



What Works
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

LATEST EVIDENCE FROM WHAT WORKS

Photo: Prabu Deepan/Tearfund

A study on capacity development in the “What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls” programme

Willan, S., Kerr-Wilson, A., Parke, A., & Gibbs, A. (2019)

Capacity development, particularly with southern researchers and implementers, has been a key focus of the *What Works* Programme. While there is consensus among those working to prevent violence against women and girls of the need to develop the capacity of researchers and implementers working in the global South, there is insufficient evidence on how to effectively achieve this. This article reflects on the approaches used by the *What Works* programme to develop capacity. It recommends that effective capacity development requires; meaningful commitment; an organic process driven by the needs of the global South; recognising the importance of soft-skills; acknowledging what is achievable within resource constraints; and a commitment to women’s rights and gender equality. Read the full article [here](#).



Photo: What Works Global Programme

What determines violence among female sex workers in intimate partner relationships? Findings from North Karnataka, south India

Javalkar, P., Platt, L., Prakash, R., Beattie, T., Bhattacharjee, P., Thalinja, R., & Davey, C. (2019)

Like other women in India, female sex workers (FSWs) frequently experience violence from their intimate partners (IPs), which in turn increases their risk of acquiring HIV or other sexually transmitted infections. This paper from the *What Works* programme highlights the association between FSW’s experience of intimate partner violence and increased risk of violence from clients. It also finds a clear association between FSWs providing financial support to their IP and increased risk of violence. This increased risk likely reflects the stigma of money originating from sex work and conflict around roles of ‘men being the provider’ being reversed, as well as broader gender inequalities and power dynamics, where men remain dominant even when financially dependent on FSWs. Interventions are needed that address inequitable gender norms which can mean that FSWs tolerate violence even though she is not financially dependent on the IP. The paper also highlights that crisis management systems within community-based organisations must be strengthened so that they can address all forms of violence and associated risk factors for example alcohol use. Read the full article [here](#).

Economic and social costs of violence against women in Pakistan: Summary report

This report provides an overview of the social and economic costs of VAWG in Pakistan to individual women, households, businesses, communities, and the national economy and society. At the national level, the loss in productivity due to VAWG in Pakistan is estimated to be 80 million days annually, which is equivalent to 2.2% of employed women in effect not working. At a household level, the research found that women survivors of violence who accessed services

The What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Programme (WW) is a flagship programme from the UK Department for International Development, which has invested 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, and to stop it from occurring. To learn more about WW visit our website www.whatworks.co.za or contact us at whatworks@mrc.ac.za

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spent US\$52 on average annually in out-of-pocket expenditure for medical, legal, shelter and replacement of property expenses. This is equivalent to approximately 19% of their per capita annual expenditure on non-food consumption. Findings show the heavy drag that VAWG imposes on economic productivity and wellbeing, and the need to invest urgently in scaling up evidence-based efforts to prevent violence. Read the full summary report [here](#).

The health-related impacts and costs of violence against women and girls on survivors, households and communities in Ghana

Alvarado, G., Fenny, A., Dakey, S., Mueller, J., O'Brien-Milne, L., Crentsil, A., Duvvury, N., Scriver, S., & Schwenke, C. (2018)

Past research on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Ghana lacks a comprehensive analysis of its wider costs and impacts. This *What Works* study on the social costs of VAWG aims to fill that gap. The research, which took place in the Eastern, Central, and Greater Accra regions of Ghana, points to several physical and mental health costs experienced by survivors, such as physical injuries, fatalities, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Survivors also experience stigma and social isolation. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#). Read the full summary report [here](#).



At the launch of the C3 research in Accra

Photo: Nata Duvvury

Impact evaluation of Women for Women International's Economic and Social Empowerment Programme in Afghanistan: An evidence brief

For over 40 years, Afghanistan has experienced ongoing conflict and insecurity, which has increased in recent years, exacerbating household poverty and further entrenching women's subordinate position in the home. This evidence brief by Women for Women International (WfWI) shares the results of a rigorous evaluation of their one-year women's empowerment programme, which focused on building knowledge, skills, and resources for women in four key domains: earnings and savings, health and well-being, rights and decision-making, and support networks. The independent evaluation demonstrated that WfWI's programme increased women's earnings and savings and improved household food security.

It also improved women's attitudes towards gender equality, their participation in household decision-making, and their mobility. Although the programme reduced the risk of women experiencing physical intimate partner violence among those who are moderately food insecure, the intervention did not significantly decrease the risk in the overall study population. The brief captures lessons and recommendations from the study to strengthen future programming on violence prevention. For example, working only with individual women appears to be insufficient for fundamentally changing household relationships in such a patriarchal context. In addition to increasing women's agency and skills, it may be necessary to work directly and intensively with husbands and whole households. Read the full evidence brief [here](#).



Photo: Rada Akbar

Economic and social costs of violence against women in South Sudan: Summary report

Findings from this *What Works* study show the heavy costs of VAWG in South Sudan, which amounts to approximately 8.5 million days of work lost in the past year - equivalent to 6% of total employed women not working. It is estimated that each survivor that accessed services spent US\$21.3 of out-of-pocket expenditure per year, in a country where 80% of the population lives on less than US\$1 a day. Read the full summary report [here](#).



Participants at the launch of C3 research: Pyramid Intercontinental Hotel, Juba, South Sudan

Photo: Nata Duvvury

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'They say our work is not halal': Experiences and challenges of refugee community workers involved in gender-based violence prevention and care in Dadaab, Kenya

Chimaraoke Izugbara, Stella Muthuri, Sheru Muuo, Carolyne Egesa, Giorgia Franchi, Alys Mcalpine, Loraine Bacchus, Mazeda Hossain

Refugee community workers (RCWs) are a critical cadre of humanitarian personnel in the context of GBV prevention and care but are poorly studied. Using interview data from the Dadaab refugee camps, this *What Works* project explores the work-related experiences and challenges as well as GBV-related beliefs of RCWs. Working under the supervision of professional GBV service providers, RCWs have emerged as key to the effectiveness of the existing GBV response in the refugee camps, performing tasks such as linking and retaining GBV survivors in care, community outreach and education, and GBV survivor referral and follow-up. Challenges include opposition and violence by community members, tensions with GBV agency staff, poor pay, and limited skills and preparation for GBV management. Evidence on RCWs' GBV-related beliefs and work experiences and challenges can potentially inform efforts to strengthen their contribution and involvement in GBV care and service delivery. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON

15 June 2019 | National Stakeholder's Dissemination: Economic and Social Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls in Islamabad, Pakistan

The launch of the research report of the economic and social costs of violence against women and girls in Pakistan was attended by about 80 participants representing a cross section of government ministries including Finance, Planning, Law and Justice, civil society groups, business groups and universities. The event was widely covered in the media with three of main television channels including the event in the evening and nightly news programmes. An additional workshop was held with researchers, NGOs, and UN agencies to disseminate costing methodologies and build capacity to continue researching the costs of VAWG. The workshop was very successful with key university researchers and women's NGOs forming a social media group to further explore opportunities to integrate costing in VAWG research in Pakistan.

13 May 2019 | Exploring cash transfers' potential to prevent violence and increase women's economic empowerment in crisis contexts – Research Report launch from the International Rescue Committee – London, UK

The International Rescue Committee launched their research report on the potential of cash transfers to prevent violence and increase women's economic empowerment, alongside other organisations working on humanitarian cash and gender at a well-attended event in London. In addition to showcasing the *What Works* research, the event offered an opportunity to reflect more widely on gaps and good practice for integrating gender-sensitive and gender-transformative approaches into humanitarian cash transfer programming. The event was a timely opportunity to highlight

priorities and recommendations for the field, ahead of key processes for the Grand Bargain cash workstream in May and June 2019.



Photo: *What Works Global Programme*

13 May 2019 | What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls? Sida Learning Seminar – Stockholm, Sweden

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, in collaboration with the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women programme, held a learning seminar to share the latest evidence on preventing VAWG and to discuss the potential for future collaboration. Participants included 25 Sida advisors as well as a representative from the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFID and the What Works programme. The seminar was opened by Sida's Director General, Carin Jäntin, together with the Head of DFID's VAWG Team, Sarah Fisher White. Eight presentations were made from across the What Works programme as well as presentations on Sida's social protection work; Ghana's LEAP social protection programme (Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty), and the new WHO and UN Women RESPECT framework.

7-10 May 2019 | Building a shared agenda on prevention of violence against women and girls (WP1657) – Wilton Park, UK Building a shared agenda on prevention of violence against women and girls



This unique Wilton Park event, in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF), brought together over 50 diverse actors including civil society, academics and policymakers to share the latest evidence and to discuss the opportunity and responsibility presented by this knowledge to set a high level of ambition on preventing VAWG, commensurate with the scale of the challenge.

Focusing on intimate partner violence (IPV) and non-partner sexual violence (NPSV), the meeting sought to build relationships and momentum around prevention of VAWG. During the course of the event participants shared the latest evidence on what works to prevent VAWG and how this is linked to broad development goals. Findings from across the What Works portfolio were profiled through presentations and videos. The event also explored effective policies and programme design from diverse sectors and regions, identified effective strategies for scaling up violence prevention, and started to build consensus within the field around priorities for action and investment and how to progress these priorities.

The event confirmed that whilst there is still much to learn the field is now well placed to advance the prevention agenda. The next phase of evidence generation on VAWG prevention needs to embed research within programmes to iteratively adapt and refine approaches as they are scaled up, building a solid understanding of how to work at scale whilst retaining impact and attention to the wider political goal of women's rights.

3-6 June 2019 | Women Deliver: Vancouver, Canada

The Women Deliver 2019 Conference is the world's largest conference on gender equality and was attended by 8,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists, implementers and journalists. The theme of this year's conference was power, and how it can drive – or hinder – progress and change. Significant opportunities for driving gender equality were announced including the Equality Fund and the Canadian government's commitment to hundreds of millions in foreign aid for women's sexual and reproductive health. The What Works programme had an important presence at this forum. Professor Mary Ellsberg presented at a GBV and innovation panel and highlighted the contribution of the evidence base generated through the What Works Programme. Professor Lori Heise similarly summarised the current evidence of best practices for GBV prevention, including lessons learned through What Works, at an event co-hosted by the UK, Canada, Australia and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund on Preventing VAWG. Dr. Erin Stern presented a digital poster on processes of change through the community activism component of the Indashyikirwa programme in Rwanda. Laurie Adams, CEO of Women for Women International (WfWI), highlighted the results of WfWI's What Works randomised controlled trial and the importance of learning from the rigorous research conducted by the What Works programme in an event on leveraging new grassroots and global evidence to support women and girls in emergencies.



Photo: What Works Global Programme

What Works interventions and research have been reported upon and amplified through influential media outlets. This section highlights some of those that have been published this quarter.

May 2019: DFID

Violence against women and girls evidence digest

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806508/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-May-2019.pdf

May 2019: Africa News

Research report on the Economic and Social Cost of Violence Against Women and Girls launched in Accra, Ghana

Project: Social & Economic Costs of Violence, Ghana

<https://www.africa-news.info/news/ghana/2019/05/02/ghana-research-report-on-the-economic-and-social-cost-of-violence-against-women-and-girls-launched-in-accra/>

April 2019: Radio Miraya

Radio Miraya in South Sudan interview with Becks Buckingham, Country Director DFID South Sudan and Nata Duvvury, principal investigator for What Works Component Three

Project: Social & Economic Costs of Violence, South Sudan

<https://audioboom.com/posts/7231565-counting-the-costs-of-violence-against-women-and-girls>

April 2019: Ghana Web

Ghana loses \$18.9M as economic costs of violence against women

Project: Social & Economic Costs of Violence, Ghana

<https://www.whatworks.co.za/news/news/item/597-ghana-loses-18-9m-as-economic-costs-of-violence-against-women>

March 2019: Global Citizen

UK Aid helped halve domestic violence in DRC

Project: Tearfund, DRC

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/uk-aid-britain-republic-congo-drc-sexual-violence/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

13-17 July 2019 | New Heights in Health Economics: Basel, Switzerland

What Works evidence on the cost-effectiveness of programmes to prevent violence against women and girls will be featured at the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) biennial congress. Find out more [here](#).

21-24 October 2019 | SVRI Forum: Cape Town, South Africa

The SVRI Forum is the world's key research conference on violence against women and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality in low and middle-income countries. It is attended by researchers, practitioners, NGOs, activists and policy makers – and is a critical space to share work and influence discussions in the sector. What Works will have a strong presence at the forum this year through a mix of both oral presentations and science pitches of latest evidence from evaluation projects; (co) hosting pre-conference workshops and an exhibition stand. Find out more [here](#).

12-14 November 2019 | High-level Conference on ICPD25, Nairobi, Kenya

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the ground breaking International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which took place in Cairo in 1994. At that conference, 179 governments adopted a Programme of Action, recognizing that reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality are the pathway to sustainable development. This year's high-level conference will be jointly convened by the Government of the Republic of Kenya and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to advance the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25: Accelerating the promise will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 12-14 November 2019. It will offer an inclusive platform, bringing together governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector organizations, women's groups and youth networks to discuss and agree on actions to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which is critical to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Find out more [here](#).

2-7 December 2019 | International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA): Kigali, Rwanda – call for abstracts now open

The ICASA Conference is the biggest AIDS conference in Africa, with over 10,000 delegates expected from the global village. This year's conference theme is "Aids Free Africa - innovation, community, and political leadership". Find out more [here](#).



Photo: Pixabay