

Zindagii Shoista – Living With Dignity

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TAJIKISTAN

HENRI MYRTTINEN
INTERNATIONAL ALERT



WhatWorks
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
A Global Programme To Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls



**international
alert**

Tajikistan at a glance

- ▶ Located in Central Asia
- ▶ Population of approx. 8.7 million
- ▶ Approx. 90-95 % Sunni, 3 % Shia (Ismaili)
- ▶ Poorest of the Former Soviet Union republics
- ▶ World's most remittance-dependent economy, seasonal male labour migration to Russia
- ▶ Rural areas especially: extended family units with dominant mother-in-law, subordinate daughters-in-law
- ▶ Economic and food insecurity



Zindagii Shoista

- ▶ Three-year project (intervention itself approx. 1.5 years)
- ▶ 4 villages in 2 districts, 271 beneficiaries, 80 families
- ▶ Aiming at improving inter-related issues of economic stress, food insecurity, VAWG and mental health
- ▶ Combined approach:
 - ▶ Gender norm/behavioural change (adapted Stepping Stones) and
 - ▶ Livelihoods' strengthening approach (skills and accompanied)
- ▶ Stepping Stones/Creating Futures: manualised and tested – but especially livelihoods approach adapted heavily
- ▶ Working with family units, not just couples
- ▶ Four project partners: International Alert, Cesvi, ATO, Farodis, Zanoni Sharq

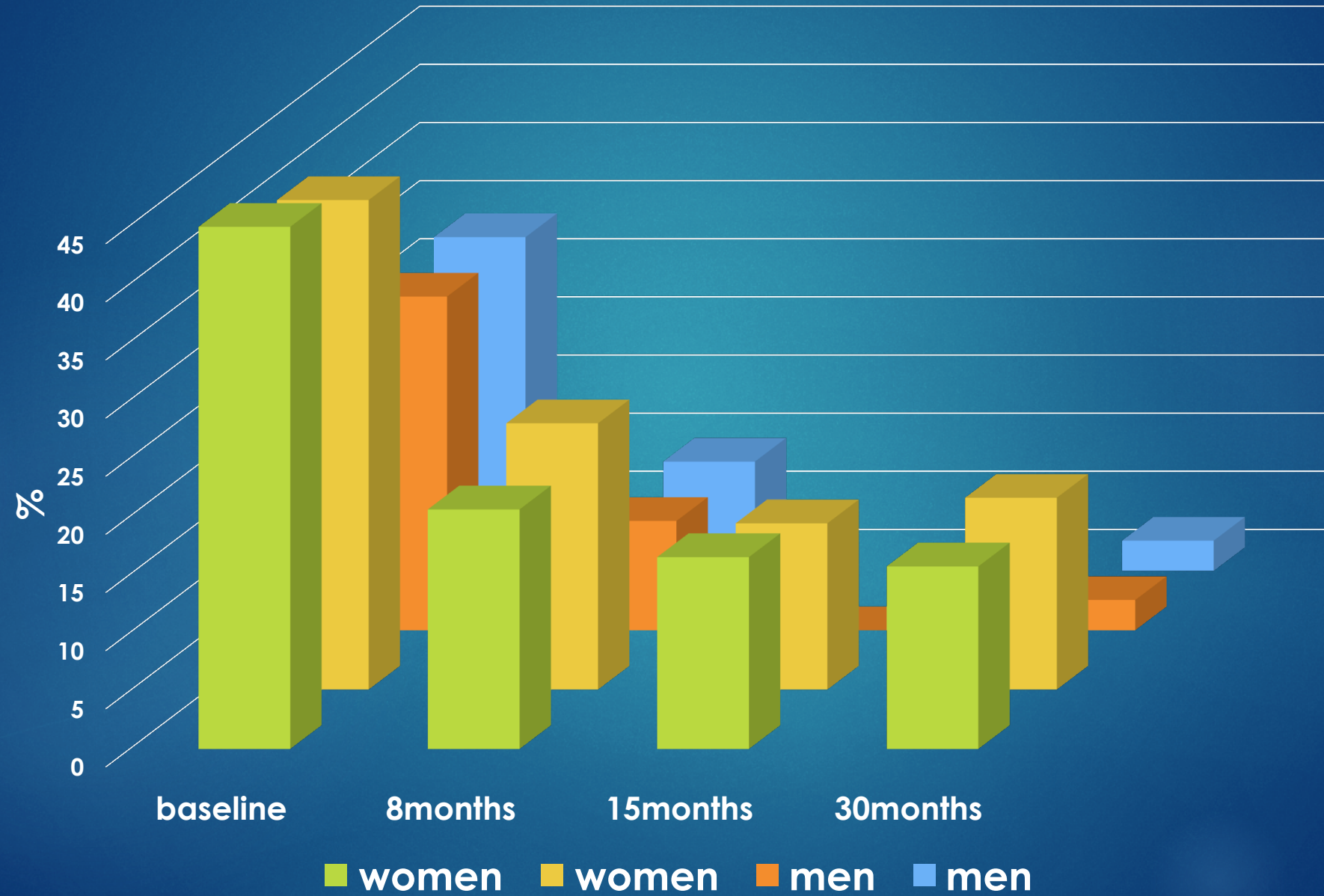
Research methodology

- ▶ Formative research
- ▶ Four data-point mixed methods (base-, mid-, end-line and 16 months after)
 - ▶ FGDs (older men, older women, younger men, younger women)
 - ▶ KIIs
 - ▶ In-depth survey of all participants
- ▶ On-going monitoring visits
- ▶ Everyday change indicators
- ▶ Debrief of staff
- ▶ Disabilities research

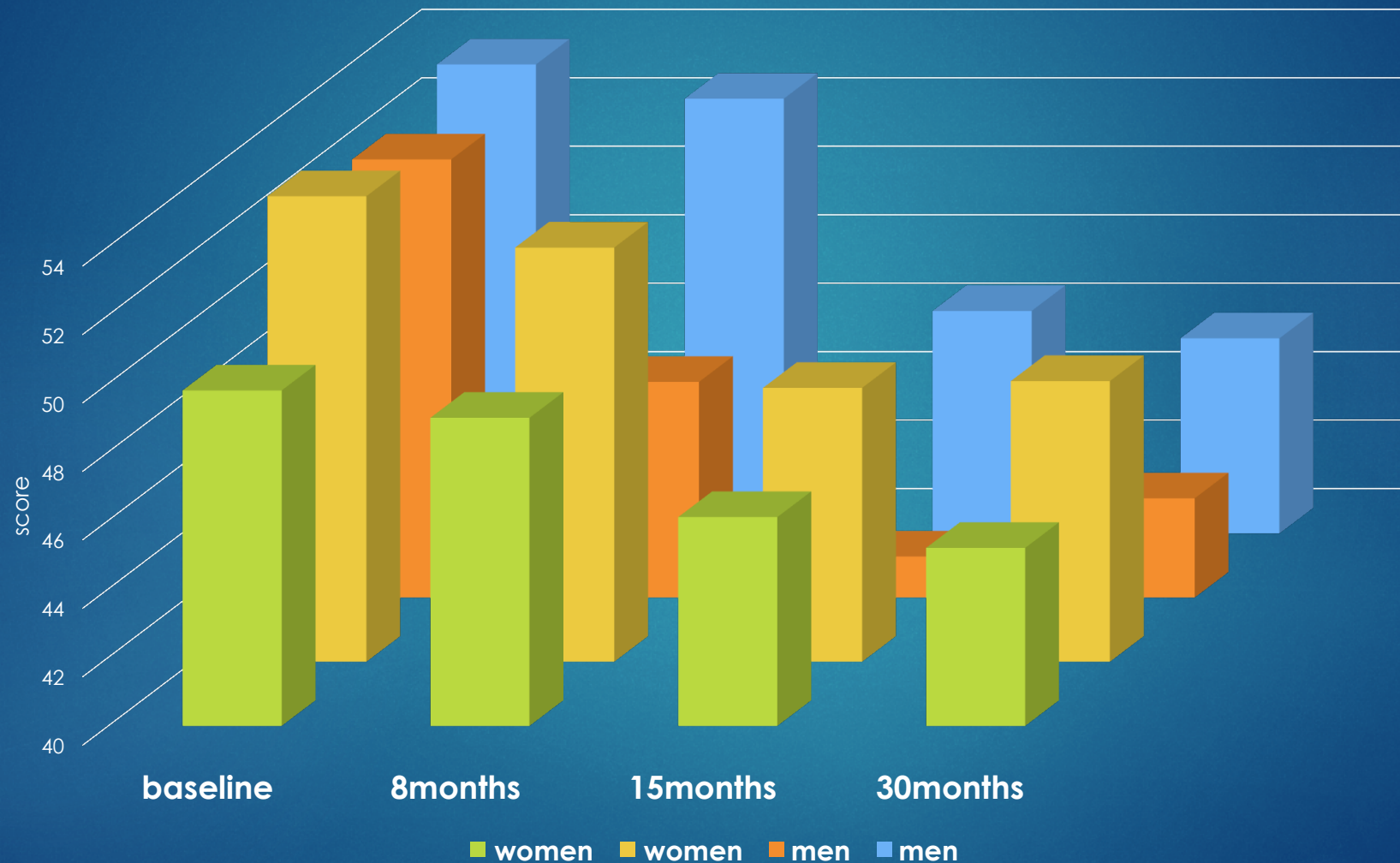
Endline findings (12 months)

- ▶ 50 per cent reduction in VAWG
- ▶ The number of women with more earnings quadrupled
- ▶ The number of women with savings increased 8 times
- ▶ Improved food security
- ▶ Greatly improved mental health indicators
- ▶ Backed up by both quantitative and qualitative data

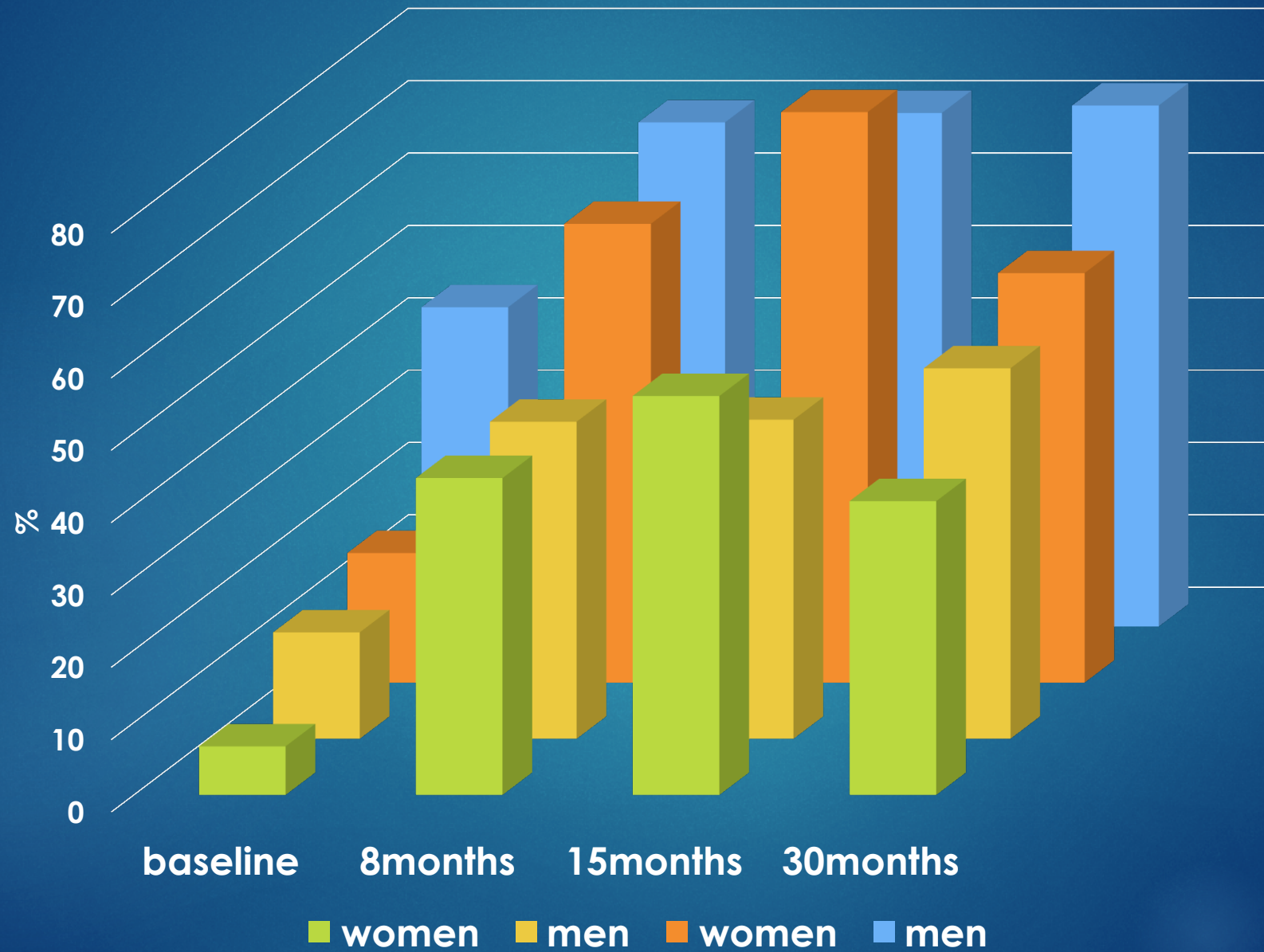
Changes in reported experience (women) or perpetration (men) of IPV



Change in gender attitudes and social norms: Interrupted time series data from Tajikistan



Changes in savings and earnings



Seasonal fluctuation

- ▶ More research needed but...
- ▶ Timeframes of questions:
 - ▶ Economic questions 4 weeks/3 months
 - ▶ (mental) health: past week/month
 - ▶ DV/IPV: 3 or 12 months (or general)
- ▶ Formative: Nov/Dec 2015
- ▶ Baseline: Jul/Aug 2016
- ▶ Midline: May/June 2017
- ▶ Endline: Dec 2017
- ▶ Endline plus 16 months: Apr 2019
- ▶ Findings better than expected?

Medium term impact of intervention

– 18 months after its end (preliminary)

- ▶ Some slight back-sliding on socio-economic, mental health and VAWG indicators...
- ▶ ...but on the whole sustained improvements across the board compared to mid-line and far better than baseline
- ▶ Attitudinal shifts may affect quantitative findings (e.g. more assertive wives/daughters-in-law)
- ▶ This type of combined approach works, highlights importance of broader family approach – maybe also community?
- ▶ Importance of engaging with men – BUT also older women
- ▶ But there continue to be stress factors beyond the reach of the programme (e.g. macro-economic factors)