

What works to prevent violence against women and girls?



PROF RACHEL JEWKES

CONSORTIUM DIRECTOR, WHAT WORKS GLOBAL PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICAN
MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

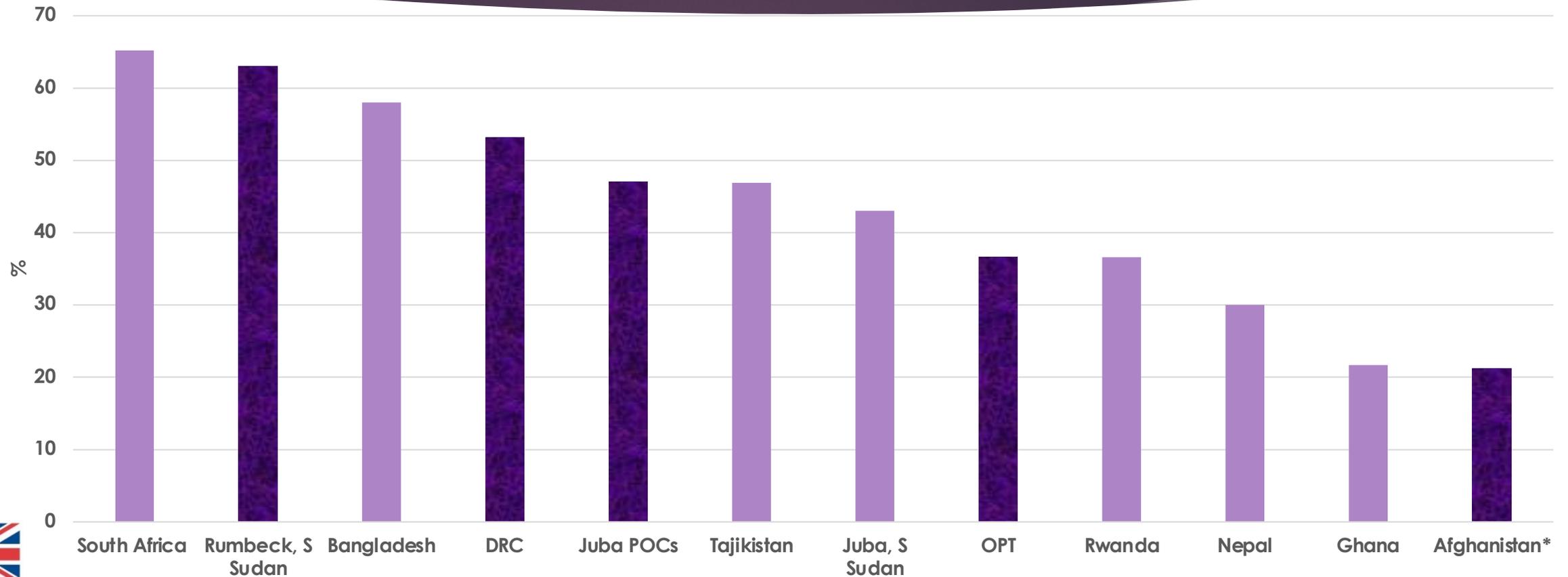


Flagship DFID programme: What works to prevent violence against women & girls?

- ▶ Working through 3 components, **What Works** has generated new knowledge on:
 - ▶ **prevalence** and **drivers** of violence
 - ▶ what works in **prevention**
 - ▶ **costs** of violence prevention and **costs** of in action
- ▶ Undertaken research in **15 countries** of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and
- ▶ Conducted **5 prevalence studies**, **3** studies of **costs to businesses**, evaluated **17 VAWG prevention interventions** and **6 studies of the costs of prevention**



Prevalence of women subjected to physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months in the research populations of What Works



* Only physical IPV

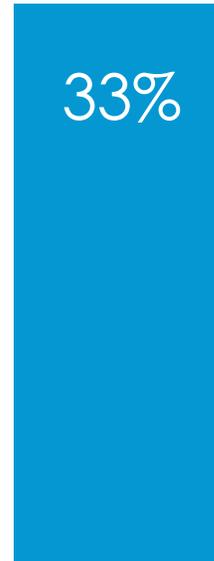
Non-partner sexual violence: In South Sudan and South Africa



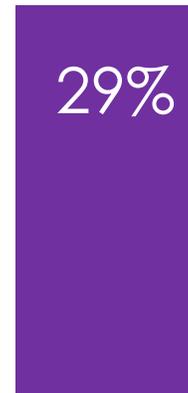
South Africa, informal settlement past year rape



Juba
n=477



Rumbek
n=804



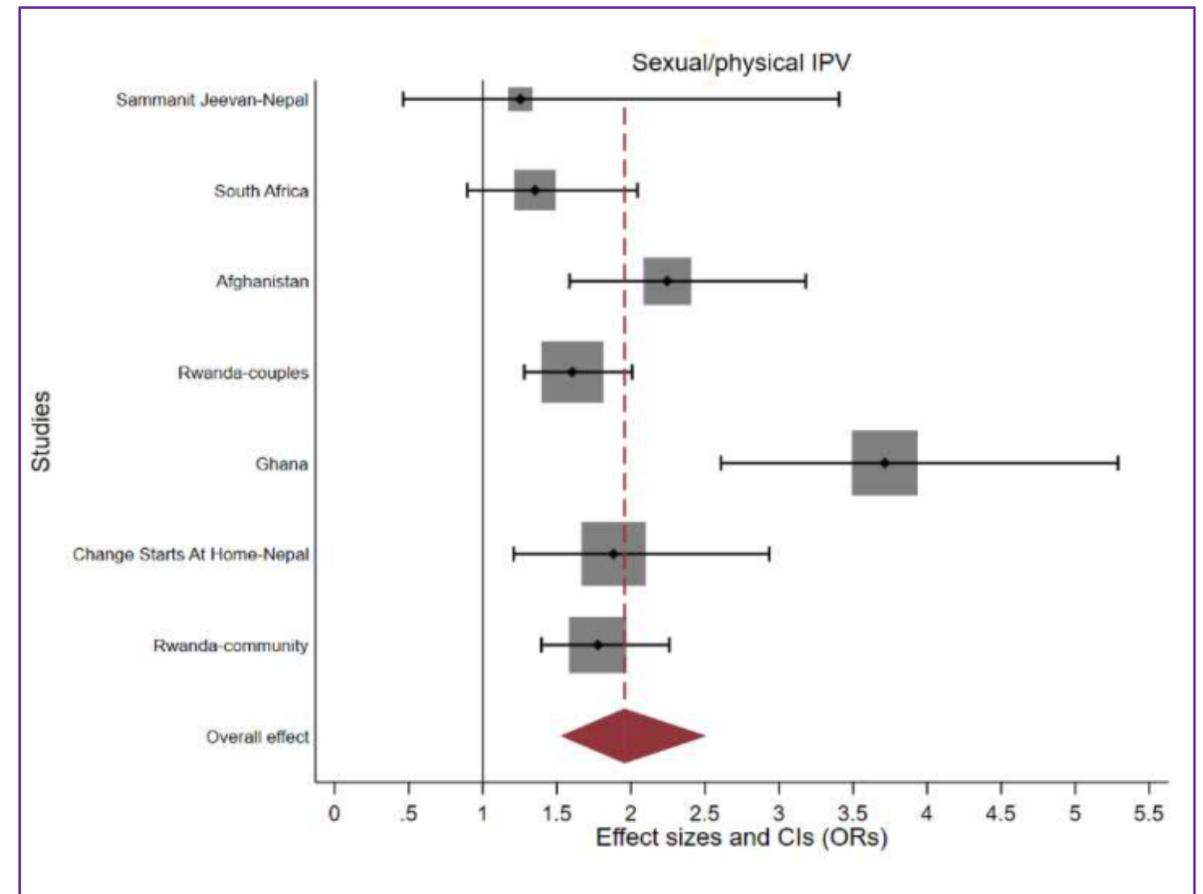
Juba Pocs
n=963

In South Sudan, more than 40% of women who had experienced non-partner SV had done so **2+ times**

Adolescents (<19s) were most vulnerable: **60%** prevalence

Women and girls with disabilities

- ▶ 2 x increased risk that women and girls with disabilities will be subject to sexual and/or physical IPV in the past 12 months
- ▶ Analysis based on data from 7 studies in 5 countries



Key Findings on economic costs of VAWG

The major cost to economies was productivity loss of working women due to experience of VAWG

This productivity loss ripples across the economy - In Ghana, \$1 of loss in household income due to absenteeism leads to an additional loss of 57 cents for business sectors - equivalent to approximately **1% of GDP**

In Ghana, the loss was 64 million days annually, **equivalent to 4.5% of all employed women in effect not working**

In South Sudan, the loss was 8.5 million days annually, equivalent to **6% of all employed women not working**

1 in 5 women employees in Ghana and 1 in 3 women employees in South Sudan reported productivity loss equivalent to 14 days and 10 days respectively in the past 12 months due to IPV

Drivers of VAWG

Structural inequalities – poverty, low education



Gender inequality: patriarchal privilege and disempowerment of women



Normative use of violence in multiple aspects of social relations



Poor communication and relationship conflict responses



Poor mental health & substance abuse



Child abuse & trauma



Conflict



VAWG

What Works studies have evaluated VAWG prevention programming on..

-  Community activism approaches to shift harmful gender attitudes, roles and social norms
-  Gender transformative and economic empowerment intervention approaches
-  Prevention of violence among and against children
-  Couples and special groups

Preventing violence against children through play-based lifeskills in Pakistan

- ▶ Research in 40 public schools in Hyderabad, Sindh
- ▶ Evaluation with 1752 girls and boys in Grade 6 (11 to 14 years), followed for 2 years



Ten elements of design and implementation of more effective interventions

DESIGN	<p>Rigorously planned, with a robust theory of change, rooted in knowledge of local context</p>	<p>Tackle multiple drivers of VAW, such as gender inequity, poverty, poor communication and marital conflict</p>	<p>Especially in highly patriarchal contexts, work with women and men, and where relevant, families</p>	<p>Based on theories of gender and social empowerment theories that view behaviour change as a collective rather than solely individual process and foster positive interpersonal relations and gender equity</p>
	<p>Use group-based participatory learning methods, for adults and children, that emphasise empowerment, critical reflection, communication and conflict resolution skills building</p>	<p>Age-appropriate design for children with a longer time for learning and an engaging pedagogy such as sport and play</p>	<p>Carefully designed, user-friendly manuals and materials supporting all intervention components to accomplish their goals</p>	<p>Integrate support for survivors of violence</p>
IMPLEMENTATION	<p>Optimal intensity: duration and frequency of sessions and overall programme length enables time for reflection and experiential learning</p>		<p>Staff and volunteers are selected for their gender equitable attitudes and non-violence behaviour, and are thoroughly trained, supervised and supported</p>	

Classification	Intervention Type
Effective, when well designed and executed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic transfer programmes. • Combined economic and social empowerment programmes targeting women. • Parenting programmes to prevent IPV and child maltreatment. • Community activism to shift harmful gender attitudes, role and social norms. • School-based interventions to prevent dating or sexual violence. • School-based interventions for peer violence. • Interventions that work with individuals and/or couples to address violence (with or without other prevention elements). • Couples' interventions (focused on transforming gender attitudes, addressing alcohol and violence in relationships). • Interventions with female sex workers and their clients and non-intimate partners) through employment, education and substance use reduction.
Promising, but requires further research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive behavioural programmes for pregnant women. • Self-defence programmes for women at college. • Economic empowerment programmes targeting men. • Interventions to reduce violence by non-paying intimate partners.
Conflicting evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions to reduce sexual violence for girls at primary and secondary schools. • Interventions to reduce violence against women. • Interventions during pregnancy in the antenatal and postnatal period to prevent IPV. • Interventions that as standalone interventions these do not reduce levels of VAWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Financial literacy, savings and livelihood programmes. – Brief bystander interventions. – Brief counselling and safety planning for pregnant women. • Insufficient evidence⁸ but unlikely to work as standalone interventions to reduce levels of VAWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Social marketing campaigns and edutainment. – Digital technologies for VAWG prevention.

We have a repertoire of interventions that are effective that can be adapted and taken to scale

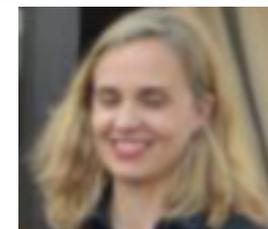
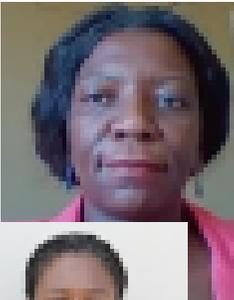
Table of What Works based on an in-depth review of the physical/sexual IPV prevention field 2019

Conclusion

- ▶ **Violence against women and girls** has a deep and enduring impact on women's lives, wellbeing and economies
- ▶ Yet, we have shown **it is preventable** in programmatic timeframes
- ▶ We have a **repertoire of interventions** that are effective that can be adapted and taken to scale
- ▶ **Robustly designed and implemented interventions** are essential for success
- ▶ We are positioned now to **make a real difference** to **women's and girls' lives** and it is imperative that **we seize the moment** and **move forward with impact**

Acknowledgements

- ▶ What Works is funded by UK Aid from the people of the United Kingdom and the funds were managed by the South African Medical Research Council.
- ▶ The work of component 1 was managed by the South African MRC, LSHTM and Social Development Direct assisted by Ladbury Consulting and a team of technical assistants
- ▶ Huge thanks to all the school students and community members and partner organisations who worked with us in the projects over the What works journey and sharing their findings, troubles, joys and challenges with us

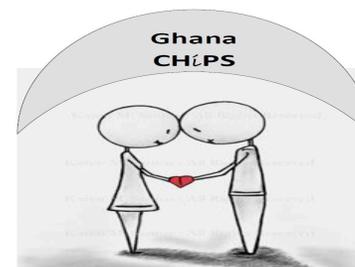


TACKLING VAWG in Ghana: *Using Community Based Action Teams (COMBATS)*



**Dorcas Coker-Appiah,
Gender Studies and Human Right
Documentation Centre (Gender Centre)
Accra, Ghana**

The project was implemented, evaluated and supported by:



COMBAT INTERVENTION



WhatWorks
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE



- ▶ Implemented over 18 months in rural villages and small towns of Ghana.
- ▶ Six-person COMBAT teams (women and men) trained & deployed in each community to:
 - ▶ Facilitate norm change on gender & VAWG, including awareness of legal rights.
 - ▶ Provide counselling to couples and support access to justice through referrals.
- ▶ Gender Centre trained police, health, & social welfare and traditional & religious leaders in prevention & response.

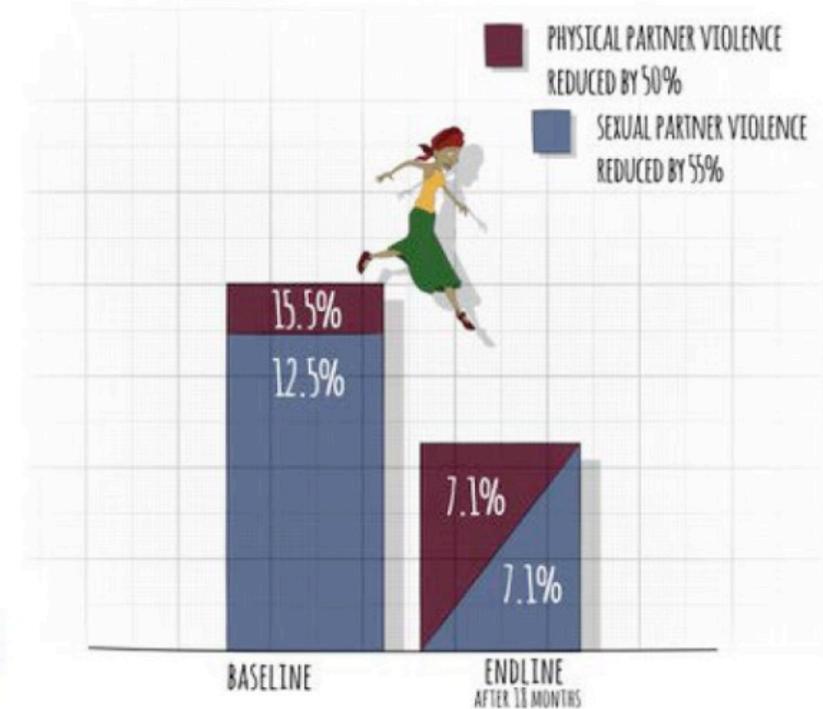


17/08/2017

Endline Findings



- ❖ **55% reduction** in women's experience of intimate partner **sexual** violence
- ❖ **50% reduction** in women's experience of intimate partner **physical** violence
- ❖ **29% reduction** in emotional IPV experience among women
- ❖ **20% reduction** in women's depression scores
- ❖ **12% reduction** in women's reports of partner controlling behaviour



Key Learnings



- ▶ Community-based social norm change interventions can be effective in reducing VAWG - requires time and whole community.
- ▶ Careful selection, training, and supervision of community facilitators needed. Selection of facilitators critical to acceptance of messages/activities of COMBAT.
- ▶ Likely to be more effective when supplemented by support for survivors.
- ▶ Interventions more likely to be effective when community led, locally owned to build rapport and trust from stakeholders.

What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global programme



RETHINKING RELATIONSHIPS: MOVING FROM VIOLENCE TO EQUALITY

What works to prevent violence against women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

Prabu Deepan

Intervention Overview:



ENGAGEMENT

75 Faith Leaders
30 Gender
Champions

**15 Community
Action Groups
(CAGs)**



TRAINING & EQUIPMENT

VAWG root causes
and theology
Gender Equality

**Support to
Survivors
Basic Counselling
and Mediation**



COMMUNITY - LED ACTIONS

Role models
Information sharing

Community
dialogues
**Survivors'
support**



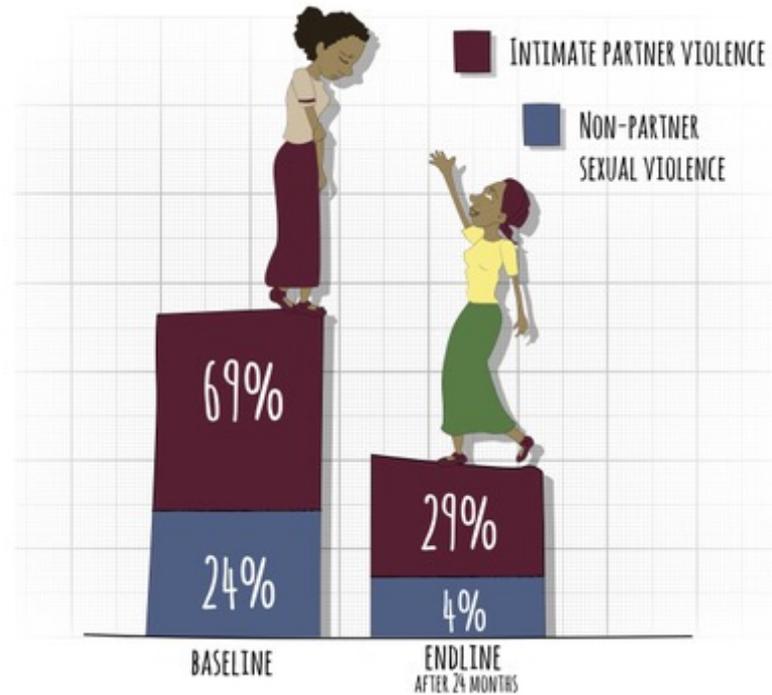
MONITORING & MENTORING

Project staff visits
Mentoring
Training refreshers

**Research
Component**

Research Findings:

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



- ▶ Among women IPV reduced from 69% to 29%
- ▶ Non Partner sexual violence reduced from 21% to 4%
- ▶ Justification of physical violence dropped from 71% to 55% among men
- ▶ Belief that women aren't allowed to refuse sex fell from 80% to 55% among men
- ▶ Belief that men are superior to women dropped from 90% to 70%
- ▶ By endline, 40% of IPV survivors sought assistance from faith leaders – an increase from 2%

Lessons:

▶ What's Worked Well

- **Multi-level diffusion model**
- **Safe spaces for critical reflection**
- **Rooted within community's own value systems**
- **Sustainability**

▶ To be explored further

- **Women's role as norms holder**
- **Behaviour vs Attitudes**
- **Gaps at institutional and service provision level – given the DRC context**