

What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: **Impact at Scale**



Tipsheet 1: What is prevention?

The What Works: Impact at Scale programme focuses on primary prevention of violence against women, girls and gender diverse people. Primary prevention aims to stop violence before it starts. In public health, interventions are often categorised as primary, secondary or tertiary prevention. All three types of prevention are important, and often work in combination. What Works: Impact at Scale focuses on learning about and scaling primary prevention.

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Aims to stop violence at household and community level before it starts by tackling risk factors

EXAMPLES

Community activism
Schools-based approaches
Parenting interventions

SECONDARY PREVENTION

Aims to reduce the frequency and severity of new episodes where it has previously happened

EXAMPLES

Screening in health settings
Alcohol use management
Work with high-risk groups (e.g. female sex workers)

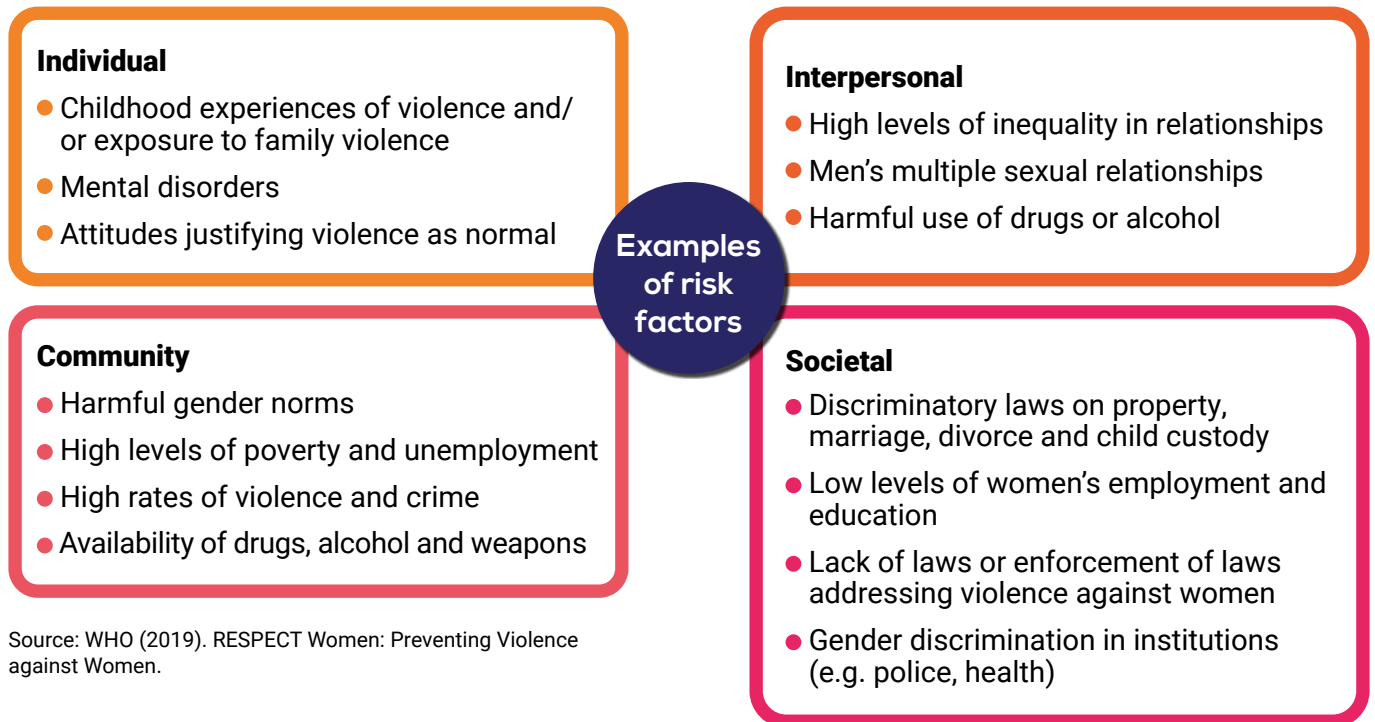
TERTIARY PREVENTION

Aims to respond to the immediate needs of survivors

EXAMPLES

Shelters
Hotlines
Emergency contraception

To prevent violence, we need to have a deep understanding of the problem. Preventing violence involves addressing the underlying causes at the individual, interpersonal, community and society level, also known as the risk factors.



Preventing violence against women and girls is possible. Phase 1 of the UK's *What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)* research programme showed that it was possible for well-designed and implemented projects to reduce intimate partner violence by over 50%.

The programme funded fifteen innovative projects across Africa and Asia between 2014 and 2020. Over half showed significant reductions in violence. Most also improved secondary outcomes, such as gender attitudes, mental health, alcohol use, food security, earning and savings.

56%

Indashyikirwa, Rwanda: A 21-session couples' curriculum reduced physical and/or sexual IPV among women by 56%, as measured at 2 years.

50%+

Transforming Masculinities, DRC: A project engaging faith leaders and community members in conflict-affected DRC reduced intimate partner violence from 69% to 29%. Non-partner sexual violence reduced from 24% to 4% after 2 years.

By using evidence, we can understand the range of risk factors that cause violence and develop comprehensive, multilevel approaches to prevent violence that are more effective and inclusive. As well as reducing violence, we also expect that projects will create healthier communities and more equitable relationships between men, women, girls and boys.

What Works: Impact at Scale will support women's rights organisations who are leading on preventing violence against women, girls and gender diverse people in their communities:



Innovating and testing new approaches to prevent violence



Adapting and scaling promising approaches



Connecting and creating space to come together



Understanding the causes and context



Practice-based knowledge on what works

We will fund and collaborate with women's rights organisations to learn, innovate and scale what works to prevent violence.

Key takeaways

- Preventing violence is possible
- The What Works: Impact at Scale programme focuses on primary prevention, which aims to stop violence before it starts.
- To prevent violence, we need to have a deep understanding of the problem and use evidence to plan programmes
- The programme will work with women's rights organisations to learn, innovate and scale what works to prevent violence

To find out more, please visit our website: <https://ww2preventvawg.org/>

Sources:

Kerr-Wilson et al. (2020). A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls.
WHO (2019). RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence against Women.



 @WW2preventVAWG