



# What Works Programme Newsletter

Issue 10 February 2024



Welcome to the February 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?

- **16 Days of Activism**
- **A global commitment to ending violence against children: Bogotá, Colombia**
- **Asia and Southern and Eastern Africa Regional Advocacy Convening**
- **A brand-new report on GBV and Climate Change at COP29**
- **Attending the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum**
- **2024 Call for Concept Notes now closed**
- **60 Second Meet: Naomi Clungston**
- **Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons**

## News from What Works

**16 Days of Activism** Last year, to mark 16 Days of Activism, What Works II:

- Hosted an in-person event with FCDO and the Home Office in London to highlight cross-government commitment to tackling GBV at home and overseas. Minister Phillips and Minister Dodds addressed an audience of GBV practitioners and activists working in the UK and internationally.
- Collaborated with FCDO Communications to profile 4 Grantee Partners on FCDO's social media channels (that have a reach of over 1 million!).

**Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Advocacy Convenings: Building Capacity and Collaboration**

Over the summer of 2024 the What Works II hosted two Regional Advocacy workshops in Sri Lanka, for partners working in the Asia Region, and in Malawi, for partners working in Southern and Eastern Africa. These workshops aimed to strengthen regional collaboration and advocacy efforts. The events followed the February 2024 Annual Programmes Meeting in Mombasa, Kenya, where regional priorities and challenges unique to the Asia, Eastern and Southern African contexts were identified.

- Continued to amplify the work of Grantee Partners, promote Window 2, and share recently published WW policy and research on ethical scale, education settings and climate action through our own social media campaign.
- In Lilongwe, the launch of What Works' largest-scale grant yet marked a major milestone. The Pamodzi Kutenzsa (PKN) Consortium, a collaboration of three local women-led organizations, is working to reduce violence against women and girls through a combination of community-driven interventions, economic empowerment, and survivor support. Hosted by the UK High Commissioner and attended by Malawi's Minister for Gender, the event reinforced the Malawian government's commitment to tackling gender-based violence through strong partnerships. To find out more, please see [this blog post by Programme Director, Anne Gathumbi](#).

**A Global Commitment to Ending Violence Against Children** On 7-8 November 2024, Bogotá, Colombia, hosted the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children. The event brought together world leaders, NGOs, survivors, and stakeholders to drive collective action towards eliminating violence against children.

Discussions focused on bold commitments to policy change, scaling successful solutions, and increasing investments to meet the scale of the challenge. Three key strategies took centre stage: supporting parents and caregivers to create safe and nurturing environments, ensuring schools are secure spaces free from harm, and providing effective response services for child victims of violence.

The **What Works** team made a significant contribution, leading sessions and participating in panels focused on violence prevention through schools and addressing the intersections of violence against women and children.

This milestone conference reinforced the urgent need for coordinated global action and evidence-based approaches to secure a violence-free future for children everywhere.

**Innovation Grants Advancing Women's Rights.** The What Works Programme's request for concept notes for innovation grants category ran for eight weeks and closed on December 6th. Innovation grants of up to 500,000 pounds are awarded to women's rights in the global south to design and implement new or existing ideas with the transformative ability to contribute impact with potential for future scaling. The RFP sought applications based on three priority areas namely prevention of **VAWG in fragile and conflict affected settings** (FCAS) with a particular focus on countries experiencing protracted crisis; **technology-facilitated gender-based violence** (TFGBV) as one of the emerging forms of VAWG and concept notes addressing **VAWG in climate change** interventions. Close to 800 applications were received, and the next step is to conduct both the eligibility screening and technical review to select the final number of concept notes that will be invited to submit a full proposal application. Those invited will receive support from What Work Programme's technical advisors to design the interventions and define the research gap that those interventions will be filling.

This three-day convenings had three core objectives:

1. **Strengthening Solidarity:** Partners built a stronger sense of unity, fostering trust and alignment.
2. **Advancing Advocacy Plans:** The group reviewed Gender Equality and Empowerment Assessments (GPEAs), revisited National Advocacy Plans (NAPs), and initiated work on a Regional Advocacy Strategy.
3. **Building EEI Capacity:** The Enhanced Evidence and Insights (EEI) sessions provided partners with greater clarity on programme expectations and accountability.

In-person collaboration proved invaluable for building shared understanding, aligning strategies, and enabling critical reflection. For the Asia Convening, highlights included discussions on feminist perspectives from Sri Lanka, which explored their role in the 2022 people's uprising and barriers to progress. For the Southern and Eastern Africa Convening, highlights included lessons sharing around how to advocate within hostile political environments. These sessions showcased the importance of integrating contextual knowledge and critical analysis into regional initiatives.

The convening reinforced the transformative power of face-to-face engagement in achieving clarity, solidarity, and meaningful progress in regional advocacy and capacity building.

**Attending the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum.** Last year, the What Works II team hosted two events and two workshops at SVRI, introducing the programme to the field and sharing early lessons from our partners. We were thrilled to introduce our grantee partners, consortium partners and members of our International Advisory Board at a reception during the conference. The programme received a warm welcome from those attending and teams enjoyed the opportunity to share their work and find opportunities to collaborate with others.

We were also excited to host a panel discussion where we shared lessons on violence prevention in the education sector, in partnership with the Coalition for Good Schools, Safe to Learn, and UNESCO. This was another brilliant opportunity to connect with other violence prevention practitioners working in education to share lessons and build connections.

Finally, the team hosted two workshops, one sharing lessons on preventing violence against LGBTIQ+ people and one sharing early practice-based learning from the programme. Both workshops were participatory and engaged researchers and practitioners working in violence prevention, encouraging collaborative conversations to find solutions to the challenges we face.

## 60 Second Meet

**Name:** Naomi Clungston

**Project Role:** I wear multiple hats across What Works II, working as a researcher and technical advisor for the VAWC Helpdesk and on policy and influencing for the External Engagement and Influencing Team.

**Currently living in:** Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

**What is your area of expertise?** My work to date has primarily focused on GBV and women's inclusion in fragile and climate-affected contexts.



**What are your hopes for What Works 2?** That the lessons we learn and evidence we produce help improve the funding, political commitment, and quality of GBV prevention programming globally.

**If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?** I'd spend more time in nature cycling, climbing, and hiking.

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

**For what are you most grateful today?** My partner and my friends.

**What is your favourite quote?** "What's the point in revolution if we can't sing"

## Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

["Gender Based Violence: Overcoming an Unseen Barrier to Effective Climate Action"](#): This report and accompanying

policy brief aim to support policy makers and practitioners in understanding how addressing GBV supports the effectiveness of climate change programmes and policies. It shares examples of emerging good practice and provides recommendations for all stakeholders to address GBV more comprehensively.

Drawing on a literature review of existing evidence and interviews with climate and GBV stakeholders, the report highlights the vital role of women-led organisations on the frontlines of the climate crisis. These organisations report that perpetrators are committing GBC with impunity, that this is affecting the ability of staff and communities to engage in crucial climate work, and that it must be stopped. Despite limited resources, promising practice-based lessons are emerging from their work, showing that it is possible to address GBV and create safer, more resilient communities.

**[“Policy brief on violence in and around schools and its direct and indirect impacts on educational outcomes of children”](#)**: This policy brief lays out key data around the prevalence of violence in and around schools globally, along with insights about the impacts of violence on educational and other social outcomes, the causes of this violence, and what can be done to prevent this violence. It is a key document for policy makers working in education, highlighting that violence is preventable and how it can be prevented in practice.

## Helpdesk

The Ending Violence Against Women and Children Helpdesk has produced several short reports\* and provided expert advice to FCDO on various topics over the last three months, including the two above. While most of these reports are for internal use, we are pleased to share also this one externally:

[Social Norm Change and Economic Growth in Uganda](#)

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)

## 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:

### **69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)**

**Date:** 10- 21 March 2025

**Location:** United Nations Headquarters in New York

What Works II staff will be attending CSW69 as part of our efforts to increase the Programme's profile and the uptake of existing evidence. Additionally, two Grantee Partners will be attending and holding meetings at CSW69: the Pamodzi Kuthetsa Nkhanza [Consortium](#) and the Centre for Rights, Education and Awareness. The main focus of CSW69 will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A number of Grantee Partners have been contributing to regional and national review efforts over the last year and What Works II staff looking forward to amplifying their work at CSW69.

### **Skoll World Forum**

**Date:** 1-4 April 2025

**Location:** Oxford, U.K.

Skoll World Forum is an annual convening to take collective action, network to collaborate on social change. The Forum shines a spotlight on some of the most promising solutions and impactful social innovations and connects leaders who are driving social progress around the world. Window 1 grantee partner's Projet Jeune Leader from Madagascar will also be attending the forum.

### **CIES**

**Date:** 2-4 April 2025

**Location:** Moldova

The Global Partnership Forum on Comprehensive Sexual Education (co-convened by UNESCO & UNFPA) will host a 3-day, in person international Symposium. It will provide a space to look in-depth at a range of thematic issues related to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). It will bring together young people, education professionals, academic experts, donors, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) practitioners and advocates, government representatives, religious and traditional leaders, artists and activists, alongside other stakeholders, to present the latest evidence, promote dialogue, cement shared values and identify directions for advancing effective and evidence-based approaches on education for health, well-being and positive values on sexuality. Members of the What Works 2 programme will be presenting on integrating GBV prevention into national education systems. Window 1 grantee partner's Projet Jeune Leader from Madagascar will also be attending the symposium.

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