Violence Against Women and Girls: A Challenge to Development

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Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls – The missing Millennium Development Goal

Side Event to Commission on the Status of Women 58
Room D

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Worldwide almost 1/3 of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced partner violence.
Adverse consequences for women themselves, families and the economy

• Health: increased risk of depression, STI, HIV, unintended pregnancy
• Work: higher absenteeism, lower productivity
• Intergenerational: children exposed have worse health, lower education and professional attainment
  – Much higher risk of being victims of violence or perpetrators
Development Costs cont.

Estimated costs are close to average government spending on primary education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Costs of GBV</th>
<th>Spending on primary education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic empowerment and exposure to gender-based violence

In Bangladesh, working increased women’s exposure to IPV:
- BUT only for women who had less education or were married at a young age

In Ecuador, cash transfers to mothers decreased psychological partner violence against women:
- IF they had above primary education
- BUT increased such violence against women with a primary education or less
Overlapping constraints on women’s agency


45% of women experience two constraints or more, 13% experience all three
The Pace and Need for Legal Reform

But 61/100 countries do not have laws criminalizing marital rape

Cumulative number of countries with legislation against domestic violence, 1976-2013

Source: Women, Business and the Law 2013
What is the World Bank doing

**Knowledge**
- VAP Report, GBV Multi Sectoral Toolkit, Impact Evaluations, South Asia Report on GBV

**Financing**
- Projects
  - Several in DRC and Cote d’Ivoire to improve treatment services for survivors, along with prevention programming
  - $75 million GBV project in the Great Lakes with a focus social protection and health
- Development Policy Operations
  - Colombia includes a measure to protect and support victims of GBV
  - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will increase availability of tailored services to survivors of GBV

**Partnerships**
- George Washington University (Evidence review, toolkit)
- UN Women (pilot GBV indicators)
FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.worldbank.org/gender/agency