



What Works

Issue 06 October 2023

Programme Newsletter



Welcome to the October newsletter from the 'What Works to Prevent Violence' programme which shares our latest research, evidence, policy and news on prevention of violence against women and girls.

What's new this quarter?

- **Unveiling Grant Awardees during the 16 Days of Activism**
- **Ending violence against LGBTQI+ people:** Pan Africa ILGA Conference
- **Getting back on track with SDG 5**
- **What Works at Women Deliver, Rwanda**
- **Prevention of VAWG in the MENA Region:** A Regional Policy Dialogue
- **Supporting grantees to conduct a Gendered Political Economy Analysis**
- **Living our Feminist Values:** What Works hosts its first cross-consortia Accountability Workshop
- **60 Second Meet:** Shanaaz Matthews, Evaluation Co-lead
- **Explore the most recent Helpdesk reports**
- **Upcoming events:** What Works plans for the 16 Days of Activism

News from What Works

Unveiling Grant Awardees during the 16 Days of Activism

A selection of scale, mainstreaming and innovation grants from across South Asia and Southern and East Africa have now been awarded. To get a sneak peek at the grantee announcements during the 16 Days of Activism, be sure to follow us on [X \(@WW2PreventVAWG\)](#), visit our [Facebook page](#), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Ending violence against LGBTQI+ people

What Works Programme Director, Anne Gathumbi and Researcher, Veronica Ahlenback attended the Pan Africa Intersectional Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association ILGA (PAI) 6th Regional Conference in Mauritius from July 31st to August 4th. The conference gathered more than 400 delegates from LGBTQI+ organisations, donors, grant-makers and other stakeholders, focusing on the theme 'Pride and Resilience'.

The What Works team attended the donor pre-conference where they spoke on a panel with FCDO, USAID and the Centre for Health Education and Vulnerable Support (CHEVS) to share the findings of a What Works report on the topic, which you can read here: [Ending violence against LGBTQI+ people](#).

Key conference takeaways include the importance of:

- Cross-sectoral and trans-national approaches to counter the current backlash against LGBTQI+ and women's rights
- Intersectional approaches and funding to diverse LGBTQI+ communities
- Youth participation and understanding the additional barriers that LGBTQI+ youth organisations face in accessing funding
- Using evidence and research to advance LGBTQI+ rights, involving long-term partnerships between researchers and LGBTQI+ organisations.

As part of What Work's intersectional approach to violence prevention, we recognise the disproportionate violence faced by LGBTQ women and gender-diverse people and seek to understand how violence prevention efforts can be more inclusive and have positive impact on LGBTQI+ communities. Watch this space for the announcement of grants to support work in this area.

Getting back on track with SDG5: What Works at the Generation Equality Midpoint event

This year marks the midpoint for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the SDG Acceleration Day, What Works' Programme Director, Anne Gathumbi, joined the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) midpoint event in New York in September, with the aim of supporting efforts to drive and renew commitments to accelerate SDG 5. What Works produced the following advocacy brief to support national action from governments ["Getting Back on Track with the SDG 5: Seven actions to eliminate violence against women and girls" with other participants. \(see later section for key findings\)](#).

The event was aimed at leveraging the collective global leadership on gender equality to drive action, accountability, and renewed commitments to accelerate the SDGs through Generation Equality. The event highlighted the need to accelerate investment and implementation if we are going to realise SDG 5.

While in New York, Anne joined an event hosted by the Ford Foundation in partnership with FCDO. This event brought together thought leaders, public figures and organisers to discuss approaches to addressing the global crisis of gender-based violence. The gathering was designed to raise public awareness about the increasing violence that women, girls and gender-nonconforming people face globally and the work we can all do to help prevent this.

What Works at Women Deliver, Rwanda

In July 2023, Lusungu Kalanga (External Engagement & Influencing Lead for Southern & East Africa) represented the What Works programme at the Women Deliver conference 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda. This gathering brought together over 6,000 delegates united under the theme "Space, Solidarity, Solutions."

What Works' presence at Women Deliver focused on discussion around Feminist Foreign Policies (FFPs) and what they mean for funding feminist movements, linked to our recent [policy brief](#) on what difference FFPs are making to VAWG prevention.

For further insights into Lusungu's participation in Women Deliver 2023, visit her [blog](#) on the Social Development Direct website.

Prevention of VAWG in the MENA Region: A Regional Policy Dialogue

From 24 – 26 September, What Works hosted a regional policy dialogue with WROs from across the Middle East and North Africa region. The event was an opportunity for learning exchange on the existing evidence base around VAWG prevention from other regions and the approaches being taken by WROs and networks in the region. On the third day of the event, regional donors joined to hear about the work and the challenges faced by WROs who have been working on VAWG prevention and response and wider women's rights in the region for decades.



What Works remains committed to granting in the MENA region and is working to break down barriers to cross-regional learning through greater investment in Arabic language products.

Living Our Feminist Principles

Strengthening Accountability: First cross-consortia Accountability Workshop Accountability as a principle is at the heart of the What Works 2 Programme, a building block for both the Implementation and Research Consortiums. On September 13th, the inaugural Joint Consortium Workshop took place virtually, bringing together 28 participants. The primary objective of this workshop was to foster synergy in accountable practices and ignite actions that enhance collaborative efforts to centre women, girls, and their communities through grant making, implementation, and research. The sessions delved into the ongoing accountability journey, with each consortium sharing their accountability frameworks, tools, strategies, promising practices, and lessons learned.

The workshop provided a space for both consortia to set common intentions and understanding around multi-directional and multi-level accountability practices – centring feminist practices, while working with each other across teams, with grantees, communities and remaining accountable to the broad VAWG prevention field.

The space inspired commitments to adopt regular conversation and reflection processes that will enable the programme to assess progress. Common processes and tools such as the Accountability Reflection cards were adopted for use across both teams.

It was a forum in which critical commitments to be intersectional, centre the voices of women and girls in all their diversity and do no harm were re-imagined and affirmed. One key voice reiterated, “We will facilitate women and girls to tell their stories and recognise local indigenous knowledge and centre WRO as experts in this field. There will be continuous active listening, not only within ourselves, but we will listen to grantees and their communities

and the broader VAWG field. We also will strive to continue to find ways of jointly working together while working on various levels and dimensions of accountability within the programme”

The workshop sparked enthusiasm amongst teams around embracing accountability as a process of open learning, providing support to each other, and practicing courageous conversations with joy and generous spirits.

60 Second Meet



Name: Shanaaz Matthews

Project Role: Evaluation co-lead and part of the programme management team

Currently living in: South Africa

What is your area of expertise? I am a public health researcher, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. I have co-led the first national female homicide study that provided the first estimates on intimate femicide for South Africa and through qualitative inquiry explored pathways for men to take on violent masculinities. I am particularly interested in the intersections of violence against women and children and have been part of a team that explored violence across the life course of children through the use of birth cohort data from South Africa. Over the years and through my work with women’s networks in South Africa, I have learnt how to use research to influence policy. For example, data on women’s increased risk to be killed by an intimate partner who owned a firearm was used in the hearing on the Firearms Control Act. We argued for background checks to be done and violence in intimate relationships to be considered before issuing a gun licence, and were successful in getting this into law.

What are your hopes for What Works 2? The field of violence prevention is still an emerging area. We have some ideas of what interventions have the potential to work but require further evidence on how these successful interventions can be taken to scale and what these pathways to scale might be. The challenge has been that practitioners have been producing innovations in the field, but the programmes have not been systematically evaluated and documented. I am hopeful that we can provide the much-needed evidence to increase our knowledge on what specific elements of programmes at what level of intensity are required to achieve the much-needed violence prevention outcomes.

If you didn’t have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time? I love cooking and baking – if I had more time, I would spend more time in my kitchen.

If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be? I would love to be able to speak multiple languages – communicating is such an important skill and not speaking the language when you meet a person or visit a country is such a barrier.

For what are you most grateful today? I am grateful for the love and support of my family. My parents, although they could not afford to send me to university, still supported my dream to obtain a degree in apartheid South Africa.

What is your favourite quote? “We owe our children – the most vulnerable citizens in society – a life free from violence and fear” Nelson Mandela

Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

NEW Policy Brief: Getting Back on Track with SDG 5: Seven actions to eliminate violence against women and girls

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a formidable road map to realise a more equitable world for people and the planet, leaving no one behind. At this midpoint moment, with less than seven years to the 2030 deadline, there is significant work remaining when half of the population still faces daily threats to their well-being, bodily autonomy, and safety.

The What Works programme developed a [briefing paper](#) with seven actions to eliminate VAWG in the next seven years. The paper was shared widely at the UN General Assembly in New York in September, as well as online.

Getting Back on Track with SDG 5: Seven actions to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG)

- 1 Invest in evidence-based VAWG prevention programming
- 2 Scale up comprehensive, accessible and quality services for survivors
- 3 Integrate VAWG prevention into large-scale sector programmes and systems
- 4 Develop a costed, cross-sectoral national action plan to end gender-based violence
- 5 Support autonomous women’s rights organisations and movements to lead efforts to end VAWG
- 6 Invest in coordinated, secure, ethical and gender-sensitive research and data collection
- 7 Prioritise women and girls at greatest risk



Helpdesk

The Ending Violence Against Women and Children Helpdesk has produced short reports* and expert advice to FCDO on the following topics over the last three months:

Niger rapid review and mapping: Urgent, rapid support to the FCDO Niger team on the potential impacts of political instability, conflict and sanctions on GBV, as well as a mapping of the key actors.

What Works education portfolio: A short 2-page summary of the five education grants.

Religion, SRHR and GBV evidence review: An evidence review of the diverse narratives, teachings and points of contention within five religious traditions and their teachings on SRHR and GBV.

Refugee Women-led Organisations: A think piece and follow-on policy paper on the role that Refugee Women-Led Organisations play in preventing and responding to GBV.

Developing minimum standards to mainstream inclusion: The helpdesk supported the What Works programme to develop a set of proposed minimum standards for grantees to ensure their programmes are inclusive of the most marginalised women and girls.

Integrating GBV into Humanitarian Preparedness – Pacific factsheet: A summary of regional data on GBV and emerging practices on GBV integration in preparedness planning in the Pacific.

**Previous VAWG Helpdesk Reports are available [here](#)*

Are you HMG staff and want to know more about how we can help with research and advice?

Please see our [leaflet](#).

Our offer to Country offices is outlined [here](#).

For more information contact

enquiry@VAWCHelpdesk.org.uk

Upcoming Events

Members of the *What Works* Programme will be organising and attending the following events in the coming quarter. Please reach out if you would like to meet the team:

16 Days of Activism Campaign

What Works will be running an online social media campaign over the 16 Days of Activism to platform the work of our grantee partners. Please keep a look out for our social media posts and like, share, and engage with them. This will help us amplify messaging around What Works to Prevent Violence to maximise our reach to a wider audience. Thank you!

Event to mark the 16 Days of Activism, FCDO, London, 28th November

What Works colleagues will be attending an in-person event hosted by the FCDO in November to present some of the new grantees on the programme and hear more about their work. Please reach out to Naomi Clugston, What Works EEI Coordinator (naomi.clugston@sddirect.org.uk) if you would like more information.

Global Refugee Forum, Geneva 13th-15th December

What Works colleagues will be attending the Global Refugee Forum. If you would like to meet the team, please reach out to Amira Taha, What Works Regional Advocacy Lead for the Middle East and North Africa (amira.taha@cef-eg.org).

What Works 2 Online



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