

Evidence Digest

Issue 01 April 2014

Latest evidence

DATA ON VIOLENCE

Results of a survey on violence against women in the EU

(March 2014) A third (33%) of women in Europe have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. One in 10 women has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 15, and one in 20 (5%) has been raped. The survey, based on interviews with 42,000 women across 28 EU member states, found that Denmark has the highest rates (52%), followed not far behind by the UK in 5th place (44%).

Worldwide prevalence of non-partner sexual violence

(Feb 2014) 7.2% of women aged 15 years or over worldwide had experienced non-partner sexual

violence in 2010, according to the findings of a systematic review in the Lancet (over 7,000 studies were identified, from which the researchers obtained 412 estimates covering 56 countries). The highest estimates were in central sub-Saharan Africa (21%) and southern sub-Saharan Africa (17%). The lowest prevalence was for south Asia (3.3%). However, the researchers caution that large variations between settings may be due to differences in data availability and levels of disclosure.

Research examining reporting of GBV in developing countries

(Jul 2013) Analysis of DHS data from 24 countries in 2004-2011 showed that 40% of women experiencing GBV previously disclosed this to

someone. However, only 7% reported GBV to a formal source (with regional variation), suggesting that estimates of GBV prevalence based on health systems data or on police reports may vastly underestimate the total prevalence of GBV.

Women's autonomy and experience of physical violence within marriage in rural India

(Oct 2013) Using DHS and other survey data from 4,904 rural Indian women, researchers found that in the more gender-equitable settings of south India, financial autonomy reduced the risk of marital violence. However in the more gender-stratified settings of north India, none of the dimensions of autonomy studied had a protective effect on women's risk of marital violence.



CONFLICT AND EMERGENCIES

Sexual violence is the biggest fear for women and girls in the Central African Republic (March 2013) In only 3 months, IRC Women's Centres in CAR's capital, Bangui, have seen 238 women and girls reporting extreme levels of violence and abuse. 82% of women and girls report experiencing rape, with 73% reporting gang rape. A recent IRC report found women and girls were particularly fearful of rape by armed men in some displacement sites, as well as feeling threatened by the general violence and rising levels of domestic violence. Please contact [Diana Trimino](#) at IRC for findings from a recent IRC emergency assessment.

Exploration of youth-led activism against sexual violence in Egypt (Jan 2014) This paper by Mariz Tadros at IDS examines the emergence of informal youth-led activism aimed at addressing sexual violence in Egypt's public spaces. It highlights effective initiatives and recommends that donor policies promote collective action across the initiatives.

Gender-based violence in emergencies (Feb 2014) This special edition of ODI's Humanitarian Exchange focuses on GBV in humanitarian crises. It includes articles on good practice in GBV programming, and case studies from Darfur, DRC and West Africa, amongst others.

Overview of how the Syrian conflict is impacting women and girls (March 2014) 75% of survey respondents in an inter-agency safety audit in Za'atari, the second largest refugee camp in the world, perceive their environment to be unsafe. 59% reported a lack of privacy for women and girls,

placing them at risk of sexual abuse. The IRC will expand on these findings in a new report to be released in June 2014 and make recommendations on how the humanitarian aid community can confront the particular obstacles facing women and girls.

Overview of implications of explosive weapons for women (March 2014) In Iraq, while gunfire killed the greatest number of people overall, only 9% of those killed by guns were female, as compared to 34% of those killed by explosive ordinance. So far, there has been little disaggregated data recorded on the gendered dimensions and effects of explosive weapons yet they have a unique impact on women. This WIPLF report highlights the importance of a strengthened gender perspective in disarmament and arms control.

FGM and HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES
FGM and asylum in the EU: 'Too much pain' (March 2014) Over 25,000 women and girls sought asylum in the EU from FGM-practicing countries in 2013 - a number that has steadily increased since 2008. This UNHCR statistical update notes that EU member states need to address the specific needs of refugee girls and women integrating into their countries.

ENGAGING MEN
Transforming gender biases to reduce violence against women (January 2014) This evaluation of an IRC programme designed to work with men to transform beliefs and attitudes about gender in Cote d'Ivoire showed that the programme contributed to a reduction in intimate partner violence in Cote d'Ivoire.

EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE

Review of child marriage in Malawi (March 2014) One out of every two girls in Malawi will be married before age 18. In interviews and focus groups with 80 girls and young women, Human Rights Watch researchers found that girls were verbally abused or physically assaulted by their husbands and in-laws, as well as cases in which child marriage exposed girls to sexual violence. The report calls on donors to work with the government to develop a comprehensive national strategy for combating child marriage and support programming.

Examination of laws to end child, early and forced marriage (Jan 2014) This Equality Now report looks at the legal position of child marriage in 18 countries. About half the countries surveyed have criminal penalties for breach of child marriage laws. However, there were few instances of prosecution. Once married, the report finds that a girl is trapped in a system where she is at risk of further violence and discrimination.

ECONOMIC COSTS OF VIOLENCE

The economic costs of IPV (2013) This paper commissioned by the World Bank provides a conceptual mapping of the links between IPV and economic growth. It also includes a review of costing methodologies and an identification of types of costs that potentially can be estimated given different degrees of data availability. Data from nine countries indicates that costs of IPV are between 1-2% of GDP. This amount nearly equals the governments' spending on primary education. It concludes that committed action is needed to integrate consideration of VAWG into development plans.

Policy and news

The World Bank recent [Strategic Review of S/GBV](#) takes stock of the experience of the World Bank in addressing SGBV from 2008 to 2013, in order to capture lessons for engaging more strategically on this issue across the Bank portfolio.

The World Bank is teaming up with the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) to launch a series of impact evaluations in several key areas of peace- and state-building, including gender-based violence. In January 2013, the World Bank Group's **South Asia Region** launched a multi-faceted programme to address VAW in its operations, analytics and collaborative work to address gender-based violence (see [latest World Bank newsletter](#)).

The President of **World Bank Group** [states that domestic violence](#) is one of three blind spots for achieving gender equality.

The **Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics**, coordinator of the UN mandated Global Gender Statistics Programme, recently identified a minimum set of [gender indicators](#), composed of 52 quantitative indicators and 11 qualitative indicators covering national norms and laws on gender equality – 5 of which are VAWG-related.

Agreed CSW conclusions (relevant to VAWG) from the [58th Commission on the Status of Women](#):

- Reaffirms commitment to the full and effective implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration on the Elimination of VAW.
- Recognises that VAW impedes social and economic development, as well as the achievement of the MDGs.
- Commits member states to eliminating all forms of VAWG in public and private spaces, through multi-sectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to VAWG.



VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

The VAWG helpdesk is a research and advice service for DFID and other staff. Over the last few months, we have been responding to requests from country offices for short-term country assignments to Afghanistan, DRC, Rwanda, Ghana and Zimbabwe.

The query service has produced a number of reports:

- Indicators on VAWG and early and forced marriage
- MENA gender factsheets
- Using social transfers to prevent VAWG
- Access to family planning / sexual health services in environments with strong socio-cultural and religious norms
- Links between VAWG, child and early forced marriage and FGM/C

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.

VAWG Contact

T: +44 (0)207 6542019

E: enquiries@VAWGHelpdesk.org.uk

Contributors

Authors: Erika Fraser, Emma Bell and Victoria Schauerhammer (SDDirect); Photos: Jane Hahn/ActionAid (p. 1 and p. 4 - Northern Ghana); Lyndsay McLean Hilker (p.3 - Women in Madhya Pradesh map safety in their community)

* We welcome feedback on the Digest and suggestions for items to include - <mailto:enquiries@VAWGHelpdesk.org.uk>

DFID-Funded Research



Review of evaluation approaches and methods for interventions related to VAWG. In 2013, DFID commissioned a review to generate an understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and appropriateness of evaluation approaches and methods in the field of development and humanitarian interventions on VAWG. The review is being conducted by Michaela Raab and Wolfgang Stuppert. The final report is planned for June 2014. The [inception report](#) circulated in March.

What Works To Prevent Violence is a global programme led by the Medical Research Council of South Africa. The programme will be making grants to support 10-14 national organisations or INGOs working in DFID priority countries to fund innovative approaches to preventing violence or meeting the needs of survivors. [Contact email](#)

STRIVE is a research consortium investigating the social norms and inequalities that drive HIV and their latest Digest Issue No. 22 (April 2014) has the latest news and resources on relevant themes, including information on and links to:

- UK commitment to end sexual violence in conflict
- UNAIDS recommendation to 'Unite against violence and HIV'
- Raising Voices' platform for learning and action to prevent violence in personal relationships.
- SASA! video 'Prevent violence against women now.'

IDS research on the shifting roles of men in movements to address SGBV As part of the DFID-funded Accountable grant on GBV, IDS researchers 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 GBV. Working in conjunction with national partners in Egypt, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda, IDS is mapping and documenting successful interventions and approaches. The study aims to help improve information access and inform strategies of relevant actors addressing this issue.

Stakeholder mapping workshops and collective action databases and case studies have been completed and published in Egypt and Kenya, and will be carried out in India, Sierra Leone and South Africa in Year 3 and in Uganda in Year 4.

For more information on the findings of IDS' accountable grant on GBV, please contact [Deepta Chopra](#).