



LATEST EVIDENCE FROM WHAT WORKS

**Working with families to prevent violence against women and girls in Tajikistan**

VAWG in Tajikistan is pervasive and driven by multiple factors including patriarchal social norms, poverty and alcohol abuse. Despite this, VAWG in Tajikistan is preventable – by combining social norm change and economic empowerment. The Zindagii Shoista ('Living with Dignity'), project developed by International Alert and CESVI, is the first combined social and economic intervention tailored to the Tajik context developed to combat VAWG. This innovative approach has led to a 50% reduction in the number of women experiencing violence. The proven effectiveness of the Zindagii Shoista family-centred model makes it suitable for use within Tajikistan and its neighbouring states characterised by strong extended families, if appropriately tailored to local settings.



Woman making national Tajik dress, an example of an income generating activity. Photo: Aziz Sattori

Addressing VAWG requires collaboration among and between practitioners, researchers, government representatives and donors.

The success of this model in the poor, rural Tajik context suggests that to prevent VAWG, patriarchy must be tackled alongside poverty.

Read the full evidence review [here](#)

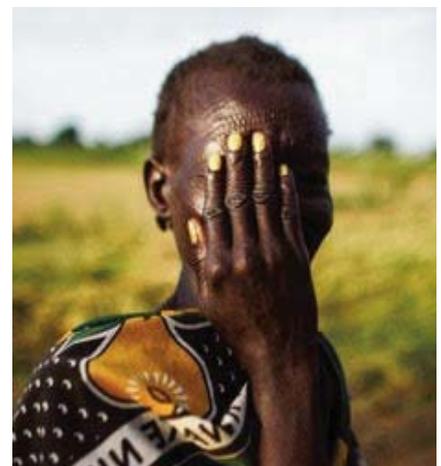
**Exploring the intersection of VAWG and state-building and peace-building: Lessons from Nepal, Sierra Leone and South Sudan: London, UK**

Until recently, post- conflict state - building and peace -building processes have routinely ignored issues of gender equality and VAWG. To address this gap, the Global Women's Institute, CARE International UK, and the International Rescue Committee conducted a study on the intersections of VAWG, state-building and peace-building. Drawing on three case study countries – Nepal, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan – the study highlights the potential for state-building and peacebuilding processes to address VAWG, and the effect this has in advancing sustainable peace.

It provides a practical tool that policymakers can use to design inclusive peacebuilding processes that take account of VAWG.

Please see link to the full report [here](#) and the policy briefs [here](#) and [here](#).

Intersections of violence against women and girls with state-building and peace-building: Lessons from Nepal, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. Photo: John Estey/CARE



The What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Programme is a flagship programme from the UK Department for International Development, which is investing an unprecedented £25 million over five years to the prevention of violence against women and girls. It supports primary prevention efforts across Africa, and Asia that seek to understand and address the underlying causes of violence, and to stop it from occurring. To learn more about WW visit our website [www.whatworks.co.za](http://www.whatworks.co.za) or contact us at [whatworks@mrc.ac.za](mailto:whatworks@mrc.ac.za)

# LATEST EVIDENCE

## Working with couples to prevent Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): lessons from Indashyikirwa in Rwanda

The Indashyikirwa programme in Rwanda aimed to support healthy, non-violent relationships and prevent IPV through a participatory couples' curriculum and community activism activities based on an adaptation of SASA! . The programme used CARE Rwanda's village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) to recruit the 840 couples for the five-month training. The VSLA platform draws on promising global evidence on combining gender-transformative programming with economic empowerment. A rigorous evaluation has unveiled significant relationship changes, including greater communication around personal interests, property, household decisions and sex. In addition, the research revealed changes over time in the levels of consistency and agreement between what the male and female partner said. These insights were found from interviewing both partners of couples a number of times before, during and after programme implementation - relatively uncommon in IPV research until recently. For instance, while men were more likely to justify or downplay IPV at baseline than women, both men and women were more likely to report IPV, with recognition of the consequences, by the third interview. Indeed, partners of couples reported very similar improvements in their relationships, which increases our confidence in the validity of individual narratives.

Read the full policy brief [here](#)



A group discussion as part of the couples' curriculum. Photo: Rachel Kwizera

## Indashyikirwa: Women's Safe Spaces for IPV in Rwanda

Programmes to prevent IPV must also consider the safety and support needs of women experiencing abuse. This is especially important for programmes that raise awareness of violence in communities with limited knowledge of, or access to, services. Indashyikirwa, an IPV prevention programme in Rwanda, established women's safe spaces (WSFs), where women and men could disclose and discuss IPV, and be referred or accompanied to health, justice or social services.

The safe spaces were a valuable platform for IPV disclosure and support and were generally preferred over formal IPV services. Importantly, they served to improve the quality of and linkages to formal services. The spaces offered valued opportunities for collective solidarity and livelihoods skills training.

They also supported more equitable gender norms and prevention of IPV. The Indashyikirwa programme yielded important lessons, such as the need for real-time input and feedback which helped to identify how to support the safe spaces with ongoing mentoring and training.

Read the full policy brief [here](#)



Erik and Olive received couples' training on positive power relations, as part of the DfID funded Indashyikirwa project. Photo/Peter Caton

## Early intervention through play in schools helps to reduce violence against children in Hyderabad, Pakistan

Early intervention through play in schools helps to reduce violence against children in Hyderabad, Pakistan. In Pakistan, school-based violence manifests largely through corporal punishment, peer violence, and a harsh culture of discipline. The international NGO Right to Play (RTP) together with Aga Khan University conducted a cluster randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the RTP intervention with 6th and 7th graders in 40 public schools in reducing peer victimisation and perpetration. Two years post the baseline, the study found significant results. Peer Victimization scores reduced by 33% in boys and 59% in girls, and peer perpetration scores reduced by 25% in boys and 56% in girls, respectively.

Watch the full video [here](#)



Children in Pakistan play tug of war as part of the Right To Play programme. Photo/Manta Ray Media

## LATEST EVIDENCE

### Intimate Partner Violence is common in Ghana, and driven by lower education, abuse in childhood, depression and male partner characteristics

There is limited evidence on the prevalence and risk factors for IPV in West Africa. This paper presents findings of a recent population representative study with 2000 partnered women aged 18-49 in one district in Ghana. A third (34%) of women had experienced IPV in the past year, with a fifth (21.4%) reporting past year physical and/or sexual IPV, and a quarter (24.6%) reporting emotional IPV. The analysis showed that women's odds of reporting IPV in the past year significantly increased with experience of childhood sexual abuse, disability, depression, control by a male partner, male partner alcohol use, and male partner infidelity. Senior high school education or higher was found to be protective of IPV. IPV remains a major challenge in Ghana and evidence-based interventions are urgently needed.

Read the latest article from PLOS [here](#)



Woman working in a garment factory in Bangladesh/ photo: HERproject BSR

### Study protocol for HERrespect – an innovative workplace intervention to prevent violence amongst female garment workers in Bangladesh

IPV and Workplace Violence (WPV) have emerged as major global priorities in the past year, yet there remain very few evidence informed interventions to prevent it. IPV is more prevalent against income earning women compared to their non-earning counterparts, and WPV is also common. Such violence is a violation of women's rights, and also constrains them from contributing to their personal growth, household, community and the economy at large. This paper describes the study protocol for an evaluation of HERrespect, an intervention which aims to reduce IPV and WPV against female garment workers in and around Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Read the latest article on BMC Public Health [here](#)

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### July 2018 | Global Disability Summit



New findings from What Works to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities were showcased at the Global Disability Summit in July. These findings indicated that:

1. Women with disabilities in low and middle-income countries are at two to four times higher risk of IPV than women without disabilities.
2. Disability increases women's risk of non-partner sexual violence.
3. The risk of both IPV and non-partner sexual violence increases with the severity of disability.
4. Women with disabilities experience high levels of stigma and discrimination, compounding their risk of IPV and reducing their ability to seek help.

• [Read our brief on Disability and Violence against Women and Girls here](#)

• [Watch our video on disability here](#)

### August 2018 | Dissemination event of the Right To Play end line results in Hyderabad, Pakistan



Right To Play, children gather in Hyderabad

A dissemination meeting with stakeholders of the Right to Play intervention was held in Hyderabad on August 8, in which three years of research was presented involving 8,000 students of grades 6th to 8th from 40 public schools selected for the study.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### August 2018 | Dissemination event of the Right To Play end line results in Hyderabad, Pakistan (continued)

As many as 1,752 boys and girls of the total students were evaluated. The project was implemented by global NGO Right to Play, and evaluated by Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. The research showed a remarkable difference in improvement when it came to peer victimisation which reduced by 33 per cent in boys and 59 per cent in girls. Similarly, when it comes to violence and bullying perpetrators, there is also a corresponding reduction by 25 per cent in boys and 56 per cent in girls. Depression, which is still not acknowledged even in adults in Pakistan, was also part of the assessment, and the two-year intervention showed a seven and 10 per cent reduction in boys and girls respectively. Moreover, gender norms and attitudes showed a positive change of 14 per cent in boys and 18 per cent in girls.

## NEWS

*What Works interventions have been championed by journalists and amplified through influential media outlets. This section highlights some of those that have been published this quarter.*

### September 2018: El Pais

#### Cómo el amor frena el VIH y la violencia de género

Project: Indashyikirwa, Rwanda

Read the full article on El Pais [here](#)

### August 2018: The News International

#### Early intervention can help address bullying, violence among schoolchildren: study

Project: Right To Play, Pakistan

Read the full article on The News International [here](#)

### July 2018: Open Democracy

#### To end violence against women we must tackle patriarchy – and poverty

Project: Zindagii Shoista (Tajik for 'living with dignity'), Tajikistan

Read the full article on Open Democracy [here](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*What Works grantees and partners will be sharing research findings at the following events:*



### 28 October 2018 | What Works Capacity Development Meeting: Kathmandu, Nepal

What Works' third capacity development workshop is an opportunity for implementers, researchers and technical staff to: 1) to reflect on what has been learnt and achieved through the WW capacity development programme and to consolidate the achievements of the WW capacity development strategy; 2) to strengthen the partners' research uptake skills; and 3) to support WW partners to continue the great work in VAWG prevention, specifically around funding and consolidating relationships.

### 29-31 October 2018 | What Works Annual Scientific Meeting: Kathmandu, Nepal

The fourth annual scientific meeting of What Works is an opportunity for the community of researchers, practitioners, donors and policy makers to come together and share the emerging research evidence on the main outcome evaluation results, reflections and experiences of NGO intervention implementers, and debates. The main results will be presented, other innovative findings showcased and in critical discussions we will seek to draw out the main messages of the work, identify gaps and future directions for the field.

### 5-7 November 2018 | Safety 2018: Bangkok, Thailand

Injuries and violence are a major public health burden across the globe. The 13th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (Safety 2018) will bring together over 1000 leading researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and activists to share information and experiences and to discuss solutions. What Works grantees and partners will be presenting the latest evidence from their work at the conference.

Find out more [here](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## November 2018 | 16 Days of Activism

What Works will be supporting UNiTE's 16 Days of Activism global advocacy theme, which this year is #HearMeToo. We are planning a series of activities and events across the 16 Days and through the What Works platforms we will be amplifying the voices of women working to prevent and end violence against women around the world. Do get in touch if you would like to hear more about our activities and we would love to hear from you about yours too. Please contact: [Leane.ramssoomar@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Leane.ramssoomar@mrc.ac.za)

## December 2018 | What Works Public Learning Event: London, UK

As part of its 16 Days of Activism campaign, What Works will be holding a series of events in London to share its evidence on what works to prevent violence against women and girls.

The events will focus on VAWG and education, with results from Pakistan, Kenya and Afghanistan. To find out more about the events being planned and to request an invite please contact: [Leane.ramssoomar@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Leane.ramssoomar@mrc.ac.za)



**What Works**  
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE  
A Global Programme To Prevent  
Violence Against Women and Girls



**What Works**  
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE  
Violence Against Women and Girls  
in Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis



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Economic and Social Costs of  
Violence Against Women and Girls

