



## PREVENT

### A Framework for Action to Prevent Gender-based Violence

- P**roduce and apply evidence
- R**espond to, support and protect those who experience violence
- E**mpower women and girls
- V**alue community engagement
- E**ducate youth and adolescents
- N**urture healthy family relationships
- T**arget alcohol and drug abuse

There is no single factor that “causes” gender-based violence, but multiple factors that interact at different levels of society – and these change over time and across settings. Consequently, primary prevention requires multiple and coordinated actions adapted to the local context.

This framework of interventions outlines seven key action areas that can be coordinated among different actors at different levels. These recommended actions are based on existing global evidence on the risk and protective factors for experiencing and perpetrating violence, as well as evidence on effective interventions for preventing violence. These seven PREVENT areas are not the only actions that can and should be undertaken for violence prevention, as new innovations are still emerging, but represent what can and should be done today.

---

#### Sources

##### *Conventions and Action Plans*

- Beijing Platform for Action
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, Plan of Action 2012-20
- Asia-Pacific UNiTE Framework Regional Action Plan
- Commission on the Status of Women, Report on the 49th Session, 2005
- Handbook for National Action Plans on Violence against Women (UN Women, UNiTE)

##### *Evidence of Risk/Protective Factors and Effective Primary Prevention Interventions*

- What works to prevent partner violence? (Lori Heise)
- Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women (WHO)
- Violence prevention: The evidence (WHO)
- Impact of Stepping Stones on incidence of HIV and HSV-2 and sexual behavior in rural South Africa: cluster randomised controlled trial (Jewkes et al, BMJ, 2008)
- Understanding the impact of a microfinance-based intervention on women’s empowerment and the reduction of IPV in South Africa (Kim et al, AJP, 2007)

| Community-Societal Interventions  | Targeted Risk and Protective Factors   | Action Strategies  | Case Studies  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Produce and apply evidence</b> on violence and programme and policy evaluation | <i>Comprehensive data to understand risk and protective factors and to evaluate programmes and policies</i><br><i>Strengthening of interventions that target risk and protective factors</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct research on women’s experiences and men’s perpetration (i.e. prevalence and risk/protective factors) and/or use existing data to shape programmes and policies</li> <li>- Conduct rigorous and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies, using tested methodologies</li> <li>- Collect and share best practices</li> <li>- Develop, incorporate indicators on prevalence/incidence of violence and knowledge/attitudes about gender and violence</li> </ul>   | <a href="#">A Right to Respect (Australia)</a><br><a href="#">WHO’s Multi-Country Study</a><br>P4P’s The Change Project                                   |
| <b>Respond to, support and protect those who experience violence</b>              | <u>Note:</u> Response and services do not constitute primary prevention, but effective prevention programmes must be coordinated with response services that address the physical, emotional and mental health consequences of violence and help to prevent its reoccurrence. Effective response is informed by evidence on the health impacts of violence and on coping strategies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide first-line physical and mental health care, including screening tools to identify victims, post-rape care, and psychosocial support and counseling</li> <li>- Implement measures for immediate safety, such as emergency hotlines, police protection, and shelter/safe accommodation</li> <li>- Issue protection orders to those who perpetrate violence and provide legal assistance to those who experience violence</li> <li>- Pass and enforce laws sanctioning violence as a deterrent</li> <li>- Develop and disseminate communications materials to raise awareness about policies and support services</li> </ul> | <a href="#">Asociación Civil Planificación Familiar (Venezuela)</a><br><a href="#">Panzi Hospital (DRC)</a>   |
| <b>Empower women and girls</b>  | Gender inequality<br>Limited or no access to inheritance, land ownership, divorce<br>Economic control by partner<br>Low income/socioeconomic status<br>Masculinity associated with dominance over women  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement community programmes and policies to improve women’s employment opportunities and increase their influence in household decisions</li> <li>- Provide microfinance with gender equality training</li> <li>- Give women rights to family benefits, inheritances, bank loans, mortgages, and equal access to divorce</li> <li>- Give women career and vocational guidance, access to educational resources, and opportunities for scholarships and grants on the same basis as men and boys</li> </ul>   | <a href="#">IMAGE (South Africa)</a><br>For examples of empowerment programmes:<br><a href="#">Innovation for Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality</a> |
| <b>Value community engagement</b>   | Gender inequality<br>Social acceptance of VAW/impunity<br>Social isolation<br>Masculinity associated with toughness, dominance over women<br>Male sexual entitlement<br><br><i>Belonging to associations</i><br><i>Women’s ability to recognize risk</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support local efforts to transform norms and practices related to gender equality, sexual health, masculinities, and/or social and legal impunity within and through communities</li> <li>- Conduct a series of facilitated group discussions on above issues with different subgroups and the community as a whole</li> <li>- Offer structured activities to involve youth in the community</li> <li>- Use communication materials to engage community members in conversation about non-violence and gender issues alongside facilitated group discussions</li> </ul>   | <a href="#">Stepping Stones (South Africa, other LMIC)</a><br><a href="#">SASA! (Uganda)</a><br>Men’s Action to Stop Violence against Women (India)       |

| Individual-Relationship-Family Interventions   | Targeted Risk <i>and Protective</i> Factors  | Action Strategies   | Case Studies  |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Educate youth and adolescents</b> about healthy relationships, gender equality, and non-violence</p> | <p>Childhood trauma/abuse<br/>           Witnessing IPV as a child<br/>           Social acceptance of VAW/impunity<br/>           Masculinity associated with toughness and dominance over women<br/>           Male sexual entitlement<br/>           Gender inequality</p> <p><i>Gender equitable attitudes</i><br/> <i>Higher education</i></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement pre-school enrichment and school-based social development programmes, focusing on acquiring social skills and understanding gender issues</li> <li>- Review curricula and materials and train teachers</li> <li>- Organize community-based interventions and group discussions with boys and young men, on non-violent masculinities, consent, healthy lifestyles, and sexual rights</li> <li>- Set up bullying prevention programmes</li> <li>- Provide counseling/ programmes on building relationship skills for youth who have been exposed to violence</li> <li>- Establish early intervention programmes for youth who demonstrate violent attitudes and/or use violence</li> <li>- Develop and disseminate supporting communications</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">Safe Dates (US)</a><br/> <a href="#">Programme H (Brazil, other LMIC)</a></p> <p>Example of gender-equality education: <a href="#">GENIA Toolkit</a></p> |
| <p><b>Nurture healthy family relationships</b></p>   | <p>Childhood trauma/abuse<br/>           Witnessing IPV as a child<br/>           Social acceptance of VAW/impunity<br/>           Masculinity associated with toughness, dominance over women<br/>           Male sexual entitlement<br/>           Depression<br/>           Multiple sexual partners/infidelity</p> <p><i>Benefitting from healthy parenting</i><br/> <i>Having a supportive family</i><br/> <i>Fathers strongly involved in child care</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrange home visits by nurses</li> <li>- Organize group parent education campaigns to improve child-rearing skills</li> <li>- Provide psychological support for new mothers to mitigate effects of maternal depression</li> <li>- Establish fatherhood programmes that build skills in respectful and equitable relationships</li> <li>- Institute paternity leave; promote men's involvement in prenatal care; promote masculinity associated with caregiving</li> <li>- Implement policies and educational programmes aimed at reducing corporal punishment in homes and schools</li> <li>- Develop and disseminate supporting communications</li> </ul>   | <p>Nurse Family Partnership (US)</p> <p>Example of fatherhood programmes: <a href="#">Men Care</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Target alcohol and drug abuse</b></p>  | <p>High levels of alcohol and drug use/abuse<br/>           High rates of crime, violence and/or history of violent conflict<br/>           Social norms associating masculinity with drinking</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the price of alcoholic beverages</li> <li>- Reduce the density of alcohol retail outlets</li> <li>- Improve drinking environments, e.g. train staff in responsible beverage service, enforce licensing laws</li> <li>- Provide interventions/support for problem drinkers/drug users</li> <li>- Include education on drinking and masculinities in community programmes on gender and non-violence</li> <li>- Develop/disseminate communications materials to raise awareness about policies and support services</li> </ul>  | <p>Stockholm Prevents Alcohol and Drug Problems project – STAD (Sweden)<br/> <a href="#">Men Can Stop Rape (US)</a></p>   |