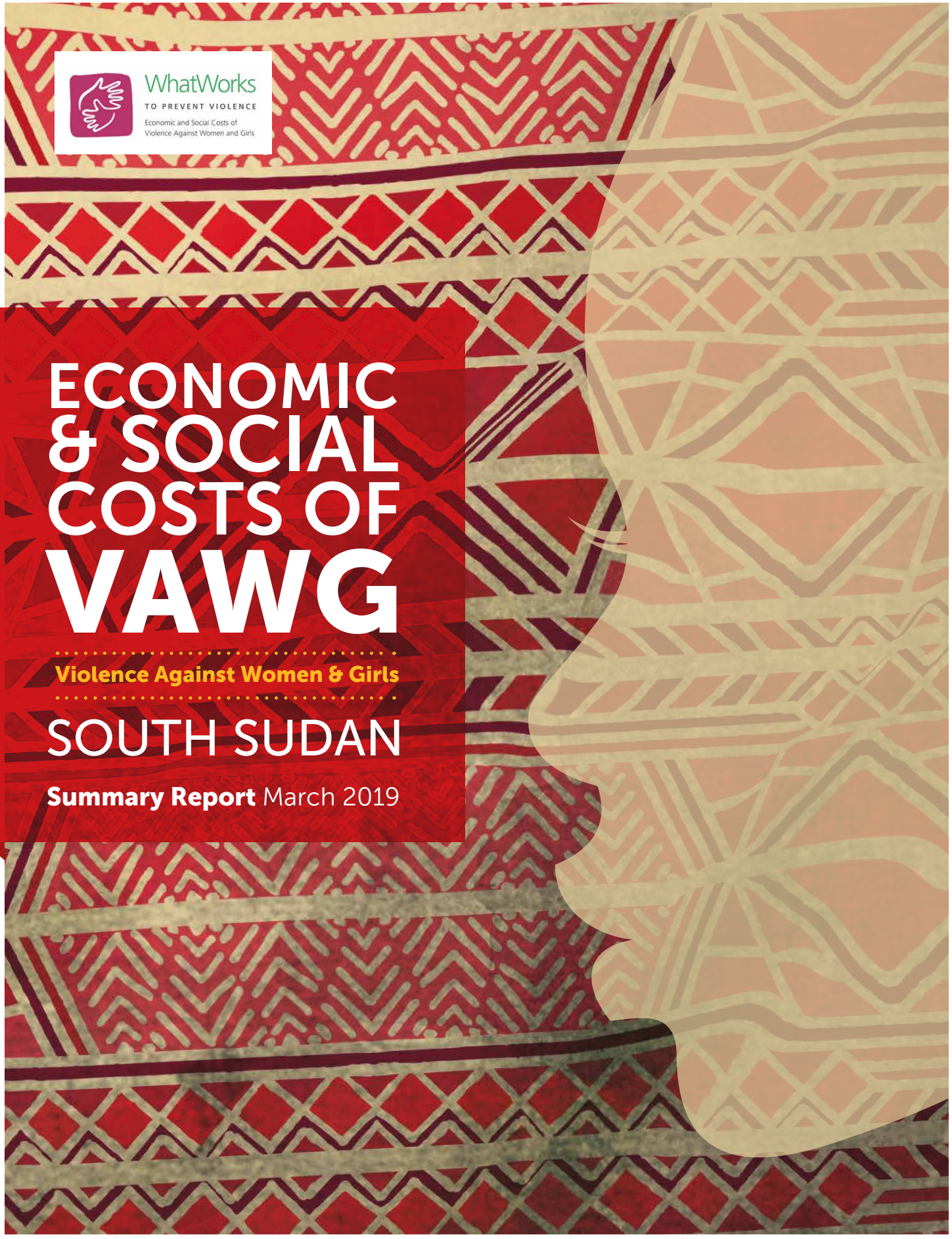


NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh
University of Limerick
Ollscoil Luimnigh
Ipsos
Ipsos MORI
T-CONS
TANGO CONSULT
Research, Consultancy, Advocacy, M&E & Training
UKaid
from the British people

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COSTS OF VAWG

Violence Against Women & Girls

SOUTH SUDAN

Summary Report March 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors acknowledge the comments and input received from the VAWG team of DFID, in particular from Emily Esplen and Claire McPherson, national experts including members of the National Advisory Board, international experts and national and international stakeholders. The authors specially thank the National Bureau of Statistics of South Sudan for ongoing support and advice throughout the duration of the research study. The report would not have been possible without the invaluable generosity of women in the communities in South Sudan where this research took place.

Nata Duvvury
Principal Investigator

Authors:

University of Limerick

Khalifa Elmusharaf

National University of Ireland, Galway

Stacey Scriver

Mrinal Chadha

Carol Ballantine

Muhammad Sabir

Srinivas Raghavendra

Nata Duvvury

Ipsos MORI

John Kennedy

Sara Grant-Vest

Tango Consult

Peter Edopu

The photos in this report do not represent women and girls from South Sudan or those who themselves have been affected by gender-based violence or who accessed services.

Suggested Citation: University of Limerick and NUI Galway. 2019. Economic and Social Costs of Violence Against Women in South Sudan: Summary Report. Galway: NUI Galway

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DFID	UK Department for International Development
FV	Family Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPSV	Non-Partner Sexual Violence
NUIG	National University of Ireland, Galway
OPE	Out-of-Pocket Expenditures
PoC	Protection of Civilian
PSUs	Primary Sampling Units
PSV	Public Space Violence
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WPV	Workplace Violence



CONTENTS

1. ABOUT THE STUDY 6

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT 8

3. METHODOLOGY 9
- 3.1 Approach 9
- 3.2. Methods of data collection 10
- 3.3 Survey tools for quantitative data 11
- 3.4 Analysis and calculation of costs 13
- 3.5 Limitations of the study 14

4. KEY FINDINGS 17
- 4.1 Nature and prevalence of violence experienced by women 18
- 4.2 VAWG has significant social costs at the individual and household level 19
  - 4.2.1 Health impacts 19
  - 4.2.2 Impact on children 22
- 4.3 VAWG has significant economic costs at the individual and household level 23
  - 4.3.1 Out-of-pocket expenditures (OPE) by household 23
  - 4.3.2 Loss of productivity 24
- 4.4 VAWG has significant economic costs at the business/regional economy level 25
- 4.5 VAWG has significant economic impacts at regional level 29

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 30

ABOUT THE STUDY

This report presents a short summary of the key findings of the What Works to Prevent Violence: Economic and Social Costs project relating to South Sudan. It is intended to provide an overview of the social and economic costs of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in South Sudan that can be used to deepen understanding, and act as an advocacy tool to encourage investment in efforts to address VAWG.

KEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

Lost days of work: VAWG impacts on women's ability to engage in formal and informal work in South Sudan. The overall productivity loss due to violence experienced by women in the survey comes to approximately 8.5 million lost days of work in the past year or equivalent to 6% of the total employed women not working in the regions of South Sudan covered in this study.

Household poverty and consumption: Women who sought services due to the VAWG experienced incurred significant out-of-pocket expenditure at US$21.3 on average per survivor in a twelve month period, in a context in which 80% of the population lives on less than US$1 per day. This translates into more than US$1.2 million spent annually on services by survivors of violence and their families in the regions of South Sudan covered in this study.

Impact on care work: In addition to out-of-pocket expenditures, women in the regions covered by the survey in South Sudan missed three million days of care work in the past year due to VAWG, which has significant implications for the wellbeing of women and their families.

Losses to businesses: Violence both within and outside of the home affects the bottom line of businesses. About 28% of female employees across the 99 businesses surveyed reported missing days as a result of IPV and non-partner sexual harassment, equal to 10 days work each on average in the past year. Overall, among the 99 businesses, the total loss of person days due to IPV and non-partner sexual violence is equivalent to the loss of 1.1% of the workforce annually.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is widely recognised as a violation of human rights and a challenge to public health. Further, VAWG is an under-examined but crucial component of the overall crisis in South Sudan.[1] VAWG has economic and social costs that have not been adequately recognised either in South Sudan or internationally. These costs impact individual women and their families and ripple through society and the economy at large. The threat VAWG poses to the social fabric of the country and its impacts on economic development has not been adequately investigated, analysed or quantified in South Sudan.

This research contributes to addressing this knowledge gap by exploring the tangible and intangible costs of violence on women, their families, communities and businesses in South Sudan. This information demonstrates the economic case for investment by government and donors in the prevention of VAWG.

In recognition of the dearth of knowledge of these impacts and costs, particularly in fragile and developing contexts, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded this research to investigate the social and economic costs of VAWG in Ghana, Pakistan and South Sudan (2014–2019), as part of its wider What Works to Prevent Violence, Research and Innovation programme. A consortium, led by the National University of Ireland, Galway, with Ipsos MORI and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in collaboration with Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf from the University of Limerick, conducted the research to estimate the economic losses caused by VAWG as well as the non-economic costs of violence on the economic growth, development and social stability of South Sudan.

[1] Component 2 of the What Works programme has undertaken a mixed-methods study on the prevalence, forms, patterns and drivers of VAWG in South Sudan. This study by George Washington University, the International Rescue Committee and CARE International UK undertook quantitative and qualitative data collection in the city of Juba, Rumbek Centre, Juba protection of civilian (PoC) camps and Benitu POC. See the main report: The Global Women's Institute and International Rescue Committee (2017), 'No Safe Place: A Lifetime of Violence for Conflict-Affected Women and Girls in South Sudan'. Washington DC: George Washington University and London: IRC.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Approach

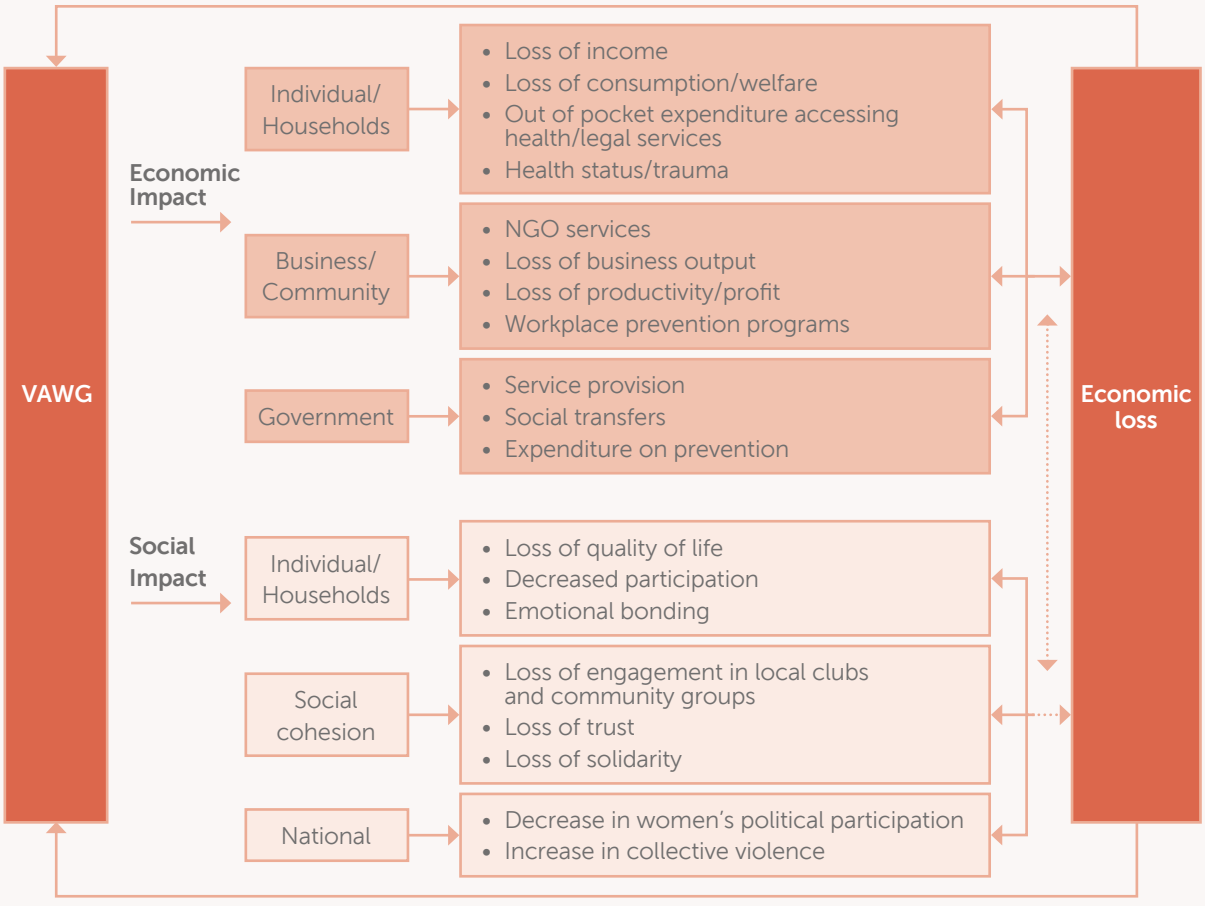
The conceptual framework guiding this research (see Figure 1) details the ripple-effects of VAWG at three levels: individual/household, community/business and government/national. While governments incur expenditure to prevent and mitigate the impacts of violence, this research has not focused on government expenditure. In our view such expenditure is not a 'cost' but the necessary investment to fulfil the government's human rights obligations to prevent, protect and prosecute against VAWG.

The framework helps in understanding the inter-linkages that exist between the social and economic impacts both in the medium and long-term. The dotted lines in the framework highlight levels of analysis that cannot be completed within the remit of this project, but which we hypothesise exist.

The study focuses on estimating the costs for individuals and households of accessing services, productivity loss in terms of days of absenteeism and presenteeism (being less productive), days of missed care work and missed school days by children.

These losses at the individual and household level are extrapolated to the regional level to estimate the costs for the economy in the regions covered by the survey. We also estimate the economic costs to businesses to understand how violence against women impacts the business sector. The social impacts of violence against women, in terms of reproductive, physical and mental health outcomes, are also explored.

Figure 1. Conceptual framework: Economic and social impacts of VAWG



The estimates of costs in this study are partial: not all of the pathways from economic and social impacts to economic loss are explored. In particular given the limited methodologies available and the lack of longitudinal data, the study has not established how social impacts translate into economic costs. If the various social impacts are in fact quantified and monetised, the overall loss would be many times greater than the current estimates, which are based only on tangible economic impacts.

The estimates brought forward by the study are an important contribution to our understanding of the economic and social costs, in addition to the rich existing knowledge of public health costs of VAWG.

Ethical approval

Ethical approval was obtained prior to the commencement of field work. Ethical approval was granted for the overall project by the Research Ethics Committee, National University of Ireland, Galway. Additionally, the research was approved by the National Bureau of Statistics in South Sudan before fieldwork was initiated. Measures were taken to ensure that all fieldwork met key ethical principles of research, such as interviewer safety, wellbeing of participants and confidentiality.

3.2 Methods of data collection

This study used a quantitative approach including surveys of individual women, households, and businesses. For the women's and household survey, bomas (the lowest level administrative unit in South Sudan) were used as primary sampling units (PSUs). The South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics applied a random stratified sampling with probability of selection proportional to population size from the overall sampling frame used by them for other surveys they have undertaken. 84 bomas from Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Warrap, Western Bahr-El-Ghazel and Western Equatoria were included in the study.[2] The fieldwork was not attempted in protection of civilian camps or in areas where active conflict was ongoing due to concerns for safety of interviewers.[3] Additionally the survey did not collect data on women's experiences of conflict and how conflict was/is driving VAWG.[4] Plans for qualitative research following the completion of the quantitative survey had to be abandoned given the deteriorating security situation in late 2016, when the primary survey with women was completed.

For the business survey, self-administered surveys using paper-based questionnaires were used to gather information from employees in 99 formal businesses in both the service and industrial sectors, including manufacturing, retail and wholesale, hospitality, transport, construction and financial services. A purposive quota sample was used in order to select the 99 formal businesses (84 in Juba and 15 in Yei). Both male and female employees completed the business survey with all employees given the opportunity to complete the survey. For female employees, the survey covered their experience of violence, whereas for male employees it covered both their experience and perpetration of violence. Employees were also asked about providing assistance to female colleagues who had experienced violence. 27 managers also took part in structured interviews that were administered face-to-face.

[2] The states of Northern Bahr el Ghazel; Unity, Lakes and Jonglei (except for one county) were not surveyed. Additionally specific countries in the states covered were excluded. For further details see the Economic and Social Costs of Violence Against Women in South Sudan: Country Technical Report at http://www.whatworks.co.za

[3] The study area of this research did not overlap with the parallel study by International Rescue Committee and George Washington University.

[4] For readers interested in data on women's experiences of conflict or the interaction of VAWG and conflict, please see The Global Women's Institute and International Rescue Committee (2017), No Safe Place: A Lifetime of Violence for Conflict-Affected Women and Girls in South Sudan'. Washington DC: George Washington University and London: IRC.

3.3 Survey tools for quantitative data

At the household level, two separate surveys were administered: one to collect information about household size and socio-economic status while the other was a subsample of adult individual women (18–60 years) to collect information about personal attributes, experience and impacts of VAWG. Similarly, two separate surveys were conducted with businesses, one for managers with another for employees. These various surveys were administered by Tango Consult, an Ipsos MORI sub-contractor. Details on the key components of each survey are provided in Table 1.



Table 1: Quantitative data collection

Survey tool	Sample characteristics	Key components	Type of analysis
Households			
Women n=1917	Respondent: Women Respondent's age: 18–60 years Geographical coverage: Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Warrap, Western Bahr-El-Ghazel, and Western Equatoria	Wellbeing and social networks; incidents of intimate partner violence and non-partner violence at home, workplace, educational institute and public space.	Prevalence rates for: • Forms: IPV, violence by other family member, at workplace, in educational institutes, in public spaces. • Types: Physical, sexual, psychological, economic. • Timeframes: Past 12 months, ever. • Impacts: physical, reproductive and mental health; loss of productivity; aspects of social cohesion and capital. • Costs: see Table 2 below.
Household n=1996	Respondent: Head of household Respondent's age: Over 18 years old Geographical coverage: as above	Information concerning overall household and individuals within the household, including: socio-economic status, including property ownership and occupational distribution.	Age profile, marital status, education status, employment, occupation, wages, reproductive work, children and property of all the members of the household.
Business sector			
Employees n=680	Respondent: Male (357) and female (323) employees Geographical coverage: Juba and Yei	Male employees: experiences of violence, perpetration of violence, provision of assistance. Female employees: experiences of violence, provision of assistance.	Economic impact on businesses due to experience of violence, perpetration of violence or assisting others who have experienced violence: • Missed work days (absenteeism), • Number of days coming late (tardiness) or leaving early, • Decrease in productivity (presenteeism).
Managers n=27	Respondent: Male and female managers Geographical coverage: as above	Understanding of violence, their knowledge of violence, and the impact of violence within the workplace.	Economic impact on businesses including cost of addressing productivity impacts of violence.

The women, household and manager surveys were conducted face-to-face, whereas the employee surveys were self-completed, with questionnaires being handed out to employees in sampled businesses. To ensure the protection of employees, the manager surveys were undertaken in separate businesses to the employee surveys. All fieldwork was undertaken between June and November 2016, and all the quantitative data was analysed using professional statistical software (SPSS and STATA).

3.4 Analysis and calculation of costs

Statistical analysis was undertaken to explore the broader ramifications of the costs of violence. These methodologies provide, for example, estimates of the out-of-pocket expenditures associated with IPV, and the number of days lost per survivor experiencing IPV calculated to reflect the coverage of the survey (38% of South Sudan).

Quantitative data analyses were undertaken across all the three datasets of individual women, households and business employees. Table 2 provides an overview of the type of analysis undertaken with each dataset.

At the individual/household level, two types of costs have been considered to estimate the economic and social impact of violence experienced by women across various locations. These are direct and indirect tangible costs as described below.[5]

Table 2: Elements of cost estimation

Category	Cost elements
Individual/Household level	
Direct cost/Out-of-pocket cost	Healthcare expenses, police fees (formal and informal), costs of arrest, shelter, filing cases, costs incurred in courts, replacement costs for property damaged property
Indirect cost	Productivity loss because of absenteeism and presenteeism, days lost in care work and missed school days by children
Business level	
Indirect cost	Productivity loss due to absenteeism, tardiness and presenteeism

Absenteeism, tardiness and presenteeism were explored in the women's survey through detailed probing of reasons for missing work, being late or being less productive in the last four weeks (see Box 1 for details) and the number of days that this happened. The average of days for the last four weeks was calculated and then scaled to the year. In the business survey, the same questions were asked but explicitly for the last 12 months as a result of experiencing violence.

[5] For the details of the costing model and estimation methods, refer to the technical country report http://www.whatworks.co.za

Box 1: Measurement of absenteeism, presenteeism and tardiness

Term	How it was measured
Absenteeism	Reporting missing days of work in the last four weeks due to being unwell at home, medical care at hospital or clinic, taking care of child or other dependents, attending legal matter, or not having enough money for transport.
Tardiness	Reporting being late for work by at least one hour in the last four weeks due to the above reasons.
Presenteeism	Reporting one of the following in the last four weeks: difficulties concentrating on the work; work much more slowly than normally would; exhausted at work; stopped work because she was worried about something; and/or stopped work because she had an accident at work.

The estimates for productivity loss from the women's survey were based on assessing the difference between working women who experienced violence and those who did not. In the case of the businesses, productivity loss was estimated based on employees reporting days of absenteeism, tardiness and presenteeism as a result of violence.

Household and sample weights were used for all statistical analysis. National estimates were derived after applying the population weight for individual women which is defined as:

Population weights = w_ind *(N/n)

Where w_ind is the individual woman's survey weight, N is the national country estimate of the number of women 18–60 and n is the country sample size. This means that the weight for each case in South Sudan will get exactly the same scaling factor multiplied onto its weight. This works if the individual women's weights have an average of one which is the case of this study. The population weight was estimated using 38% of total female population of 2,607,871 in 2016 derived from World Bank estimates, as no specific regional female population figure covering the survey region was available.

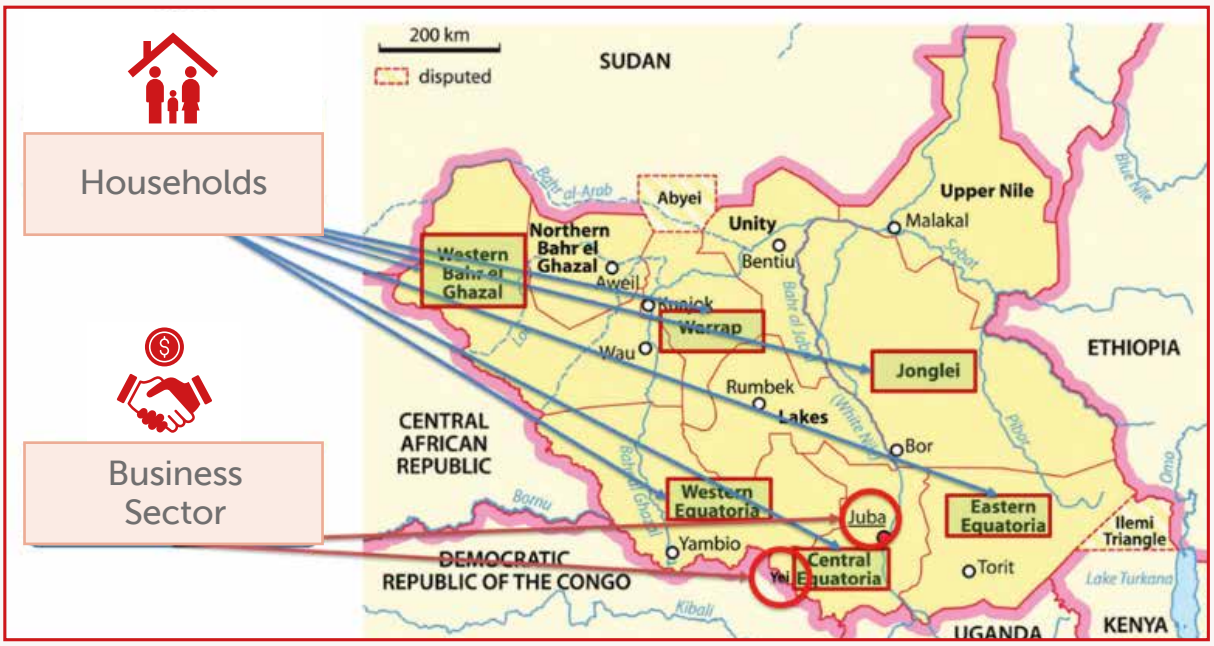
3.5 Limitations of the study

In the study we assume that any type of violence (economic, psychological, physical or sexual) has negative impacts for women. We have therefore explored the economic impacts of any type of violence across the different locations that women experience violence.

An important limitation of the study is that areas in active conflict were not included. Thus given the conflict situation in South Sudan, the survey covers only 38% of women aged 18–60 in South Sudan in 2016. Moreover, given the potential for significant differences in economic activity and social structure between areas of active conflict and those not, it is not possible to extrapolate the findings of this study to the country as a whole.[6] Hence, the estimates of this study provide an insight into the potential economic impact of violence experienced by women and girls for the broader economy with respect to the 38% population coverage (see Figure 2)

[6] Among the surveyed women in this study, 17% of women reported that they had been in the POC or IDP camps for more than a week in the last three years from the time of the survey (2016).

Figure 2. Regions selected for households survey and business survey



Estimates of violence are likely to be underestimates given the reluctance of women to disclose incidents of violence and the difficulty of identifying, let alone quantifying, associated costs. Where the number of women reporting violence is underestimated, then the costs of violence will be even more so.

Furthermore, the costs estimated in this study are not comprehensive given the narrow focus on tangible costs. Thus the study provides only a partial estimate of the costs that are incurred by individuals, households, communities and the overall economy. Estimates presented in this report must therefore be seen as an indication of the impact of VAWG and not a full accounting.

Estimates extrapolated from sample data can result in overestimates or underestimates depending on the representativeness of the sample as well as cell size for variables of interest. All estimates presented here should be interpreted as likely within a +/- 95% confidence interval.

Despite these limitations the central proposition of the study, that women incur loss of productivity because of their experiences of violence, is verified. This highlights the need for the government to address VAWG as a priority issue for building economic prosperity and peace.

Box 2: Definitions of forms of violence

Economic violence

Economic violence involves making or attempting to make the victim financially dependent on the abuser. Examples of economic abuse in the survey include preventing or forbidding someone from working, forcing them to work, controlling income and other the financial resources including selling assets without permission and withholding access to economic resources.

Psychological violence

Psychological violence includes threats of violence, intimidation and humiliation. In the survey examples included insults and belittling and threats of violence against an individual or others they are close to.

Physical violence

Physical violence involves the use of physical force against another. Examples from the survey included hitting, pushing, slapping, choking, threatened or actual use of weapons, and being physically evicted from one's home. Physical violence may or may not result in an injury that requires medical attention.

Sexual violence

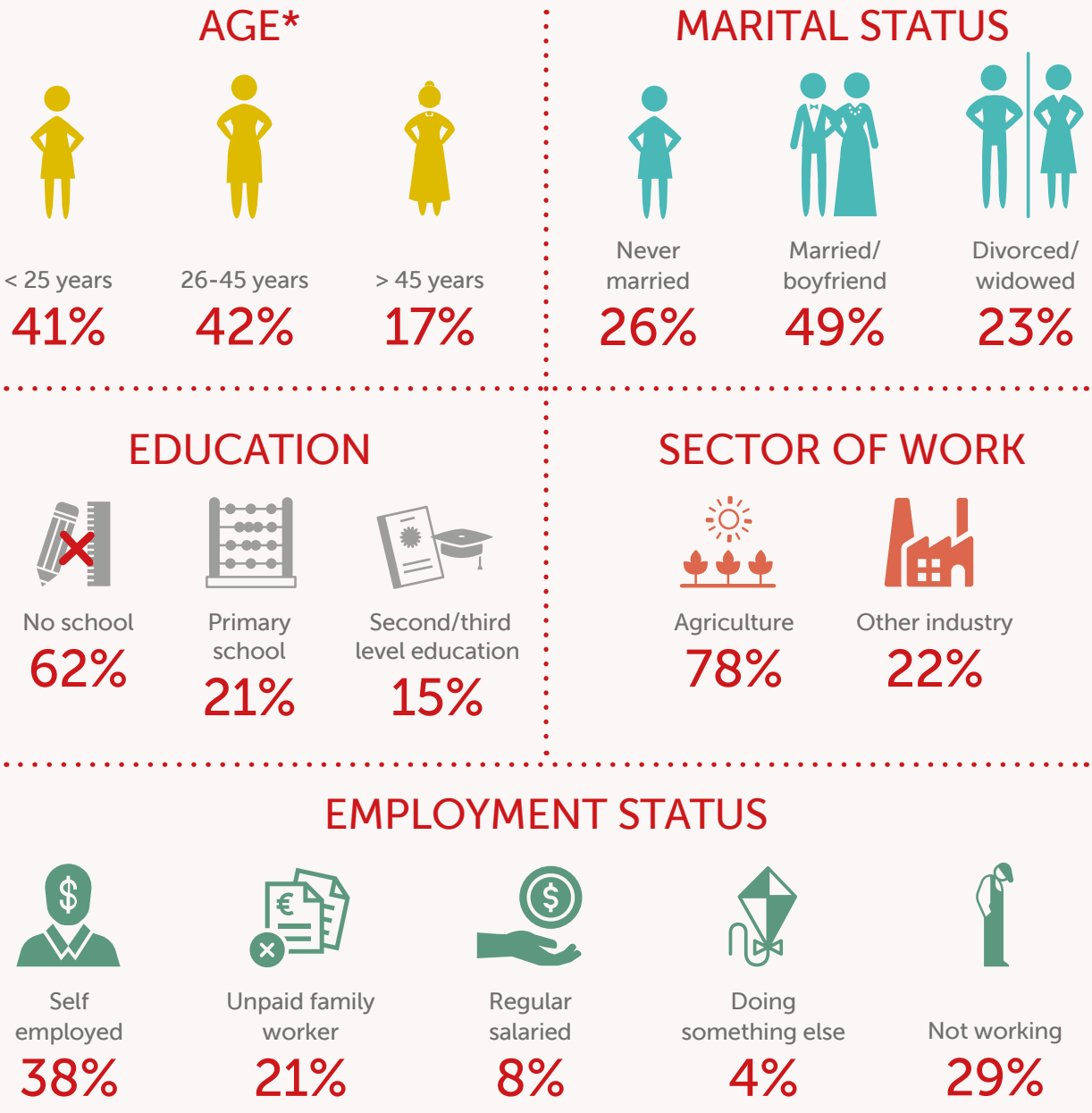
Sexual violence involves being forced or coerced to have sex or engage in other sexual activities without consent. It includes, **sexual harassment:** verbal harassment in a sexual manner, leering, sexual jokes, belittling/humiliating sexual comments; **sexual assault:** grabbing, groping or otherwise touching in a sexual way without your consent; **sexual assault:** forced to touch someone sexually or forced to engage in other sexual acts (e.g. used alcohol, drugs, or threats so that sexual touching could not be refused or physical forced to engage in sexual acts) without consent.



4. KEY FINDINGS

In the following sections we present key findings from the study. First, some characteristics of the sample from the Household Survey are presented (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Household respondent characteristics



* The source of data for Sections 4.1-4.3 is the Household and Women's Survey, 2016.

4.1 Nature and prevalence of violence experienced by women

Women surveyed experienced different forms of violence, including from intimate partners and other family members, and in workplaces, educational institutes and public spaces, as explored below (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Prevalence of violence experienced by women across different forms of violence

IPV



The prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner is high, with **51%** of currently partnered women reporting experiencing at least one such behaviour in the last 12 months.[7] If economic and psychological partner violence are also included, the prevalence of any IPV rises to 72%.

FAMILY



More than four out of every ten women living with extended families reported experiencing violence from family members in the last 12 months. This could be from their parents, parents-in-law, siblings, and/or other family members.

WORKPLACES



Nearly one in three surveyed women who reported being engaged in economic activity experienced some type of violence while working in the last 12 months.

PUBLIC SPACE



More than half of all women surveyed reported experiencing some type of violence in a public space in the last 12 months.

SCHOOLS

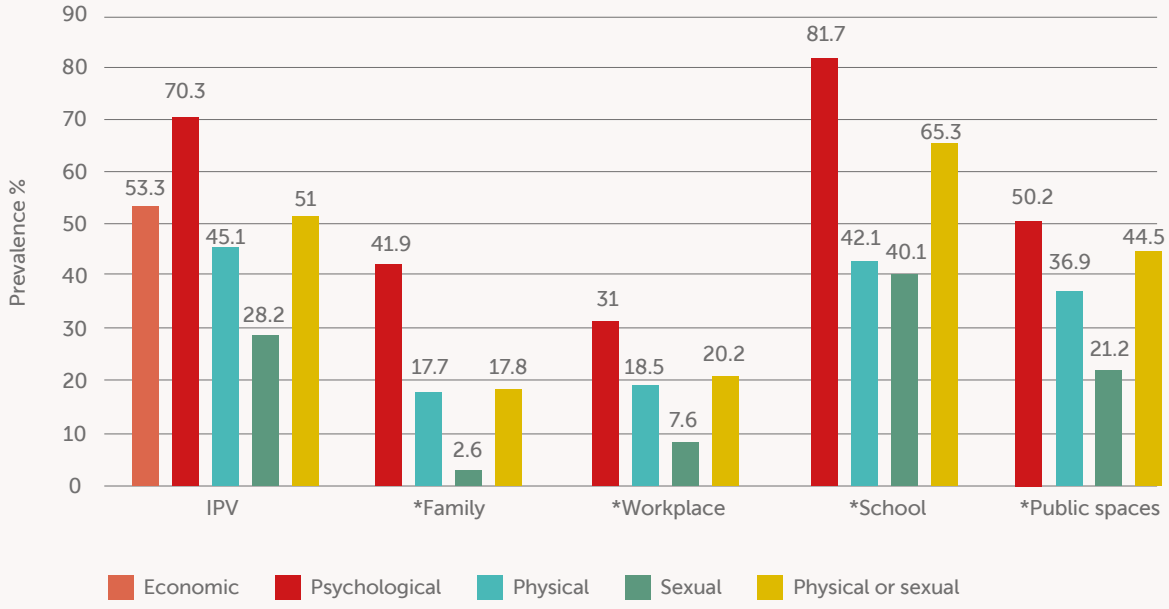


Though the numbers of women attending an educational institute in the women's survey sample are small, more than 80% of women attending educational institutions reported experiencing at least one violent behaviour in the last 12 months.

[7] This is similar to the rates reported in the IRC/GWI study on women in POCs–45% Juba, 47% Juba POC, and 63% Rumbek POC.

Women also experienced different forms of violence, regardless of the location or perpetrator, including economic, psychological, physical or sexual (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Prevalence of VAWG during last 12 months, by location and type of violence



* Prevalence rate conditional on living with extended family, working, and attending school

4.2 VAWG has significant social costs at the individual and household level

In the public health literature on violence against women, many harmful impacts on the physical and mental health of women survivors and their children have been documented.[8] In line with this literature, this research on women's experiences of intimate partner violence in South Sudan also finds significant health impacts for women including injuries, poor reproductive health outcomes, acute illness and depression.

4.2.1 Health impacts

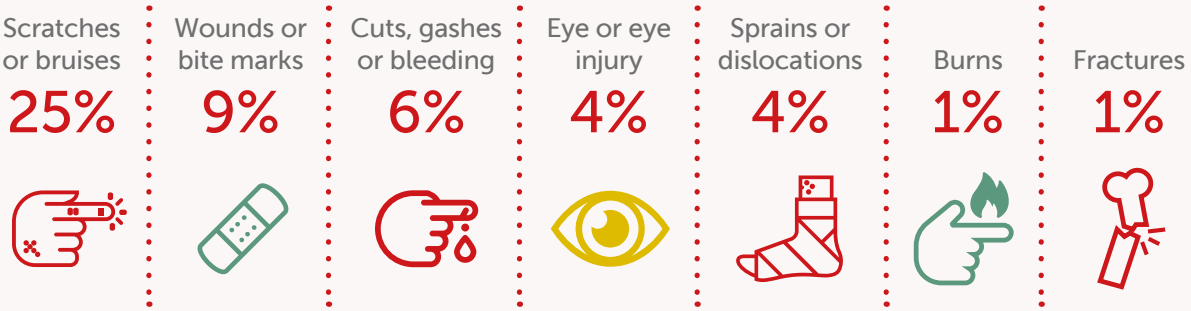
4.2.1.1 Injuries

Of the women who experienced IPV during the last 12 months, 41% reported sustaining injuries as a result of the violence. The injuries most commonly reported[9] were scratches or bruises (25%), puncture wounds or bite marks (9%), cuts, gashes or bleeding (6%), eye or ear injury (4%), sprains or dislocations (4%), burns (1%) or fractures (1%) (see Figure 6).

[8] Bacchus, L., Ranganathan, M., Watts, C. and Devries, K. (2018), 'Recent intimate partner violence against women and health: A systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies'. *BMJ Open* 8:e019995. doi:10.1136/ bmjopen-2017-019995 and World Health Organization (2013) 'Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence'.

[9] Multiple answers possible.

Figure 6. Reported injuries as a result of IPV during last 12 months (N=577)



4.2.1.2 Reproductive health

Using the data from the household survey, a comparative assessment of reproductive health conditions in the last 12 months, between women who experienced IPV and those who did not, was conducted as seen in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Increased odds of reproductive health issues among married women who have experienced IPV compared to married women who did not experience violence during last 12 months

	PREGNANCY	MISCARRIAGE	ABORTION	STILLBIRTHS	CONTRACEPTION
ECONOMIC IPV	**2.21***	1.37	1.53	**1.34***	1.04
PSYCHOLOGICAL IPV	**2.17***	1.36	1.30	1	**0.53***
PHYSICAL IPV	**2.79***	1.17	1.53	1.16	**0.60***
SEXUAL IPV	2.20	**1.87***	1.24	1.07	0.90

* Odds ratio (OR) is statistically significant at P value < 0.05. The OR represents the odds that an outcome (reproductive health outcomes) will occur given a particular exposure (violence), compared to the odds of the outcome occurring in the absence of that exposure

Women who experienced **economic IPV** were **2.21 times** more likely to be **pregnant** during the same period, and **1.34 times** more likely to report **stillbirth** compared to those who did not experience economic IPV.

Women who experienced **psychological IPV** were **2.17 times** more likely to be **pregnant**, and **47%** less likely to use **contraceptives** (0.53 times) compared to those who did not experience psychological or physical IPV.

Women who experienced **physical IPV** were **2.79 times** more likely to be **pregnant**, and **40%** less likely to use **contraceptives** (0.6 times) compared to those who did not experience psychological or physical IPV.

Women who experienced **sexual IPV** are **1.87 times** more likely to have **miscarried** compared to those who did not experience sexual IPV.

While analysis cannot attribute cause, it is clear that there is a relationship between worsened reproductive outcomes and experience of various types of IPV. Given that a proportion of women experience more than one type of IPV, they would be at greater risk of these multiple negative reproductive health outcomes.

4.2.1.3 Physical and mental health

The women's survey data set provided information on a range of elements relating to health. Using these responses we calculated two scores to estimate the physical and mental health impacts of IPV: acute illness score and depression score.

Box 3: Elements in calculation of health scores

Score	Calculation
Acute illness score	This was calculated based on acute health problems, acute impairment, acute pain, consulting any health care worker, headache, loss of appetite, poor sleep, anxiety, difficulty in thinking clearly, mood, crying, loss of enjoyment, difficulty in making decisions, loss of productivity, loss of interest, worthlessness and tiredness.
Depression score	This was calculated based on suicidal thoughts, loss of interest, mood, poor sleep, tiredness, loss of appetite, worthlessness and difficulty in thinking clearly.

Acute illness score was statistically significantly higher among women who experienced economic, physical, or sexual IPV in the last 12 months. There were no statistically significant associations between acute illness score and psychological violence.

Depression score, as expected, was consistently higher among women who experienced any type of IPV (see Table 3).

Table 3: Impact of IPV on physical and mental health

	Economic		Psychological		Physical		Sexual	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Acute illness score								
Mean	10.03	8.60	9.74	8.70	10.20	8.79	10.43	9.03
Mean difference	1.43 *		1.04		1.41 *		1.40 *	
Depression score								
Mean	1.77	1.27	1.65	1.26	1.79	1.30	2.00	1.35
Mean difference	0.50 *		0.39 *		0.50 *		0.65 *	

* Findings are significant, P value < 0.05 (95% confidence interval)

4.2.2 Impact on children

Of the women who reported IPV and who had children, more than half (57%) reported a psychological impact on their children as a result of IPV during the last 12 months. These various impacts have longer-term effects on children's cognitive development that may compromise their academic performance and future potential and wellbeing (See Figure 8).

Figure 8. Common psychological impacts on children due to witnessing IPV as reported by women who have children and who reported IPV during last 12 months (n=333)



4.3 VAWG has significant economic costs at the individual and household level

Poverty is endemic in South Sudan with at least 80% of the population defined as income-poor and living on an equivalent of less than US$1 per day (UNDP, 2018)[10].

4.3.1 Out-of-pocket expenditures (OPE) by household

Most women who experienced violence did not seek services and thus costs were often not reported. The proportion of women who reported OPE as a result of IPV *was 11% of respondents*. In the case of one or more forms of VAWG, 7% of women experiencing violence reported incurring expenditures.[11] The costs of healthcare, filing a complaint in a police station or a case in court, and costs related to accommodation, food and replacing property were calculated. Women who reported out-of-pocket expenditures as a result of VAWG spent an average of US$21 in the last 12 months. This is a particularly substantial burden given that 80% of the population of South Sudan lives on less than US$1 per day (UNDP, 2018).

To produce a regional level estimate of direct costs incurred by survivors of violence, we first applied population weight to extrapolate the number of women experiencing different forms of violence across the regions covered in the survey. Secondly, the mean expenditure for each group was calculated by averaging across the reported expenditures by women experiencing each form of violence. Multiplying by the mean expenditure reported by each group of women provides the overall direct cost for women survivors of violence within the covered regions (see Table 4 below).

Table 4: Regional estimate of direct OPE incurred by women survivors of violence, last 12 months[1]

					95% Confidence Intervals (USD)	
	No of Women*	Mean	Total	Total in USD	Lower	Upper
IPV	33,198	1183	39,274,253	785,485	209,135	1,361,836
FV	5905	465	2,747,310	54,946	20,322	89,570
WPV	7023	1827	12,828,389	256,568	152,149	360,985
PSV	12,769	391	4,987,389	99,748	22,851	176,645
Any violence**	56,341	1064	59,973,019	1,199,460	564,009	1,834,919

* No of women have been rounded off for display but not for estimation.

** Any violence includes a small number of women who reported OPE due to violence experienced in educational institutions.

[1]Population figure used in this estimation was 38% of the national female population estimate for 2016.

[10] www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/countryinfo.html

[11] The proportion of women reporting expenditure among those experiencing VAWG is lower than those among IPV survivors, as double counting was avoided. If a woman had experienced IPV and any other form of VAWG, she was counted only once.

The estimated aggregate out-of-pocket costs for South Sudanese households as a result of IPV within the regions covered is approximately US$800,000. When we add the out-of-pocket costs resulting from family violence, and violence outside the home (workplace, schools, public spaces), the estimated loss for households for the covered regions as a result of all types of violence in the 12 months is US$1,200,000 (see Figure 9). This expenditure represents 3% of the annual income of women experiencing any violence who report out-of-pocket expenditure.[12] In a context where the majority of the population live in poverty, the financial costs due to violence places a significant burden on the economic security of households.



4.3.2 Loss of productivity

Women and their families are also affected by the impact of violence on women's household work and children's school attendance. Women were explicitly asked which care work activities they missed and for how many days (fully or partially) after various experiences of violence. Similarly, women were asked if their school attending children missed school after women's experiences of violence and if so for how many days.

Nearly 12% of women experiencing IPV reported missing care work. For these women, an average of 55 days were missed each in the last 12 months. In terms of any violence, about 7% of women reported missing care work for 50 days.[13] Extrapolating to the covered population by applying population weight, nearly three million days of care work are potentially lost country wide in a year (see Table 5).

[12]This is based on the figure of US$691/ GNI per capita in 2016 applied to the total number of women experiencing any violence and reported incurring out-of-pocket expenditure. The GNI per capita figure is from the report by National Bureau of Statistics on GDP Estimates released in 2017 (see http://ssnbss.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/Final%20GDP%202016.pdf)

[13]The lower average number of days lost by women who experienced any form of violence compared to those who experienced IPV is an outcome of the greater impact of IPV on productivity. Given that IPV often consists of multiple or on-going incidents rather than once-off incidents this finding is understandable.

Table 5: Regional estimate of days of missed care work by form of violence, last 12 months

	No of women	Mean	Total
IPV	36,710	55	2,007,213
NPV	26,654	36	966,677
Any Violence	59,214	50	2,973,891

16% of women living with school going children and experiencing IPV reported that their children missed an average four days of school in the past year. This amounts to approximately 62,000 school days lost in the covered regions annually. Across women reporting any violence in the surveyed regions, in total children missed approximately 83,000 days of school (see Table 6).

Table 6: Regional estimate of missed school days by children in covered regions in last 12 months

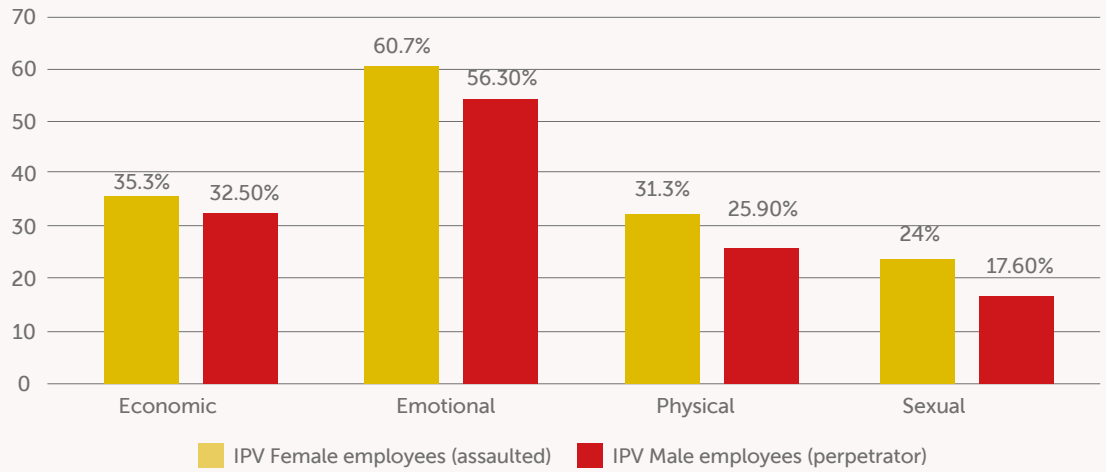
	No of women	Mean	Total
IPV	13,886	4	62,406
NPV	3831	6	21,068
Any Violence	15,641	5	83,474

4.4 VAWG has significant economic costs at the business/community level

Many women workers who were interviewed in the business survey experienced violence by their husband or partner. Out of 323 women employees who were interviewed, 35% reported economic violence by an intimate partner during the last 12 months, 61% reported psychological violence, 31% reported physical violence, and 24% reported sexual violence. Overall 35% of the female employees surveyed reported experiencing IPV in the last 12 months.

Many male workers who were interviewed in the business survey also reported that they were violent towards their girlfriend, wife or partner during the last 12 months. Out of 357 men who were interviewed 33% admitted that they were economically violent towards their intimate partner during the last 12 months, 56% reported psychological violence, 26% reported physical violence, and 18% reported sexual violence. Overall 35% of male employees surveyed reported perpetrating intimate partner violence (see Figure 10).

Figure 10. Prevalence of IPV during last 12 months in the business survey*



*The source of data for this section is the Employee's Survey, 2016.

The survey also gathered information regarding the experience and perpetration of non-partner sexual violence with female and male employees. Overall, 148 women employees reported some form of non-partner sexual violence as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence (NPSV) during last 12 months reported by women employees (Business survey)

Non-partner sexual violence	Number of women experiencing	Percentage of women experiencing
Had derogatory / nasty / humiliating/ belittling sexual comments made about me, received repeated unwanted sexual advances or was threatened with sexual violence	109	33.75%
Touched inappropriately without my permission	113	34.98%
Physically forced to have sex against my will	27	8.36%
Forced to do something sexual that I found humiliating or degrading	24	7.43%
Had sex when I did not want to because I felt threatened or intimidated	17	5.26%
Had sex or provided sexual favours because I was afraid I might lose my job	23	7.12%
Had sex because I was too drunk or drugged to refuse	18	5.57%
Any NPSV behaviour	148	45.82%

Out of 323 women workers who were interviewed in the business survey and reported IPV, 59 (18%) reported tardiness (average of seven hours) as a result of the violence they have experienced in the last 12 months. 65 women (20%) reported absenteeism (average of 99 hours), and 79 women (24%) reported presenteeism (average of 21 hours) in the past year (see Figures 11 and 12). Overall, 28% of female employees across the 99 businesses lost productivity due to IPV (average of 93 hours lost, which is equal to ten days based on working 9hrs per day as reported by employees in the survey).[14] (See Figure 12)

Figure 11: Rate of absenteeism, presenteeism and tardiness as a result of IPV (business survey)

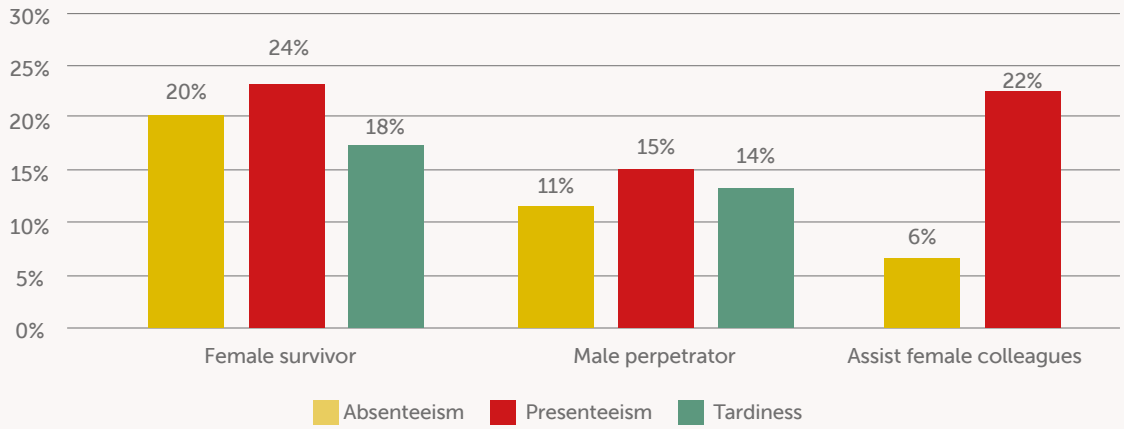
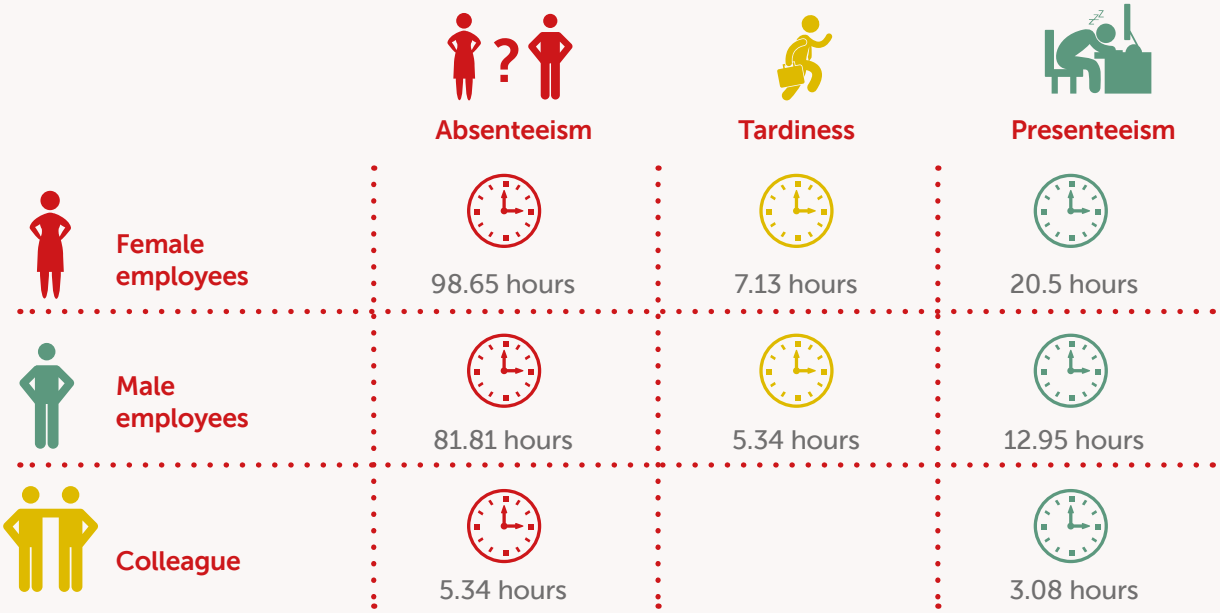


Figure 12: Average hours of work lost in the last 12 months thru absenteeism, tardiness and presenteeism among employees due to IPV in the businesses surveyed



[14] This figure accounts for women who reported more than one form of productivity loss and thus ensuring no double counting.

Additionally, out of 357 male workers who were interviewed, 49 (14%) reported tardiness (average of five hours) following being violent towards their current or previous girlfriend, wife or partner. 41 men (11%) reported absenteeism (average of 82 hours), and 54 men (15%) reported presenteeism (average of 13 hours). While the survey did not ask male perpetrators for the specific reasons that perpetration reduced productivity, it is reasonable to assume that residual feelings of anger and heightened emotion following an incident of violence could result in presenteeism, while incidents of violence themselves may cause a perpetrator to be late for work or miss work.[15]

6% of female and male employees who provided assistance to a female colleague(s) who had experienced violence reported absenteeism (average of five hours) and 22% reported presenteeism (average of three hours) in the last 12 months.

In addition, lost days of productivity due to NPSV was explored for both female survivors and male perpetrators. 14% of female survivors of NPSV reported that they missed work (average of 92 hours) because of absenteeism in the past 12 months. Another 21% reported being less productive (average of 18 hours), and 12% reported being tardy (average of seven hours). A smaller percentage of male perpetrators reported being absent (3%), being less productive (6%), and being late (5%).

Table 8: Total loss of person days for surveyed businesses

Categories	Number reporting	% of Employees	Mean	Total hours lost	Total person days lost
Assistance to female colleagues experiencing violence	150	22.06	4.4	3,616.66	401.85
IPV survivors (Female)	91	28.17	92.89	46,280.58	5,142.29
IPV perpetrators (Male)	69	19.33	62.53	23,623.55	2,624.84
NPSV survivors (Female)	71	21.98	80.52	31,301.43	3,477.94
NPSV perpetrators (Male)	28	7.84	34.14	5,232.98	581.44
Overall	**307**	**45.15**	**65.48**	**110,055.21**	**12,228.36**

[15] This is a finding of several other studies, suggesting the findings of this research are not unusual. In a study in Canada among employed or recently employed men, about one-fourth reported taking time off for up two weeks as a result of domestic violence incidents they perpetrated. See University of Toronto (2017), 'Domestic violence at the workplace: Investigating the impact of domestic violence perpetration on workers and workplaces', available at: http://dvatworknet.org/sites/dvatworknet.org/files/PAR_Partner_report-Oct-23-2017dl.pdf. Equally a study in Peru found that male employees were absent for approximately eight days due to violence perpetration. See GTZ (2013), 'Violence against women and its financial consequences for businesses in Peru', available at http://dvatworknet.org/sites/dvatworknet.org/files/giz2014-0251en-violence-women-financial-consequences-peru.pdf.

Across the 99 businesses, the total number of employees was 3723. Assuming the same gender distribution as in the sample (47.5% female and 52.5% male) we have estimated the total person days lost in the last 12 months by women survivors and male perpetrators, as well as the days lost by all employees for assisting an IPV survivor. The total person days lost comes to 12,228 which is equivalent to 1.1% of the total annual person days across all the surveyed businesses.

4.5 VAWG has significant economic impacts at regional level

The productivity loss was also estimated for all working women in the women's survey based on 38% of national female population to reflect the survey coverage. Women were queried about the various reasons for being absent or less productive in the last four weeks, similar to the business survey.[16]

The days of absence or reduced productivity in the last four weeks were projected to the full year to estimate annual days of productivity loss. The annual estimates were then compared between two groups of working women – those who experienced IPV and those who had not, as well as those who experienced any violence and those who did not (see Table 9).

Table 9: Estimated productivity loss for all working women experiencing violence in the women's survey

Categories	Due to partner violence		Due to any violence	
	Mean days lost**	Total person days lost	Mean days lost**	Total person days lost
Absenteeism*	2.77 (p=.006)	512173	13.08 (p=.000)	6,666,844
Presenteeism*	5.52 (p=.000)	1,020,607	3.59 (p=.021)	1,829,814
Total	8.29	1,532,820	16.67	8,496,658

* Estimated number of women aged 18–60 in South Sudan = 2,607,871 (South Sudan population projection, 2018). Proportion of women covered by the sample = 38%, proportion of employed women = 61.7% from ILO estimate for 15–64 population, prevalence rate of IPV among working women = 30% and any violence = 83%. **Non-parametric Mann-Whitney test was used to establish the statistical significance of the difference in mean.

The results indicate that a significant number of days of productivity are lost by working women due to violence. Given the conflict context and the high rates of violence experienced by women both inside and outside the home, lost productivity due to 'any violence' is nearly double the lost productivity due to IPV alone (16.67 days compared to 8.29 days as shown in Table 9). If we assume 300 working days in the year, the lost productivity due to any violence in the regions covered by this study is equivalent to approximately 28,500 full-time women workers not working. The annual lost productivity due to violence against women within the covered regions is equal to 6% of the female workforce not working. Violence against women is therefore undermining efforts to stabilize the economy and create new economic opportunities through the lost productivity of its female workforce.

[16] The algorithm for calculating the days lost and the individual weights applied are detailed in the full technical report available at: http://www.whatworks.co.za

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ending violence against women and girls in all its forms is a moral, ethical and human rights priority. Violence also has significant costs that stifle development and undermine efforts to reduce poverty and accelerate growth.

The impacts of violence on the productivity of women experiencing violence are highly significant. Within the regions covered by the survey, the productivity loss due to absenteeism and presenteeism among working women in the formal and informal economy who experienced violence comes to more than 8.5 million days annually. This is equivalent to 6% of all employed women not working in the regions covered by the survey.

Out-of-pocket expenditures incurred by women as a result of violence represents a further significant cost. In the regions covered by the survey, women who experienced one or more forms of VAWG and reported expenditures as a result spent an amount equivalent to approximately 3% of their annual income. In the context of high poverty levels in South Sudan, these households spend huge sums to deal with the impact of violence against women.

Another dimension of lost productivity at the household level is the impact on care work, which includes activities that are increasingly being recognised as contributing significantly to the overall output of an economy as well as social reproduction and overall welfare of households. Due to one or more forms of VAWG, women in the regions covered by this study reported being unable to engage in care work for the equivalent of about three million days in a year. Domestic violence also has a significant impact on children in the family, both in terms of missing school days as well as their psychological wellbeing, with implications that last well into adulthood.

The study findings indicate that IPV in the home undermines productivity of the workforce, even in a context of generalised conflict. Employees reported specific impacts of IPV in terms of absenteeism, tardiness and lower productivity at the workplace (presenteeism). The overall impact on productivity due to IPV and NPSV on employees in the surveyed business was equivalent to approximately 1.1% of the total workforce of these businesses not working in the last year. In other words violence against women impacts the bottom line of the business sector.

Recommendations

In the context of the urgent need to revive and rebuild the South Sudanese economy following the peace agreement reached in August 2018, this study demonstrates the significant negative economic consequences of VAWG that may limit the success of the reconstruction processes. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Build VAWG prevention into national policies and budgets, and scale up current efforts to prevent VAWG, including by mainstreaming evidence-based violence prevention approaches into education, health, social protection and other sectors.

Government, through its agencies at the national and local levels, should invest in violence prevention and provide dedicated resources in annual budgets. The costs associated with violence are significant;

its prevention is likely to be more cost-effective than taking remedial measures after the violence has occurred. This should be done alongside establishing, implementing and adequately funding laws and institutions to punish perpetrators and ensure justice for survivors.

2. Involve business associations and chambers of commerce to invest in prevention programmes and activities for combatting VAWG.

This study shows potential costs to businesses that can be averted if VAWG is prevented. Employers and business associations should integrate evidence-based prevention models, such as those evaluated through the What Works to Prevent Violence programme, into the workplace and provide support and leave to women survivors of violence as well connecting survivors to community services as recommended by the ILO.

3. Strengthen existing support services and challenge the norms that limit women's help-seeking after experience of violence.

This study reveals a very low level of help-seeking by women survivors of violence due to shame or stigma, and lack of accessibility of alternative support systems. For the long-term recovery of survivors and the effectiveness of government investment in existing support services, it is imperative that action is taken to tackle stigma against survivors and change the harmful social norms around VAWG.

4. Sensitise communities on using formal institutions to address VAWG and equip formal institutions to undertake these roles effectively.

The findings indicate a reticence in seeking redress through formal channels by survivors since family and community members are often reluctant to intervene or suggest these channels even when they are available. Building trust between communities and formal agencies and institutions is needed to ensure that survivors can access the support required and perpetrators face the consequences of their actions.



All rights reserved
Printed in Ireland 2019

ISBN: 978-1-908358-62-2

WhatWorks
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
Economic and Social Costs of Violence Against Women and Girls

UKaid
from the British people

https://whatworks.co.za/