



## What Works

Issue 05 July 2023

## Programme Newsletter



Welcome to the July 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?

- **Launch of Policy Brief:** [What difference are Feminist Foreign Policies making to ending VAWG?](#)
- **What Works Grant-Making Update**
- **External engagements:** What Works supports GBV policy dialogues in DRC and Southern Africa
- **Explore the most recent Helpdesk reports** covering a variety of themes, including:
  - [GBV in Sudan: Evidence Review](#)
  - [GBV in South Sudan: Evidence Review](#)
- **Upcoming events:** Women Deliver 2023; Pan Africa ILGA 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference; What Works' Regional Policy Dialogue in MENA Region
- **Living our Feminist Values:** Learning on "Decolonising Research"
- **Introducing:** Tina Musuya - Co-lead of the Learning Partnerships Team



# News From What Works

## **New brief looks at Feminist Foreign Policies and what they mean for VAWG prevention**

In recent years, Feminist Foreign Policies (FFPs), Feminist Development Policies (FDPs), and international strategies on gender equality have gained traction worldwide. An increasing number of countries have embraced FFPs or FDPs, and others such as the United Kingdom and the United States have launched policies focused on championing the rights of women, girls, and marginalised groups on the global stage.

In 2023, at the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world remains unequivocally off track to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), despite VAWG being a fundamental barrier to achieving the majority of the SDGs. FFPs, FDPs and international strategies on gender equality are therefore necessary tools to prevent and respond to VAWG across all settings, sectors and systems. It is necessary that such strategies move beyond rhetoric to create systemic, sustained change in the lives of women and girls. However, there has been limited analysis of how VAWG prevention and response is considered in existing FFPs and related strategies on gender equality, or what this means in practice. Our new brief provides an introduction to the relationship between FFPs, FDPs, international gender strategies and VAWG. It summarises the framing of and commitments around VAWG in a selection of FFPs, FDPs and international gender strategies, and examines what this means for VAWG prevention and response work. It considers what is missing from existing policies and their implementation so far, and makes recommendations for donors and policymakers.

The brief was launched at a webinar on 5th July, chaired by Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief of the Ending Violence against Women section at UN Women, and Board member of the What Works programme. Natsnet Ghebrebrhan of Raising Voices presented the findings of the paper on behalf of What Works. Panellists Wesal Abdullah from the Arab Women's Organisation in Jordan, Erika Veloza, Executive Director of GENFAMI in Colombia, Beth Woronuk, Equality Fund, Canada and Sohini Bhattacharya of Breakthrough India and What Works discussed the extent to which ambitions of FFPs are matching the action and investment needed to end VAWG.

## **Innovating for effective GBV prevention interventions and strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration in the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region**

On the 1st June, the What Works team attended a virtual event jointly hosted by GIZ Partnerships for Prevention (PfP) of GBV in Southern Africa Programme and the SADC Gender Unit. This was part of the annual SADC Gender Ministers meeting in Kinshasa, DRC, taking place between the 30th May and 2nd June. The topic of this event was "Innovating for effective GBV prevention interventions and strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration in the SADC region", exploring and sharing good practices on innovative approaches for GBV prevention across the region.

Attendees included member state Ministry of Gender officials, the office of the president, ministry of planning, bilateral and multilateral development partners and other policy makers, civil society organisations and GIZ partners.

At the event SADC launched their Handbook to promote effective GBV prevention as a key instrument to guide the work of member states. The SADC secretariat is advocating for more domestication and implementation of the Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender Based Violence (2018 – 2030) to address the significant evidence gap on effective prevention that exists in the SADC region.

## **What Works 2 programme director speaks at "International Conference on GBV in DRC"**

In June, What Works 2 Programme Director, Anne Gathumbi, represented the programme at an international conference on GBV hosted in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Speaking on a panel dedicated to understanding the causes of GBV and ways of addressing these, she shared the following insights:

- Emerging evidence shows that with careful design and implementation, VAWG is preventable, when programming is deep and sustained.
- Evidence suggests that economic empowerment, livelihoods, and cash transfer programming, particularly when paired with gender-transformative

**What Works grant-making update** This quarter, the Implementation and Research Consortia have been meeting with shortlisted applicants and supporting in-depth, collaborative co-design processes to refine approaches to prevention innovations and scale projects, and formulate research questions and design.

We anticipate being able to share more about grant recipients and locations in the next newsletter. Watch this space!

programming to shift attitudes and norms, can reduce VAWG.

- Seeking to transform long-held beliefs requires engaging across the ecological model to tackle drivers of VAWG at individual, family, community and societal levels.
- Sustainable change requires that we create an enabling environment for gender equitable, collaborative and inclusive work. This involves nurturing a culture of collective and continuous learning, critical reflection, and documentation of practice-based knowledge.

## Living Our Feminist Principles

**What Works supports internal learning on decolonising research principles** Earlier this year, the What Works Team organised an internal discussion about the importance of, and strategies for, decolonising research. This was facilitated by Sarah Homan from the Equality Institute, who presented the report, [“Confronting Uncomfortable Truths: Learning Lessons for Decolonising The Equality Institute’s Research and Knowledge Practices”](#). This discussion has supported the team to deepen their understanding of how to practically decolonise research practices in line with our feminist values. Key principles of decolonising research include:

- **Learning, reflection and reflexivity:** Acknowledging how our own beliefs, attitudes, identities and life experiences shape how we work and use this to improve methods. Learn and understand how research is situated within intersecting systems of oppression.
- **Flatten hierarchies and develop equitable partnerships:** Where possible, engage in fair and meaningful partnerships with shared decision-making. Ensure research is conducted *with* not *on* communities.
- **Centre indigenous and local knowledges, lived experiences and contributions:** Recognise the expertise of those from historically marginalised backgrounds and include their voices in your research.
- **Practice reciprocity and be of benefit to communities:** Research must always be beneficial to communities, grounded in meaningful, sustainable partnerships.
- **Conduct ethical and safe research:** Ethics and safety protocols should be culturally specific and developed in partnership with community and local stakeholders.
- **Be transformative:** Research processes and recommendations should seek to transform unequal power structures and systems of oppression.
- **Ensure accessibility:** Methods of overcoming barriers to participation in research and access to findings should be integrated into the research planning phase.

- **Fund ethically:** Funding should be built on honest, transformative relationships between donors and grantees that enables equitable processes to support research prioritised by those in historically marginalised communities.

## 60 Second Meet



**Name:** Tina Musuya

**Project Role:** Co-lead Learning Partnership Team and Senior Technical Advisor for Scale

**Currently Living In:** Kampala, Uganda

**What is your area of expertise?** I am a violence against women prevention specialist with an emphasis on feminist ways of working.

**What are your hopes for What Works 2?** That we are able to make a meaningful contribution to reducing violence against women and girls in many regions and filling gaps on ethical scale of evidence base models. We need to stick to elements of feminist scale.

**If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?** Watch a live band and dance away in a company of loved ones.

**If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?** Conservation

**For what are you most grateful today?** Good health and my wonderful colleagues at work. I am a very happy feminist!

**What is your favourite quote?** 'We are powerful because we have survived', Audre Lorde

## Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

**Helpdesk Report in Focus: Gender-based Violence in Sudan** In April 2023, armed conflict broke out in Sudan between rival factions of the military government. Organisations working in Sudan and neighbouring countries have reported 'surging' numbers of GBV incidents.

The Helpdesk was commissioned to produce a rapid review of the evidence on GBV in Sudan and the likely impacts of the conflict on prevalence, patterns, severity and impact.

Key findings from the rapid evidence review include:

- It is a highly fluid situation, with shifts in fighting and impacts on GBV spreading from Khartoum to neighbouring states.
- The conflict is severely impacting GBV services in Khartoum and the most conflict-affected states, including through direct attacks on aid workers, health workers, hospitals, clinics and warehouses
- However, the GBV sector is one of the most active sectors and continues to provide services, particularly through local organisations which are still operating, remote psychosocial support and information-sharing.
- Although the current conflict is the most urgent GBV need, it is set against a backdrop of already severe humanitarian needs with 1 in 3 people in need of humanitarian assistance – about 15.8 million people.
- Groups who experience intersecting inequalities are likely to be at heightened risk of GBV during the escalation in conflict, including women and girls with disabilities, adolescent girls, refugees and internally displaced people, pregnant women, LGBTQ+ women and women without male guardians, such as widows and divorcees.



### Direct attacks

on GBV, health and aid services/staff



33%

of women experienced partner violence



1 in 3

people in need of humanitarian assistance



14%

of the Humanitarian Response Plan funded

## 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, which are publicly available:

[GBV in Sudan: Evidence Review](#) (April 2023)

[GBV in South Sudan: Evidence Review](#) (June 2023)

\*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](mailto:enquiry@VAWCHelpdesk.org.uk)

## Looking Forward

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

### **Women Deliver 2023, Kigali – 17th – 20th July**

What Works colleagues will be attending Women Deliver. If you would like to meet the team please reach out to Lusungu Kalanga, What Works Regional Advocacy Lead for East and Southern Africa ([lusungu@sddirect.org.uk](mailto:lusungu@sddirect.org.uk)).

### **Pan Africa ILGA 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference, Port Louis, 31<sup>st</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Our What Works Director, Anne Gathumbi, and Veronica Ahlenback, author of the What Works [report on ending violence against LGBTQI+ people](#), will be attending the PAI 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference. What Works will be leading a session in the Donor Pre-Conference to explore grant-making practices and the use of evidence in addressing violence against LGBTQI+ people. If you would like to make contact at PAI please reach out to Veronica ([veronica.ahlenback@sddirect.org.uk](mailto:veronica.ahlenback@sddirect.org.uk)).

### **Regional policy dialogue on VAWG prevention in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Cairo, 26th – 28th September**

What Works is hosting a three-day meeting in Cairo in September to bring together Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), Humanitarian Actors, INGOs, UN Agencies and donors funding and working on VAWG prevention in the MENA region. This is an opportunity to share regional evidence and practical lessons on prevention programming; to explore best-practice-based prevention work in conflict and crisis; and for WROs to engage with donors and international agencies on VAWG prevention and response. If you would like more information about this event please contact Menna ([menna.elsabbagh@cef-eg.org](mailto:menna.elsabbagh@cef-eg.org)).

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