

UK supports new innovative global research to prevent violence against women and girls

Britain will fund 18 ground breaking research programmes to help prevent violence against women and girls as part of the Department for International Development's [*What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme*](#).

The projects, selected in conjunction with the Medical Research Council South Africa, will implement and test cutting-edge interventions that aim to fundamentally advance approaches to stopping violence before it starts. The programme will also conduct rigorous evaluations of promising existing programmes to assess how they can be taken to scale.

The projects supported through the What Works Programme, include:

- One Man Can and Creating Futures in South Africa, which will engage men and boys to challenge traditional models of manhood
- Business for Social Responsibility, which aims to end sexual harassment in the workplace for women working in the garment sector in Bangladesh; and
- Ujamaa Africa, which will focus on economic empowerment combined with self-defence programmes in Kenya for adolescents to prevent sexual assault.

Overall the grants will support projects in 16 countries from Afghanistan to Zambia.

International Development Minister, Baroness Northover said:

“Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic. Though some societies have made more progress than others, we must all work together to end it.

“These are really exciting projects and thanks to the boost from UK funding they will help improve the lives of women and girls in some of the poorest countries.”

Rachel Jewkes, Medical Research Council SA and lead of the What Works To Prevent Violence Against Women Global Programme said:

“We know there are a lot of gaps in the evidence and data on issues relating to violence against women and girls, not least because of the sensitive nature of the research and data collection.

“We are delighted today to be announcing the recipients of our innovation and research grants, as we mark the end of the 16 days of activism, and look forward to finding out what works to prevent violence against women and girls in the coming years.”

The grants were unveiled at an event hosted by the Medical Research Council SA on 10 December attended by International Development Minister, Baroness Northover as well as the What Works Independent Advisory Committee

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To follow WhatWorks on Twitter: @whatworksVAWG

To follow WhatWorks on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhatWorksVAWG>

To view and download the WhatWorks primary Prevention video:

<http://bit.ly/1E8u51w>

For individual grantee background, comments & images go to:

<http://bit.ly/1yF6g2f>

For grantee case studies please get in touch with Rebecca Ladbury

Notes to editors

The What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme is a flagship programme from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which is investing an £25 million, over five years, to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

It supports primary prevention efforts across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, that seek to understand and address the underlying causes of violence, to stop it from occurring.

Full list of projects receiving funding

Innovation grants

Title	Institution	Region	Country
Ending Violence Against Women and girls	Help the Afghan Children	Asia	Afghanistan
HERrespect: Promoting Positive Gender Relations through Workplace Interventions	Business for Social Responsibility	Asia	Bangladesh
One Community, One Family	Voluntary Service Overseas	Asia	Nepal
No More Violence	International Alert	Asia	Tajikistan
Change Starts at Home - Ending VAWG in Yemen	Equal Access International	MENA	Yemen
Using Innovative Media to End Violence against Women and Girls through Community Education and Outreach in the OPT	Ma'an Television Network	MENA	OPT
Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict-	Tearfund	Africa	DRC

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affected communities			
One Man Can - a Multi-level Equitable Norms and Community Advocacy Intervention -in South	Sonke Gender Justice	Africa	South Africa
Women and Girls Empowerment and Boys Transformation Program to Prevent VAWG	Ujamaa Africa	Africa	Kenya
Preventing violence against women and girls in Zambia: A two-pronged approach	Serenity Harm Reduction	Africa	Zambia

Research grants

Title	Institution	Region	Country
What Works to Prevent Violence	Women for Women International	Asia & Africa	Afghanistan and South Sudan
Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls through Sport and Play	Right to Play	Asia	Pakistan
Hands Off! What Works to Prevent Violence Against Sex Workers	Aids Fonds, in partnership with SWEAT South Arica, SISONKE, the Women's Legal Centre South Africa, the African Sex Worker Alliance, COC, North Star Alliance, BONELA, and the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa Trust	Africa	South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique,
Strengthening Prevention of Gender Based Violence in Rwanda	Care International	Africa	Rwanda
Education is a Conversation	Caritas Gulu Archdiocese in partnership with Advocates for Research in Development Africa and the Forum for Kalongo Parish Women's Association	Africa	Uganda
Samvedana Plus: Reducing violence and increasing condom use in the intimate partnerships of female sex workers	Karnataka Health Promotion Trust in partnership with Chaitanya AIDS Tadegettwa Mahila Sangha and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Asia	India

Stepping Stones and Creating Futures	Project Empower in partnership with the Health Economics and HIV and AIDS Research Division (HEARD) of the University of KwaZulu- Natal	Africa	South Africa
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About The What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme

The What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Programme is a flagship programme from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), 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, Asia and the Middle East, that seek to understand and address the underlying causes of violence, to stop it from occurring. What Works consists of three complementary components:

- 1. The Global Programme |** The Global Programme is focused broadly on what works to prevent violence against women and girls. It will conduct research, evaluations of existing interventions, and support innovation in programming through a dedicated grants scheme.
- 2. Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict and Humanitarian Crises |** This component is focused on developing research and evidence to fill gaps in knowledge about what interventions work to prevent violence in fragile and conflict areas.
- 3. Economic and Social Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls |** This third component is focused on the estimation of social and economic costs of violence against women and girls, developing the economic case for investing in prevention.

The Global Programme

The Global Programme is responsible for the grants and is implemented by a consortium led by the South African Medical Research Council, in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Social Development Direct. The Global Programme is responsible for implementing innovation grants and research being announced today.

The Medical Research Council of South Africa

The Medical Research Council of South Africa is a globally recognised research institute. It is the lead agency for the consortium, responsible for managing the consortium and all aspects of the programme. The Medical Research Council brings to the programme 19 years of experience in developing innovative and large-scale research projects on violence against women. It also brings an extensive network of partners, working across the global south, on violence prevention.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is an international leader in public health research. It is responsible for guiding research and work that focuses on the economics, cost-effectiveness and scale-up approaches for prevention programmes. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine brings to the consortium 18 years of experience in conducting multi-disciplinary research on violence against women, and assessing interventions designed to prevent it. It has been involved with research to assess the impact of public health interventions, and to estimate the costs and cost-effectiveness of different violence against women prevention programmes.

Social Development Direct

Social Development Direct is the UK's leading niche provider of expert social development assistance and research services. Social Development Direct's core expertise is in gender equality, citizen voice and accountability and conflict prevention and peace building. Social Development Direct has a large gender portfolio and works extensively on violence prevention and response. It holds a number of significant contracts in this field which includes the violence against women and girls helpdesk - a DFID-led global service that provides research and short-term technical assistance on the full range of violence issues, and a large-scale multi-city impact evaluation of a violence prevention programme in India.

The United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme coordinates global and national efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, as a part of its core mandate to uphold human rights, and as a strategy to achieve sustainable development and reduce poverty. Present in 170 countries, the United Nations Development Programme provides access to global experts on violence against women, ties to in-country partners and mechanisms to reach global decision-makers.