



# What Works

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

## LATEST EVIDENCE FROM WHAT WORKS

*Photo: Care International Rwanda*

### **Combined economic empowerment and gender-transformative interventions – a crucial contribution to the field of violence prevention**

**Andrew Gibbs and Kate Bishop**

**Published September 2019**

Poverty and VAWG are mutually reinforcing: poverty increases the risk of experiencing violence while VAWG increases poverty. This synthesis summarises new evidence from four projects rigorously evaluated through DFID's What Works to Prevent Violence Programme, which demonstrates that combined economic empowerment and gender transformative interventions for women and families can reduce intimate partner violence and strengthen individuals' and families' economic position. Such combined programmes can also provide a platform for engaging very poor men on gender equity and men's use of violence. Additionally, in highly patriarchal settings where young women's power is particularly constrained within multi-generational family households, combined economic empowerment and gender transformative interventions may best be targeted at families, to strengthen outcomes and ensure women can fully participate in them and reduce the risk of backlash against women. Read the full evidence review [here](#).

### **Impact of Indashyikirwa: An innovative programme to reduce partner violence in rural Rwanda**

This *What Works* brief summarises the impact of the Indashyikirwa programme in Rwanda, which combined a couples' curriculum with community mobilisation, women's safe spaces and training and engagement of opinion leaders. An impact evaluation found substantial reductions in physical and sexual IPV for women and men who participated in the couples' curriculum, including a 55% reduction in women's odds of reporting IPV and a 47% reduction in men's odds of reporting having perpetrated IPV. Participants also

reported improvements in relationship quality, communication, trust, and conflict management. The wider community activism programme demonstrated limited impact, with no significant difference in IPV prevalence between communities that received the interventions and those that did not, possibly due to implementation challenges and the short programme duration. The brief concludes that the Indashyikirwa couples' curriculum is an innovative and effective tool for preventing violence in the home, both among couples and their children. It also highlights the value of the women's safe spaces which were highly appreciated and actively used. Valuable lessons were learned around effective community activism, including the importance of allowing adequate time for adapting, piloting and implementing activism activities to support community-wide attitude and behaviour change. Read the full evidence brief [here](#).



*Photo: Care International Rwanda*

**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](http://www.whatworks.co.za) or contact us at [whatworks@mrc.ac.za](mailto:whatworks@mrc.ac.za)

## LATEST EVIDENCE

### The Common Elements Treatment Approach

This *What Works* brief summarises the impact of the Violence and Alcohol Treatment (VATU) programme in Lusaka Zambia, which is a transdiagnostic intervention that aimed to reduce poor mental health symptoms (trauma, depression, anxiety), IPV, and substance abuse. It is based on the Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) and was delivered to couples (in individual sessions) over 6-12 weekly sessions by lay counsellors. The impact evaluation found that CETA resulted in substantial reductions in women's reports of physical IPV (53%) and sexual IPV (56%). In addition, CETA reduced alcohol abuse among men and women: there was a 62% reduction in hazardous alcohol use among men and a 52% reduction in hazardous alcohol use among women. Read the full evidence brief [here](#).

### What works to prevent violence against children in Afghanistan? Findings of an interrupted time series evaluation of a school-based peace education and community social norms change intervention in Afghanistan Corboz, J., Siddiq, W., Hemat, O., Chirwa, E. D., & Jewkes, R Published August 2019

Against a backdrop of more than four decades of war, conflict and insecurity, women in Afghanistan are recognised as suffering from endemic violence and children are exposed to multiple forms of violence, including within the family and at school. This *What Works* paper presents the results of an evaluation of a school-based peace education and community norm change intervention. The evaluation finds significant reductions between baseline and endline in different forms of violence against and between children, both at school and at home. Both boys and girls had more gender-equitable attitudes and were significantly less likely to express violence-supporting attitudes by endline. There were also significantly fewer symptoms of depression and girls' school attendance was higher at endline. The findings from Afghanistan indicate the potential of combining peace education programmes with community norm change activities to reduce the use of violence against and between children, even in challenging contexts. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#).



Photo: Pixabay

### Exploring the intersection of violence against women and girls with post-conflict statebuilding and peacebuilding processes: A new analytical framework Aisling Swaine, Michelle Spearing, Maureen Murphy, Manuel Contreras-Urbina Published May 2019

This article makes three major contributions to guide researchers and policymakers in addressing VAWG in post-conflict contexts. First, it identifies critical gaps in understanding the intersection between VAWG and post-conflict statebuilding and peacebuilding processes. Second, it presents an ecological model to explore the drivers of VAWG during and after armed conflict. Third, it proposes a conceptual framework for analysing and addressing the intersections of VAWG with both post-conflict statebuilding and peacebuilding. The article concludes that application of this framework can help policymakers shape statebuilding and peacebuilding processes to more effectively institutionalise approaches to VAWG so that post-conflict transitions advance sustainable, positive peace. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#).



Photo: Rostyslav Savchyn on Unsplash

### Women's status and qualitative perceptions of a cash assistance programme in Raqqa Governorate, Syria Alexandra Blackwell, Jean Casey, Rahmah Habeeb, Jeannie Annan, and Kathryn Falb Published June 2019

As part of *What Works*, the International Rescue Committee conducted an evaluation of a cash assistance programme in Raqqa Governorate, Syria. The aim was to examine the effect of a cash for basic needs programme on outcomes of violence against women and women's empowerment. Based on qualitative research with 40 women, this article explores both the positive and negative effects of the cash programme. It identifies increased risks for women whose families received cash, including tension and abuse within both the community and the household, as well as improved outcomes such as potential increased social protection through repayment of debts and economic independence. The findings confirm the importance of further research to design gender-sensitive programming in humanitarian contexts. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#).

## LATEST EVIDENCE

### The effects of conflict and displacement on violence against adolescent girls in South Sudan: the case of adolescent girls in the Protection of Civilian sites in Juba

**Maureen Murphy, Jeffrey B. Bingenheimer, Junior Ovince, Mary Ellsberg, Manuel Contreras-Urbina**  
Published May 2019

This *What Works* article highlights the specific experience of conflict-affected adolescent girls resident in the Juba Protection of Civilian sites in South Sudan. Quantitative data from a cross-sectional household survey shows that the prevalence of non-partner sexual violence (NPSV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) was high among a cohort of girls who were of adolescent age during the 2013 crisis. It fills in a gap in research on violence against women and girls (VAWG) during times of conflict in general and specifically on violence against adolescent girls. Direct exposure to armed conflict increased the odds of respondents experiencing NPSV. Quantitative and qualitative data also showed that patriarchal practices, compounded by poverty and unequal power relationships within the home, remain among the primary drivers of VAWG even in conflict-affected settings. Read the full peer review journal article [here](#).

### Violence Against Adolescent Girls: Trends and Lessons for East Africa

This study examines the unique risks of gender discrimination and violence experienced by adolescent girls, particularly in humanitarian settings. Data collected under the *What Works* programme was analysed with a focus on the experiences of adolescent girls, supported by DFID's Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) consortium. The brief highlights the high levels of violence experienced by adolescent girls in conflict and humanitarian settings, and the need to prioritise programming that responds to girls' needs and addresses barriers to girls' access to services [here](#). Read the related policy brief [here](#).



Photo: Pixabay

### Gender-Based Violence Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation with Refugee and Conflict-Affected Populations: A Manual and Toolkit for Researchers and Practitioners

Developed with support from DFID and the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, and created by the Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University as part of the *What Works* programme, this manual and the associated practitioner toolkit form a comprehensive package to support researchers and members of the humanitarian community in conducting ethical and technically sound research, monitoring and/or evaluation (RME) on gender-based violence (GBV) within refugee and conflict-affected populations. The manual's step-by-step approach enables readers to make appropriate ethical and methodological decisions when collecting data with refugee and other vulnerable populations. In addition, the practitioner's toolkit provides data collection tools, templates and other resources that can be used in the field to enhance data collection and analysis efforts. Read the full manual [here](#).

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### 06 September 2019 | Indashyikirwa online evaluation in Kigali, Rwanda

The launch of the Indashyikirwa results was hosted by *What Works*, in collaboration with DFID-Rwanda and the Rwandan Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), which led the advisory committee of the Indashyikirwa programme. This study found substantial and statistically significant reductions in physical and sexual IPV experience among women and perpetration among men who participated in the Indashyikirwa couples' curriculum. More than 60 people attended the event including government, civil society and international agencies. A diversity of speakers presented the findings including representatives from the implementing partners: CARE Rwanda, Rwanda Men's Resource Center (RWAMREC) and Rwanda Women's Network (RWN). Dr. Kristin Dunkle gave the keynote presentation based on the quantitative online findings. Justine Mirembe shared lessons learned from the qualitative and process evaluation. Regis Hitimana shared preliminary findings from the costing evaluation of Indashyikirwa. Finally, Dr. Erin Stern offered insights from a qualitative assessment of inclusion of men and women living with disabilities in IPV programmes, highlighting lessons learned from Indashyikirwa.

### 08 August 2019 | Agricultural Research Council, Women's day event, South Africa

In celebration of South Africa's National Women's Day, which marks women's contribution to achieving freedom in South Africa, Dr Leane Ramsomar presented at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) women's day event in Pretoria, South Africa. Leane presented an overview of the drivers of violence against women and girls, and evidence on what works to prevent it. The presentation strongly emphasised the role of social norms in VAWG and led to a lively discussion, both about the value of evidence for the field of VAWG prevention, as well as applying the learnings to negotiating power relations within personal relationships.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 17 July 2019 | International Health Economics Association (iHEA) Congress, Basel, Switzerland

Economists from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in collaboration with What Works and partnering institutions organised a session - Economic Evaluation of Violence Against Women and Children Prevention Programming: Results and Key Methodological Challenges - to present methodological approaches and results on the 'value for money' of several violence-prevention interventions featured in What Works.

### 11 July 2019 | What Works Presentation at World Bank, Kabul

The Afghanistan Gender and Social Inclusion Platform of the World Bank invited the What Works Technical Adviser for Afghanistan, Dr Julienne Corboz, to present some of the emerging findings of the programme at the global level and in Afghanistan. In line with the interests of the World Bank and its partners and clients, Julienne focused on the results of interventions targeting women's economic empowerment, community social norms change, and violence against and between children in school settings. She particularly emphasised the results of two What Works funded interventions in Afghanistan. The presentation was attended by World Bank staff in Kabul working on gender, social inclusion and safeguarding, with World Bank staff also joining remotely. There was an extensive discussion about how to move forward with violence prevention programming in a highly complex setting like Afghanistan, with strong interest in emerging global findings of the effectiveness of using family-centred economic empowerment approaches in the region, and the possibilities for scaling up peace education programming in educational settings.

## NEWS

***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.***

### July 2019: IPSOS

***Economic and social costs of violence against women and girls***

### July 2019: UK Government

***United Kingdom: UN Human Rights Council 41 - Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women***

### July 2019: The Conversation Africa

***Men and HIV: how poverty, violence and inequality play a part***

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

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

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, an exhibition stand and an event to celebrate the culmination of What Works. Find out more [here](#).



**SAVE THE DATE**

### Prevention is Possible: What Works?

Join us for a lunchtime event at the SVRI:

This event marks the culmination of the ground-breaking **What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme**. Join us to hear about the new findings and evidence from impact evaluations across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

**23rd October 2019**  
Time: 1:15-2:30pm

**Conference Room(s): Bluebell and Watsonia**  
Convention Square, Cape Town International Convention Centre  
1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town 8001, Cape Town, South Africa

Capacity is limited to 180 people.  
Please RSVP early to:  
[Monalisa.Hela@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Monalisa.Hela@mrc.ac.za) and [Tirhani.Manganyi@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Tirhani.Manganyi@mrc.ac.za)

### 2-14 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. This high-level conference will be jointly convened by Government of the Republic of Kenya and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). What Works researchers have submitted a concept note jointly with the World Health Organisation (WHO), SVRI and CSOs for a thematic session at the conference in Nairobi. For more information, please visit [here](#).

### 2-7 December 2019 | International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA): Kigali, Rwanda

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

