

# Evidence Digest

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## Latest evidence

### LINKS BETWEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (VAC)

**Bridging the gaps: A global review of intersections of violence against women and violence against children** (June 2016) Evidence suggests individuals and families often experience multiple forms of violence which may be challenging to address in isolation, and that violence in childhood increases the risk of violence against women in later life. This narrative literature review examines evidence on the links between VAC and VAW with an emphasis on low and middle income countries.

Addressing shared risk factors may prevent both forms of violence, however there is a need for more integrated and early intervention. Further, adolescence can fall

between the cracks of VAC and VAW and deserves special attention. The study calls for better training for service providers to address multiple forms of violence, better coordination between services, school-based strategies, parenting programming and programmes for adolescents, as well as coordination between researchers working on VAC and VAW to measure progress towards the Global Goals.

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE **Perceptions and experiences of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire** (June 2016)

This mixed methods study includes a survey of women and focus group discussions (FGDs) with women and men in Côte d'Ivoire to understand the prevalence of IPV, its impacts on health, everyday activities and experience of shame. 53.6% women

reported experiencing IPV over the last year, the most common form being emotional, followed by sexual and then physical. FGD participants also reported economic violence and community discrimination.

Poverty, including lack of financial resources and unemployment, were often cited as a cause of IPV. Both women and men reported that shame and stigma had effects on women's experience of the implications of IPV. The study concludes that increased social support mechanisms are needed for women to address shame, stigma and isolation, including the creation of safe spaces for women to challenge social norms, along with community outreach.

**IPV in Zimbabwe** (August 2016), Fresh analysis of the 2010-11 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data has found that gender relationships in households play an important role in relation to IPV, for example the effects of gender inequalities on the likelihood of IPV varies with type of violence. However, a husband's patriarchal behaviours increase the likelihood of all forms of violence. Implications of the findings include the need for public education campaigns around gender equality and relationships, increasing women's economic and education opportunities, and addressing customary laws that perpetuate gender inequality in order to address IPV in Zimbabwe.

Photo credit: Marii Lang



# Latest evidence

## SHELTER SERVICES

### **'More than a roof: Documenting the work of specialist women's organisations providing holistic shelter services in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe'** (July 2016)

Womankind's study features interviews with women survivors of violence, specialist support staff and community members in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. The findings highlight the importance of a holistic approach to recovery from violence against women – including services to meet immediate needs, and longer term skills training, empowerment and investment in livelihoods and women-only spaces and women-run services as specialist organisations are vital in ensuring holistic, empowering services for women. Long-term, core and flexible funding to women's rights organisations will help enable them to deliver holistic services.

## SOCIAL NORMS

### **Shifting negative social norms rooted in unequal gender and power relations to prevent VAWG.**

This study was published as part of the [Gender and Development Journal's VAWG issue](#) (July 2016). It documents Oxfam's learning on their work to change social norms and attitudes to prevent VAWG and includes case studies from South Africa and Malawi. Key findings include the need for programmes to be developed through a gender transformative lens, that there are substantial risks associated with VAWG programming, including backlash, community resistance and negative outcomes, e.g. reinforcing patriarchal norms by working with men and boys are another challenge. These need to be anticipated and managed appropriately.

The paper also identifies a need to transform norms, attitudes and



Shelter counsellor in Addis Ababa (Photo credit: Bethan Cansfield, Womankind)

behaviours of practitioners and organisations involved in anti-VAWG work. Finally, there are opportunities and challenges in the use of ICT and social media and their role in both driving and impeding violence.

## SAFE CITIES

### **Interventions to enhance women and girls' safety and mobility in public spaces in Asia and the Pacific region** (September 2016)

This UN Women / Korean Women's Development Institute review looks at the evidence on sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in public spaces in the Asia-Pacific, and what works to prevent it. The review identified 55 evaluated interventions and included a survey of over 118 stakeholders working on the issue and over 50 in-depth interviews and field visits to Jakarta, Indonesia; Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam; and Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Gaps in the evidence base and the failure to see violence against women in the urban public space as part of a broader continuum of VAWG can limit cross-cutting and holistic solutions.

Despite these challenges, the review identifies several promising approaches, including the global UN Women Safe Cities programme, comprehensive school-based interventions, and programmes that train bystanders on how to intervene in situations of harassments (though the findings are mixed for the latter).

Examples of promising practices include:

- Programmes that adopt a 'right to the city' approach
- Aligning local community initiatives with city or state/province-wide projects
- Changing social norms and integrating communication campaigns
- Involving women and girls in defining 'safe' and 'unsafe' spaces and in choosing context-appropriate interventions
- Piloting interventions, but also taking a long-term multisectoral, multilevel approach
- Utilizing new technology
- Policy-oriented advocacy
- Being inclusive of diversity to address how women experience public spaces differently
- Multi-country programmes that effectively promoted cross-learning and dialogue across different country interventions.

# Policy and news

**WHO and partners launched seven interlinked strategies to address violence against children** in July 2016. They include: implementation of legal frameworks, addressing norms and values, promoting safe environments, providing parent and caregiver support, income and economic strengthening, response and support services, and finally education and life skills.

**End Violence Against Children – The Global Partnership** was launched by the UN. It brings together governments, foundations, the UN, civil society, academia, the private sector and young people in driving action toward achieving the new global target to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

In July 2016, the President of Argentina **announced a national plan to address violence against women**. The plan includes creating a network of refuges, financial support for the electronic tagging of violent men, introducing gender violence awareness in schools, and increased staffing for a telephone helpline.

The EU has designated **2017 as the year to eliminate Violence Against Women**.

The Humanitarian Innovation Fund, a DFID-supported landmark grand-making fund, launched a new report in September on **Gender Based Violence: Opportunities for Innovation**. The report offers guidance on tangible innovation areas for GBV practitioners globally to enhance effectiveness and accelerate impact.

**A National Observatory on Violence Against Women is due to be launched in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the Ministry of Women's Affairs**. The observatory will collect and document cases in order to estimate the prevalence of VAWG in OPT; currently statistics are poor.

In June 2016 the World Bank published a **VAWG Resource Guide on Older Women**. The brief notes that older survivors are less visible and more vulnerable to multiple forms of violence, and urges development practitioners to expand their work addressing violence to include older women.

USAID published an **update to its Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV Globally**, highlighting four objectives: institutionalising coordination of GBV initiatives among US government departments and agencies, integrating GBV prevention and response into existing work, strengthening data and research and expanding standalone programming.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women has a **new website**, with a digital library of publications and videos, the latest news and events, plus details of UNTF's grant-making, evaluations, and global advocacy.

## VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

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

- Evidence on the links between business, economic empowerment and VAWG
- VAWG, gender and family planning in the Sahel
- The key international actors working on trafficking and modern slavery, particularly supporting women and girls
- The status of women and girls in Iraqi Kurdistan

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

## Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Research

DFID's five-year flagship FGM/C research programme has released a **synthesis of the state of evidence on FGM/C**. The report looks at the main sources of data of FGM/C, where it is practiced, how many girls and women are affected, and the variation in when and how FGM/C is performed. The report draws on nationally representative data on FGM/C prevalence among girls and women ages 15-49 in 29 countries (27 in Africa plus Yemen and Iraq). The data reveals that in 14 countries the process of abandoning FGM/C is already underway, while in 15 countries there is no clear evidence of progress. Two out of three affected women live in just four countries – Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Sudan.

### What Works to prevent VAWG?

Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September the *What Works* community met in Dubai for the Annual Capacity Development workshop and Annual Scientific Meeting. The annual meetings bring together implementers and researchers under the three components of the *What Works* programme and aim to build a community of practice on VAWG research and innovation. This year's meetings were the first time research findings from the programme were shared, including the results of formative research and baseline studies.

The Capacity Development workshop was attended by implementers and researchers and included sessions on ethics, quantitative and qualitative data analysis for VAWG research, as well as programming issues such as maximising beneficiary voice through monitoring.

The Annual Scientific Meeting also involved members of the programme's international advisory board and DFID. It included presentations on researching IPV in different contexts (prevalence and drivers), contextual challenges associated with conducting VAWG research in conflict and humanitarian settings, and methodological challenges around measuring IPV with vulnerable groups. The meeting also focused on research uptake, with panel sessions examining uptake from the perspectives of key decision makers, including donors.

Below 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. The Equal Access 'Change Starts at Home' project in Nepal** targets young married couples and their close family members, community and religious leaders, and the community as a whole in the intervention areas.

The main aim of the project is to reduce IPV through the use of media plus community outreach to address existing social norms, and individual attitudes and behaviours that reinforce violence against women and girls. Initial findings from the baseline survey indicate an IPV rate of 28% - double that of the latest DHS survey.

Central to this project is a 39 episode radio series 'Samajhdari' (meaning Mutual Understanding)

highlighting issues relating to IPV and the skills required for strengthening a healthy and happy relationship between married couples.

Alongside this are 72 facilitated listening and discussion groups (LDGs) for couples and a programme of community engagement with local leaders and the wider community

A two-armed random control trial (RCT) is in place to assess the impact of this intensive media and community engagement intervention on the occurrence of intimate partner violence, attitudes toward violence, and gender equity norms; additional qualitative studies will help identify pathways of change and activities that are effective, replicable and scalable so that changes in the status of women and girls in Nepal can be sustained over time.



Listening and Discussion Group attending a session on 'love and respect' (Photo credit: Charlotte Heath)

For more details, see: [blog](#) by Charlotte Heath, Technical Adviser, *What Works Programme*)

# DFID-Funded Research

**Component 2: What Works to prevent VAWG in Conflict & Crises** has two new products to share.

**Evidence brief: What works to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in conflict and humanitarian settings?** provides a succinct

overview of the existing evidence on the prevalence of VAWG and on promising and emerging practices that prevent and respond to VAWG in conflict and humanitarian settings, summarising recent systematic and literature reviews in this field.

It includes information on interventions involving refugees, internally displaced populations, as well as other groups of women and girls who have been affected by natural disasters and/or severe food insecurity. The brief also focuses on several different types of violence, including non-partner sexual violence, intimate partner sexual/physical violence, and harmful practices and social norms.

**What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict and Humanitarian Crises: Contributions to the field** sets out how Component 2's research portfolio complements and supports the achievements of the *Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies*' objectives. The *Call to Action* is a global appeal to diverse

stakeholders to make specific commitments to contribute towards transforming the way GBV is addressed in the humanitarian sector. As the largest multi-year study currently examining VAWG in conflict and crisis, *What Works* will play an instrumental role in advancing the global research agenda in this area.

For any questions on the above, please contact Component 2 on [whatworkscomp2@rescue.org](mailto:whatworkscomp2@rescue.org).

**Component 3: Economic and Social Costs of VAWG.** Dr. Nata Duvvury, Principal Investigator of Component 3 of the What Works programme, was an invited expert to the High Level Discussion on Economic Costs of Violence against Women at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The panel was called by The President of the Republic of Lithuania, H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė, as Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, with Heads of States, Governments and international organisations participating in the [discussion](#).

Component three also published a **working paper reviewing evidence on the costs of violence against women** along with two information briefs now available at: [www.whatworks.co.za](http://www.whatworks.co.za).

**COMPASS (Creating Opportunities through Mentoring, Parental Involvement and Safe Spaces)** has delivered the first cycle of its curriculum in Pakistan, Ethiopia, and the DRC. Research is being conducted alongside implementation of this programme to understand the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of the curriculum for adolescent girls and their parent/caregiver. An academic [article](#) on the COMPASS study protocol was published in *BMC Public Health* in March 2016.

COMPASS also presented a paper at the *Young Lives Adolescence, Gender and Youth* conference. Based on analysis conducted for a forthcoming paper, the presentation focused on the role of caregiver attitudes and norms in girls' experiences of violence. We found that female caregivers attitudes on the rights and privileges of men over women was positively associated with girls exposure to violence (i.e. more equitable attitudes meant lower risk to girls of all forms of violence), but attitudes to girls equity and discipline were not.

Lastly, a manuscript on the use of Audio-Computer Assisted Self-Interview (ACASI) among adolescent girls in humanitarian settings and lessons learned will be published by *Conflict and Health* in October 2016.