



What Works

Issue 07 January 2024

Programme Newsletter



Welcome to the January 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?

- **Projects supported by What Works starting in Pakistan, India, Somalia, Malawi, Eswatini, Uganda and Madagascar**
- **Looking back at the 16 days of activism: Championing Changemakers & Violence in and around Schools**
- **Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls through Feminist Foreign Policy**
- **Amplifying the voices of Refugee Women-led Organisations**
- **Living Our Feminist Principles:** Consistent Reflection on Feminist Accountability
- **60 Second Meet:** Kate Bishop, Co-Lead of External Engagement and Influencing
- **Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons:** Practice-based lessons for prevention at scale
- **Explore the most recent Helpdesk Reports**
- **Upcoming Events**

News from What Works

What Works welcomed our first grantee partners in Pakistan, India, Malawi, Uganda, Somalia, Eswatini and Madagascar What Works provides three types of grants:

1. **Scale grants** to scale existing interventions that have evidence that they are effective.
2. **Mainstreaming grants** to mainstream violence prevention into different sectors, including education and health.
3. **Innovation grants** to further design, refine and implement innovations in new or existing areas with the transformative ability to contribute impact with potential for further scaling.

Read more about all our grantees [here](#)



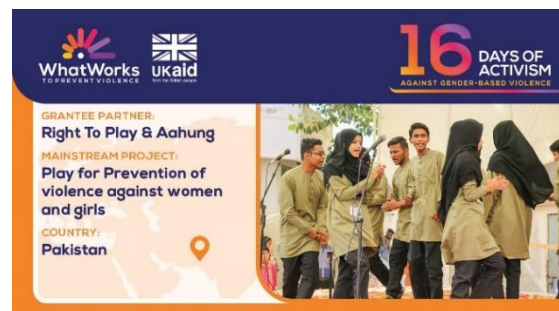
Pomodzi Kuthetsa Nkhanza (PKN) (Together End Violence): A scale grant has been awarded to the Women's Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC), Girls Empowerment Network (GENET) and Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities (WAG Disability) in Malawi.

PKN is a 5-year comprehensive VAWG prevention and response programme that provides an opportunity to effectively scale up learning from the UK-funded VAWG prevention and response programme, [Tithetse Nkhanza \(Let's End Violence\)](#) to include women and girls most at risk from violence, such as adolescent girls and women and girls with disabilities. The original programme (2018-2021) aimed to prevent violence and improve the justice system for women and girls living with violence in Malawi.



Strengthening Health Systems to Prevent and Respond to VAWG: This mainstreaming grant has been awarded to Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) to mainstream violence prevention and response into the primary and secondary health systems in India.

The project will systematically integrate CEHATS psychosocial support model *Dilaasa* with WHO guidelines to strengthen the provision of primary care by physicians, nurses, midwives, social workers, and community health workers. It will also include prevention communication and universal education into primary care services, such as family planning, antenatal, postpartum, routine sick care and well/sick childcare.



Communities Care for Safer Communities for Women and Girls: This mainstreaming grant has been awarded to the International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC) and Women Initiative for Social Empowerment (WISE) in Somalia.

This 4-year project aims to reduce violence against women, boys and girls through the creation of safer schools and communities. While continuing to roll out the Communities Care social norms approach in the wider community, the model will be adapted and expanded to adolescents in nine schools in two regions. In Banadir region, it will work with internally displaced people, while in Galmudug, it will target rural pastoralist communities facing recurrent clan conflict.

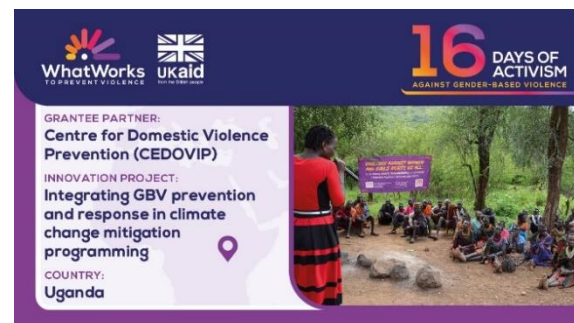
Play for Prevention VAWG: This mainstreaming grant has been awarded to Right to Play and Aahung in Pakistan. The project will be implemented in 60 public and private schools in Pakistan. It will use a combined Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) curriculum emphasising a gender-transformative approach to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes with the use of interactive, learner-centred, play-based methodologies.

Right to Play will bring interactive, learner-centred, play-based methodologies and Aahung will deliver culturally relevant gender-transformative strategies to support sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescent girls



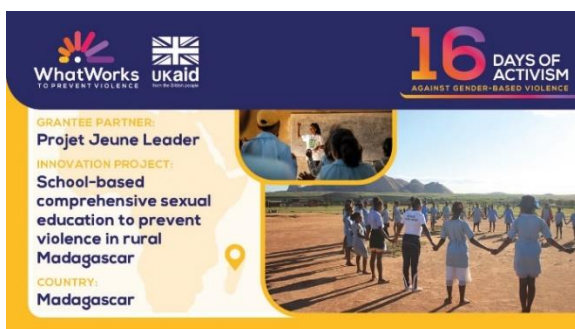
Stand Together to End Sexual Violence at the Workplace (SATH): This innovation grant has been awarded to Shirkat Gah Women’s Resource Centre in Pakistan. SATH is a multi-tiered project aimed at reducing workplace sexual harassment.

It focuses on bringing about behavioural change within both institutions and amongst workers (both female and male). This involves helping management reduce impunity for sexual harassment in 10 public and private sector corporate and service delivery institutions. It also involves building capacity on the law, obligations of management and how to approach Ombudspersons. The programme will support the development of user-friendly digital tools to support this capacity building. It will also review existing practices.



Integrating GBV prevention and response in climate change mitigation programming: This innovation grant has been awarded to the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) in Uganda, who will work in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda’s Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and Uganda National Meteorological Authority at national and district levels.

This programme will combine community mobilisation using the SASA! Together and couples engagement as well as integrating GBV risk mitigation prevention, and response into climate change mitigation activities aligned to wetland restoration programs in Pallisa district.



Comprehensive sexual education to prevent violence in rural Madagascar: This innovation grant has been awarded to Project Jeune Leader (PJL) in Madagascar. It builds on PJL's previous programming, which since 2013, has developed an evidence-based, multi-component comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) program for young adolescents (ages 10-14) in Madagascar's government schools. This programme focuses on violence prevention for this high-risk age group who are at a critical phase of life development, aiming to stop the cycle of violence across generations.

As well as a gender-transformative curriculum, the grant will support specially trained teacher to offer counselling, a referral system, and programming for parents and school leaders.

Looking back at the 16 days of activism: championing changemakers & violence in and around Schools To mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the What Works programme held an in-person event and reception in London on 'Championing Changemakers: Women's Rights Organisations at the forefront of preventing violence against women and girls'.

At the event, the Minister of State for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell, announced the grantee partners being supported by What Works and reiterated the UK government's commitment to funding women's rights organisations.

Women's rights organisations from Malawi, Pakistan and Jordan shared their insights on the actions needed by all sectors to accelerate progress directly with decision-makers. We also heard from Abigail Erikson, Chief of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women who highlighted the importance of working to end VAWG and amplifying the voices of WROs working on the frontline.



Also during the 16 days, the What Works team provided insights on **Preventing Violence and Improving Learning Outcomes** at an event organised for FCDO education advisors and wider stakeholders in the education sector as part of the 16 Days of Activism

Sexual harassment prevention in institutions of higher education: This innovation grant has been awarded to Women Unlimited Eswatini and Bantwana Initiative Eswatini. It aims to mitigate VAWG in higher education institutions by addressing individual and institutional risk factors. The Unlimited Interest Clubs is a peer/student-driven model, which builds agency and VAWG activism through mentorship. It leverages lessons from an on-campus HIV/SRHR intervention.

Activities include organising and building the capacity of students as champions, leveraging existing student networks, providing safe spaces for VAWG dialogue, and advancing gender transformative activism. It will also support the university to strengthen systems to support and refer students.

Amplifying the voices of refugee women-led organisations The What Works team presented the findings from the latest policy brief on refugee women-led organisations at various events in November and December. The brief is available in English, French and Arabic – see the 'Latest Evidence' section below.

The policy brief was launched at an internal event for staff at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office during the 16 Days of Activism. We were joined by refugee activists, leaders and women-led organisations from Syria, South Sudan and Kenya, as well as UNHCR. The meeting discussed the urgent need for targeted funding and new funding commitments were announced.

Alongside representatives from refugee women-led organisations, the What Works team attended the [Global Refugee Forum in Switzerland](#) between the 13th and 15th of December. The Forum is the world's largest international gathering on refugees. It is an opportunity to share good practices, highlight progress, and announce pledges and contributions.

We launched the policy brief at a side event exploring locally-led action to address VAWG in emergencies. This event was organised by CARE, a What Works partner, and co-sponsored by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Colombia. It was hosted by ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) and with introductory remarks by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

One of the delegates to the Forum, Marie Louise Baricako from Inamahoro Movement for Women and Girls shared that,

"As women leaders from refugee women-led organisations, we met with various partners and stakeholders to propose solutions to help refugees in a sustainable way. We emphasised that we are not victims, but leaders that can make a difference. We

against GBV. Chaired by the Chief Scientist Charlotte Watts, the meeting explored examples of UK-funded school interventions that have been effective in reducing violence in diverse contexts.

Feminist Foreign Policy and GBV prevention In November 2023, the Government of the Netherlands hosted an [international conference on Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy](#), attended by more than 750 participants from over 40 countries. The What Works team spoke at a civil society festival event on engaging men and boys in feminist foreign policy (FFP) and feminist development policy (FDP).

We also shared the What Works brief on [How should Feminist Foreign and Development Policies address Violence against Women and Girls](#). As this brief explains,

“FFPs, FDPs and related gender strategies have the potential to be influential drivers of accelerating progress on the prevention and response to VAWG. However, in order for them to fulfil this potential, they need to be implemented in a way that increases resources for evidence-based, transformative approaches to VAWG prevention and response that centres the needs and voices of women and girls. In addition, the full range of foreign policy levers needs to be used to address VAWG.”

In the last two years, 13 Governments have committed themselves to adopting or applying an FFP or FDP and others have launched new international strategies to support gender equality. This area of discussion, policy and programme implementation offers opportunities to advance a transformative agenda for gender equality which can contribute to ending VAWG.

believe the collaborative partnerships between humanitarian system actors and women organisations would bring higher value. There are areas we must enhance, and with joint effort and strengths, we can make our work more valuable. Complementing our efforts will have the power to uplift and transform the lives of refugees”.

Living Our Feminist Principles

Consistent Reflection on Feminist Accountability What Works continues to make significant progress in embracing feminist principles and accountability, a core value of the programme. The Consortium recently concluded the second round of the Accountability Reflection Card process, engaging 20 individuals from our partner organisations.

The online Reflection Card enables members to assess and uphold accountability at both individual and organisational levels. This collaborative effort not only offers valuable insights for programme improvement but also fosters a culture of shared responsibility and learning.

Emerging findings from this ongoing reflection process suggest that a spirit of solidarity and improved power dynamics has emerged, with greater listening, relationships and team spirit across the consortium. Key areas identified for continuous growth include self and collective care, communication mechanisms, and increased collaboration across different pillars.

Importantly, this process has reinvigorated the consortium’s commitment to ongoing learning and adaptation, embodying the principle that accountability is a continuous journey, filled with joy, courage and opportunities for course correction. The reflection process has provided a strengthened foundation to empower consortium members to inspire

and implement more effective accountability practices with grantees, communities impacted by the programme, and the broader field of VAWG prevention.

60 Second Meet



Name: Kate Bishop

Project Role: Co-Lead of External Engagement and Influencing

Currently living in: Devon, UK

What is your area of expertise? Policy and programming on prevention of GBV

What are your hopes for What Works 2? That the programme catalyses greater investment in evidence-based prevention through women's rights organisations

If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time? Read, grow vegetables, cook, dance, cycle

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

For what are you most grateful today? Health and family

Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

Practice-based lessons for prevention at scale

Strengthening our understanding of how we can scale interventions effectively is just as important as understanding which type of interventions work. As the *What Works: Impact at Scale* programme began the competitive process to award funding for scale in 2022, the selection panel encountered difficulties identifying projects that could meet the

necessary criteria for funding. This challenge prompted a reflection on the state of the VAWG prevention field and its readiness for scale. Our reflection produced six key findings, specifically around evidence and learning, funding mechanisms, and partnerships. These are captured in [this report](#) on practice-based lessons for feminist, ethical, and evidence-based violence against women and girls prevention at scale. The paper was presented at the Wilton Park conference 'What will it take to end gender-based violence? Rethinking pathways to preventing violence at scale' in November 2023.

1. While we now have rigorous evidence that VAWG prevention is possible, this evidence is limited to a handful of interventions in a few countries, working to address specific types of violence.
2. Strengthening an understanding of the pathway to scale, including what it takes to effectively scale an intervention, is just as important as understanding which type of interventions work.
3. To support stakeholders to engage with the evidence on effective VAWG prevention programming and reflect on what it means for their communities, there is a need to invest in making it much more accessible.
4. Funding mechanisms do not adequately meet the needs of VAWG prevention organisations at different points on the pathway to scale.
5. There is very limited funding for organisations who take a localised, feminist approach (including WROs) to grow, and limited technical support available to support them on the pathway to scale.
6. Working with governments to mainstream effective VAWG programming into national or regional sectoral programmes is one crucial component of scale and can lead to greater reach and sustainability.

Helpdesk

Refugee Women-led Organisations on the Frontline of Addressing GBV: Key Actions from the Global Refugee Forum

Refugee women-led organisations (WLOs) play a pivotal role in supporting refugee women and girls throughout their displacement journey. They are on the frontlines of GBV prevention and response and have a deep understanding of the communities they work in. However, refugee WLOs face particular barriers and challenges.



In advance of the Global Refugee Forum, the Helpdesk produced a short policy brief based on interviews with refugee WLOs in Kenya, Ukraine, South Sudan, Rwanda, Romania and Jordan, global organisations supporting refugee WLOs, and refugee leaders working with refugee women and youth networks. The brief also draws on a rapid desk review of the evidence that was discussed at Wilton Park in July 2023. It is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#).

The brief was launched at the Global Refugee Forum and calls for decision-makers globally to support refugee WLOs through:

1. **Funding and organisational support:** Ensure accessibility of funding mechanisms, track allocation of funding, increase the amount and quality of funding to refugee WLOs, and work with host governments to identify and address legal barriers
2. **Partnership, collaboration and commitments:** Prioritise leadership across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, support inclusion in host communities, and ensure meaningful engagement in advocacy, policy and programming.
3. **Learning, evidence and advocacy:** Support refugee networks, and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with donors and policymakers. Invest in rigorous, ethical applied research to amplify and learn from the essential work of refugee WLOs.
4. **Wellbeing, safety and collective care:** Dedicate a percentage of project funding to support collective care, psychosocial and mental health support, wellbeing and safety of staff and volunteers, and take active steps to minimise the risk of re-traumatisation.

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

[GBV Prevention in Refugee Camp Settings in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (October 2023)

[Integrating GBV into Humanitarian Preparedness – Pacific factsheet](#) (October 2023)

*Previous VAWG Helpdesk Reports will be available [here](#) once our new website goes live.

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 connect with the team

What Works Annual Programme Meeting

The What Works Consortium will be meeting in Mombasa, Kenya, between the 24th of February and the 1st of March for the Annual Programme Meeting. This is an opportunity to bring all consortium members, grantees, International Advisory Board members, and representatives from the FCDO together to discuss progress made to date and plan for the coming year's work.

European Humanitarian Forum

The What Works team will be attending the third European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels between the 18th and 19th of March. The themes of this forum are: 1) funding gaps and prioritisation, and 2) forgotten crises and fragile humanitarian environments.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The What Works team will be attending the CSW on the 22nd of March. The theme of this year's CSW will be 'Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective'.

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