

Evidence Digest

Issue 16 July 2018

Latest evidence

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

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

[Risk and Protective Factors for Intimate Partner Violence \(IPV\): A Systematic Review \(July 2018\)](#)

Designing effective prevention strategies requires an understanding of conditions that will increase the risk of IPV (risk factors) or decrease the risk (protective factors).

This systematic review identified 60 high-quality studies, most of which were based in the United States and focused on risk factors related to women, as opposed to their partners.

The strongest evidence for modifiable risk factors for IPV

against women were unplanned pregnancy and having parents with less than a high-school education. Young, unmarried women are at highest risk.

Education and sexual health interventions may be useful for preventing IPV against women. The review recommends conducting more longitudinal studies from outside the United States on the associations between IPV against women and any community or structural factor.

[An Assessment of the Impact of a 20-month Intervention on Spousal Violence against Women and Girls in Slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh \(June 2018\)](#)

Bangladesh experiences very high rates of IPV. Over half (54%) of ever-married women reported lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV perpetrated by their

husbands. This paper assesses the impact of the 'Growing Up Safe and Healthy' (SAFE) intervention on IPV.

Core activities include interactive sessions with single-sex male and female groups, community campaigns, and health and legal services through one-stop service centres (OSCs).

The evaluation used a randomised controlled trial (RCT), with three arms:

- (1) gender segregated sessions with female and male participants
- (2) group sessions with only female participants
- (3) no group sessions

All three arms had community campaigns and OSC services.

Photo credit: SAFE



Latest evidence

Analyses showed no effect of SAFE on IPV against women aged 15–29. However, there was a 21% risk reduction of physical IPV against adolescent girls aged 15–19 in the female / male group intervention arm.

The findings emphasise the importance of combining male and female interventions (in gender-segregated groups) to reduce IPV against adolescent girls.

[The Relationship between Parent Mental Health and IPV on Adolescent Behaviour, Stigma and School Attendance in rural Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\) \(May 2018\)](#) Parent mental health and IPV can have a negative impact on the well-being of young adolescents aged 10-15, according to a study of two livestock / animal microfinance initiatives that engage both adolescents (Rabbits for Resilience) and their parents (Pigs for Peace) in rural DRC.

Researchers find that the impact is different for boys and girls, probably linked to gender roles and responsibilities in the home and community.

Girls are more vulnerable than boys to the range of negative outcomes (e.g. stigma, poor health, and missed school days) associated with parents' poor mental health.

However, adolescent boys whose parents perpetrate or experience IPV are more likely to display negative behaviours (e.g. fighting, using bad language, being disrespectful) at the 8-month follow-up assessment.

Interventions that engage parents and their children in activities that advance health and improve relationships within the family are recommended.

HARMFUL GENDER NORMS

[Community Mobilisation to Modify Harmful Gender Norms and Reduce HIV Risk: Results from a Community Cluster Randomized Trial \(July 2018\)](#) This two-year community mobilisation (CM) intervention aimed to change gender norms in rural Mpumalanga province, South Africa, and is based on Sonke Gender Justice's 'One Man Can' Campaign.

Twenty two villages in South Africa were randomised to the CM intervention or no intervention. A survey was conducted pre- (2012) and post (2014) intervention with adults aged 18 to 35 years, using the Gender Equitable Mens Scale (GEMS) to assess the intervention's impact on gender norms.

Among men, there was a significant 2.7 point increase in the GEMS scores between those in intervention compared to control communities, but no significant difference in GEMS scores for women.

The intervention was originally designed to be used primarily with men with a key focus on addressing men's gender norms. The study team and programme implementers adapted the intervention and manuals for use with women; however, men had higher exposure to the intervention and researchers concluded that it may be that types of activities and/or content remained better suited to men.

In intervention communities, there were no significant differences in perpetration of IPV compared to control communities.

The researchers concluded that either more time may be necessary to change behaviour or the intervention may need to address behaviours more directly.

[The Links between Masculine Norms and Men's Likelihood to Perpetrate or Experience Violence \(May 2018\)](#) This new Promundo report explores the links between harmful masculine norms and eight forms of violent behaviour – IPV, physical violence against children, child sexual abuse and exploitation, bullying, homicide and other violent crime, non-partner sexual violence, suicide, and conflict and war.

The report argues that masculine norms shape the likelihood of men and boys experiencing or perpetrating violence in five key ways: (1) achieving socially recognised manhood, (2) policing masculine performance, (3) "gendering" the heart, (4) dividing spaces and cultures by gender, and (5) reinforcing patriarchal power.

Recommendations include funding and scaling up of pioneering violence-prevention approaches that directly address gender, including masculine norms, and power.

COSTS

[Counting the Cost: The Price Society Pays for Violence against Women \(March 2018\)](#) Violence against women costs society upwards of 2% of global GDP, according to a new report by CARE International.

Survivors bear the highest costs - as much as six times the cost to the state. Governments pay the bulk of the service provision costs and the private sector bears significant costs in terms of lost productivity. Losses from stress and sexual harassment in the workplace are estimated at 1% to 3.5% of GDP over a range of countries.

Policy and news

This year's International Labour Conference (ILC) had a specific focus on violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work. In June, international organisations, trade unions, and other labour representatives called for a global standard to end violence and sexual harassment in the workplace. A [summary of the ILC 2018 proceedings on violence and harassment in the workplace](#) is available here with discussions continuing during the ILC 2020

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has published the new [IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action](#). The handbook includes a protection chapter focused on: ensuring the right to a life free from violence and abuse; access to documentation and registration; access to justice and accountability; security from protection threats; and counteracting harmful cultural practices and social stigma.

With the support of the UK Government, the UN Department of Field Support has developed a new [SEA risk management toolkit](#) that provides peace operations with a systematic approach to identifying, assessing, treating and monitoring risks relating to sexual exploitation and abuse by UN Personnel. The toolkit is currently being piloted in the field.

The IRC has launched a [GBV Pocket Guide](#) resource for use on iTunes and Google Play, with step-by-step guidance and tools to humanitarian practitioners across all sectors on how to support survivors of GBV when there are no GBV services, referral pathways or focal points in your area.

The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) has released new [GBVIMS podcasts](#) to help humanitarian actors respond to incidents of GBV, including recent podcasts on 'How can we make sure our programming is evidence based?' and 'How can we use technology with women and girls in humanitarian settings?'

A new [toolkit on cash transfers and GBV](#) aims to help cash and GBV practitioners in humanitarian and conflict settings. Produced by the Women's Refugee Commission, Mercy Corps and the International Rescue Committee, the toolkit is based on learning from three pilot settings in Jordan, Somalia and Niger and comes with an accompanying video on the roles and responsibilities of cash and GBV actors in mainstreaming GBV considerations in cash based interventions, and utilizing cash within GBV response.

The International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) has developed a framework for understanding [technology-facilitated GBV](#), including stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech and exploitation.

The [2018 Trafficking in Persons report](#) is now available, with country-specific narratives for 187 countries and territories on the three Ps of prosecuting traffickers, protecting and empowering victims, and preventing future trafficking crimes.

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:

- Child safeguarding
- Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting and social norms
- Measuring social norms
- Gender factsheets for Jordan, Iraq and Iraq Kurdistan
- Analysis of safeguarding standards
- Strategic communication advice on VAWG
- Engaging survivors of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

Want to know more about how we can help you with research or advice?

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DFID-Funded Research

What Works to prevent VAWG?

Here is an update on some of the research funded under component 1 of DFID's flagship [global research programme](#):

[What Works to Prevent Violence against Children in Afghanistan](#)

(June 2018) This brief shares the latest findings from an evaluation of a school-based peace education and community social norms intervention, implemented by Help the Afghan Children (HTAC).

The evaluation found up to 50% reductions in children's experiences of violence at school, with significant reductions in peer violence and corporal punishment by teachers.

At the household level, there were significant reductions in children's experience of physical punishment at home. Girls reported observing significantly less household violence, including their fathers fighting with other men or their mothers being beaten or abused.

Girls' school attendance improved, partly as a result of reduced peer violence.

The findings indicate that school-based peace education, coupled with activities aimed at changing community social norms, can lead to a reduction in various forms of violence.

[Disability and VAWG Briefing Note](#)

(July 2018) New evidence from the What Works programme finds that women with disabilities are at a two to four times higher risk of IPV than women without disabilities.

Among women under 40 years, 62% of women with disabilities had experienced physical or sexual IPV in the past year compared to 35% of women without disabilities. Among women aged 40 and older, 32% of women with disabilities compared with 18% of women without disabilities had experienced physical or sexual IPV.

Disability also increases women's risk of non-partner sexual violence. The risk of both IPV and non-partner sexual violence increases with the severity of disability.

For example, in the Stepping Stones Creating Futures project in South

Africa, 43% of young women with moderate to severe impairments reported sexual violence from a man other than an intimate partner over the past 12 months, compared to 36% of women with mild impairments, and 26% of women without impairment.

In-depth interviews revealed that women with disabilities experience high levels of stigma which reduces their ability to seek help.

This brief and a [video on disability and VAWG](#) was shared at the recent Global Disability Summit in London.

[Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence \(GAGE\) Programme Adolescents with Disabilities](#)

(July 2018) Based on interviews with 600 adolescent girls and boys with disabilities in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Jordan and the State of Palestine, this report highlights that adolescent with disabilities are 3-4 times more likely to experience physical, sexual and emotional violence than their peers.

The report also highlights intersecting disadvantages - girls are highly vulnerable to sexual violence, particularly adolescent girls with intellectual impairments or living in conflict-affected areas.

Adolescents should receive an integrated-package of disability-tailored support, due to difficulties reporting abuse, receiving support services, and accessing justice.

Girls participate in a school-based peace education lesson

Photo credit: Wahid Siddiq, HTAC

