

Evidence Digest

Issue 02 July 2014

Latest evidence

SOCIAL NORMS

[Research on discriminatory social norms in relation to violence against women in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Pakistan](#)

(July 2014): This Plan qualitative research study explores how social norms keep girls and women marginalised. It identifies barriers including strict gender roles, the concept of 'honour', customs and tradition, religious interpretations, gossip and family pressures. The report recommends improving the practical value of education, the implementation of laws, addressing the lack of incentives for boys and men, and girls' lack of confidence. It recognises that influencing social norms is complex and involves long term work beyond donor cycles.

VIOLENCE AND OLDER WOMEN

[UN report on ageing highlights violence and abuse of older women](#)

(forthcoming, 2014): Older women are the world's fastest growing demographic group. According to an upcoming report on ageing by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, older women suffer from sexual violence, property grabbing, and financial abuse. Increasingly, witchcraft accusations are being used to justify extreme violence against older women in 41 African and Asian countries. Older widows are often those most at risk.

CONFLICT AND EMERGENCIES

[Reducing risk to save lives: Keys to building capacity for GBV response in emergencies](#)

(April 2014): An evaluation of IRC's capacity building with Gender Based Violence (GBV) emergency responders found increases in knowledge, confidence and implementation of emergency interventions. Read more at gbvresponders.org.

[Experiences of refugee women and girls from the Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#)

(April 2014): How can Congolese refugee women and girls best be supported? This short note shares learning from IRC's Women's Protection and Empowerment Programs in DRC and provides practical support tips on creating opportunities for self-sufficiency, social support and connections, and safe, confidential spaces for survivors of violence.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The IRC have recently released several publications on violence against children. Evaluations of interventions in Liberia and Thailand found that parenting and family interventions can reduce the use of violence, and improve parenting practices and family functioning in contexts of displacement and

conflict. Another evaluation of an IRC mental health intervention for Somali refugee children in Ethiopia highlights the importance of caring for child survivors, including sexual abuse. For further information, please contact [Diana Trimino](#) at IRC.

- [Parents make a difference, Liberia project: preventing violence against children](#) (March 2014)
- [Happy families program, a parenting and family skills intervention implemented with displaced Burmese families](#) (April 2014)
- [Caring for child survivors, a mental health intervention for Somali refugee children in Ethiopia](#) (March 2014)

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS

[Scorecard on Gender-Based Violence Policies in Conflict & Post-Conflict Settings in Africa:](#)

Do GBV policies engage men and boys? This scorecard, produced by Sonke Gender Justice, MenEngage and UN Agencies, assesses the extent to which national policies attempt to engage men and boys in the prevention and elimination of GBV. It analyses policies from nine African conflict-affected or post-conflict states. The scorecard highlights gaps and priorities in existing laws and policies, particularly the absence of policies that engage men as potential advocates for change.

Contributors

Erika McAslan Fraser, Emma Bell and Lyndsay McLean Hilker – SDDirect
Photos: Manta Ray Media (p.3 – still from video 'Stop Violence Before it Starts')
Lindsay Mgbor, DFID (p.4 – a young woman in Nigeria)
Lyndsay McLean Hilker (p.5 - Couples in Huye District in Southern Rwanda)

Latest evidence

ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

The Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, co-chaired the Summit on 10-13 June 2014 in London. Here is a selection of publications launched at the event:

The International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict was officially launched at the Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict (ESVC) Summit in June 2014. Funded by the UK government, the [protocol](#) provides guidelines and best practice on the investigation of sex crimes and the collection of evidence for future prosecutions. It includes practical advice and checklists.

Special issue of the Lancet on 'Preventing violence against women and girls in conflict':

Watts, Hossain and Zimmerman, in their editorial, link sexual violence in conflict to gender-based violence in general, emphasising the need to address the safety and health needs of women and girls and invest in prevention as well as services.

In the same Lancet edition, Jewkes, Sikweyiya and Jama-Shai explore '[The challenges of research on violence in post-conflict Bougainville](#)', as part of the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, including:

- Difficulties of looking at VAWG in isolation from other common forms of violence
- Importance of capturing the multiple roles people assume during times of conflict
- Training and deploying local research staff, several of whom

were suffering from PTSD

- Ethics – how to ensure that participants benefit from counselling services?
- Politicisation of findings

Research brief on ending sexual violence against adolescent girls in conflict by PLAN, UK:

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence in conflict due to their gender, age and discriminatory social norms. Conflict removes many of the existing protection mechanisms and causes rapid social change frequently leading to forced migration and further forms of violence against girls, such as child marriage and trafficking. An integrated and holistic approach to tackling gender inequality and patriarchy is required to address all forms of gender-based violence.

IMAGES Research explores why boys grow up to commit rape:

Based on surveys with over 7,500 men in five countries, the IMAGES study concludes that men who hold more rigid attitudes to masculinity are three times more likely to perpetrate physical intimate partner violence than men who hold equitable gender attitudes. It recommends the following:

- Focus on gender-transformative programme approaches
- Set a non-violence life course as early as possible, and
- Involve, encourage and learn more from men and boys.

IDS policy brief on 'Addressing Sexual Violence in and beyond the 'Warzone':

Armed conflicts generate different forms of sexual violence - rape, sex trafficking, and survival sex - which affect men and women. This brief argues that leaders should focus their attention on these multiple forms not just SV as a 'weapon of war'. This will help ensure that essential resources are delivered via state, humanitarian and development agencies, avoiding the creation of parallel and hierarchical support systems.

IRC policy brief for the Summit:

This brief highlights the importance of providing care to women and girls who have experienced violence as well as tackling its root causes. Donors, multilaterals and NGOs should address the root causes of GBV, and strengthen key policies and processes related to GBV services in crises, particularly the 2013 Call to Action to prioritise women and girls in emergencies.



DFID-Funded Research



What Works to Prevent

Violence? DFID's global research programme, **component 1 on VAWG prevention** has recently released a short [video](#) called *Stop Violence Before It Starts* and [five publications](#) summarising the current evidence base on what we know works in terms of prevention, response, scale-up, violence against women and girls overall, and research priorities and gaps. DFID also recently launched **component 2 on response and prevention of VAWG in humanitarian settings.**

Making VAWG evaluations effective:

DFID's Evaluation Department have launched a [Review of Evaluation Approaches and Methods for Interventions on VAWG](#). The review process has been accompanied by a dedicated [blog](#), with information about the

process and access to the full report. 74 full evaluation reports were identified by the Review, 39 of which were examined using Qualitative Comparative Analysis. The Review focuses on uptake and use of evaluations and looks at different conditions that can lead to effective evaluations. The report also identifies trends and gaps regarding thematic coverage, methodology, and quality of the evaluations.

Research on men's roles in addressing sexual and gender-based violence: As part of the DFID-funded Accountable Grant on GBV, IDS researchers - in conjunction with national partners in Egypt, India, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda - are examining the ways in which collective action and the involvement of men and boys may

help to change community perceptions and values regarding gender-based violence. IDS recently published an [Evidence Report on Men in Collective Action on SGBV in Kenya](#) which aims to strengthen the overall response to the problem in Kenya.

Research report on domestic violence law: Based on two years of DFID and Economic and Social Research Council research funding, new findings published by Dr Katherine Brickell deepen understanding of why investments in domestic violence law are faltering and what action can be taken. Based on household survey and interview data collection in Cambodia, the [infographic report](#) reveals the structural barriers and multiple gaps between legislation and women's ability to claim their legal rights.

Policy and news

The UK Prime Minister hosted the first **Girl Summit** in London on Tuesday 22 July 2014 (supported by DFID and the Home Office). The **Girl Summit** mobilised efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage, both domestically and internationally.

Linked to the Girl Summit, on Saturday 19 July 2014 the UK government and UNICEF hosted a Youth Day, **#YouthforChange**, an event developed by young people for young people to kick-start action around girls' rights. The day involved interactive sessions, debates and inspiring talks focused on how young people can support the movement to end FGM and child and forced marriage.

The World Bank is launching a new online Resource Guide on VAWG in July. It will include:

- An introduction to VAWG
- 6 sector-specific briefs on:
 - Citizen security, law and justice
 - Disaster risk management
 - Education
 - Finance and enterprise development
 - Health
 - Social protection

New sector briefs will be added over time. To be notified about the launch and receive updates, email VAWG@worldbank.org with 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

The **World Bank** group has also recently launched **Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons from South Asia**, which documents the dynamics of violence against women in South Asia across the life cycle from early childhood to old age.

The **United States** has recently announced a range of commitments to address violence against women and girls:

- Doubling commitment to US\$1m for the **GBV Emergency Response and Protection Initiative**, including: short-term assistance for survivors; targeted training and advocacy for governments, judiciary and civil society; and building and coordinating a global network of non-governmental and international organisations.
- Launching an **Accountability Initiative** to support the development of specialised justice sector mechanisms
- New funding opportunity for NGOs to develop innovative programming to prevent and respond to GBV in refugee emergencies, which builds on the **Safe from the Start** initial commitment of US\$10m.
- An additional US\$2.5m to undertake surveys on violence against children, with a focus on girls, as part of **Together for Girls**.

On 24 May 2014, the 67th World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted an historic resolution: "**Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children**". Through the resolution, the WHO is tasked to prepare the first ever global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence.

UN Women currently manage two major inter-agency initiatives on ending violence against women at global level – **UNiTE campaign** and the **UN Trust Fund to end VAW** – and is currently working on coordinating a **VAW prevention strategy across UN agencies**.



VAWG HELPDESK: RECENT WORK

Over the last few months, the Helpdesk has produced a guidance note on VAWG and education, conducted several rapid research reports, and responded to requests from country offices for short-term country assignments to Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

Guidance note: Addressing violence against women and girls in education programming: This two-part guidance note aims to provide practical advice and tips to support DFID advisors and programme managers and other UK government departments to strengthen the impact of education programmes in addressing VAWG.

- Part A sets out the strategic rationale and broad approach to addressing VAWG in education programming.
- Part B provides specific guidance on designing programmes, including: developing an engagement strategy; options for intervention; case studies of promising practices and lessons learned; and indicators.

Development of DFID Rwanda GBV programme: A VAWG Helpdesk team has been supporting DFID Rwanda to develop and write the business case for a new GBV prevention programme. The proposed four-year programme will provide support to a consortium of one international NGO and two Rwandan NGOs to further develop and roll out a community-based GBV prevention model. The model uses Village Saving and Loans groups as an entry point to support women and men GBV peer educators and community activists to work to change individual attitudes, behaviours and wider social norms through awareness-raising and community mobilisation. It also works with community leaders and uses a gender transformative and peer-to-peer approach “Journeys of Transformation” (JOT) to work with couples to support them to achieve more equitable gender relations and use non-violent means to resolve relationship problems and to influence other couples (see photo below where JOT couples are performing a drama about non-violence in relationships).



VAWG Helpdesk Round-up

The VAWG Helpdesk is a research and advice service for DFID and other UK government staff. The query service has produced the following short reports and expert advice to DFID staff:

- Mapping DFID's sexual violence programming
- International funding mechanisms support to survivors of sexual violence
- Factsheets on: (1) gender; and (2) FGC and early and forced marriage in Yemen
- Early and forced marriage in Afghanistan
- Gender, VAWG and HIV in DRC
- Advice to the AMPLIFY programme on making low-income urban areas safer and empowering for women
- Expert support to DFID Sudan

Want to know more about how we can help you with research or advice? Send us an email or give us a call and we can discuss your request further.

VAWG Contact

Telephone
+44 (0)207 6542019

Email
enquiries@VAWGHelpdesk.org.uk