VAWG in Conflict and Humanitarian settings: Does Faith Matter? Findings from the DRC



UKaid
from the British people

What Works Learning Event, London
6th December

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tearfund

HEAL AFRICA

Household survey, Ituri, DRC

Education: None: 35.8% women, 17.9% men
Incomplete primary education: 32.8% women, 35.0% men

Data set: 769 respondents
(369 male, 400 female)

WASH: 67.4% shared pit latrines, 33.3% unprotected water source
No electricity, few assets



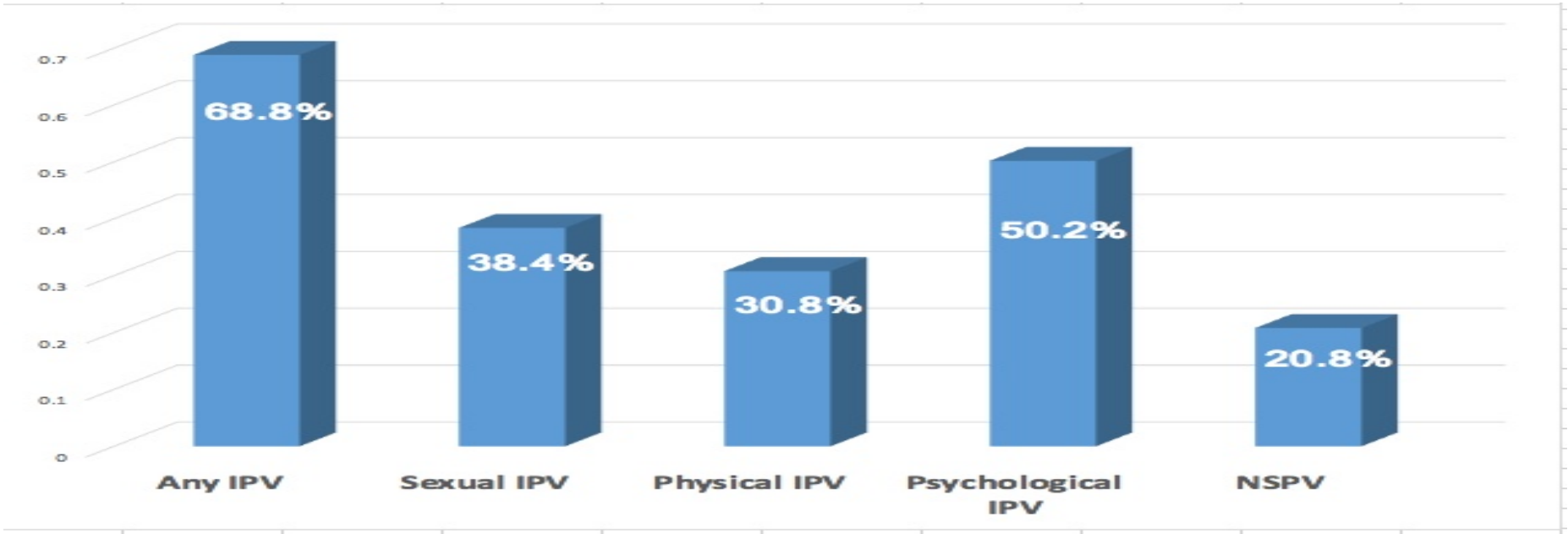
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VAWG in conflict

Women experienced multiple forms of violence:

- **68.8%** female **IPV experience** in past 12 months (**38.4%** for sexual IPV)
- Considerable overlap: only 31% women no experience of IPV and 17.1% men committing all 3 forms of violence

- **86.6%** of perpetrators of NPSV were known, 6% were armed groups



Women's experiences of violence in the last 12 months

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Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict-affected Communities

- **15 conflict-affected communities in Ituri Province**



- **Partner: HEAL Africa**

1. **Engaging Faith Leaders**
2. **Community Dialogues**
3. **Community Action Groups**

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Reach and influence of faith groups

- **95% of respondents** identified with a religion (Christian 76.6%, Muslim 14.0%)
- **83.4%** described their faith as '(very) important' in their lives
- **Most women (57.8%)** and 42.2% of men did not belong to any other community group

- **Faith leaders** were the only social referent* whose opinion people felt significantly motivated to comply with
  - [*social referents = *partner, friends, parents, family, community leaders, faith leaders*]

- Only **5.4% of survivors** agreed their faith group was supportive



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Gender attitudes

- **89.9% of men** and **81.7% of women** agreed with the statement that *'men are superior to women'*
- **71.0% of men** and **66.2% of women** agreed that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten

Links to faith texts:

76.1% of men and **67.2% of women** agreed *'a man is entitled to sex even when his partner doesn't feel like it'*

81.8% of men and **74.9% of women** agreed *'a married woman has no right or control of her body according to the Bible/ Qur'an'*



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Transforming Masculinities

A faith-based intervention to promote gender equality and positive masculinities



FAITH LEADERS

National, provincial and community level faith leaders attend workshops that engage and equip them to provide leadership and support for the Transforming Masculinities process.



GENDER CHAMPIONS

Community faith leaders select key male and female members of the community to be trained as facilitators of small group discussions named 'community dialogues'.



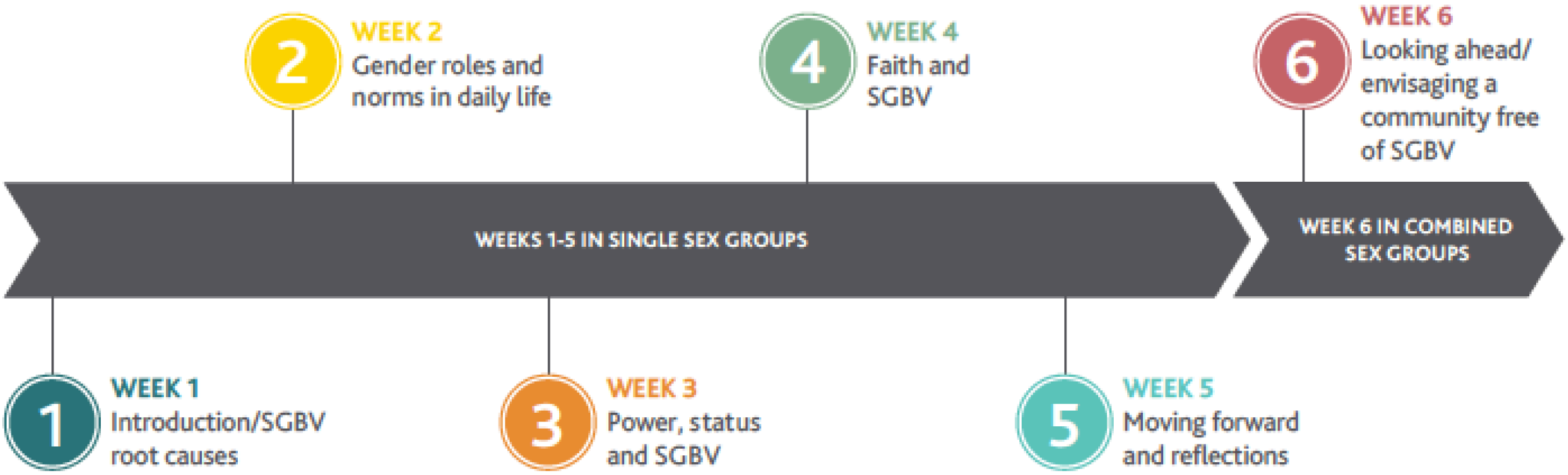
COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Small groups of men and women meet weekly in their communities for six weeks for discussions led by Gender Champions. Weeks 1-5 are conducted in single sex groups and Week 6 in combined sex groups.

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Community Dialogues

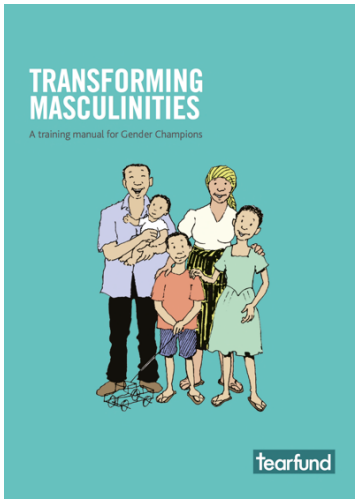
Community dialogues run for six weeks and follow key themes in the order described below.



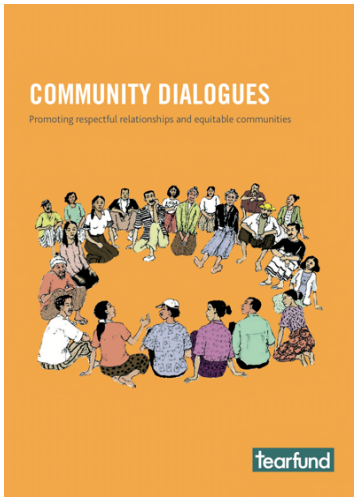
Male only sessions are led by male Gender Champions and female only sessions by female Gender Champions.

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Transforming Masculinities tools

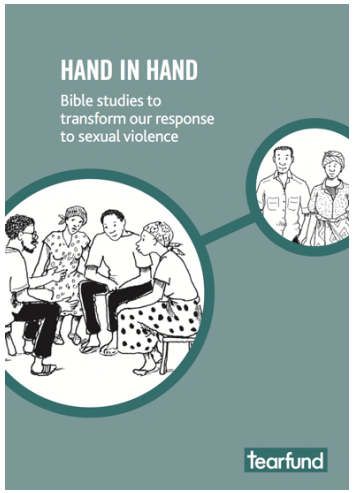


Transforming Masculinities manual – for faith leaders workshops and to train Gender Champions



Community Dialogues - facilitator's handbook for Gender Champions leading community dialogues

Hand in Hand: Bible studies
Used by faith leaders as a sermon guide and for use in small group discussions (diffusion aspect)



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Evaluation



- What is the impact (positive and negative) of faith leaders and faith groups in addressing harmful social norms?-
- To what extent do faith leaders and faith groups promote positive masculinities and gender equality?
- Do faith leaders and faith groups facilitate a safe and supportive environment for survivors, and if so, how?

Quantitative and Qualitative research tools :
baseline household survey and an ongoing panel study

Faith engagement protects against IPV

- **Active faith engagement** - reduced experience of physical/sexual IPV for women

- Active female faith engagement - more likely to **believe IPV is never justified** and to believe women can **refuse sex**

- Men actively involved in their faith - more likely to have gender equitable attitudes



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“We had an awareness session last Friday at the mosque, and we used a Qur’an verse that is closely related to the one in Genesis that says God created us all equal. We spoke about that last Friday. And on Sunday, our theme was gender equality.” – ***Imam***

“When I heard the teaching, I felt that it is a good teaching …What touched me is that when you are a father in a family you must not let anger control you; and don’t have a habit of beating people physically. Well, I saw that it can be a good thing helping people to live in peace in marriage.“
– Community member

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www.tearfund.org/sexualviolence
www.whatworks.co.za
CHAMPIONS DE GENRE
TUPIGANISHE
SOTE UJEHURI
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