

Evidence Digest

Issue 13 October 2017

Latest evidence

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

ADOLESCENCE AND VAWG

[Impact of violence on adolescent girls' aspirations and expectations in urban Kenya](#) (July 2017).

This paper draws on cross-sectional data from 2,360 girls aged 11-15 in Nairobi. 1 in 3 girls had experienced at least one form of gender based violence (GBV). While girls who experienced violence had similar aspirations to those who had not experienced violence, their expectations of achieving those aspirations were much lower. Moreover, the more violent incidents experienced by the girls, the lower their expectations.

These findings highlight the potential longer term negative impacts of violence on adolescent girls, and the importance of considering methods for safeguarding and building hope for girls who have experienced violence.

VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

[Violence against school children perpetrated by peers in Uganda](#) (June 2017).

A study of peer-to-peer violence in 42 Ugandan primary schools found that 29% of students had experienced physical violence by their peers, and 34% had experienced emotional violence. Both forms of violence have similar and overlapping drivers, including exposure to domestic violence;

attitudes of school staff that support violence; not living with biological parents; and working for payment.

Physical violence was associated with younger age, sharing a sleeping area with an adult, and achieving a higher educational performance score. Emotional violence was more common amongst children who were female, walk to school, report a disability, and ate one meal on the previous day.

Given the links between childhood exposure to violence and the likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating violence as an adult, in addition to the risks of mental and physical health issues, programmes looking to reduce violence against children should consider the prevalence and drivers of peer-to-peer violence.

[Impact of school violence on educational outcomes in Malawi](#) (September 2017).

This Population Council brief examines the relationship between violence at school, student retention and educational outcomes, through analysing data collected from nearly 1,800 adolescent students over a 7 year period. The research finds that school violence does not disrupt schooling – with the exception of sexual violence experienced by school boys.



Building Young Futures trainee in Zambia, supported by the Zambia Child Grants Programme. Photo courtesy of UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti

Latest evidence

Violence at home is common, with domestic violence affecting boys and girls differently – girls are more likely to drop out, while boys are more likely to be absent.

Policy recommendations include ensuring that programmes take an integrated approach to tackling violence that considers both the school and home environments of students, and the broader forms of gender inequality that perpetuate violence.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

[Multi-country study in Asia and the Pacific](#) (September 2017). Researchers compared prevalence rates of past-year male-perpetrated intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner rape from women's and men's reports in Cambodia, China, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka. Analysis of the data shows that past-year IPV indicators based on women's reported experience that were developed to track SDG 5 are 'probably reasonably reliable'.

Four groups of risk factors are important drivers of IPV: (1) poverty, (2) childhood trauma, (3) quarrelling and women's limited control in relationships, and (4) partner factors (substance abuse, unemployment, and infidelity).

The authors conclude that women appear to gain resilience to violence through a combination of economic power and understanding gender empowerment / relationship skills, as well as education. This finding suggests the need to scale up violence prevention interventions that combine economic and gender empowerment, as well as the value of investing in girls' education with a view to long-term violence reduction.

ECONOMIC DRIVERS OF VAW

[Economic dependency as a risk factor for VAWG in Nepal](#) (August 2017). A qualitative study of 236 female factory workers in Kathmandu finds 22% of women experienced sexual IPV, 28% physical IPV, and 35% psychological IPV in the last 12 months. IPV is higher amongst older women, and women whose husbands consume large amounts of alcohol and have low education.

Although the women interviewed were able to earn some money of their own, they still depend on their husbands due to the low salaries. The research concluded that economic dependence is a high risk factor for IPV, suggesting the need for strategies combining livelihood and economic empowerment with behavioral and educational programmes.

MODERN SLAVERY

[Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](#) (September 2017). Modern slavery affects 40 million people: 71% are women and girls – almost 29 million people. Estimates are based on new data from ILO and the Walk Free Foundation using surveys with more than 71,000 respondents across 48 countries. Key statistics include:

- 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every thousand people globally
- 25 million people in forced labour and 15 million in forced marriage
- Women and girls represent 99% of victims of forced labour in the commercial sex industry and 58% in other sectors.

Most victims of forced labour suffered multiple forms of coercion from employers or recruiters as a way of preventing them from being able to

leave the situation: having their wages withheld or prevented from leaving by threats of non-payment of due wages (24%); threats of violence (17%), acts of physical violence (16%), threats against family (12%) and (for women) sexual violence (7%).

A separate ILO study, [Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012-2016](#), confirmed that about 152 million children, aged between 5 and 17, were subject to child labour.

POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS

[Preventing the recurrence of SGBV in post-conflict Sri Lanka in the absence of reparative justice](#) (September 2017). Reparative and transitional justice for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) crimes has received significant attention in recent years as a strategy for reducing SGBV after violent conflict. This study looks at post-conflict Sri Lanka to examine the relationship between enduring structural gender inequalities, reparative justice, and SGBV.

It shows how women from (perceived) politically contentious backgrounds such as ex-combatants and 'returnees', as well as those with increased vulnerability due to the loss of a husband or male family member, have experienced higher rates of SGBV since the civil war ended.

The paper highlights the potential benefits of applying international pressure to deliver on reparative justice and/or addressing structural gender inequalities, and suggests tying these with broader international support for economic and social reconstruction programming.

Policy and news

In September, the European Union and the United Nations jointly launched the [Spotlight Initiative](#), a global partnership to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. The EU is contributing €500 million to the effort, which will be led by three UN agencies: UNFPA, UN Women and the UN Development Programme.

The World Bank released a [report](#) by the Global Gender Based Violence Task Force in August, which makes recommendations to strengthen the Bank's capacity to identify, mitigate and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in the projects it supports.

Tunisia [passed a historic law](#) in August to end violence against women and girls. The law recognises physical as well as other forms of violence, including economic, sexual, political and psychological.

Both [Lebanon](#) and [Jordan](#) have revoked laws that protected rapists, following in the footsteps of Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia. These laws previously allowed rapists to avoid criminal prosecution if they married their victims. Such laws still exist in a handful of countries, including within the Arab world and in non-Muslim countries such as the Philippines.

In June, the Human Rights Council [adopted a resolution](#) recognising the need to address child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts. The resolution was led by The Netherlands and Sierra Leone, adopted without a vote, and co-sponsored by 85 countries. More information on what we know about child marriage in humanitarian settings can be found in a [Girls Not Brides' thematic brief](#).

In July, CEDAW [adopted General Recommendation 35](#), updating Recommendation 19 – which positions gender-based violence as a form of discrimination – and marking a 'significant step forward' in combating GBV. More information on Recommendations 19 and 35 can be found [here](#).

New guidance on [GBV research methodologies in humanitarian settings](#) have been launched by the DFID-funded Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) programme.

Equality Now has published a [report](#) criticising the gaps and flaws in global legislation around sexual violence, including the loopholes that exist for perpetrators and the burdensome prosecution processes that delay or block efforts to achieve justice.

ADD International shared key findings and recommendations on programming on [Disability and GBV](#), based on peer research involving women and girls with disabilities in Tanzania.

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 infrastructure learning session
- Gender analysis of modern slavery
- Yemen gender factsheet
- VAWG indicators
- Child safeguarding
- Gender and VAWG trends in Morocco

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.

In September 2017, What Works produced three evidence reviews, drawing upon emerging findings from the programme as well as the latest international evidence:

- [Intersections of violence against women and violence against children](#)
- [Preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities](#)
- [Relationship between poverty and intimate partner violence](#)

[Assessment of the links between faith engagement, gender norms and VAWG in conflict affected communities in DRC](#)

(September 2017). Tearfund's report explores findings from a baseline household survey with 769 people in Ituri province, DRC. The report highlights

high levels of violence (particularly sexual violence) compared to national averages, and a significant reach and prevalence of faith in these communities (96% of respondents identifying with a religion).

Faith engagement* is linked to empowering attitudes for both men and women, and reduced intimate partner violence. The findings highlight the potential role for faith-based interventions in preventing IPV.

An accompanying [policy brief](#) makes recommendations for donors and policy makers, which include recognising and prioritising IPV and other forms of violence rather than solely 'rape as a weapon of war'; engaging with and supporting the inclusion of faith leaders in VAWG work; and encouraging partnerships between faith, non-faith, government and research actors.

[Baseline findings on youth attitudes towards gender roles and VAWG in Pakistan](#)

(July 2017). This report analyses findings from a randomised control trial involving 1,752 boys and girls in Hyderabad to

assess their views on gender roles and VAWG. The results highlighted how boys were more likely to hold patriarchal gender attitudes than girls, and how such views were positively associated with both the perpetration and experience of violence. The report's findings highlight the need for school-based interventions focused on changing gender attitudes and norms as a means of tackling patriarchal views in both school and home environments.

Component 3: Economic and Social Costs of VAWG

[Macroeconomic losses due to VAW in Vietnam](#)

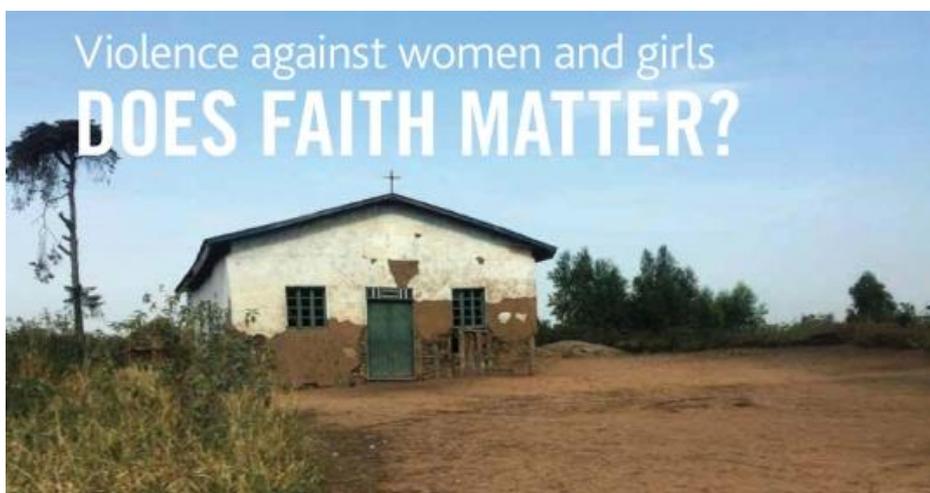
(July 2017). Using Vietnam's 2011 social accounting matrix, researchers estimate that macroeconomic losses due to VAW are equal to almost 1% of GDP in Vietnam, with 39% of women surveyed reporting having experienced violence in the previous 12 months.

Loss of income due to VAW is spread across urban and rural areas and is at its greatest for sectors that have high linkages with the rest of the economy, such as agriculture, wholesale and retail.

Losses from VAW pose a threat to economic efficiency. Investing in the provision of support to survivors, prosecution and prevention is therefore potentially a cost-saving strategy. A summary of the report findings can be found [here](#).

* Faith engagement = those who actively take part in services (i.e. not just attend) along with the small number who are in decision-making or leadership positions

Photo: Maggie Sandilands,(Tearfund)



DFID-Funded Research

Urban Crises Programme

The Institute of Development Studies has produced a [policy brief](#) on VAWG in Gaza as part of the Urban Crises Learning Fund (under the [Urban Crises Programme](#)) (June 2017).

The report focuses on the link between political violence and VAWG, drawing on existing literature, Palestinian Census data, qualitative data gathered through fieldwork, and two workshops held with service providers in Gaza.

The research discusses how women and girls' vulnerability to violence differs from men and boys, and how nearly 40% of women aged 17 or older experienced at least one incident of psychological, physical, economic, social or sexual domestic violence over a year-long period. The research found psychological violence to be the most prevalent form of violence.

Image from the SWiFT project in Nepal, courtesy of Joelle Mak, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Women living in houses directly exposed to political violence stemming from Israeli occupation were more likely to experience intimate partner violence than those not directly exposed.

Policy recommendations include filling existing knowledge gaps on the links between VAWG and political violence; enabling and working with local actors; and making normal services 'emergency ready' and able to respond rapidly in the event of political flare-ups.

COMPASS

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

[How narratives of fear shape girls' participation in community life in two-conflict-affected populations](#)

(June 2017) highlights challenges around caregiver-child communication regarding sex and sexual violence; different typology of safe and risky spaces; and the influence of male-dominated spaces on experiences and fear of GBV.

[Prevalence and associated risk factors of violence against conflict affected female adolescents](#)

(June 2017) showed how 52% of girls experienced at least one form of violence in the previous 12 months. Having had a boyfriend and fewer years of education were both strong predictors of violence.

The research highlighted the need for programming targeting younger populations, and to recognise the specific drivers of different forms of violence. It also emphasised the need for increased recognition of intimate partners and caregivers and perpetrators of violence in conflict-affected settings.

Women in Freedom

The DFID-funded, ILO-led Women in Freedom project (WiF) aims to prevent labour trafficking by enhancing women's autonomy and generating awareness of safe migration practices and migrant rights.

DFID's South Asia Women in Freedom Transnational Evaluation (SWiFT) programme has published [evaluations](#) of WiF's community-based interventions in [Bangladesh](#), [India](#) and [Nepal](#).

Research methods included a combination of longitudinal and qualitative interviews with migrants, programme staff and policy makers; discourse analysis; and sample surveys of households, and actual and potential migrants.

The findings assess the drivers of migration with a specific focus on female migration, the plans of prospective migrants, and the experiences of existing migrants; and makes practical and policy recommendations for safeguarding migrants' security and rights.