



# Shifting Power and Reducing Violence in Haiti

Initial Results of an Impact Study  
of *SASA!* and *Power to Girls*  
in Southeast Haiti



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## Acronyms

<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>GWI</b>	Global Women's Institute
<b>HIV</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>NPSV</b>	Non-Partner Sexual Violence
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# Background

## Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a highly prevalent public health concern throughout the world, including in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Globally, the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2018 estimates show that one-in-four women and girls aged 15-49 have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) and about one-in-ten have experienced non-partner sexual violence after the age of 15.<sup>1</sup> Violence is also being experienced by children, with globally one-in-four girls and one-in-ten boys reporting having experienced sexual violence,<sup>2</sup> while in some countries girls are more likely to experience sexual violence than learn to read.<sup>3</sup>

These global estimates are reflective of the situation that women and girls are facing in the Americas where, similar to many countries in the region, Haiti is experiencing high levels of VAWG. The WHO estimates that 23% of women and girls aged 15-49 in Haiti have experienced IPV during their lifetimes, and 12% in the past year.<sup>1</sup> Looking at non-partner sexual violence (NPSV), while national level estimates are not available for women, the Violence Against Children Survey in Haiti, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and partners, found that one-in-four girls had experienced at least one incidence of sexual abuse prior to 18 years of age,<sup>4</sup> while one-in-five girls report that their first sexual experience was forced or coerced.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, nearly half of all girls and two out of every five boys aged 13-17 agree that a man is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, or burns the food.<sup>4</sup>

## The Program

Seeking to reduce these high rates of violence, [Beyond Borders/Depase Fwontyè yo](#) (hereafter referred to as Beyond Borders) implemented the *Rethinking Power* program in an area of Southeast Haiti from 2017-2021. Beyond Borders has been working on child rights, education, and livelihoods in Haiti since 1993.

In 2010, Beyond Borders began its VAWG prevention efforts, adapting the [Raising Voices SASA!](#) methodology for the Haitian context and piloting the adaptation from 2010 to 2015 in Jacmel and four surrounding communities of the Southeast Department. [SASA!](#) is a community mobilization methodology to prevent VAWG and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). *SASA!* aims to prevent IPV and decrease HIV risk by addressing the balance of

### SOME KEY TERMS

#### Violence against Women and Girls

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering for women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.<sup>22</sup>

#### Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship.<sup>23</sup>

#### Sexual Violence

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object, attempted rape, unwanted sexual touching and other non-contact form.<sup>22</sup>

power in intimate partner relationships and in broader community dynamics. In 2014, a randomized control trial conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Raising Voices with partners first demonstrated the methodology's effectiveness in preventing both IPV and risk behaviors related to HIV transmission.<sup>6</sup>

While internal monitoring and evaluation found that the Beyond Borders SASA! adaptation in Haiti had successfully changed community knowledge, attitudes, skills, and risk

behaviors, it also found that these community improvements were not necessarily experienced by girls under 18. To fill this gap, Beyond Borders developed *Power to Girls* in 2013. *Power to Girls* is an adaptation of SASA! and, also, a new creation. It combines girl-centered programming with a community-wide and school-wide social norms change process that highlights the role of parents and caregivers. *Power to Girls* is designed to (1) decrease violence against girls, (2) increase girls' sense of safety, and (3) increase their freedom to make decisions; it does this by combining multiple violence-prevention strategies, including the following:

- Increasing the power of girls and young women through their participation in **girls' groups**.
- **Engaging girls, boys, young women, and young men** to support equitable power relationships between girls and boys and become activists for girls' power.
- Changing power imbalances between girls and boys in late primary and secondary schools through a **school-wide process** that includes personnel training, establishment of school codes of conduct and referral systems, activities outside of class time for students and personnel, and a related school curriculum that integrates with classroom objectives.
- **Changing community values and practices** to increase girls' power through specific **community** and **parenting/caregiving tools**.

## The Context

Beyond Borders implemented the *Rethinking Power* program in La Vallée commune in the Southeast Department of Haiti while utilizing Marigot, also in the Southeast Department, as the comparison commune. Both communities share many strengths, including a strong sense of community responsibility, strong community groups and women's groups, secondary schools, and other assets. However, during the period of program implementation (2017-2021), these vibrant communities were severely tested with living conditions



deteriorating, especially during the latter half of the program from 2019-2021, due to COVID and the political, economic, and social crisis in Haiti. While the underlying cause of VAWG is unequal power between men and women (manifesting in inequitable gender norms that further men's domination of women, attitudes of acceptance toward VAWG, etc.), political, social, and environmental factors may also contribute to increased risk of VAWG. In Haiti these include the following:

- **Social unrest.** Compounding these issues of VAWG are wider societal, political, and economic crises that are affecting the lives of women and girls in Haiti. Protests, strikes, and other societal disruptions due to concerns about economic conditions (such as the elimination of fuel subsidies, inflation, etc.) and corruption are common.<sup>7-9</sup> Politically, elections have been postponed since 2019 and President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in July 2021, continuing decades of instability.<sup>10,11</sup> Increases in criminality and gang violence have also been both in Port-au-Prince and other areas throughout the country, including in the program implementation area of La Vallée, affecting the population's mobility due to insecurity and economic prospects including forcing school closures.<sup>12</sup>
- **Natural disasters.** In addition, natural disasters continue to affect the country. Haiti continues to be affected by the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, as well as the August 2021 earthquake in the Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments that affected 800,000 people, destroying homes, schools, and health infrastructure, and whose aftershocks continued into 2022.<sup>12</sup> Hurricanes and tropical storms have continued to impact several areas of the country, including Tropical Storm Laura, which affected the Southeast department, directly impacting persons and structures and causing a massive loss of agricultural products.
- **COVID-19.** While distrust in government and lack of access to health services are likely contributing to considerable under-reporting, more than 30,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been recorded by WHO.<sup>13</sup> Apart from increasing morbidity and mortality, and overwhelming a damaged and struggling health system, the COVID-19 pandemic has created new barriers to humanitarian response efforts in Haiti as well as ongoing community programming.<sup>14</sup> COVID-related closures and mitigation procedures also impacted on community mobilization programming. Gatherings were also limited for several months due to COVID-19, restricting or halting many daily program activities including girls' group gatherings, activist-led community mobilization, and training and support by staff.
- **Economic and food insecurity.** More than half of the population of Haiti lives under the poverty line (living on less than 3.2 US dollars a day) and the country has some of the greatest wealth inequality in the world, with the rural population experiencing considerably more poverty than those living in urban locations.<sup>15</sup> In addition, at the time of this report, nearly half of the population is experiencing chronic food insecurity.<sup>16</sup>

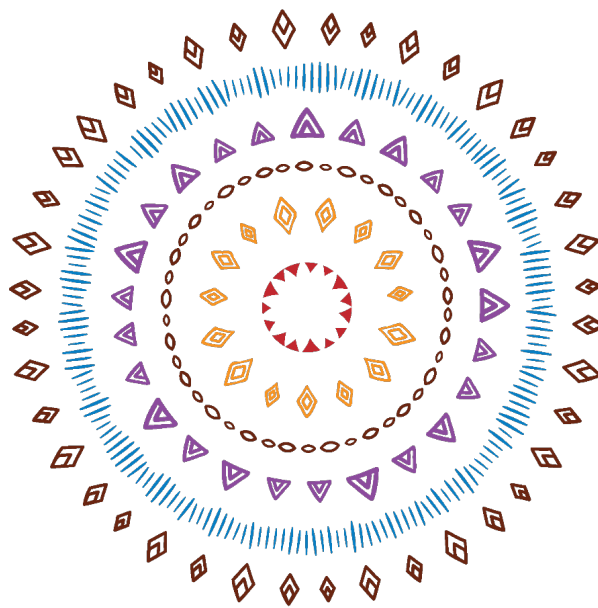
These challenges had direct effects on the implementation of the *Rethinking Power* program. For example, extended school closures meant the schoolwide process of *Power to Girls* could not be implemented as intended and school curriculum was not integrated until the final months of the program. This limited the participation of boys in *Power to Girls*, though all community members were still engaged in community mobilization activities. In addition, some areas of the community were completely inaccessible to program staff for months due to insecurity, and support to the community network was restricted to phone conversations. Gatherings were also limited for several months due to COVID-19, restricting or halting many daily program activities including girls' group gatherings, activist-led community mobilization, and training and support by staff.



## The Research

In 2016, with the support of the NoVo Foundation/Tides, American Jewish World Service, Imago Dei Fund, and individual donor support, Beyond Borders began implementing the *Rethinking Power* program encompassing both an adapted *SASA!* methodology and *Power to Girls*. The program aimed to reduce social acceptance of gender inequality and VAWG; decrease experiences and perpetrations of VAWG; increase girls' sense of safety and freedom to make decisions; and decrease HIV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) risk behaviors. In 2019, an additional, separately funded component, *Safe and Capable*, was added to address these areas among women and girls with disabilities.<sup>a</sup> To measure the effectiveness of this approach, Beyond Borders and the Global Women's Institute (GWI) at the George Washington University—with the support of the NoVo Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank—undertook a quasi-experimental impact evaluation of the *Rethinking Power* program in Southeast Haiti.

This report presents the initial findings of the evaluation results that demonstrate the effectiveness of the *Rethinking Power* approach. We utilize both quantitative and qualitative data from intervention and comparison sites to explore the effectiveness of the program. The findings of this report are meant for non-governmental, government and policy stakeholders to understand the changes among key indicators related to VAWG documented by the study team. Further statistical analysis is also being undertaken and will be shared in upcoming peer-reviewed articles.



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<sup>a</sup> The *Safe and Capable* findings are described in a separate report (Bourassa, et al., 2022).

# Study Design and Methods

## Study Aims

The aim of this study is to evaluate the combined effectiveness of the *SASA!* and *Power to Girls* methodologies on preventing VAWG and SRH risk behaviors. To achieve this aim, the study explores the following research objectives:

- Understand the impact of the *Rethinking Power* program on key violence and gender attitude indicators among women and girls aged 15-64.
- Understand the impact of the *Power to Girls* approach on key violence and girls' empowerment indicators on girls aged 10-19.
- Understand the impact of the *Safe and Capable* programming on violence against women and girls with disabilities aged 15-64.

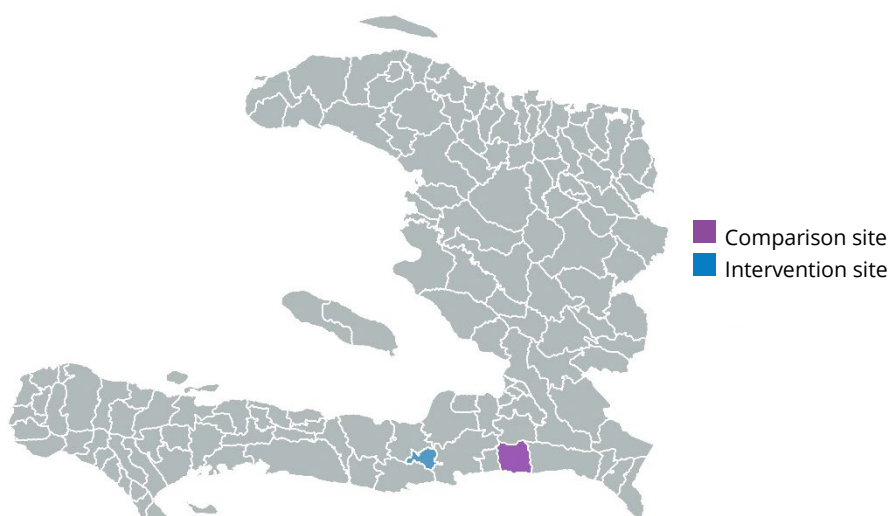
## Study Area

The communes of La Vallée and Marigot are both located in the Southeast department of Haiti. La Vallée is the intervention site, which includes three main communal sections: Musac, Ternier, and Morne a Bruler. Only the first two communal sections were selected to be part of the study due to implementation cost constraints. La Vallée is located 800 meters (2600 feet) above sea level and has around 37,000 inhabitants for its 33 square miles<sup>17</sup>. It lies 24 kilometers from the main city in the area (Jacmel).

Marigot is the comparison site for the study and has six communal sections. Only two communal sections (Corail Soult and Savannes Dubois) were selected, as they have similar demographic characteristics as Musac and Ternier. Overall, Marigot has around 75,000 inhabitants.<sup>13</sup> Around 90 percent of the people, both in Marigot and La Vallée, live in rural areas.

The communal sections selected both in Marigot and La Vallée have similar characteristics in terms of geography, livelihoods (farming production) and economic activities, religious practices and beliefs, and population size. While these locations were purposefully selected into the study, these similarities lead us to believe that they are good comparison locations for a quasi-experimental evaluation.

Figure 1. Map of Survey Locations—La Vallée and Marigot



# Study Methods

The evaluation employed a mixed methods approach, utilizing quantitative and qualitative methodologies for the triangulation of findings. Data were collected at three time points (baseline in 2017, midterm in 2019 and endline in 2021). It includes different components that capture data from women and adolescent girls (aged 10-64), as well as men and boys (aged 10-64). This report focuses on the results of data collected with women and girls (as well as wider community members) through the following methods:

## Quantitative

**Community-based Survey:** Quantitative data were collected through a repeated cross-sectional, population-based, household survey with women and girls aged 15-64 in both the intervention and comparison site. Surveys were conducted with 1,977 women and girls at baseline, 2,151 at midline and 2,432 at endline. Data collection was supervised by local Haiti-based organizations and interviews were conducted by female data collectors via face-to-face interviews in Créole, utilizing tablets for data entry.

The survey tool was developed based on the tools used in the original *SASA!* evaluation undertaken by the London School of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine. The survey measures community members' (women aged 15-64) knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors on key indicators related to VAWG. Through a two-staged systematic random sampling, the clusters (Section d'Énumération) and the households were selected. Only one eligible woman was surveyed in each household. Survey questions were drawn from indicators related to both *SASA!* and *Power to Girls*.

The quantitative data from the study was analyzed in STATA 16 using descriptive statistics as well as bivariate and multivariate statistical methods.

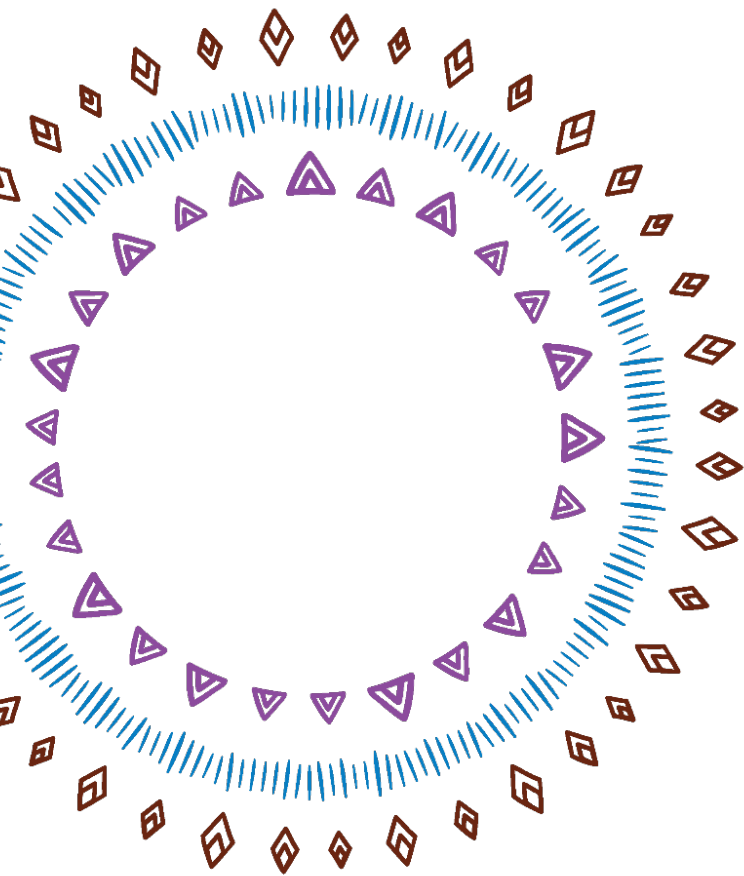
## Qualitative

- **Focus Group Discussions (FGD):** General community focus groups (engaging men and women aged 20 and older in same- and mixed-gender sessions, and girls and boys aged 10-19 in same-gender sessions) were held to validate and contextualize the findings of the community-based survey. These groups utilized interactive and participatory methods, such as free-listing, open-ended stories, etc.
- **Key Informant Interviews (KII):** Key informant interviews were held with women, community activists, school administrators, teachers, community leaders, and service providers. This data helped contextualize and triangulate the findings from the community-based survey and the focus groups. Semi-structured interview guides were developed to give a general framework for the interviews and included opening questions that helped guide the conversation towards answering the research questions, but still allow flexibility in the conversation.

For all qualitative data collection, purposeful sampling was used to ensure a wide breadth of knowledge and experience. Additional respondents were also found through snowball sampling, if required. At baseline, a total of 25 KIIs (13 in La Vallée and 12 in Marigot) and 22 FGDs were conducted (12 in La Vallée and 10 in Marigot, with an average of 9 participants). At endline, 36 KIIs (21 in La Vallée and 15 in Marigot) and 26 FGDs (14 in La Vallée and 12 in Marigot were completed).

Interviews and FGDs were documented by note takers, translated and transcribed. The data analysis was carried out by the research team using the software Dedoose. The research team used a combination of *a priori* and grounded theory to develop and assign codes to the data.

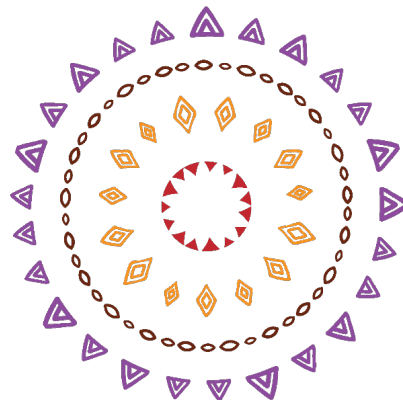
Initial findings were shared back with community stakeholders and Beyond Borders staff during validation workshops in June 2022. These groups helped interpret the findings, provided context, and made recommendations for future iterations of similar programming to reduce violence against women and girls.



## Ethics

The research was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the George Washington University and the Comité National de Bioéthique Haïtien. A local technical advisory group was formed to advise on the study procedures and tools. In addition, permission to conduct the research was secured with appropriate authorities at national and local levels.

Throughout data collection, particular attention was applied to ethical considerations through the use of the WHO's recommendations for conducting safe and ethical research on VAWG. This included minimizing outside knowledge on the purpose of the evaluation, interviewing only one woman per household, conducting interviews in completely private locations, providing referrals to women experiencing violence and needing specialist support, and ensuring the confidentiality of the results. In addition, these ethical guidelines helped inform the selection of the research team (female only and of similar age/background to respondents) and training on both gender concepts and the study methodology.



# Study Results

## Individual and Household Characteristics of Respondents

### Baseline Socio-Demographic Characteristics

At baseline, women respondents were predominately young (about 60% in both La Vallée and Marigot communes were less than 40 years old and a mean age of 35 and 36 respectively). In terms of education, more than half of respondents in either commune had no or only primary education and about half (45% in La Vallée and 56% in Marigot) reported they were working. Forty-two percent of women in La Vallée and 34% in Marigot reported their main source of income as money from their own work. Over 80% of women in both communes reported that they had a male partner (husband, fiancé or boyfriend) at some point in their lifetime, though many less (36% in La Vallée and 23% in Marigot) had ever been married.

Among adolescent girls (aged 15-19), this population was more educated (in La Vallée almost 80% and in Marigot almost 70% of respondents had achieved secondary school education or higher), compared to the general population of respondents. About 70% (75% in La Vallée and 69% in Marigot) reported that they were currently students and less than 10% (3% in La Vallée and 7% in Marigot) said their main source of income was from their own work. About 30% of girls (30% in La Vallée and 28% in Marigot) had ever had a partner, though only a small amount (7% in La Vallée and 5% in Marigot) currently had a boyfriend (none were married).

### Endline Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Overall, characteristics were similar at endline where women were young (mean ages of 37 in La Vallée and 34 in Marigot), primarily working (58% in La Vallée and 62% in Marigot) and had limited education (54% in La Vallée and 50% in Marigot had achieved primary education or less). In terms of partnership, about 90% of each sample reported they had ever had a partner, while about 30% had ever been married (35% in La Vallée and 24% in Marigot). For adolescent girls, a majority (69% in La Vallée and 66% in Marigot) had achieved secondary school or higher and most (71% in La Vallée and 67% in Marigot) were students. Compared to the sample at baseline, more girls (about 50%) reported that they ever had a partner and more (about 10%) were currently partnered. Pregnancy among the 15-19 age group was also occurring with 13% of girls in La Vallée and 15% in Marigot reporting that they had ever been pregnant by the end of the program. In qualitative data, educators in both communes pointed to increasing pregnancy during breaks from school as one of their concerns when it comes to the futures of the girls.

### Context and Insecurity

Due to increasing insecurity in Haiti – particularly in the program intervention area (La Vallée) – during the endline period of the evaluation, new questions were added to capture the degree to which women and girls and their households and communities have been impacted from the insecurity associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and growing political and economic insecurity. Specifically, women and girls were asked about household and community impacts of the insecurity in general, food insecurity, and worry and fear they have experienced. All of these environmental stressors are well documented to be associated with increases in VAWG, particularly IPV.<sup>18-21</sup>

While both sets of communities suffered, conditions deteriorated more in La Vallée compared to Marigot (the comparison site) because of community gang violence that was specific to La Vallée during the period. At

endline, in La Vallée, six-in-ten women and girls over the age of 15 said their community had been affected by insecurity, while half said their households had been affected by these challenges. Women in La Vallée were more likely to report their community has been affected by insecurity compared to women in Marigot ( $p < 0.001$ ). Three out of four women in La Vallée said they were somewhat or very fearful or worried due to insecurity, significantly more ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) than the two-thirds who reported the same in Marigot. In addition, one-third of women and girls in La Vallée reported a serious problem with food and two-thirds of these people said that problem had worsened in the past year. However, more women in Marigot reported serious problems with food compared to La Vallée and about 45% of women in either commune reported their mobility being restricted due to insecurity in their respective area.

“Insecurity has affected the lives of women and girls, as they were afraid to go out because of abductions, rape, and other violence they might experience.”

Girls Focus Group - La Vallée

It should be acknowledged that these deteriorating conditions within Haiti – and specifically in the program implementation area of La Vallée – may have had a negative effect on the impact of the *Rethinking Power* program. For example, some respondents during qualitative data collection noted that violence was worsening due to these contextual challenges.

“Insecurity exists everywhere, but it begins with the arrival of many foreigners [gang members] in the neighborhoods. Women and girls are the primary victims of this. These newcomers to the area.... if one of them commits violence against a woman, we will not even know where to find them. This situation harms the lives of all of us, especially women.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée

“Generally, the shopping areas are the main areas of insecurity, which forces women to stay at home during these situations. As a result, when economic needs are felt, families are destabilized, and an imbalance of power and violence tends to resurface.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée

However, as these conditions were likely to increase rates of VAWG, they would also potentially mask the real results the *Rethinking Power* program. Therefore, we can expect that the results presented below would only be stronger in a less challenging context. Given this, the initial results of the evaluation show considerable promise for the methodologies used and suggest that – even in complex circumstances – community mobilization approaches can change attitudes and reduce violence.



## Gender Attitudes, Beliefs and Norms: How have they changed?

Changing gender inequitable attitudes, beliefs, and community norms are the primary mechanisms of change in both *SASA!* and *Power to Girls* and are integral to preventing VAWG. These include beliefs about gendered roles in the household and public spaces, attitudes that support and normalize VAWG by men, and practices that place women and girls under the authority of men. In this chapter, we discuss the outcomes in these categories. For all statistics, please see Table series 1 (all women) and Table series 2 (girls aged 15-19) in the Annexes.

Agreement with inequitable household gender roles has decreased significantly in both communes since the baseline data collection. However, La Vallée has had more substantial changes in these attitudes. There was a 16% decrease in women agreeing that diapering, bathing, and feeding children is mainly the mother's responsibility from baseline to endline in La Vallée; a 21% decrease in agreement that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family; and a 10% decrease in agreement that men have the final say on decisions in the household. Compared to Marigot at endline, women in La Vallée were also significantly less likely to endorse these gendered roles. Nearly all (about 93%) women in both communes agreed that men and women should share authority in the family at endline.

These changes in expectations of gender roles and household dynamics were also reflected in interviews and focus group discussions. Men and boys, as well as women and girls, discussed the expectation that household labor and decision-making should be shared, and that disputes among couples should be resolved peacefully using examples from the *Rethinking Power* program.

Among adolescent girls (aged 15-19), there was less agreement with inequitable gender roles, and adolescent girls' agreement with inequitable norm in La Vallée showed similar decreases to women of all ages after program implementation. For example, after the program, only about half of adolescent girls agreed that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family and that a man should have the final word about decisions in the home. Overall, girls in La Vallée compared to Marigot at endline had more equitable gender attitudes across most indicators.



"A one-sided relationship is not a relationship; there must be two in a couple. There is no guarantee with taking decisions alone, and it will not be beneficial for the family. The husband always needs his wife's advice to make the final decision. Together they will go further."

Community Focus Group - La Vallée

Similarly, when asked about the rights and responsibilities of boys and girls, there were significant changes. For example, there was a 23% increase in agreement among women in La Vallée at endline that boys should spend as much time as girls on household chores. In addition, agreement that girls should be allowed to socialize outside the home as boys do almost doubled (from 15% to 28%) from prior to after program implementation. Among adolescent girls aged 15-19, these changes were even more dramatic. Agreement that boys should spend as much time as girls doing housework increased from 54% to 70% and that girls should be able to



socialize outside the home increased from 17% to 46%. Corresponding increases were not seen in Marigot, where rates of agreement stayed the same or decreased. Qualitative data echoed this and showed changes in girls' ability to take on new roles within homes and communities.

More girls enrolled in school by endline and there were consistent insights from key informants and focus group participants that families are providing equitable education to sons and daughters. That said, agreement that boys have more of a need to go to school had slightly increased among survey participants in all age groups (from 5% to 7% in La Vallée), though fewer than one-in-ten held this view in either commune, and qualitative data suggested that these families would not be well looked upon.

### Community norms

“I would not accept to do housework alone because my brother and I have the same rights. We can both wash the dishes and cook.”

Girls Focus Group - La Vallée

Inequitable gender norms are also changing, though there were more mixed results compared to changes in gender attitudes and beliefs. For example, nine-in-ten women agreed that women and girls take primary responsibility for chores in both communes both before and after the program, reflecting a reality that even when more equitable attitudes and beliefs come in, behaviors can take longer to change. Regarding perceived masculine norms in their communities, at endline more women in both communes agreed that other men would talk about or make fun of a man for helping with household chores or failing to beat his wife for disobedience – though this number remained relatively small with only about two-in-ten agreeing with these scenarios. Among adolescents,

“Nowadays, girls have the rights and opportunities to be educated as boys do. Before, they had to do hard work in the house, while boys had total freedom. Today, we can observe a change in the community thanks to different activities they have attended.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée



about a quarter shared this perception and this agreement more than doubled (from 11% to 25%) between baseline and endline. Overall, these findings demonstrate that the road to change is not direct and that – as gender roles change in the community – there may be some backlash or return to more conservative values among a minority of the population.

However, qualitative data indicated that – while changes in community behaviors have not fully taken hold – there was considerable recognition that balanced power in relationships was a positive thing.

“For me, this is good because when in a relationship and the woman and the man work together, they both can feed the household. In the community, that type of couple would be congratulated, and that woman would be treated like a real woman. That is something commendable because the couple would be balanced. A couple when both partners work together is the best thing.”

Community Focus Group – La Vallée

“This is a balanced relationship, because they both have a job, and earn enough money to take care of the family.”

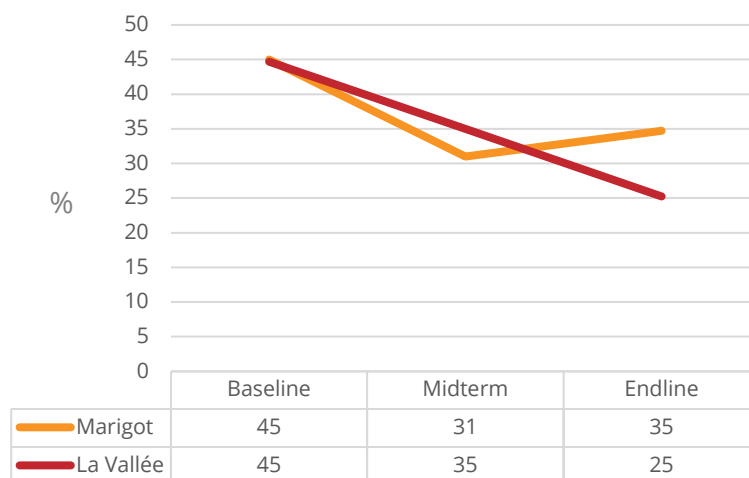
Community Focus Group – La Vallée

In addition, more than seven-in-ten women in both communes indicated that people in the community would approve of a man helping with household chores, and nearly nine-in-ten said the community would disapprove of a man beating his wife for disobedience, with these norms shifting in a positive direction at the same rate from baseline to endline in both communes. Overall, the vast majority of the population in the intervention area agreed with many positive community gender norms at endline and the research found evidence of norms that reject the use of violence from men as a positive behavior.

## Acceptance and justification of violence

Women in both communes agreed that violence is a private matter at similar rates (about 37%) before the program. Between the baseline and endline however, agreement with this statement increased in Marigot while staying the same in La Vallée and the difference was statistically different at endline ( $p < .001$ ). However, this sentiment was not echoed in the qualitative data, where respondents consistently spoke about how they would intervene should they learn about a case of violence. Compared to baseline, 40% fewer women in La Vallée agreed that keeping the family together takes priority even when living with a violent partner at endline,

**Figure 1. Believes violence is justified in at least one scenario**



while only 20% fewer women in Marigot at endline agreed with this statement. Agreement that if a woman is raped, she has done something careless to put herself in that position declined at about the same rate in both communes, with 15% of women agreeing with this statement in both communes at endline.

When asked about scenarios where violence from a husband against his wife may be justified, agreement among women in La Vallée that violence was justified in even one scenario almost halved from baseline to endline (45% to 25%) and there were significant differences between communes with women in La Vallée less likely to agree that violence was ever justified compared to women in Marigot. There continued to be high agreement that it is the entire community's responsibility to prevent men from beating their wives, with about eight-in-ten women of all ages in both communes and both time periods agreeing that this is the case. Qualitative data echoed these findings with community members noting that violence within relationships would be looked upon negatively by the community and that people should speak up against this violence. In particular, respondents were concerned about the negative impact violence within relationships would have on the children of the couples and how this violence may be passed down to the next generation.

“People would see this couple’s relationship negatively, because the man and the woman are always fighting.”

Community Focus Group – La Vallée

“The testimony of someone who attended the activities is essential in changing the lives of others experiencing violence but who does not know how to get out of this unhealthy situation. Your life changes from violence to peace, which can give confidence to others, and your contribution is critical to help them overcome violence.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée

“The reason why I say it’s not a good relationship is because the community cannot see them as a model couple and the children who grow up in the house, what he sees his father doing is what he will do when he grows up. This will have an impact on the raising of children, and it will not be good.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée



# Violence against Women and Girls

The ultimate outcome for the program is a reduction in violence against women and girls, with focus on IPV, the most common form of VAWG. Analysis of the baseline data indicated several risk factors associated with IPV in the study communities, including youth, low educational attainment, marital status for women, partners who engage in fights in the community, and witnessing or experiencing violence in the home as children for either the woman or her partner.

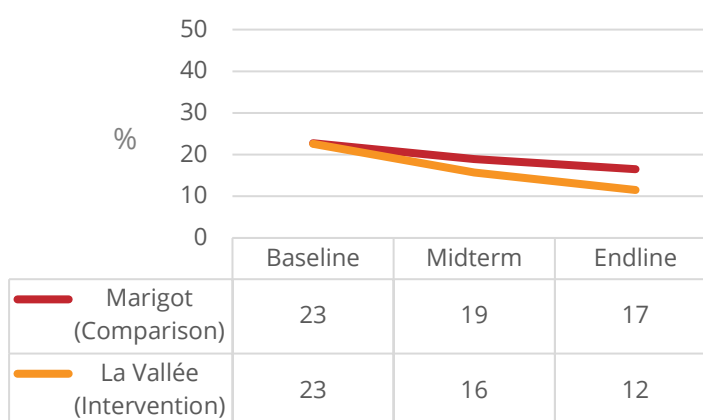
## Current IPV

IPV experienced in the past 12 months is the best indicator of the effects of the program. This measure naturally excludes IPV that occurred long before or early in the program and has not continued during the previous year. See Table 1.5 (all women) and Table 2.5 (15-19) in the annexes for all IPV data.

At baseline, 23% of women in both communes had experienced physical and/or sexual IPV in the past 12 months. This declined significantly in both communities by the end of the program, but a larger decrease was observed in La Vallée where rates of IPV halved – reducing from 23% to 12%. Women resident in La Vallée commune have 30% reduced odds of having experienced past year physical and/or sexual violence compared to women in Marigot at endline.

Women were also experiencing fewer controlling behaviors from partners with an 11% reduction in the number of women reporting these behaviors among women in La Vallée at endline (compared to baseline), while there was an increase in reported experiences of these controlling behaviors among women in Marigot. In qualitative data, community members in La Vallée specifically attributed these changes in IPV and controlling behaviors to the *Rethinking Power* program.

Figure 2. Past 12 Months Physical or Sexual IPV



“In the community, insults have decreased, beatings have decreased thanks to the activities of people through the Rethinking Power program. People have changed; they are more reasonable.”

Community Focus Group – La Vallée

“Yes, there is a change because when the husband has a problem with his wife, he no longer tends to hit her.”

Community Focus Group – La Vallée

“The men became more understanding and use less violence against women.”

Girls Focus Group – La Vallée

“People in the community have participated in activities that help them to understand and analyze how to act towards others.”

Community Focus Group – La Vallée

Adolescent girls (aged 15-19) in La Vallée reported having experienced less physical and/or sexual IPV than older women overall and they too were about half as likely to report this type of violence at the end of the program, though the changes were not statistically significant due to the small sample size and low incidence in the intervention area (6%). When comparing rates of past year IPV at endline, residence in La Vallée reduced the odds of adolescent girls experiencing violence compared to girls in Marigot – though much higher rates of violence were documented in Marigot at baseline (40% compared to 10% in La Vallée) among this group making interpretations of endline differences of limited utility. If we expand the population under investigation to girls 15-23 (an age group that corresponds to the population who would have been a girl at any point during program implementation) there was an almost 40% decrease in partner physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (from 26% to 16%) among girls and young women in La Vallée – double the change seen in Marigot (which saw a 24% decrease). These findings suggest that we will see even greater effect of the program in the lives of the young women in La Vallée as they get older and move into more serious and co-habituating relationships. In addition, it is important to note that prevalence of physical or sexual IPV among 15-19 year-olds at endline in La Vallée (6%) was half the rate experienced by all women (12%) – again suggesting that the intervention is having an impact on rates of violence specifically amongst this population.

Turning to other forms of IPV, experiences of emotional IPV in the past 12 months declined in both communes, from about one-in-four before the program to about one-in-five at the end. Qualitative data suggested that the community insecurity and economic hardships particularly affected incidents of emotional violence, with increasing stress due to these conditions triggering violence.

“Emotional violence is increasing, and with life becoming harder and the unemployment rate is on the rise, people are incredibly vulnerable”

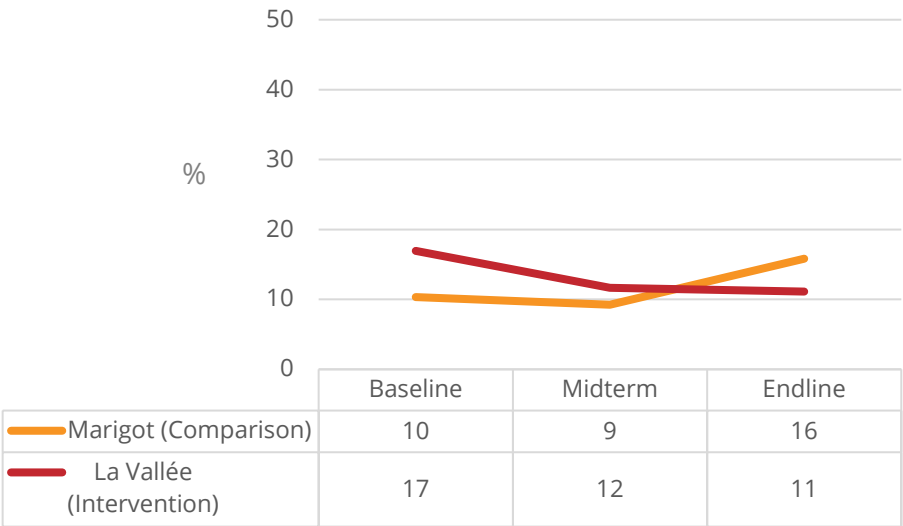
Community Focus Group - La Vallée

These conditions, particularly in La Vallée which saw more community-level violence but also in Marigot which also experienced hardship and poor economic conditions just as La Vallée did, may have masked any potential increased impact of the *Rethinking Power* program for this indicator. If the program was implemented in a context with fewer external challenges, more reductions in violence might have been seen.

Interestingly, economic violence took very different trajectories in the two communes with a 35% decrease in La Vallée women reporting having experienced economic IPV in the past 12 months compared to baseline, while in Marigot there was a 60% increase during the same period, suggesting the program's effectiveness. These gains were not seen as strongly among younger age groups, with both emotional and economic IPV slightly increasing since baseline among girls 15-19, though the changes were not statistically significant and may be reflective of the small sample size of partnered girls in this age range. Expanding the age range to girls and young women aged 15-23 shows that while economic violence stayed the same in La Vallée (approximately 13%

at both baseline and endline), it increased in Marigot (from 11% to 17%), again suggesting that the girls are seeing longer term benefits from the program as they age and enter more serious relationships. Qualitative data also suggested that intersections between masculine norms of men as the economic provider and household decision-maker are reducing, although they have not been completely eliminated. Many also noted that it is more acceptable for women to work – and the financial contributions she can make to the household can reduce household stress and violence.

Figure 3. Past 12 months economic violence



“In most families, the man as the financial provider makes every decision. Therefore, he thinks he can do whatever he wants... Nowadays, thanks to the activities, few couples act in this way.”  
Community Focus Group - La Vallée

“I see this as a wonderful thing, because when you work and your wife is working too, that can be a positive for them because they will be able to buy food for the house. In the community they would say look how they are in love; people would say this lady is a boss. I think it’s a beautiful thing, it’s a balanced couple because they both are working and putting their energy together. This is the best thing.”  
Community Focus Group - La Vallée

### Help-seeking behaviors

For women who are experiencing violence, their ability to seek help is an important aspect of leaving a violent relationship. At endline, though eight-in-ten women knew of a place where a woman could go to get help if they experience IPV, only about one-in-five women in La Vallée and slightly less in Marigot actually reached out for help. However, women who experienced IPV in either commune were more likely to disclose to family or friends; about half of women in both communes have told someone about their experience. Qualitative responses highlighted that women were able to seek intervention when they experienced this violence, suggesting that some response services are functional and can help women leave violent relationships.

“The man is often called to order, or the women who are victims press charges or go to the office responsible for women's rights.”  
Community Focus Group -La Vallée

“When this happens, the district chief talks to the man. If that is not enough, the matter is referred to the Ministry of Women's Affairs.”  
Girls Focus Group - La Vallée

## Current NPSV

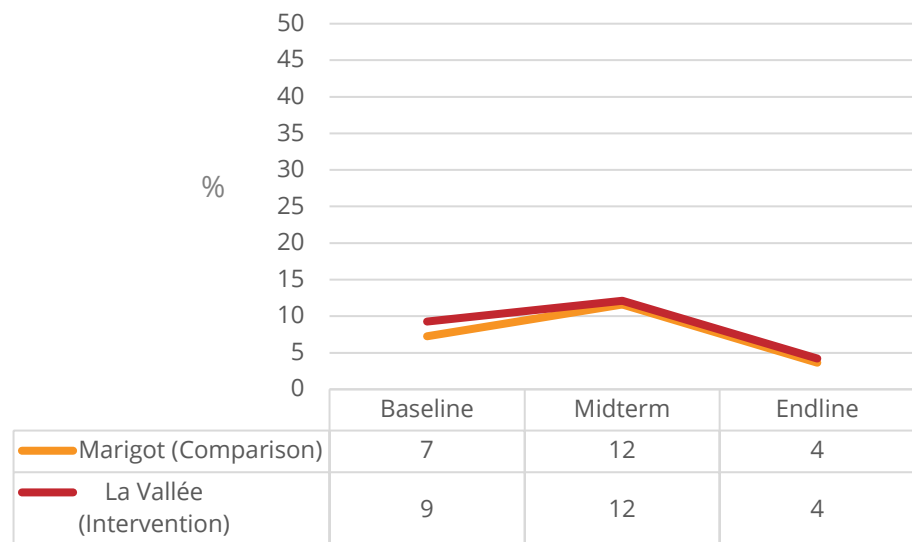
Like IPV, current (last 12 months) data is used to understand how NPSV in La Vallée has changed over the course of the program by naturally excluding incidents that happened prior to the program.

Overall, non-partner sexual violence with contact, including rape, attempted rape, and unwanted sexual violence, has decreased significantly with rates halving in La Vallée (from 9% to 4%) by the end of the program. However, rates also declined in Marigot (from 7% to 4%) and there was no difference between the communes at endline. Among adolescent girls, decreases were smaller and not significant, likely due to smaller sample sizes and generally lower rates of NPSV than IPV.

Sexual harassment, however, has increased in both communes. Among all age groups, about 10% of women in both communes reported experiencing sexual harassment in the past 12 months at endline, though women in Marigot saw larger increases. Among adolescents, rates more than doubled among girls in La Vallée (from 8% to 19%) during the program while they remained the same in Marigot. This is consistent with the findings from girls' focus group discussions, where they indicated during community mapping exercises that they were not safe around the school, the market, or in the street due to insecurity. Girls indicated that these locations have largely become unsafe

since the insecurity began (“Girls have been affected by it [insecurity], because they are kidnapped, they experience violence in the community.” – Community Focus Group – La Vallée) – suggesting that some of this result is stemming from larger contextual issues about insecurity in the program area rather than an impact of the program itself.

Figure 4. Past 12 Months - non partner sexual







### **Box 1. Women and girls with disabilities**

Overall, about 30% of the surveyed population (women and girls aged 15-64) were identified as having a disability (using the criteria set out by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics).<sup>25</sup> Specifically, at endline 31% of the surveyed population in La Vallée and 30% in Marigot had a disability. In general, women and girls who had a disability were more affected by the on-going insecurity, were more food insecure, and experienced worsening health, compared to the general population.

Affecting our ability to fully evaluate the *Rethinking Power* program's effect on women and girls with disabilities was the fact that the disabilities-focused component (*Safe and Capable*) was not added to the programming or research until the midpoint of the program, so progress was measured from 2019-2021 – a period that coincided with the largest increases in insecurity and program restrictions (due to both increases in gang violence and the COVID-19 pandemic). This more limited period for implementation (and research) may have affected the program's ability to reduce VAWG (and measure this reduction) as behavior change is a longer-term outcome.

Perhaps, not surprisingly, given the external constraints and limited time period, rates of VAWG among women and girls with disabilities did not decline between the midterm (baseline for *Safe and Capable*) and endline surveys. However, if we assume that, at the overall program baseline in 2017, prevalence of VAWG with disabilities was at least as high as the prevalence among the general population (likely a conservative assumption given that VAWG with disabilities is often higher than violence within the general population) we can see the full effect of the *Rethinking Power* program, complemented by *Safe and Capable* activities. Looking at this data, we can document a 35% decrease in violence (from 23% to 15%) against women and girls living with disabilities across the four years the *Rethinking Power* program was implemented.

Furthermore, non-partner violence also decreased (even during the shorter period when specific data on people with disabilities was available). For example, sexual violence (with physical contact) among women and girls with disabilities in the past year decreased from 15% at midterm (when *Safe and Capable* activities began) to 5% at endline, though similar declines were also seen in the comparison site of Marigot. In addition, the program saw marked successes in other outcomes – such as improved mental health, visibility and community participation of women and girls with disabilities. These improvements were not just limited to women and girls with disabilities themselves, as wider attitude shifts among the general community were documented – in both quantitative surveys with women and girls and through qualitative data with women, men, boys, and girls– that showed disability stigma is reducing across the communities where *Safe and Capable* was employed. For more details on the *Safe and Capable* approach and the results of the research see: Bourassa et al. (2022). Preventing violence against women and girls with disabilities: An evaluation of the Safe and Capable in Haiti





## Girls' Sense of Safety, Support, and Agency

Adolescent girls (aged 15-19) were asked about their sense of safety in their communities, decision-making power and confidence, and whether they have discussed VAWG with others during the past 12 months.

Analysis indicated no significant change in girls' sense of safety since baseline among girls in either the intervention or comparison communes. About nine out of ten girls still reported feeling safe at home and at school, while fewer than half felt safe at friends' homes. Six-in-ten felt safe walking in the community, which may be due to fears of sexual assault, harassment from boys and men and kidnapping associated with rising insecurity raised by girls and mothers in separate focus groups.

- ◆ "We are not safe when we go get
- ◆ water because boys taunt us. We are
- ◆ safe when we are at home, at church
- ◆ and at school because nobody uses
- ◆ violence against us."

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

- ◆ "My mother never wants me to go
- ◆ fetch water with boys, because when
- ◆ we arrive there, if the boy does not
- ◆ see any people around, he may have
- ◆ bad intentions and may hurt me like
- ◆ sexually abuse me."

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

- ◆ "Girls can be kidnapped or victims of
- ◆ other types of violence when they
- ◆ come back from school."

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

However, in qualitative data, girls (particularly older girls) reported more concerns within their school experience – including violence from male classmates and teachers.



“I don’t feel safe at school because it doesn’t have only girls. There are also boys at my school. Even though you don’t agree to it some boys do certain things, they would do it to you anyway because their intention is to violate you (girls). Even though you warn them not to touch you anywhere on your body, they usually touch you when you are about to pass by the doors and get to the class. It’s a violence they make us suffer.”

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

“I don’t feel comfortable at school because some of the teachers... especially when we refuse to be in love with them as they wish.... they can sometimes make us repeat the same class.”

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

“In the classroom, they touch us against our will. For example, while you passing by the door of the classroom some boys (students) can touch your ass (or buttocks). When you don’t accept this violence, they start to fight you as if you hit them.”

Girls Focus Group—La Vallée

When examining indicators of agency, girls 15-19 in La Vallée have increased their ability to make decisions in their lives and were more likely to say they have the freedom to choose how to spend their free time (increasing from 70% at baseline to 83% at endline) and that they can choose who to be friends with (increasing from 87% at baseline to 96% at endline). There has been no significant change in their ability to choose to participate in activities, though more than nine-in-ten reported having this freedom in both time periods. Qualitative data also showed changes in girls’ decision-making and agency – though it was noted that boys often still enjoyed more freedom (often due to fear of sexual violence or harassment against girls in the community).

“Girls and boys are now helping each other with household chores. Girls can go to school and have the same opportunities as boys, unlike the previous generation when girls could not play soccer.”

Community Focus Group - La Vallée

“All the girls go to school without exception. In this area, they participate in many activities such as *Power to Girls* activities, church activities. For example, I used to host a group of children. They meet in church activity every Saturday. They also organize their own activities in their homes.”

Key Informant – Teacher - La Vallée

“In the past, some [girls] would run away from being spoken to, because of shyness. Today they are more social and less shy.”

Key Informant – Teacher - La Vallée

“There is no real difference in the way girls are treated compared to boys in our community. The boys have a little more freedom, but all have the same rights, all go to school.”

Key Informant – Girls’ Group Administer - La Vallée

Residence in La Vallée at endline was positively associated with improved odds of girls’ agency to make decisions across each indicator (ability to choose how to spend free time, choice of friends, and ability to participate in activities that interest them) compared to girls in Marigot.

When examining social connections, girls in La Vallée have not significantly increased reports of having friends their own age outside their families, nevertheless more than eight-in-ten do have this kind of social support. However, at endline, fewer than half had a female figure they can go to on a regular basis for support and guidance, similar to the baseline findings – suggesting that female mentorship remains a gap, despite the program’s efforts in this regard.

Finally, more girls are speaking openly about VAWG. In La Vallée, significantly more girls reported that they had spoken with family (from 18% at baseline to 26% at endline) or friends (from 29% at baseline to 42% at endline) about VAWG in the past 12 months compared to baseline. Qualitative data showed that messages children learned about sharing power and reducing violence were being brought home for discussions in their families (*“When the children get the message, they share it with their parents.”* – FGD Girls La Vallée). They were also more likely to have spoken about it with someone they don’t know than they were previously, but the difference was not statistically significant. In focus groups, girls aged 15-19 indicated confidence to approach boys and men to discuss violence they were perpetrating against their partners.

“I have noticed that some of the youth in the program, represent an example for others by dictating them the attitude to have. And these young people are leaders that serve as light, orientation, and guides for their peers.”

Key Informant – Teacher - La Vallée





## Box 2. Girls' Groups

While *Rethinking Power* seeks to engage the entire community across its methodologies, one mechanism the program utilizes within *Power to Girls* to specifically engage girls is girls' groups for girls aged 10-19. A specific survey was administered to girls' group participants in La Vallée in order to understand the impact of the program on this population. Overall, the program had considerable impact on gender attitudes, acceptance of violence, self-esteem, and safety. For example, while only 73% of respondents at baseline thought that if they work hard, girls can do any job they want at baseline, almost all (99%) agreed with this statement at endline. In addition, acceptance of traditional feminine and masculine norms (for example, agreement that a woman's primary role is taking care of the home decreased from 68% to 37% and agreement that men should have the final say at home decreased from 63% to 36% over the course of the program). Furthermore, agreement that violence is justified for at least one reason decreased by more than half (from 45% to 19%). This is also less than the agreement in the wider population of girls aged 15-19 from the community survey where 36% agreed that violence could be justified in at least one circumstance – suggesting the specific work with girls' group participants is leading to increased positive effects. There were also considerable improvements in girls' self-esteem with a 23% increase in the belief "I have the same ability to succeed as my peers" and a 47% increase in the belief "I am able to do things as well as others". These changes were also reaching populations beyond the girls specifically and affected their home life with a 14% increase in girls who reported that their parent/guardian supported their desire to go to school – leading to an almost universal agreement (98%) at endline. In qualitative data, girls specifically noted their participation in the *Power to Girls* girls' groups were engendering these changes:

◇ "Power to Girls is responsible for this change because without the  
◇ activities we participated in, we wouldn't care that our parents give  
◇ more rights to boys than to us." Girls Focus Group - La Vallée

◇ "With the help of the activities, now almost everyone understands  
◇ that if you are beating a girl, it is violence that you are committing  
◇ against her. Now the community would see... and the man would be  
◇ judged to be wrong, and he would not do this."

Girls Focus Group - La Vallée

While overall this component of the program had considerable effects on the girls it sought to engage (girls aged 10-19), one challenge noted by the staff implementing the *Power to Girls* methodology was the competing priorities of older girls (15-19), which meant that fewer participants were in this age range. Continued thinking is needed to consider how to best reach older girls as they transition into adulthood.



## Conclusions

Overall, these evaluation results document that the *Rethinking Power* program in La Vallée has contributed to significant improvements in the lives of women and girls in the implementation area. Specifically, we found improvements on indicators that show improved gender attitudes and beliefs, less acceptance of violence, more equitable sharing of power between men and women and reductions in violence (particularly IPV). These improvements are particularly promising in the context of Haiti which experienced increasing political, economic, and social insecurity during the program period. The conditions had specific effects on program implementation including the shutdown of activities, reduction in mobility for both staff and participants, and increased economic insecurity, which reduced the time participants could engage with the program as well as contributed to inflation rates that affected the program budget. Despite these constraints, the evaluation found that the *Rethinking Power* program has been effective in continuing to reduce important domains of VAWG. In addition, where reductions were not seen or where violence increased slightly, these outcomes were still favorable when compared to the same measures in Marigot. These results suggest that the *Rethinking Power* program is effective in reducing VAWG and demonstrates that community mobilization approaches to violence reduction can have an impact even in very challenging circumstances.

Key amongst the changes that were engendered by the program was a reduction in the acceptance of violence by all groups (including men and boys in qualitative data). These changes in beliefs were complemented by a continued commitment that it is the entire communities' responsibility to prevent violence and numerous instances in qualitative data of respondents talking about how it was their responsibility to support women and act if violence is occurring. Despite this, when asked in the quantitative survey if 'violence between a husband and wife was a private matter,' an increasing proportion agreed. It's unclear if this is due to some misunderstanding of the question or is, in fact, a somewhat negative result. Given the trends in the qualitative data and on other survey questions about community responsibility, we would not consider this result unduly alarming, though potentially further investigation would be needed on this point.

In addition, one of the primary innovations of the *Rethinking Power* program is an increased focus on adolescent girls through the *Power to Girls* methodology. This approach recognizes that adolescent girls are often missed in whole-of-community approaches that focus primarily on older, married women. It aims to utilize community mobilization, girls' groups, and school-based activities as mechanisms for change among girls. One challenge experienced for the program was that schools in the implementation area were closed for much of the program period due to continued insecurity, and therefore, the expected school-based activities were generally not implemented. This affected the ability of the intervention to reach adolescents specifically outside of those girls who participated in girls' groups – though boys and girls were engaged in general through community mobilization activities. Despite these challenges, the evaluation saw a number of positive outcomes – particularly around agency and speaking out in the community against VAWG as well as some reductions in violence. One key finding is that, for girls, we often don't start seeing the program's impacts on IPV until girls get older and enter more serious/cohabitating relationships. This suggests that the program's approach will have long term impacts on the lives of girls as they enter healthier relationships as they age and/or feel empowered to leave violent partners.

These major successes of the program approach remind us that prevention of VAWG is possible though the results also suggest some areas for program improvement. First, although boys were included in community activities, specific engagement opportunities were limited due to the wide-spread closure of schools (and

therefore, inability to implement school-based program activities during much of the program implementation period). Girls themselves and several key informants raised the issue of boys' behavior in qualitative data – recommending that more specific interventions are needed for boys and future men to change their behaviors toward women. In future iterations of the program, where school-closures are hopefully less of an issue, this engagement may come in the form of the schoolwide change process recommended in *Power to Girls*, or in alternate forms.

In addition, issues of non-partner sexual violence continue – though the evaluation did document some declines in sexual violence against women and girls aged 15 or older perpetrated by non-partners. In particular, sexual harassment against women and girls increased during the program period and older girls spoke about sexual exploitation in school settings. As the *Rethinking Power* program is based on the SASA! methodology that primarily focuses re-balancing power between men and women within relationships, more change in the domain of IPV is expected compared to NPSV. Continued thought and potentially new approaches are needed to further consider how NPSV can best be addressed through community mobilization approaches. In addition, this study did not specifically focus on emerging issues such as online or virtual violence (e.g., through Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.). As internet access and mobile phone ownership in low- and middle-income countries increases, more consideration about how these in-person community-based violence prevention programs can be translated to impact violence in the virtual environment are needed.

Finally, while it is clear that women's knowledge of where to find help in response to violence has increased, this study did not document an increase in help seeking behavior (likely due to continued turnover within the government – including the representatives of the Ministry of Women's Conditions and Rights in the Southeast and difficulties in transportation to key services due to insecurity). While the focus of the intervention was primary prevention, further strengthening of and building confidence in support services for women and girls experiencing violence is essential to help those experiencing violence leave the situation – though in parallel, stable institutions are needed to provide consistent services to survivors. More positively, half of all women who experienced IPV did disclose their experience to someone – suggesting that community members themselves are good avenues to providing informal support and advice to those experiencing violence. A community-mobilization approach that allows for survivors to be supported through their informal networks of friends and family, rather than necessarily seeking formal services, can be effective at reaching more women experiencing violence.

Overall, this evaluation found that the *Rethinking Power* program is making a positive impact in the lives of women and girls living amongst challenging conditions in Haiti. Further iterations of the program that may be implemented in more stable contexts (e.g., without such severe political insecurity, economic crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic, etc.) may in fact see greater changes in prevalence of violence and associated attitudes. Key informants noted the importance of increasing government responsibility (e.g., passing legislation, enforcement of laws) as another key aspect needed to ensure the sustainability of change. The program has aimed to influence these issues through community advocacy. Three advocacy committees that were created out of the *Rethinking Power* network (and led by/comprised of young women and girls) have secured legal status and are now leading their own prevention activities and have established advocacy objectives and plans. These wider, more societal changes are needed to ensure the progress engendered by a program such as *Rethinking Power* program is sustained.



These findings have led to a number of key recommendations:

- **Ensure there is a long enough (typically a minimum of 3 years) implementation period to create community-level change:** Shifting norms and behaviors can take time and ensuring there is appropriate set up time to build connections, awareness, and plan (particularly for activities that take place in institutions such as schools) is essential for program success.
- **Incorporate learning and feedback mechanisms throughout VAWG prevention programming:** During reflection sessions, staff noted the importance of collecting continual feedback with participants – and how this allowed modifications (such as adding additional activities to girls groups activities to keep participants engaged) that were essential to delivering a program that was well-received and reactive to the needs and preferences of community members.
- **Ensure community mobilization programs are properly resourced with long-term, flexible, core funding:** VAWG prevention programming can have great value for money – as most costs are associated with staff time or community-mobilization activities rather than large infrastructure or other costs. Nevertheless, and particularly during periods of inflation and crisis, appropriate resourcing (both financial and in terms of human resources) is needed to ensure the whole of community can be reached, and that funding modalities are flexible enough to adapt to changes in community conditions and community feedback.
- **School-based activities are essential to violence prevention within younger age groups:** As schools were closed for the vast majority of program implementation period, school-based activities were not fully implemented according to the original program plan. This limited engagement with boys and led to concerns from older girls about their safety within the school-environment.
- **Continued thinking is needed on the best strategies to engage older girls and to reduce non-partner sexual violence and dating violence among this group:** The evaluation found less immediate impact on violence rates amongst older girls (though violence rates among this group still remain less than older women) and violence reduction was strongest amongst co-habituating women throughout the program. In addition, it was reported that it's sometimes difficult to engage older girls (15-19) in some aspects of the programming, such as girls' groups, due to their other responsibilities and commitments. More research and program innovation are needed to ensure this population is not overlooked as they transition from childhood to adulthood.
- **Do not use insecurity or changing community conditions as an excuse to not engage in violence prevention programming:** The *Rethinking Power* program demonstrates that prevention of VAWG is possible, even in incredibly challenging conditions. While program flexibility is needed to deliver a successful intervention under these constraints, VAWG can be reduced.



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Table 1.1 Demographic characteristics, by commune

		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE	
WOMEN AGE 15-64		BASELINE (%)	ENDLINE (%)	BASELINE (%)	ENDLINE (%)
Age	(mean)	35	34	36	37
Educational attainment	Primary or less	59	50	51	54
	Secondary or higher	41	50	49	46
Employment	Not working	26	24	36	29
	Working	56	62	45	58
	Student	18	14	19	13
Main source of income	Own work	42	43	34	42
	Husband/partner	21	25	27	28
	Parents/other relatives	30	26	30	25
	Other	7	6	10	6
Ever partnered	Yes	84	91	82	90
Ever married	Yes	23	24	36	35
Current partnership	Never partnered	16	16	18	15
	Currently partnered	56	63	56	67
	Formerly partnered	28	21	26	17
Ever cohabitated	Yes	80	75	79	80
Age at first union (married/cohabitating)	20 or older	73	73	79	80
	19 or younger	27	27	21	20
Ever pregnant	Yes	73	76	73	80
Age at first pregnancy	20 or older	32	67	33	70
	19 or younger	68	33	67	30
SAMPLE SIZE		1158	1291	819	1141

Table 1.2 Gender roles, acceptance of violence, and community norms, by commune

WOMEN AGE 15-64		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	
Gender Roles						
Changing diapers, giving a bath, and feeding kids is mainly the mother's responsibility	Yes	93***	81***	88***	74***	0.63 (.52-.77)***
A woman's role is taking care of her home and family	Yes	94***	82***	90***	71***	.53 (.43-.64)***
A man should have the final word about decisions in his home	Yes	68	70	62**	56**	.55 (.46-.65)***
Women and men should share authority in the family	Yes	86***	93***	86***	93***	.96 (.69-1.31)
Boys should spend as much time as girls doing household chores	Yes	62***	70***	61***	75***	1.26 (1.05-1.52)**
Girls should be allowed to socialize outside the home just as boys do	Yes	20	20	15***	28***	1.61 (1.33 -1.95)***
Boys have more need to go to school than girls	Yes	11**	7**	5*	7*	.89 (.64-1.22)
Acceptance of Violence						
Violence between a husband and wife is a private matter	Yes	38***	46***	37	38	.72 (.61-.85)***

A woman should accept violence to keep family together	Yes	24**	19**	20***	12***	.55 (.43-.69)***
If a woman is raped she did something careless to put herself in that position	Yes	22***	15***	19**	15**	.90 (.72-1.14)
It is the entire community's responsibility to prevent violence	Yes	76	79	79	80	1.05 (.86-1.28)
Believes violence is justified in at least one scenario	Yes	45***	35***	45***	25***	.65 (.54-.77)***

### Community Norms

Most women/girls take primary responsibility for chores	Yes	93	93	92	90	.72 (.53-.96)**
If a man beat his wife because she disobeyed him, members of the community disapprove	Yes	76***	87***	80***	86***	.95 (.75-1.20)
If a man helped with household chores, members of the community would disapprove	Yes	34*	29*	30**	24**	.91 (.76-1.10)
If a man helped with household chores, other men would talk about or make fun of him	Yes	16***	21***	13***	21***	1.00 (.82-1.22)
If a man does not beat his wife when she disobeys, other men would talk about or make fun of him	Yes	13***	21***	15**	20**	1.00 (.81-1.22)

### SAMPLE SIZE

1158 1291 819 1141 2405

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.



Table 1.3 Lifetime and current intimate partner violence, by commune

		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
WOMEN AGE 15-64		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	
Lifetime IPV						
Emotional	yes	35*	31*	32**	27**	.82 (.68-.98)**
Economic	yes	15***	21***	27**	20**	.93 (.76-1.15)
Physical and/or sexual	yes	31**	26**	30***	20***	.73 (.59-.89)**
Past 12 Months IPV						
Emotional	yes	27**	22**	25**	19**	.93 (.75-1.15)
Economic	yes	10***	16***	17***	11***	.69 (.54-.89)**
Physical and/or sexual	yes	23***	16***	23***	12***	.71 (.55-.91)**
Relationship Quality						
Partner engages in one or more controlling behaviors	yes	67**	72**	80***	71***	1.14 (.93-1.39)
Feels emotionally close to partner	yes	73***	81***	79**	83**	1.16 (.93-1.46)
Feels valued by partner	yes	76***	85***	85	88	1.25 (.98-1.61)*
Feels respected by partner	yes	76***	86***	84	87	1.13 (.88-1.44)
SAMPLE SIZE		968	1176	673	1025	2199

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 1.4 Disclosure of IPV and help seeking, by commune

		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
WOMEN AGE 15-64		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	
Knows a place where a woman/girl could get help for IPV	yes	68***	82***	73***	81***	.88 (.71-1.09)
SAMPLE SIZE		1158	1254	819	1104	2356
<b>Among Women Experiencing IPV</b>						
Have disclosed IPV to anyone	yes	29***	56***	41	50	.79 (.55-1.13)
Has sought institutional help for IPV	yes	14	15	23	21	1.48 (.93-2.38)
SAMPLE SIZE		266	303	166	204	506

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 1.5 Lifetime and current non-partner sexual violence, by commune

		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
WOMEN AGE 15-64		Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	
Lifetime						
Rape	yes	7	7	8	7	1.18 (.86-1.61)
Attempted rape	yes	6**	4**	9**	5**	1.36 (.92-2.00)
Unwanted sexual touching	yes	7***	11***	9	9	.87 (.66-1.14)
Sexual violence with contact	yes	15	18	18	16	.99 (.80-1.23)
Sexual harassment	yes	11***	18***	12**	15**	.88 (.70-1.09)
Past 12 Months	yes	3	3	3	3	1.11 (.67-1.83)
Rape						
Attempted rape	yes	3**	1**	3*	2*	1.76 (.94-3.30)
Unwanted sexual touching	yes	4	5	5	4	1.02 (.69-1.51)
Sexual violence with contact	yes	7**	4**	9**	4**	1.29 (.86-1.95)
Sexual harassment	yes	7**	11**	7*	9*	.91 (.70-1.20)
SAMPLE SIZE		1158	1291	819	1141	2415

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 2.1 Adolescent Girls - Demographic characteristics, by commune

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE	
		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)
Age	(mean)	17	17	17	17
Educational attainment	Primary or less	33	34	21	31
	Secondary or higher	67	66	79	69
Employment	Not working	19	20	20	23
	Working	12	13	5	6
	Student	69	67	75	71
Main source of income	Own work	7	5	3	4
	Husband/partner	4	9	9	6
	Parents/other relatives	87	85	84	88
	Other	2	1	4	2
Ever partnered	Yes	28	49	30	47
Ever married	Yes	0	1	0	0
Current partnership	Never partnered	72	52	70	53
	Currently partnered	5	10	7	9
	Formerly partnered	23	38	23	39
Ever cohabitated	Yes	20	21	24	18
Ever pregnant	Yes	9	15	9	13
SAMPLE SIZE		178	164	135	141





Table 2.2 Adolescent Girls - Gender roles, acceptance of violence, and community norms, by commune

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	
Gender Roles						
Changing diapers, giving a bath, and feeding kids is mainly the mother's responsibility	yes	86**	76**	77***	57***	.42 (.26-.69)**
A woman’s role is taking care of her home and family	yes	95***	78***	78***	54***	.34 (.20-.55)***
A man should have the final word about decisions in his home	yes	67	70	51	48	.39 (.25-.64)***
Women and men should share authority in the family	yes	84**	91**	85	91	.99 (.45-2.24)
Boys should spend as much time as girls doing household chores	yes	57	56	54***	70***	1.81 (1.30-2.93)**
Girls should be allowed to socialize outside the home just as boys do	yes	25	20	17***	46***	3.50 (2.10-5.83)***
Boys have more need to go to school than girls	yes	8**	2**	1	4	2.00 (.47-8.51)
Acceptance of Violence						
Violence between a husband and wife is a private matter	yes	37**	48**	32	42	.77 (.49-1.22)
A woman should accept violence to keep family together	yes	22	20	15*	8*	.36 (.17-.74)**
If a woman is raped, she did something careless to put herself in that position	yes	23**	12**	18	12	1.04 (.52-2.10)

It is the entire community's responsibility to prevent violence	yes	72	75	76	74	.92 (.54-1.56)
Believes violence is justified in at least one scenario	yes	54**	39**	50**	36**	.89 (.56-1.41)
<b>Community Norms</b>						
Most women/girls take primary responsibility for chores	yes	90	93	92	88	.56 (.26-1.23)
If a man beat his wife because she disobeyed him, members of the community disapprove	yes	72**	85**	80	86	1.10 (.57-2.12)
If a man helped with household chores, members of the community would disapprove	yes	37	33	27	22	.58 (.34-.98)**
If a man helped with household chores, other men would talk about or make fun of him	yes	18	22	11**	25**	1.18 (.68-2.03)
If a man does not beat his wife when she disobeys, other men would talk about or make fun of him	yes	17	19	14*	22*	1.18 (.67-2.07)
<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>296</b>

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 2.3 Adolescent Girls - Lifetime and current intimate partner violence, by commune

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	
Lifetime						
Emotional	yes	32	38	22	26	.56 (.27-1.14)
Economic	yes	14	23	7	18	.78 (.34-1.79)
Physical and/or sexual	yes	40	28	12	8	.22 (.08-.63)**
Past 12 months						
Emotional	yes	32	34	22	24	.62 (.30-1.29)
Economic	yes	14	19	5	14	.70 (.28-1.74)
Physical and/or sexual	yes	40*	25*	10	6	.20 (.06-.62)**
Relationship Quality						
Partner engages in one or more controlling behaviors	yes	86*	95*	90	92	.63 (.16-2.49)
Feels emotionally close to partner	yes	80*	91*	80	85	.54 (.19-1.50)
Feels valued by partner	yes	92	94	90	94	.94 (.24-3.59)
Feels respected by partner	yes	90	94	93	94	.98 (.25-3.89)
SAMPLE SIZE		50	80	41	66	146

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 2.4 Adolescent Girls - Disclosure of IPV and help seeking, by commune

		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	
Knows a place where a woman/girl could get help for IPV	yes	61***	77***	63	71	.70 (.42-1.18)
SAMPLE SIZE		178	159	135	139	298
<b>Among Girls Experiencing IPV</b>						
Have disclosed IPV to anyone	yes	29	55	33	40	.55 (.07-4.19)
Has sought institutional help for IPV	yes	10	14	0	20	1.53 (.09-23.70)
SAMPLE SIZE		14	22	3	5	27

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 2.5 Adolescent Girls - Lifetime and current non-partner sexual violence, by commune

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	
Lifetime						
Rape	yes	12	12	5	10	.80 (.39-1.65)
Attempted rape	yes	8	9	7	11	1.27 (.59-2.74)
Unwanted sexual touching	yes	15	21	13**	23**	1.17 (.68-2.02)
Sexual violence with contact	yes	24*	32*	19**	31**	.95 (.59-1.55)
Sexual harassment	yes	19	23	11**	24**	1.05 (.62 - 1.80)
Past 12 Months						
Rape	yes	7	7	3	7	1.07 (.44-2.59)
Attempted rape	yes	5	4	4	7	2.01 (.71-5.70)
Unwanted sexual touching	yes	10	10	10*	18*	1.99 (1.02-3.91)**
Sexual violence with contact	yes	15	10	14	13	1.27 (.63-2.58)
Sexual harassment	yes	16	16	8**	19**	1.26 (.68-2.28)
SAMPLE SIZE		178	164	135	141	305

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

Table 2.6 Adolescent Girls - Sense of safety, support, and confidence, by commune

ADOLESCENT GIRLS AGE 15-19		MARIGOT		LA VALLÉE		OR - ENDLINE DIFFERENCES (95%CI)
		Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	Baseline (%)	Endline (%)	
Safety						
Feels safe at home	yes	88	86	94	93	2.14 (.98-4.69)
Feels safe at school	yes	79	85	84	86	1.15 (.59-2.24)
Feels safe at friends’ homes	yes	43	36	48	45	1.46 (.91-2.36)
Feels safe walking in the community	yes	59	56	60	60	1.15 (.73-1.82)
Agency						
Can choose how to spend free time	yes	66	73	70**	83**	1.80 (1.02-3.16)**
Can choose who to be friends with	yes	84	87	87**	96**	3.34 (1.30-8.54)**
Can choose to participate in activities that interest her	yes	85	87	94	96	4.28 (1.56-11.74)**
Confident she can make decisions to improve her life	somewhat/ very	69**	80**	72	76	.80 (.47-1.39)
Social Connection						
Has friends her own age outside her family	yes	71**	81**	80	86	1.48 (.80-2.76)
Has a female figure she can go to on a regular basis	yes	44	47	41	45	.94 (.60-1.48)

### Speaking About Violence

Has spoken with family about VAWG, last 12 months	yes	18	19	18*	26*	1.53 (.89-2.63)
Has spoken with friends about VAWG, last 12 months	yes	33	28	29**	42**	1.91 (1.18 - 3.09)**
Has spoken with she doesn't know about VAWG, last 12 months	yes	6	7	6	9	1.42 (.61-3.28)
<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>		<b>178</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>304</b>

Stars next to prevalence estimates indicate significant differences from baseline to endline within communes (\*p<0.1, \*\*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001). Odds ratios compare the endline values between communes (adjusting for age) and significance levels; Sample sizes may slightly vary from reported numbers due to non-response for each specific item.

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