



What Works
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

LATEST EVIDENCE FROM WHAT WORKS

Credit: Prabu Deepan/Tearfund

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and Education

Violence in schools and amongst school children is widespread and impacts educational attainment, health and wellbeing. However, schools also provide opportunities for preventing violence, learning about gender equality and respectful relationships, and even reducing violence at home and in future relationships. New evidence from rigorous evaluation of three projects under DFID's *What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Global Programme* (What Works), shows the potential of some school-based interventions to prevent multiple forms of violence – in school, at home and in the community – even in very challenging settings.

Read the Evidence Brief [here](#)

Rethinking Relationships - From violence to equality in the DRC



Credit: Prabu Deepan/Tearfund

This *What Works* evidence brief outlines the impact of a VAWG prevention project run by Tearfund and HEAL Africa, which trained faith leaders and community volunteers in 15 villages across three rural health zones in eastern DRC on primary prevention of VAWG.

It sought to create spaces where survivors are supported by their own communities, including faith groups, and are not stigmatised; and where men and women have more gender-equitable, violence-free relationships. Evaluation findings showed that the project reduced women's past year experience of intimate partner violence in these communities from 69% to 29% after two years of intervention – a drop of 58%, and women's experiences of sexual violence from a non-partner from 24% to 4% – a more than five-fold reduction.

Read the Evidence Brief [here](#)

Violence against Afghan women by husbands, mothers-in-law and siblings-in-law/siblings Rachel Jewkes, Julienne Corboz, Andrew Gibbs

Violence by mothers-in-law, as well as husbands, is a recognised problem in many countries, including in Afghanistan. However, it has received little attention in research on violence and its importance as a health problem, and aggravator of husband violence, has not been well established. This study describes the relationship between physical violence against women perpetrated by their husbands and physical violence perpetrated by other family members, including mothers-in-law and siblings-in-law/siblings. It describes risk characteristics and associated health behaviours of women with exposure to abuse from different family members. The findings show that in the previous 12 months 14% of women respondents experienced physical violence from mothers-in-law and 23% experienced physical spousal violence. Around 7% of women experienced both. Physical violence was linked to food insecurity and poverty. Violence by in-laws and siblings has a major impact on women's health, compounding the health impact of intimate partner violence (IPV). The paper suggests that it may be fruitful to target violence prevention at the domestic unit rather than just women and their husbands.

Read the full peer review journal article [here](#)

The *What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Programme* (WW) is a flagship programme from the UK Department for International Development, which has invested an unprecedented £25 million over five years to the prevention of violence against women and girls. It supports primary prevention efforts across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East that seek to understand and address the underlying causes of violence, and to stop it from occurring. To learn more about WW visit our website www.whatworks.co.za or contact us at whatworks@mrc.ac.za

LATEST EVIDENCE

A family-centred intervention to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in migrant communities of Baglung District, Nepal



Credit: Creative Commons

Nepali women and girls are vulnerable to violence at the hands of their husbands and in-laws. This *What Works* evidence brief illustrates how the One Community One Family project, adapted and implemented by VSO Nepal and Bhimapokhara Youth Club (BYC), tested the effectiveness of a family-focused intervention in Nepal called Sammanit Jeevan (Living with Dignity). Sammanit Jeevan combined economic empowerment with gender transformative approaches (or social empowerment) to reduce violence by husbands and in-laws, change harmful social and gender norms, and improve the economic conditions of young married women living in communities with high rates of migrancy. The evaluation found that the project reduced young married women's exposure to physical violence by their husbands. There also were significant improvements in earnings, savings, and food security.

Women and men became less patriarchal in their ideas about gender, and women's perceptions of relations between husband and wives, and between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law improved. Young married women's mental health also improved.

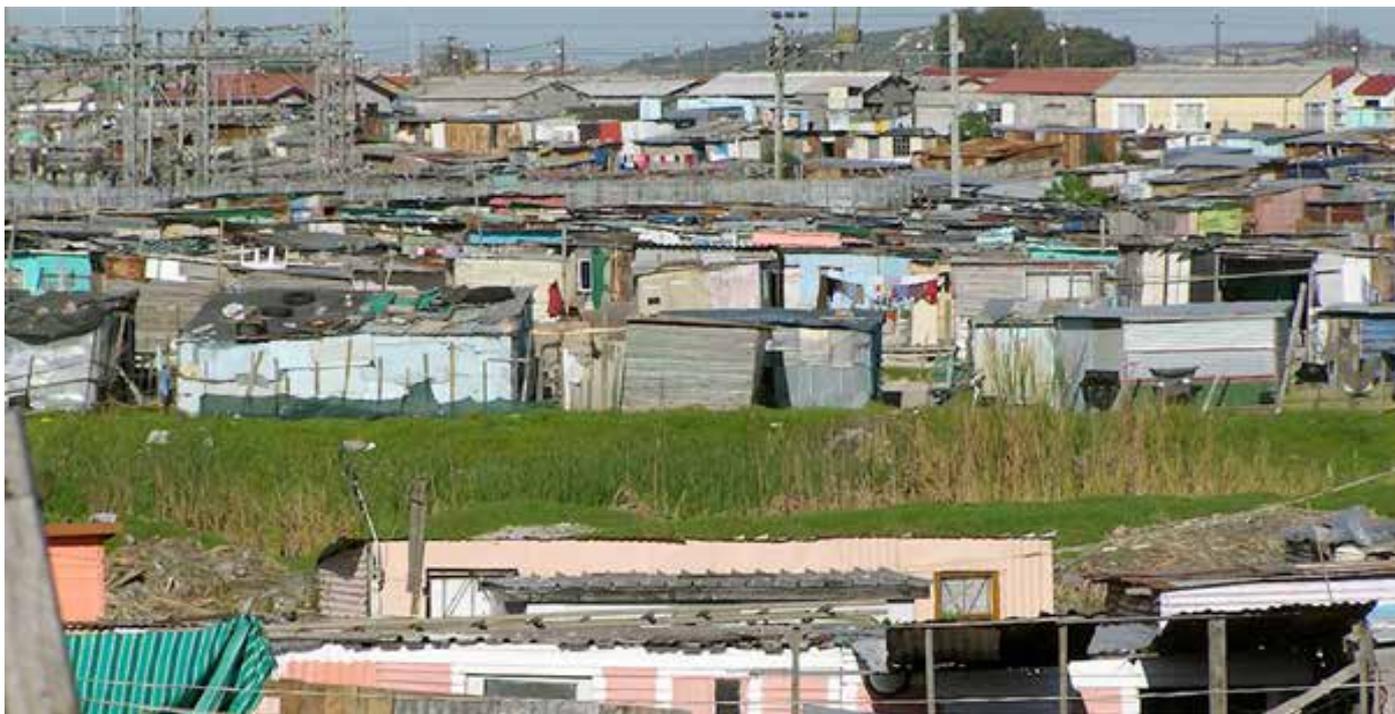
Read the Evidence Brief [here](#)

Exploring young women's constructions of love and strategies to navigate violent relationships in South African informal settlements

Samantha Willan, Nolwazi Ntini, Andrew Gibbs, Rachel Jewkes

This paper presents qualitative research findings from the *What Works* intervention in informal settlements in South Africa, Stepping Stones and Creating Futures. It explores young women's experiences and constructions of love-relationships and intimate partner violence (IPV), and the role of agency in women's decisions to remain in or leave violent love-relationships. While women's love-relationships were frequently violent, they often stayed for long periods. This was partly because the love relationships met other important aspirations, including the desire for respect and dignity. Nonetheless, many women left when they no longer felt loved and respected, which they believed was shown through men's behaviours, such as indiscreet affairs, not spending time with her, not spending money on her and any child(ren), and public violence. When women received emotional and economic support from families, this influenced their decision to leave or stay. These findings demonstrate that agency goes beyond definitive acts of leaving violent relationships; rather it is fluid, contested and contextual, with many factors influencing young women's goals and actions.

Read the full peer review journal article [here](#)



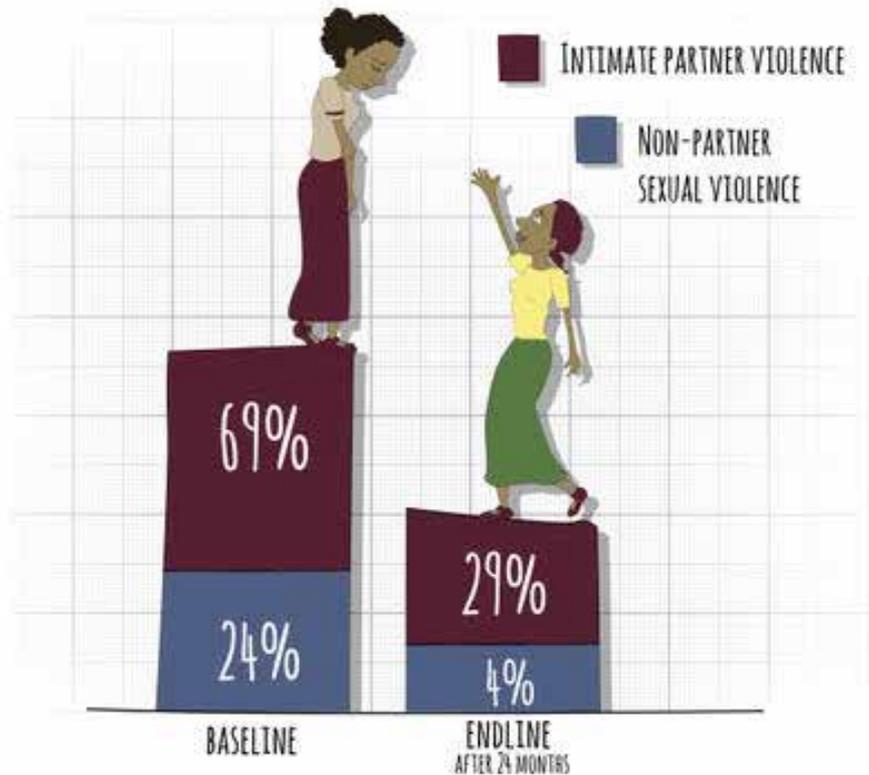
Credit: What Works

LATEST EVIDENCE

A PROJECT ENGAGING FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN VAWG PREVENTION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED DRC SEES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REDUCE BY MORE THAN HALF.



What Works
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
A Global Programme to Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls



Credit: Gat Powell / What Works

What Works Evidence in Infographics

Some of the most recent evaluation findings from **What Works** can be found in our accessible infographics on the Evidence Hub.

Access the Evidence in Infographics [here](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON

13 March 2019 | CSW63 (2019) – What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls? Side event at CSW: New York, USA

What Works held a packed meeting at the UK Mission in New York during the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63), with opening remarks provided by DFID's Director of Policy, Darren Welch. This brought together researchers, practitioners and policy makers to share new evidence from interventions in Pakistan, Ghana and South Africa that reduced violence against women and girls by up to 50%. The session also shared practical lessons for the field of VAWG prevention including insights from Professor Rachel Jewkes on the length of interventions, dosage, and the need for well trained and supported facilitators, all of which are integral to achieving significant reductions in violence within programmatic timeframes, even in very challenging settings. There was strong appetite for scaling up successful interventions and using upcoming international meetings in 2019 to support use of this evidence to inform more effective policy.

8 March 2019 | Preventing violence against women and girls on International Women's Day

What Works celebrated International Women's Day with the positive message that violence IS preventable, highlighting the transformational impact What Works projects have had on the communities they have worked with.

- See our animated gif [here](#)
- See also our new video on reducing violence in informal settlements in South Africa [here](#)

10 December 2018 | Social and Economic Costs of Violence Research and COMBAT Intervention Findings: High-level Dissemination Event: Accra, Ghana

On International Human Rights Day, 10th December 2018, marking the end of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence

SPOTLIGHT ON

campaign, a What Works dissemination event was held in Accra, Ghana. Preliminary findings of the Economic and Social Costs of VAWG in Ghana were unveiled as well as the findings from the Impact Evaluation of the COMBAT intervention. The event attracted high-level participants including the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Secretariat, representing the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, who gave opening remarks.

28-29 November 2018 | Research on the Economic and Social Costs of Violence against Women in Pakistan presented at the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women: Lahore, Pakistan

The Economic and Social Costs of VAWG component of the What Works programme represented by Social Policy and Development Centre, facilitated a session on the cost of VAWG in Pakistan. Three presentations were given on; 'National Economy and VAW in Pakistan: Estimating the Tangible Costs', 'VAW and Cost to Businesses: A Business Case to Prevent Violence Against Women in Pakistan', and 'Measuring the Unmeasurable: Intangible Cost of Violence Against Women in Pakistan', all of which drew directly from the What Works research in Pakistan.

23 November 2018 | What Works stakeholder meeting: Pretoria, South Africa

This regional stakeholder dissemination event, attended by a multi-sectoral group of local NGOs, government ministries and academics, demonstrated both the intervention activities and evaluation findings from four What Works projects including: the Stepping Stones Creating Futures and Sonke Change studies in South Africa; the CETA intervention in Zambia; and intervention activities from the Women and Girls Empowerment and Boys Transformation Program to Prevent VAWG in Kenya. In addition, findings from across the What Works portfolio were shared through a combination of presentations and short videos. The event was timely as the South African government has committed to greater investment in evidence-based interventions to end gender-based violence.

NEWS



Credit: Prabu Deepan / Tearfund

NEWS

What Works interventions and research have been reported upon and amplified through influential media outlets. This section highlights some of those that have been published this quarter.

March 2019: The Telegraph

UK funded project reduces domestic violence by almost 60 percent in DRC

<https://www.whatworks.co.za/news/news/item/585-uk-funded-project-reduces-domestic-violence-by-almost-60-per-cent-in-drc>

February 2019: Apolitical

How ordinary people can heal trauma and transform mental health care Project: Violence Alcohol Treatment, Zambia

<https://www.whatworks.co.za/news/news/item/572-how-ordinary-people-can-heal-trauma-and-transform-mental-health-care>

January 2019: Apolitical

Ending violence in Pakistan starts in the playground Project: Right to Play, Pakistan

<https://www.whatworks.co.za/news/news/item/562-ending-violence-in-pakistan-starts-in-the-playground>

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Women Deliver 2019 Conference

The Women Deliver 2019 Conference is the world's largest conference on gender equality, attended by more than 6,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists, and journalists. The theme of this year's conference is power, and how it can drive – or hinder – progress and change. Registration for the Women Deliver 2019 Conference is now open. Details at WD2019.org. The UK will be co-hosting an event on Monday 3 June from 9am–11am on **Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls – A Shared Agenda** with Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and Apolitical. Register your attendance here <https://bit.ly/2GzeHaS> or email Kimberly McArthur, Apolitical kimberly.mcarthur@apolitical.co.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11-14 June 2019 | SA AIDS: Durban, South Africa

The 9th SA AIDS Conference will host over 3000 scientists, academics, policy makers and practitioners to discuss how to end the HIV epidemic. Conference themes include scaling up effective interventions, social drivers of the epidemic, and social justice, relationships and power. Details at www.saaids.co.za.

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

SVRI Forum is the world's key research conference on violence against women and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality in low and middle-income countries. It is attended by researchers, practitioners, NGOs, activists and policy makers – and is a critical space to share work and influence discussions

in the sector. What Works will have a strong presence at the forum this year through mix of both oral presentations and science pitches of latest evidence from evaluation projects; (co) hosting pre-conference workshops and an exhibition stand. Find out more here: <http://www.svri.org/forums/forum2019/>

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

– call for abstracts now open The ICASA Conference is the biggest AIDS conference in Africa, with over 10,000 delegates expected from the global village. This year's conference theme is "Aids Free Africa - innovation, community, and political leadership". Find out more here: <http://icasa2019rwanda.org/abstracts/submission-guidelines.html>



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