Ending Violence against Women and Children: Investing in Solutions

Sarah Degnan Kambou, PhD
President and CEO
skambou@icrw.org
International Men and Gender Equity Surveys (IMAGES)

- 12,000 interviews with men and women
- Brazil, Chile, Croatia, India, Mexico and Rwanda
- Health, parenting, relationships, sexual behavior and violence
The evidence base a decade ago was weak:

- Small sample size
- Lack of control for confounding variables
- Few population based studies
- Most studies in industrialized countries
- Evidence in developing countries largely anecdotal
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 diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
Diseases and Risk Factors Caused by Violence Exposure

Risk factors for disease
- Unsafe sex
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol/illicit substance use

Disease Outcomes
- **Sexual Health**
  - HIV/AIDS, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea

- **Reproductive Health**
  - Induced abortion

- **Injuries**

- **Mental Health**
  - Unipolar depressive disorders, Bipolar affective disorder, Schizophrenia, Eating disorders, Alcohol use disorders, Heroin use, Cocaine use, Stimulant use, Cannabis use, Anxiety disorders

Perinatal, infant, child outcomes
- Prematurity
- Mortality
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Maternal homicide/suicide
- Perinatal and infant deaths

Intimate partner violence

Childhood sexual abuse

Non-partner sexual violence
Domestic violence and HIV infection are linked.
The high costs of violence
The costs of violence to women
The costs of violence for girls education
How to prevent and respond to violence against women and children?

- Access to justice
- Access to support services for survivors
- Prevention of violence
Women’s rights to property and assets
Economic empowerment can reduce violence against women

Microfinance and training on violence, together with community mobilization activities reduced domestic violence by 50% in intervention group over 2 years

(Image project, South Africa)
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.

Prevalence of violence (% past 12 months)

- GDI: Gender Development Index
- GEI: Gender Equity Index
- GGI: Gender Gap Index
- GEM: Gender Empowerment Measure

Countries with LOW Gender Equality scores
- GDI: 25%
- GEI: 20%
- GGI: 15%
- GEM: 10%

Countries with MEDIUM Equality scores
- GDI: 15%
- GEI: 10%
- GGI: 5%
- GEM: 2.5%

Countries with HIGH Gender Equality scores
- GDI: 5%
- GEI: 2.5%
- GGI: 1.25%
- GEM: 1%
Intimate Partner Violence and Girls' Secondary School Enrollment (45 countries)

Investment in girls’ secondary education is associated with lower rates of intimate partner violence.
Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Reproductive Health and Rights (41 countries)

Countries with better reproductive health and rights tend to have lower prevalence of violence against women.

- **LOWER Reproductive Health and Rights scores (below 15):** 15 countries
- **MEDIUM scores (15 - 24):** 17 countries
- **HIGHER Reproductive Health and Rights scores (above 25):** 9 countries

Prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence (% past 12 months)
• Information and education

• Technologies and services

• Economic assets and income

• Social support and networks

• Leadership and political participation
SASA!

A Film about Women, Violence and HIV/AIDS

Produced by Raising Voices and The People’s Picture Company
Communication for social change

How to change community norms on violence against women?

How do we measure it?
Measured 4000 youth over 3 year period

Compared attitudes and behavior of exposed vs. non exposed
Changes between 2003-2005

• Exposure to SDSI activities associated with better outcomes:
  – More support for gender equity (GEM items) over time
  – Decrease in stigmatizing attitudes and decreased support for discrimination against PLHA
  – Communication with others about HIV prevention and sexual behavior increased
  – Knowledge of available services increased
  – Increase in condom use among some groups
Provide safe options for women

Morata Safe House, Papua new Guinea
Where are the fathers?
Shared learning and strong community and regional networks are key.
Changing laws is not enough!
Five recommendations for change

1. Multisectoral strategies
2. More research and evaluation
3. Sustained funding
4. Joint programming for violence against women and children
5. Stronger public policy