



OCTOBER 6-9, 2026 BANGKOK, THAILAND

What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale at the SVRI Forum 2026



How to Use this Guide

This guide provides an organized overview of all of the What Works II events taking place at the SVRI Forum 2026. To learn more about these events, you can also use the online SVRI Forum 2026 Programme.

You can also [check out our website](#) for more information about our presence at the SVRI Forum 2026.

Visit our website for more info

Visit us at the SVRI Forum!

Make sure to visit us at our booth (B12) in the conference centre to learn more about What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale.

Who We Are

Evidence from the first phase of the initiative showed that violence in homes, schools, and communities can be reduced by 50% in under 3 years. Now in phase two, What Works II is working with grantee and research partners in 12 countries across Africa and Asia to pioneer, evaluate, and scale up effective approaches to end violence against women and girls.

Predicted to reach more
than one million women
and children by 2028,
What Works II will create
evidence that protects
generations from violence.

What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale (What Works II) is the UK's flagship global initiative to end violence against women and girls, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) through its Women and Girls Department and Global Research and Technology Development portfolio.

[Skip to WW events](#)

The **What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale** initiative is delivered through two consortia: the Implementation Consortium, managing the overall programme and led by the International Rescue Committee; and the Research and Evaluation Consortium, delivering impact evaluations and operational research to identify what works in preventing violence, led by the Global Women's Institute.

Implementation Consortium



breakthrough



Research and Evaluation Consortium



New reports launching soon



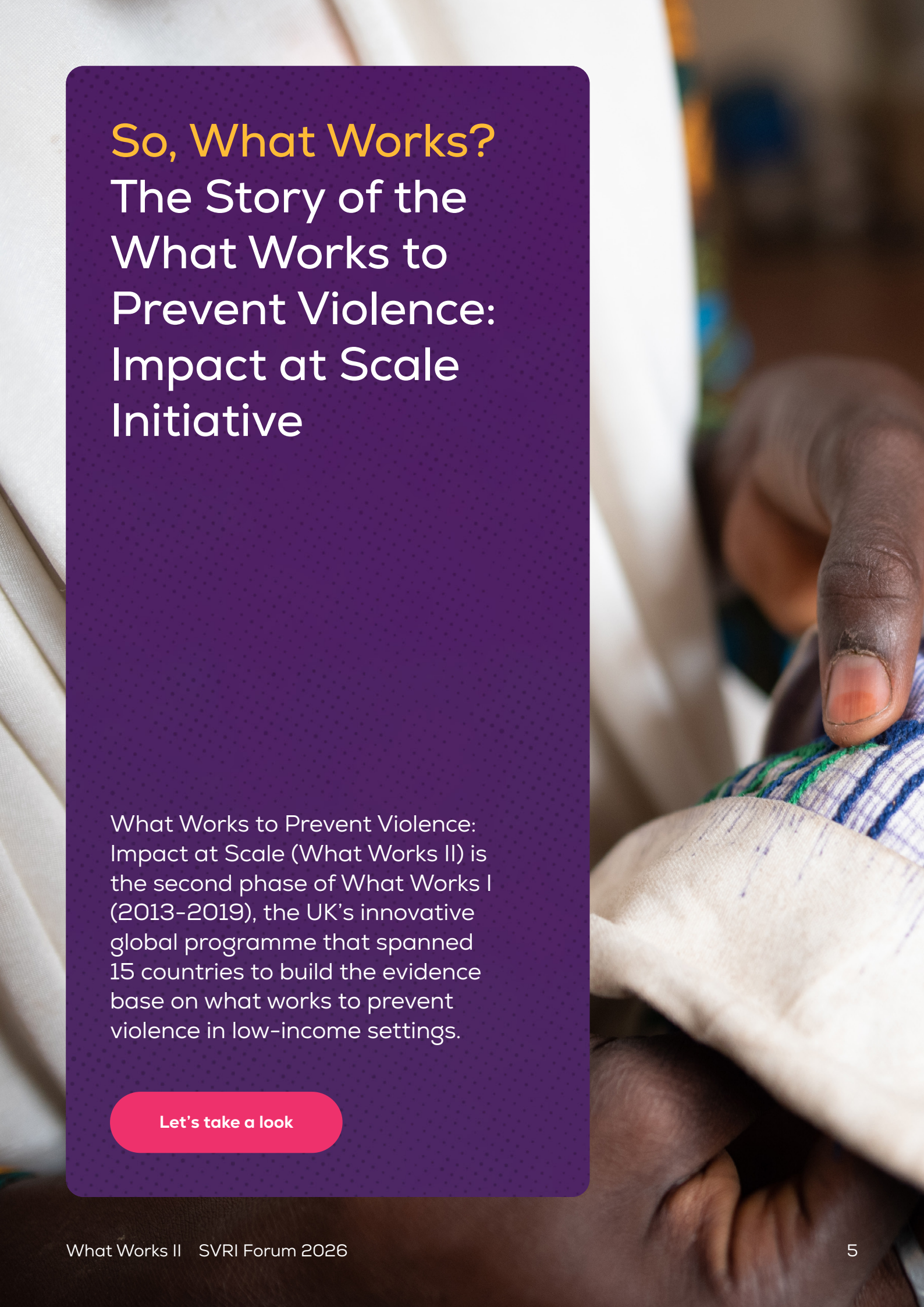
**Addressing GBV
For Better Climate
and Environmental
Outcomes: A How
To Note**



**Adaptation of Violence
Against Women and
Girls Interventions:
Insights from What
Works II**



**Ready for Scale:
Lessons on Expanding
Violence Prevention
through Civil Society
and Government
Partnerships - Brief
and Flagship report**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands gently holding a baby. The baby is wearing a blue and white striped garment. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the person holding the baby.

So, What Works?

The Story of the What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Initiative

What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale (What Works II) is the second phase of What Works I (2013-2019), the UK's innovative global programme that spanned 15 countries to build the evidence base on what works to prevent violence in low-income settings.

[Let's take a look](#)

Prevention is possible.

Evidence-based interventions **can reduce VAWG by up to 50% in 2 -3 years.**



Key Findings

- Community mobilisation efforts in Ghana and the DRC demonstrated significant reduction in intimate partner violence (IPV). In DRC, religious leaders played an important role in transforming norms and practices.
- Combined gender and economic empowerment approaches in Tajikistan, Nepal, and South Africa resulted in reductions in violence, improved earnings, and strengthened family relationships.
- Interventions with couples in Zambia and Rwanda showed strong evidence of reduced violence through trauma-informed, skills-based programmes.



Reach and Influence

- Hundreds of thousands of people were directly reached through programmes.
- Policymakers, donors, and governments across the world have used What Works evidence to guide national prevention strategies
- The programme contributed to global benchmarks of “what works” to prevent violence – including influencing WHO guidelines and UN agency programming.

The second phase of the initiative, What Works II, is now delivering on the promise of WWI – moving from innovation to sustainable, scalable systems change, with an investment of £67.5 million.



Curious to learn more?

Check out the resources below and others, located on our [What Works II Evidence Hub](#).



What Works I – What Works II Story

Explore how we took the learnings of What Works I into What Works II, and what we are working on now.



What Works I

Get more detailed information about the evidence produced by What Works I.



Read our Latest Briefs



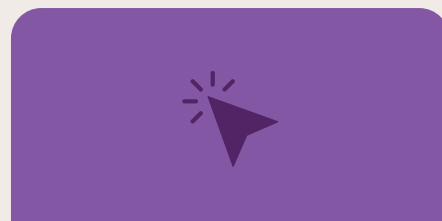
What Works II Project Briefs

Get more information about the 14 different projects that are taking place as part of the What Works II initiative in this collection of project briefs.



Intersections of GBV and Common Mental Health Problems

This policy brief from the What Works II Ending Violence against Women and Children Helpdesk highlights the urgent need to address GBV and mental health together, rather than as separate issues.



A Global Systematic Review of Reviews to Update the RESPECT Women Framework

This systematic review updates the RESPECT women framework with the newest available evidence from 2013 onward.



What Works II Flagship Event

From Innovation to Scaling of VAWG
Prevention: Emerging Evidence from
What Works II

Tuesday 6 October

19:30-21:30

Ballroom B

In its fifth year, the What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale (What Works II) initiative has generated significant evidence and practice-based insights from 16 countries on pathways to scale VAWG prevention, innovations to reach underserved groups and integration of VAWG prevention into sectoral programming.

This event will bring together the partners funded by the What Works II initiative, representing both the implementation and research consortia. The event will present synthesised findings and cross-contextual lessons spanning the initiative's rigorous research and practice. Alongside presentations of the headline field-level findings, the format of the event will spotlight both innovation grantees, who have piloted creative new approaches, and scale grantees, who have successfully embedded proven models into national systems via mainstreaming and create space for direct engagement between partners and Forum participants.

By blending country level insights with field-level findings, the session will celebrate achievements, highlight practical lessons and provide critical guidance to shape the next generation of VAWG prevention efforts globally.

All pre-conference workshops will take place on **Monday, 5 October, 2026**. There are two session times: a morning session (09:00-12:00) and an afternoon session (14:00-17:00). SVRI participants may only register for one workshop per time slot. Workshops may carry a fee of \$45 and might be sold out.

To see if any of our What Works II pre-conference workshops are sold out, please check out the SVRI Forum 2026 Pre-Conference Workshop webpage: <https://www.svriforum2026.org/preconference-workshops/>

Workshop 5: Meeting the Moment: Ethical and Effective Adaptation for VAWG Prevention Scale in Challenging Times

Morning Session

Monday, October 5

09:00-12:00

Ballroom A

This interactive workshop brings together decades of experience from five global organisations to explore the art and science of adapting VAWG programmes. Designed for practitioners, researchers, and funders, the session will share core principles of successful adaptation, practical frameworks, and common challenges, alongside strategies to address them. With a focus on equitable partnerships, sustainability, and the realities of shrinking funding and growing backlash, this workshop creates space for collective learning and real-world problem-solving. Participants are encouraged to bring their own adaptation challenges for open exchange and collaborative solution-building.

Workshop 15: Advancing Measurement in Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Research

Afternoon Session

Monday, October 5

14:00-17:00

Lotus 7

This workshop will introduce participants to key considerations in measuring VAWG – with an emphasis on quantitative survey methodologies. Key international tools in the field (e.g., the WHO multi-country study, ICAST, etc.) will be explored. The facilitators will share examples of the approaches utilized by the What Works to Prevent Violence Programme – including lessons learned adapting and contextualizing these international violence measurement tools to local contexts. We will share what tools have worked well as well as where challenges have been encountered. Participants will work together to consider how they would identify, test and contextualize international violence measures to their own context and leave having a good understanding of key considerations for measuring VAW and VAC measures in their own work.

Workshop 18: From Practice-Based Learning to Action: Feminist Praxis in the Face of Backlash

Afternoon Session

Monday, October 5

14:00-17:00

Ballroom A

In a context of global backlash, shrinking civic space, and deep funding cuts, feminist organisations are turning to practice-based learning and knowledge (PBL/K) as a powerful tool for resistance, reorganisation, and survival. This participatory workshop will explore how PBL/K can protect space, shift narratives, and build solidarity. Through collective reflection, storytelling, and group dialogue, participants will examine how feminist knowledge practices are sustaining movements and shaping new partnerships in crisis. The session will build on earlier Forum discussions and end with provocations to guide ongoing action and learning.

Workshop 19: Rooted and Rising: Feminist GBV Prevention Strategies from the Ground Up

Afternoon Session

Monday, October 5

14:00-17:00

Ballroom B

Co-hosted by UN Women and UNFPA under the UN Joint Programme on GBV Prevention in Southeast Asia, this workshop explores how to design, adapt, and sustain effective gender-based violence prevention in low- and middle-income settings. Developed in collaboration with Breakthrough, the Asia Network to End GBV, and What Works to Prevent VAWG, the session centres grassroots leadership and feminist, community-led approaches grounded in behavioural science and the RESPECT framework. Participants will engage in peer dialogue, small group work, and collective reflection, hearing directly from practitioners across South and Southeast Asia. The workshop offers tools, lessons, and insights for adapting and scaling prevention efforts, and aims to foster cross-regional collaboration and strengthen practitioner networks globally.

1.2 Understanding Pathways to Scale in VAWG Prevention: Lessons from across the UK-funded “What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale” Initiative

This session will include the following sub-session topics and speakers.

Tuesday 6 October

11:00-12:30

Parallel Session 1

Session Chair: Alice Kerr-Wilson

Ballroom A

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
Practice Based Lessons on Scaling a Play Based Life Skills Intervention for VAWG Prevention in Pakistan	Maham Ali Khan	Maham Khan, Sheena Hadi, Petronille Geara
Practice Based Learning on Scaling a Health System Response to Violence against Women in India	Kajal Jain	Kajal Jain, Sanjida Arora, Suniti Neogy
Pamodzi Kuthetsa Nkhaza (PKN): Implementing evidence-based Approaches to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence in Malawi	Meka Kamanga Gausi	Meka Gausi, Lusungu Kalanga
Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention, Mitigation, and Response into the Climate Change Sector in Uganda	Josephine Kamisya	Josephine Kamisya
Understanding readiness to scale for prevention of VAWG: Lessons from across the UK-funded What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Initiative	Dorah Kiconco Musinguzi	Dorah Kiconco Musinguzi, Alice Kerr Wilson, Tina Musuya, Shanaaz Mathews

1.7 Scaling Evidence-based Approaches to Prevent Violence across the Life Course

This session will include the following sub-session topics and speakers.

Tuesday 6 October

11:00-12:30

Parallel Session 1

Lotus 7

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
What Works to Prevent Violence against Adolescent Girls Globally through School-based Interventions	Shanaaz Mathews	Shanaaz Mathews, Rizwana Mallick, Waliyah Mughis, Farida Bibi Mughal, Samral Idrees, Hussain Maqbool Maqbool, Rozina Karmaliani

2.3 From Policy to Practice: Laws, Strategies and Movements to Address Violence against Women

This session will include the following sub-session topics and speakers.

Tuesday 6 October

15:00-16:30

Parallel Session 2

Ballroom B

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
From Legislation to Grounded Implementation of Anti-Sexual Harassment Laws: Post-legislative Scrutiny through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration in Pakistan	Aqsa Khan, Fazli Hadi	Sana Raza, Aqsa Khan, Farida Shaheed, Fazli Hadi, Humaira Mumtaz Shaikh, Faiza Shaikh

4.2 Preventing Gender-based Violence in Education: Interventions from Schools to Campus

This session will include the following sub-session topics and speakers.

Wednesday 7 October

11:00-12:30

Parallel Session 4

Ballroom A

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
Shifting Norms, Beliefs, and Sexual Health Confidence to Prevent Violence: Evidence from a School-based Comprehensive Sexuality Education Intervention in Rural Madagascar	Nancy Perrin	Nancy Perrin, Nancy Glass, Laura Leeson, Maia Ramarosandratana

Poster Session A

Poster Session 1

Tuesday 6 October

13:00–14:00

Poster Area

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
Baseline Climate Survey Findings on Sexual Harassment at the University of Eswatini	Nompilo Dlamini	Fortunate Shabalala, Nompilo Dlamini
Regional disparities and correlates of intimate partner violence against adolescent girls and young women in Nigeria: A secondary data analysis	Ayodeji Adebayo	Michele R. Decker, Anaise Williams, Shannon N. Wood, Haley L. Thomas, Ayodeji M. Adebayo
Making the case for addressing GBV through climate and environmental action	Naomi Clugston	

Poster Session 2

Wednesday 7 October

13:00-14:00

Poster Area

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
We should not be left alone to support women: Perceptions of community health workers about their role in addressing domestic violence in Aurangabad, India	Heena Sinha	Sanjida Arora, Heena Sinha
Mainstreaming a play-based life skills education programme to reduce violence against girls: Baseline findings of the cluster randomized controlled trial in Pakistan	Rozina Karmaliani	Rozina Karmaliani
What works to prevent violence against adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review	Chelsea Ullman	Shanaaz Mathews, Chelsea Ullman, Flavia Dutra
Prevalence of Violence against Women and girls in conflict settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Maureen Murphy	Maureen Murphy, Emily Smith, Shikha Chandarana, Mary Ellsberg
Accountability in practice: Lessons from a peer-driven sexual harassment prevention intervention in Eswatini higher education	Saul Chirume	Saul Chirume, Zwellicia Dlamini
Strengthening legal and institutional responses to violence against LBT women: Insights from Nepal's gendered political economy analysis	Trishna Thapa, Sarita K.C.	Suniti Neogy, Laxmi Ghalan, Trishna Thapa, Sarita K.C., Sudip Sigdel, Bimala Gurung, Saru Subedi

5 Minute Presentations

5 Minute Presentations

This session will include the following sub-session topics and speakers.

Thursday 8 October

11.00-12.30

Parallel Session 8

Lotus 7

Title	Speaker(s)	Authors
Gendered political economy analysis (GPEA) to strengthen health systems at scale to prevent and respond to violence against women in India	Manisha Gupte	Kajal Jain, Suniti Neogy, Manisha Gupte, Ramesh Awasthi, Abhijit Kumbharkar, Yogesh Dhende, Shelley Saha Sinha, Deepa Thakur
From training to practice: Early implementation lessons from integrating domestic violence response into primary health facilities in a low-resource setting	Shelley Saha Sinha	Kajal Jain, Suniti Neogy, Manisha Gupte, Ramesh Awasthi, Abhijit Kumbharkar, Deepa Thakur, Shelley Saha Sinha, Priya Prabhu, Rimjhim Jain, Anjana Bhusan
Evaluating Communities Care: Intergenerational social norms change for violence prevention in Somalia	Ali Hussein	Petronille Geara, Nancy Perrin, Nancy Glass, Valeria Costa, Ali Mohamed Hussein

Meeting the Moment: A Joint Advocacy Event

*Hosted By: What Works II, The Accelerator for GBV Prevention,
The Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform*

Thursday 8 October

19:30-21:00

Ballroom B

The GBV prevention field is navigating a critical moment amid funding reprioritizations that threaten women's rights organizations (WROs) working to advance progress for women, girls, and their communities. The call is no longer only for more resources, but for better and protected funding – core, flexible, and sustained investments that enable advocacy, prevention, and long-term change.

To respond, the Southeast Asia GBV Prevention Platform, What Works, and The Accelerator for GBV Prevention are convening a joint advocacy event. Ahead of the session, the three initiatives are aligning priorities and co-creating advocacy messaging, reflecting a shared commitment to overcoming crisis through collaboration. This interactive space will showcase their joint process, share lessons from strategic alignment, and call for wider support through engaging advocacy. It will draw insights from other sectors, communications experts, and examples of donor leadership.

By “meeting the moment” together, the GBV field can rethink advocacy strategies, strengthen collective influence, and secure better investment in prevention. Core and sustained funding for WROs remains vital, as they carry much of the advocacy burden yet receive less than 1% of prevention funds. This joint effort seeks to inspire action, amplify shared demands, and model strategic collaboration for lasting change.