 20 countries, while there was positive association in 5 countries and negative in 3 countries.

The study suggests that the relationship between women's asset

ownership and IPV is highly context specific, and more research is required to understand how asset ownership differs from other types of women's economic empowerment.

## LINKS WITH WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE)

**Women, work and violence study in South Asia (April 2017)**

Using mixed methodology, this DFID-funded study explores the relationship between WEE and VAWG in Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

**Key thematic findings** across the study show that women's economic engagement does not guarantee protection from violence. In fact, in all three countries, many women experienced backlash at home with increased risk of experiencing IPV. Women reported feeling physically unsafe while traveling to and from work, which had a direct impact on their productivity.

Equally, gendered harassment at work was found to be high across all job types.

Despite challenges, women reported that they feel more confident and independent as a result of earning income, which they also linked to having more decision-making power at home.

However, across all three countries, women are more likely to remain in violent relationship due to social constraints linked to shame and stigma. The study also found that engagement with women's organisations proved to be the most important factor when it comes to challenging violent behaviour.

# Policy and news

In February 2017, the **Foreign Secretary appointed Joanna Roper as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Special Envoy for Gender Equality**. The new FCO Envoy will help deliver a coherent approach to promoting gender equality at country and international level. Key focus areas will include education, equal access to economic opportunity, VAWG (including FGM and forced marriage), women in fragile environments, including conflict and post-conflict violence, and SRHR.

**A new Resource Kit on gender-based violence in global supply chains** has been developed by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization. Packed with case studies and practical strategies, this Kit is designed to help global brands, employers, trade unions and other stakeholders tackle human rights abuses in their supply chains.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April, **World Bank and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) awarded grants totalling US\$1.14 million to 10 innovative projects** from around the world to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, **the latest UN Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence** was presented to the Security Council. The report calls for member states to revise national legal and policy frameworks to ensure survivors of sexual violence are recognized as legitimate victims of conflict and terrorism, and can benefit from reparations and redress.

The Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced \$9.5 million financial support for the development of a world-first gender-sensitive and multidimensional measure of poverty, the **Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM)**. Unlike current approaches which measure poverty at the household level, the IDM is designed to assess deprivation at the individual level and includes violence as one of the 15 dimensions.

ADD International has launched a new paper on **violence against women with disabilities**, which largely remains invisible or ignored. The paper urges development agencies, governments and service providers to take into account the unique dangers and challenges faced by women with disabilities and incorporate protection measures.

ActionAid's new report **Double Jeopardy** examines the twin injustices of women's economic inequality and VAWG. Based on participatory research with women in Uganda, Cambodia, India and Brazil, the report shows how the violence faced by women and girls is linked to their economic exploitation, creating a self-reinforcing cycle.

In September 2017, the **Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum** will bring together over 450 researchers, activists, funders, policy makers, service providers, practitioners, and survivors, who are working to understand, prevent and respond to sexual and intimate partner violence, and child abuse and maltreatment.

## VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

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

- VAWG and gender in Syria
- Gendered approaches to violence against children
- Measuring violence against children – frameworks and indicators
- Sector-wide evaluations of Sexual and Gender-based Violence
- Criminalising rape and sexual assault victims
- Mini portfolio reviews of VAWG and health, and VAWG and infrastructure

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

## What Works to prevent VAWG?

Here is an update on some of the research funded under the different components of DFID's flagship [global research programme](#):

### **Component 1: What Works to Prevent Violence: A Global Programme.**

[A global comprehensive review of economic interventions to prevent intimate partner violence and HIV risk behaviours \(May 2017\)](#) This comprehensive review is based on analysis of 45 quantitative evaluations of economic interventions published between 2000 and 2015 that sought to address or prevent IPV and HIV.

Interventions that solely strengthen economic well-being, through either cash transfers or involvement in economic strengthening activities such as microfinance, showed mixed outcomes, with studies reporting increases, decreases and no impact on HIV risk behaviours and IPV. In contrast, the interventions which combined economic and gender transformative interventions showed positive or flat results, and no negative findings. The study further highlights the gap in knowledge in understanding the impacts of economic interventions on female sex workers, young women and men.

[Webinar on research to inform adaptation: An IPV case study from Rwanda \(April 2017\)](#) Taking the case study of Indashyikirwa, a programme to prevent IPV in Rwanda, Dr Erin Stern delivered a webinar on adapting programmes in new contexts, which includes identifying and addressing implementation and evaluation challenges.

Indashyikirwa is an IPV prevention programme which combines approaches from the highly effective SASA! programme in Uganda and Journeys of Transformation in Rwanda. One of the challenges faced during adaptation include developing a coherent theory of change based on learnings from multiple interventions, which required time and external support. Some of the lessons learnt include:

- Plan programme model and materials with beneficiaries in mind
- Identify key enablers/barriers to change in specific context
- Pre-test any new curriculum/programme before widespread implementation
- Allow time for adaptation (Indashyikirwa had 1 year inception phase).

### [The Stepping Stones and Creating Futures intervention to prevent IPV and HIV-risk behaviours in Durban, South Africa \(April 2017\)](#)

Studies suggest urban informal settlements have particularly high levels of IPV and HIV-prevalence and these settlements are rapidly growing. However, very few interventions have been focused on these areas. Stepping Stones and Creating Futures intervention is a participatory gender transformative and livelihoods intervention targeted at young women and men aged 18-30 living in urban informal settlements in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa. It is currently being evaluated through a cluster randomized control trial using mixed methods, and the findings are expected to shed some light on what works to prevent VAW and the processes of change in interventions.

### **Component 3: Economic and Social Costs of VAWG**

Working Papers have been produced on the Economic and Social Impact of VAWG in [Ghana](#) and [Pakistan \(March 2017\)](#): Both papers provide an introduction to the prevalence and types of VAWG, as well as action that has been taken to address violence to date. In both Ghana and Pakistan, the papers conclude there has been no systemic analysis of the impacts and associated costs of VAWG for the economy and society as a whole, and outlines scope to generate empirical evidence.

### **Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development (ICED)**

DFID's ICED facility has launched a [Briefing Paper on Violence against Women and Girls, Infrastructure and Cities](#). It aims to provide practical entry points and good practice to support DFID advisors and programme managers to integrate VAWG as an important consideration of all urban and infrastructure programming and policy dialogue.

### **DFID Aid Match Safe Cities She Can**

She Can focuses on the links between VAWG and urban public services in major cities in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Zimbabwe and Kenya. The [Mid-Term Review](#) (MTR) finds that the project has achieved most of its outcomes, mostly through training and capacity building of groups of women and girls as volunteer change agents and human rights defenders (HRD). To ensure sustainability, HRDs will require enhanced support. The MTR also notes that it is easier to bring about changes with duty bearers in some sectors (e.g. health) than in others (e.g. policing).

### **COMPASS**

# DFID-Funded Research

DFID's COMPASS (Creating Opportunities through Mentoring, Parental Involvement and Safe Spaces) programme has published the following academic article.

**Disclosure bias for group versus individual reporting of violence amongst conflict-affected adolescent girls in DRC and Ethiopia (April 2017)** This paper focuses on methodologies to measure gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts. It compares the results from individual audio computer-assisted self-administered (ACASI) survey interviews with results from participatory social mapping activities, used with the same sample in two different post-conflict contexts.

87 internally displaced adolescent girls from DRC and 78 Sudanese girls living in Ethiopian refugee camps were interviewed using two methodologies. The results show that the group-based qualitative method produced accounts of sexual violence perpetrated by strangers (e.g. from armed groups in the conflict), whereas ACASI interviews revealed violence predominantly perpetrated

by family members and intimate partners.

The study cautions that group-based methods may lead to a skewed perception that the risk of adolescent GBV from strangers is higher than IPV and family-based sexual violence, when both are of great concern.

## STRIVE

STRIVE is a DFID-funded research consortium based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In India, STRIVE is supporting the **Samata: Keeping Girls in Secondary School** project. Samata has produced several briefs to highlight lessons learned from the intervention including on:

- **Mentoring adolescent boys to reduce GBV**
- **Fostering adolescent girl leaders**
- **Schools become safer and friendlier for girls**
- **Creating village champions for girls' education**

## TACKLING IPV IN SOUTH ASIA

DFID's qualitative research programme on VAWG in South Asia has released a series of papers that address knowledge and evidence gaps around men's perpetration of IPV in **Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.**

Findings show the need to promote definitions of IPV that are culturally resonant. In South Asia, significant dimensions of IPV include dowry-related violence, acid throwing, fatwa violence and polygamy-related violence.

The study also revealed how adolescent and recently married young men exhibit deeply conservative norms, and the need to work with younger adolescents aged 10-15 to promote gender equitable attitudes that reject violence.

Institutions at all levels (macro, meso and micro) and whether formal and informal are key to preventing and responding to IPV. Governments, NGOs and donors should map and engage strategically with key institutions at different levels.

Recommended programming target groups include: men and women as couples, in-laws, community and religious leaders, media leaders, police and the health sector at different levels, and employers.

A workshop on IPV in Pakistan, as part of Research on VAWG in South Asia.

Photo credit: David Walker, ODI

