

Evidence Digest

Issue 05 March 2015

Latest evidence

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

SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SRGBV)

Are schools safe and equal spaces for girls and boys in Asia? (March 2015) 7 out of 10 children in Asia have experienced some form of violence in or on the way to school, according to recent research by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and Plan Asia. The report includes data on SRGBV collected from more than 9,000 children, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders in Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The research found that students' inequitable gender attitudes are a main driver of SRGBV, with low bystander intervention and little reporting of violence.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

IPV in humanitarian settings (Jan 2015) A new study (with [policy brief](#)) *Private Violence, Public Concern*, led by the International Rescue Committee has found that women's vulnerability to IPV in humanitarian settings is exacerbated by rapidly changing gender roles triggered by displacement combined with the breakdown of community structures. The qualitative research took place in three displaced communities in Domiz camp in Iraq, Dadaab camp in Kenya, and Ajuong Thok settlement in South Sudan. Programmatic recommendations include:

- directly engage women and girls
- coordinate the IPV response;
- provide safety options for protection from IPV;
- consider family-level intervention models;
- combine economic and social programmes; and
- influence social norms.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Global status report on violence prevention (Dec 2014) Only a third

of countries are implementing large-scale initiatives to prevent violence, according to a recent UN report. The report is the first of its kind to assess national efforts to address interpersonal violence, including intimate partner and sexual violence, and child maltreatment. Just over half the 133 countries surveyed are fully enforcing a set of 12 laws aimed at preventing violence (although 80% of countries have enacted them). Only half of countries have services in place to protect and support victims. The report calls for a scaling up of violence prevention programmes in all countries, including: stronger legislation and enforcement of laws; strengthened justice and security institutions; enhanced services for victims of violence; and better and more effective use of data.



Photo: IRC (2015)

Latest evidence

VAW PROGRAMMING

Review of Australian aid initiatives in the Pacific aimed at ending VAW (March 2015) Pacific island countries have some of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. In Fiji and Vanuatu, 60–66% of women have been abused by a husband or partner. ICRW recently released findings from a qualitative review of four VAW initiatives in Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. It found promising results, such as a Male Advocacy Program in Fiji prompting significant individual and intra-personal changes among participating men. The review recommended further work on: preventing violence; increasing women's access to support services; increasing women's access to justice; and strengthening the enabling environment.

PERPETRATION OF VIOLENCE

Risk factors for men's lifetime perpetration of physical violence against intimate partners (March 2015) 1 in 3 men (31%) reported having perpetrated physical violence against a partner in their lifetime in a multi-country study of men's perpetration of IPV. 7,806 men were surveyed as part of the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) in eight countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), India, Mexico, and Rwanda. The strongest risk factor for male perpetration of physical IPV was **witnessing parental violence** – suggesting the need to focus on the inter-generational transmission of violence. Other risk factors highlighted in the study include: being involved in fights not specifically with an intimate partner; permissive attitudes towards VAW, having inequitable gender attitudes, and older age.

VAWG IN CITIES

Baseline data on women's experience of violence in seven countries (March 2015) ActionAid undertook baseline research on VAWG with over 3,000 women and girls in urban areas in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Liberia, Nepal, South Africa and Zimbabwe to inform the Safe Cities programme. While cities were seen as a place of choice and empowerment, women and girls also spoke of the normalisation of violence and the extent to which they are blamed. The research also reveals how access to work, education and leisure, and participation in local decision-making is undermined by harassment, violence, fear of violence, and stereotypical, negative perceptions about women and their place in society.

VAW IN MYANMAR (BURMA)

Breaking the silence: VAW and resilience in Myanmar (Oct 2014) More than half of women have experienced intimate partner sexual violence, or marital rape, according to one of the first studies of VAW in Myanmar. Marital rape is not a crime in Myanmar and it is

hoped this the qualitative research study conducted by Rangoon-based Gender Equality Network will help to underpin a new anti-VAW law set to reach Parliament later in 2015, with the inclusion of a provision on marital rape in the forthcoming legislation.

PROGRESS ON VAWG ISSUES

Review of lessons learnt and actions needed on gender equality and rights for women and girls (Feb 2015) Over the last twenty years, many international commitments have been made on gender equality, including the Beijing declaration and UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. This report examines progress and challenges across key areas relevant to gender equality, including a section on violence against women and girls (pages 26-34). The report [Turning Promises into Progress](#) and a [summary briefing](#) were produced by three of the UK's leading gender networks - Gender and Development Network, Gender Action for Peace and Security and the UK Sexual and Reproductive Health network.



Photo: Maria Lopez Yuste (2014)
VAW and Resilience in Myanmar

Policy and news

Faith leaders from over 20 countries came together for a two-day conference in February 2015 to discuss the role of faith communities in tackling sexual violence in conflict as part of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI), culminating in an [interfaith declaration](#) on mobilizing faith communities to end sexual violence in conflict.

In November 2014 the **United Nations** agreed [a resolution on child, early and forced marriage](#). The resolution urges all States to enact, enforce and uphold laws and policies aimed at preventing and ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk.

The UK's first [academic centre for Women Peace and Security](#) was launched at the **London School of Economics** (LSE) in February 2015.

The **UN Secretary General** released a [synthesis report on the post 2015 agenda](#), calling for zero tolerance of violence against or exploitation of women and girls.

DFID published a three year report on their [strategic vision for Girls and Women](#), which includes a round-up of DFID's work on supporting women and girls to live free of violence. DFID also released their new [Disability Framework](#) which includes a commitment to ensuring that disability and other vulnerabilities are taken into consideration when addressing VAWG, including in humanitarian contexts.

Algeria passed [VAW legislation](#) in March 2015 that criminalizes domestic violence against women, safeguards the financial interests of married women and introduces the concept of harassment.

UN Women released [guidelines for producing statistics](#) on violence against women. The guidelines include methodological advice on topic selection, data sources, relevant statistical classifications, and wording of questions.

ICRW introduced a new [Violence against Women Self-Assessment Tool](#), which helps organisations to assess their efforts and reflect on institutional practices in order to end violence against women.

DFID announced £8 million investment in [AmplifyChange](#) – a fund to support small, grassroots organisations working on issues perceived to be contentious for political or religious reasons, including gender-based violence, child marriage and FGM.

In March 2015, the [59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW59\)](#) was held in New York. The PUSS, Baroness Northover, chaired a roundtable discussion on the importance of “girls” in ending violence against women and girls and an event on PSVI in Syria and Iraq, hosted by the FCO. Useful panel discussions also took place on the importance of funding grassroots women's organisations through the UN Trust Fund to end violence against women.

VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

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

- Intimate partner violence
- Violence against children
- International child protection landscape
- International context for addressing VAWG
- VAWG and cash transfers in humanitarian settings
- Working with the private sector to tackle social norms like VAWG and early marriage
- Using mobile technologies in social norms campaigns
- VAWG and gender budgets
- Sexual and gender based violence in northern Iraq

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

FGM/C Research Programme

In February 2015, DFID's flagship research programme on female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) was awarded to the Population Council. The five-year [research programme](#) aims to build the global evidence base on the most effective strategies to end FGM/C, and will assist African communities in designing efficient and cost-effective ways to eliminate the practice. The Council will support a significant programme of research in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan, and potentially in Burkina Faso, Gambia and Senegal.

Women prisoners and the chain of violence

Research conducted by Penal Reform International (PRI), with the support of a DFID PPA grant, has highlighted the link between VAWG and women offending. [PRI's recent survey from Tunisia](#) demonstrates that 49% of women in judicial detention have experienced

domestic violence. Indeed, VAWG is often the reason women are incarcerated, for example in self-defense, protecting children, or being taken into 'protective detention'. [The Bangkok Rules](#), adopted by the UN in 2010, address this chain of violence by requiring States to recognise women prisoners' history of victimisation during their sentencing, imprisonment, and rehabilitation. The Rules also establish safeguards against violence habitually inflicted against women while imprisoned. See [PRI's Toolbox](#) to put the Rules into practice.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Research

Researchers from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) with national partners in Egypt, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda, are seeking to examine how collective action and the involvement of men and boys may influence the prospects of effectively changing community perceptions and values regarding SGBV.

In Year 3 of the DFID-funded programme, IDS have published three stakeholder mapping reports in [India](#), [Sierra Leone](#) and [South Africa](#) on collective action to address SGBV, with respect to engaging men as allies and actors.

The collective action databases, now includes actors from [India](#), [Sierra Leone](#) and [South Africa](#), as well as [digital stories](#) from the South African case study on the actions people from informal settlements and townships in Cape Town are taking to address SGBV. In-depth case studies on engaging men in collective action against SGBV in these three countries will be published in March 2015.

IDS also hosted a [4-day global learning workshop](#) between 16- 19 February 2015, which brought together 6 national partners to share learnings on organising and sustaining collective action to address SGBV, with respect to engaging men as allies and actors.

Photo: Population Council
'Ending FGM/C within a generation'



DFID-Funded Research

What Works to Prevent Violence?

DFID's flagship global research programme has three components:

Component 1: What Works to Prevent Violence: A Global Programme is currently supporting 18 research projects across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, including:

- Cutting-edge innovative projects that aim to fundamentally advance approaches to stopping violence before it starts; and
- Rigorous evaluations of promising existing programmes to assess how they can be taken to scale.

In January 2015, a workshop was held in Istanbul to bring together researchers and managers from the 18 projects with consortium partners, in order to establish working relationships among the What Works community, build a common understanding of the What Works programme, and set into motion the process of learning and working together.

Component 2: What Works to Prevent VAWG in Conflict and Humanitarian Emergencies is now entering its implementation phase, with formative research to begin in Kenya and South Sudan later this year. The Consortium will be publishing a number of research products in the coming months, include a report analysing adherence and accountability to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender-Based Violence (IASC GBV) guidelines and whether a specialised plus mainstreamed approach to meeting the needs of women and girls affected such adherence and accountability during the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

The Consortium will also publish an evidence brief summarising recent systematic reviews on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and humanitarian settings. The evidence brief will form the basis of a searchable online database being

developed by the Global Women's Institute at the George Washington University, which will gather guidelines, tools, policies, and literature to guide effective and evidence-based prevention and response to VAWG.

Component 3: Economic and Social Costs of VAWG launched in February 2015. The focus of the component will be to generate knowledge and evidence on the economic and social costs of VAWG to individuals and households, businesses and communities, and governments/states. In addition, the study will examine the impact of VAWG on community cohesion, economic stability and development.

Research will be undertaken in three countries - Pakistan, South Sudan and Ghana - representing fragile, conflict-affected and/or low-middle income states. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be used, including surveys with over 4,500 women survivors and with 300 businesses, narrative interviews, and focus group discussions, as well as innovative analytical approaches.

By producing new empirical research and evidence on the economic and social costs of VAWG, the research project will strengthen public policy in the realms of law and service provisioning, and aim to mobilize communities to shift the social norms that underpin VAWG.

For more information on the three What Works components, please see: www.whatworks.co.za

What Works to Prevent Violence - Istanbul Workshop, January 2015

