Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls – What does the evidence say?

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Progress since the Beijing Conference

• Data from over 81 countries on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual assault

• IPV accepted as a risk factor for Global Burden of Disease

• Understanding of risk factors for VAWG
Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence & Measures of Gender Equality (56 countries)

In countries with greater gender equality... the prevalence of violence against women tends to be lower.

Countries with LOW Gender Equality scores
- Gender Development Index (GDI)
- Gender Gap Index (GGI)
- Gender Equity Index (GEI)

Countries with MEDIUM Equality scores
- GDI
- GGI
- GEI
- GEM

Countries with HIGH Gender Equality scores
- GDI
- GGI
- GEI
- GEM

Prevalence of violence (% past 12 months)
What works to reduce violence against women and girls?

- GWI and the World Bank systematic review of reviews on the impacts of interventions to prevent VAWG

- **The goal**: To present the best synthesis possible of the ‘state of the evidence’ on what works to reduce VAWG
Distribution of 186 interventions by type of violence

- IPV: 59%
- Non-Partner Abuse: 26%
- Multiple Types: 10%
- Child Sexual Abuse: 2%
- HTP: 3%
Nearly 70% of the global evidence on what works, and what doesn’t, to prevent VAWG comes from 6 high income countries that comprise 6% of the world’s population.
Most interventions address violence after it has started, not before it begins.
Types of interventions by country income level

- Low and Middle Income Countries:
  - Secondary: 12
  - Primary: 88

- High Income Countries:
  - Secondary: 45
  - Primary: 55
Most studies in LMIC targets Harmful Traditional Practices
Effectiveness of interventions by type of violence

- Primary prevention: 59%
- Secondary prevention: 33%

% studies by type of intervention with one or more significant positive effect
Effectiveness of interventions by type of violence

- Harmful Traditional Practices: 86%
- Intimate Partner Violence: 39%
- Non partner sexual assault: 26%

% interventions by type of violence with one or more significant positive effect
What have we learned?

Programs responding to violence:
- Target women rather than men
- Encourage autonomy and empowerment of women
- Have elements of psychosocial interventions, victim advocacy

Programs preventing violence:
- Include men AND Women
- Engage entire community
- Combine multiple approaches as part of a single intervention.
- Six months or longer
- Address social norms regarding acceptability of violence
What kind of evidence do we need?

- More research on all types of VAWG from the Global South (not just HTP)
- More focus on Primary Prevention
- Standardized indicators and research methods
- Address VAWG in diverse populations
- How to adapt successful programs in diverse settings
Violence against women: the missing Millennium Development Goal

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
Every woman has a right to live without violence!