

Evidence Digest

Issue 03 September 2014

Latest evidence

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

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Statistical analysis of violence

against children (September 2014) 1 in 10 girls face serious sexual violence, according to UNICEF's groundbreaking statistical report on the different forms of violence against children. It includes global figures and data from 190 countries. The report found that 120 million girls under 20 years had endured rape or other forced sexual acts, with figures as high as 70% in DRC and Equatorial Guinea. The report also includes new data on physical violence, violent discipline and homicide.

VAWG AND TECHNOLOGY

Tackling Gender Based Violence (GBV) with technology

(2014) Case studies based on literature reviews and interviews. Examples include: providing advice and support to women and children survivors of violence in occupied Palestine, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone; holding governments accountable for GBV in Cambodia and the Republic of Congo; challenging sexual harassment in Egypt and India; and building technology solutions to address the challenge of domestic violence in Central America and Nepal.

TACKLING HIV AND VAWG

The impact of SASA! in Kampala, Uganda

(July 2014) A recent evaluation of a community mobilisation intervention to prevent violence against women and reduce HIV risk in Kampala found the intervention reduced the social acceptability of intimate partner violence (IPV) among men and women, the past year prevalence of physical and sexual IPV (among women) and levels of sexual concurrency (for men). For example, a 52% lower past year experience of physical IPV among women. SASA! is now being delivered in control communities and replicated in 15 countries. The evaluation used a pair-matched cluster randomized controlled trial in eight communities in Kampala.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE CHURCH

Baseline research into domestic violence in evangelical churches in Peru

(June 2014) Research by Paz Y Esperanza in conjunction with Restored (using surveys, focus groups and in-depth interviews) finds, when comparing the general population with evangelical couples, that there is less likelihood of physical and sexual violence but there is a higher likelihood of psychological violence. Similar research is being conducted in Bolivia, Argentina and Ecuador to support an improved response by the church to IPV.

VAWG IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS

Using programme data on violence against women and girls in the DRC to influence policy and practice

(August 2014) This analysis of VAWG service data highlights how information can be interpreted as well as misinterpreted. The IRC collects VAWG data as part of the services provided to up to 3,000 VAWG survivors per year in the DRC. Programming data can give contextual nuances and be combined with other data to complete the picture of what is really happening. Interventions that address other types of VAWG besides sexual violence are important.

Women's perceptions of effects of war on IPV and gender roles in two post-conflict West African Countries

(August 2014) Study conducted in Sierra Leone and Liberia using FGDs and individual interviews. IPV is a significant problem in both countries. The causes of IPV are linked with other difficulties women face, including financial dependence and social changes due to conflict. Conflict increased the use of violence by some men but also led to women's greater economic activity and may have decreased IPV due to less pressure on men to provide for families. Economic independence and services provided by NGOs, also gave women the option to leave a violent relationship.

Latest evidence

THE GIRL SUMMIT

UNICEF and the UK Government hosted an [event](#) in London, July 2014 to mobilize efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (EFM), both domestically and internationally.

Here is a selection of policy briefs and recommendations released in response to the event:

- [Girls Summit charter on ending FGM and EFM](#)
- ['Youth for Change survey report'](#), UK government and Plan UK
- ['Girl summit: policy briefing'](#), IRC
- ['Recommendation paper'](#) and ['Theory of Change'](#), Girls Not Brides UK
- ['Briefing on the Girl Summit'](#), GADN
- ['Unhappily ever after: slow and uneven progress in the fight against early marriage'](#). Policy brief from ODI
- ['Child marriage and FGM: evidence from Ethiopia'](#), Young Lives Policy Brief
- ['Too young to wed: the growing problem of child marriage among Syrian girls in Jordan'](#), Save the Children
- 'Developing Research Priorities on Ending Child Marriage and Supporting Married Girls', WHO meeting report - not online

EVIDENCE ON FGM AND EFM:

[Lessons from the World Bank gender impact evaluations on preventing child marriage](#)

(August 2014) This brief draws on results from seven impact evaluations (IEs) supported by the World Bank Group. Families make decisions about their daughters' marriages within the context of social norms, financial constraints, and labour market factors. Effective responses address multiple social and economic drivers.

It is critical to provide individual and family-level resources within interventions. More rigorous and long-term IEs are needed to better understand effective intervention components and mechanisms.

[Exploring the links between FGM and early marriage](#)

(May 2014) World Vision draw on their programme data, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews for this research. FGM and early marriage share many root causes and social drivers. They are often linked where both are practised, though the dynamics of this relationship can vary and they are used as a means to preserve sexual 'purity' and to foster 'desirable' characteristics in girls. Communities may reject FGM whilst retaining support for early marriage and vice-versa. Programmes should tackle harmful traditional practices in an integrated way where both are practised.

Fourteen-year-old Ami will not undergo FGM as her community in Burkina Faso has recently abandoned the practice. Picture: Jessica Lea/DFID



Taking action to end Child marriage in Amhara, Ethiopia

(July 2014) findings from a Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation and Research (PEER) study supported by FORWARD and ProFutures Development Initiative. Most girls are removed from school due to entrenched social norms undervaluing girls' education. Most commonly married at 12 and 15, girls are expected to enter a sexual relationship as soon as they are married. Most are excluded from decisions about their marriage. (Not online)

The **UNICEF website** provides links to the [latest data on FGM/C](#), including FGM/C Country Statistical Profiles (added July 2014). The profiles give data for 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East: how widespread the practice of FGM/C is; when and how it is performed; and what women and men think about the practice. Trends in prevalence and attitudes are also presented.

Policy and news

At the **Girl Summit** in July 2014, the UK Government announced **major steps to tackle EFM and FGM in the UK and globally**, including:

- A £1.4 million FGM Prevention Programme, launched in partnership with NHS England to help care for survivors and safeguard those at risk
- £31 million for Global Girls Research Initiative
- Legislation to eradicate FGM
- New programmes to prevent child and forced marriage in 12 developing countries
- An international charter calling for the eradication of these practices within a generation.

The 2011 **Istanbul Convention** on **combatting violence against women, from marital rape to female genital mutilation**, came into force in a dozen European states this July. It had to be ratified by a minimum of ten Council of Europe member states to come into force, a milestone met in April with the addition of Andorra.

The World Bank Group and the Government of Rwanda signed a financial agreement of US\$15 million to provide community and health services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by expanding the Isange One Stop Centers while promoting gender equality, behavioral change and violence prevention in Rwanda. The money is part of a US\$107 million regional project, the **Great Lakes Emergency SGBV and Women's Health Project**, approved on June 26th for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda as well as the International Conference to the Great Lakes Region, to help survivors of gender based violence.

A recent short report prepared for DFID by the VAWG Helpdesk estimates that **approximately 1,500 women and girls have been kidnapped and are being held against their will by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters**. The report draws on first-hand accounts, experts' analysis and media reports. It notes that both Iraqi civil society actors, and the local government have experience, capacity and some structures in place to deal with SGBV that can be built on, but there needs to be greater coordination.

Image from: *Supporting Women Survivors of Violence in Africa's Great Lakes' Region* [video](#)



VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

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

- Trafficking of girls and women in humanitarian contexts
- Global datasets on women and girls' empowerment, VAWG and conflict
- Training resources on UNSCR 1325
- Links between gender mainstreaming and GBV programming in humanitarian settings
- Sexual and gender based violence perpetrated by ISIL in Iraq
- VAWG in Egypt

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 (Component 2)
South Sudan team
planning GBV research*

What Works to Prevent Violence?

DFID's flagship global research programme has launched three components:

Component 1: What Works to Prevent Violence: A Global Programme is now in its full implementation phase (see [video](#) and [five evidence briefs](#) from the Inception phase). Since April 2014, this component has been undertaking a comprehensive process to make 10-14 innovation grants to support national organisations or international non-profit organisations working in DFID priority countries to fund innovative approaches to preventing violence. The programme was very excited to receive a total of 333 full applications covering *all* of the DFID-priority countries. Through a highly competitive process, 30 applicants have been shortlisted and 10-14 final grants will be awarded by the end of 2014. The programme is also in the process of identifying up to 15 highly promising

interventions across Africa, Asia and the Middle East for impact evaluations or operations research to be conducted by the consortium.

The programme has been undertaking a number of key research-to-policy activities. A research uptake stakeholder survey was conducted with approximately 300 practitioners, policy makers, researchers and activists globally to learn how best to communicate findings of the What Works programme to key stakeholders. On 24th September the programme also launched a new learning event series, designed to provide programmatic staff and policymakers with the information needed to help set priority areas, develop projects that work, and advance the global agenda to prevent violence against women and girls. The first event was held at the DFID London office on 24th September and additional seminars will be held every 2 months and made globally accessible as a webinar series.

Component 2: What Works to Prevent VAWG in Conflict and Humanitarian Emergencies During the inception phase, feasibility assessment teams travelled to Kenya and South Sudan in July and August to meet with local partners and speak to women and girls about the difficulties they face. Study design protocols are now being finalised by the consortium for DFID review at the end of October 2014.

As part of this project, five research studies will take place in South Sudan, Kenya, the Philippines, Nepal, Yemen, and the DRC. One study will examine the prevalence, risk factors and drivers of violence and the social and structural factors that sustain this violence; three studies will evaluate effective, cost efficient and sustainable interventions that mitigate, reduce and prevent violence against women in conflict and natural disasters, and a comparative study will explore the intersection of violence against women and girls and state and peace-building processes.

Component 3: Social and Economic Costs of VAWG has recently been awarded to a consortium led by National University of Ireland, Galway in partnership with Ipsos MORI and the International Center for Research on Women. The focus of the component will be on establishing social and economic costs of violence against women and girls in both conflict and non-conflict contexts, including estimation of macro level direct tangible and intangible costs.