

Location: Da Nang City, Viet Nam

Time Frame: 2015 - 2016

Participating Agencies: UN Women, UNV, Da Nang Women's Union and UNFPA, with technical assistance from Partners for Prevention Joint Programme (P4P)



INTERVENTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) IN VIET NAM

The Women's Union, UN Women, UNV and UNFPA, with support of Partners for Prevention, are implementing a VAWG prevention project in Da Nang. The intervention addresses some key risk factors for VAWG, as identified in the UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence. The intervention works with youth and older men to transform harmful masculinities and engage men to become male advocates in their communities for violence prevention through a volunteerism component.

The aim is to build gender equitable attitudes, challenge harmful masculinities, build healthy relationship skills, develop an awareness of VAWG issues, and empower young men and older adult men to volunteer in their communities, to lead and engage in violence prevention.

During a year-long programme, 120 youth and older adult male participants (18-60 years-old) meet regularly and undergo gender transformative interventions. A participatory methodology is employed, which has been key to effective prevention of VAWG in existing interventions. The groups also participate in and lead various events and activities focused on the prevention of VAWG in their communities as part of a volunteerism component to ensure sustainability when the intervention ends.

This male advocacy intervention complements an existing VAWG prevention programme in Da Nang province, that includes positive parenting and community activism components supported by UN Women and the Da Nang Women's Union.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE UN MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY ON MEN AND VIOLENCE, VIET NAM (QUALITATIVE) (2012)

- **Perception that some violence is acceptable:** Violence is commonly perceived as an acceptable disciplinary tool to establish and maintain men's authority, most often within the family.
- **Acceptance of violence within the home:** Physical violence outside the home is generally condemned in Vietnamese society, but violence against wives and children is still seen as legitimate as long as it occurs in private.
- **Childhood experiences influence attitudes and behaviors toward violence:** Men's childhoods were key developmental periods during which gender norms and practices were influenced; and men's relationships with their fathers tended to be characterized by violence and discipline, rather than care and affection.
- **Risk factors for perpetration of violence against women and girls:** Gender inequitable attitudes, harmful constructions and demonstrations of masculine identities, and experiences of childhood trauma and violence.

Hoang
Member of the Male Advocate Club

"I am 60 years old. Before joining the Club, I used to shout at my wife when she did things I didn't like. I thought violence against women was only physical violence. I didn't know about emotional violence.

Now I am different. I can control my temper and respect and help my wife. People in my community praise me for this. Women tell me 'if my husband had 1% of your qualities, I would already be happy'. My wife loves me more. I share happiness with my family and with my neighbors... Never let violence happen to any woman, anywhere and anytime."



Hoang during a community conversation

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Sy
Member of the Male Advocate Club

"I have become more aware of inequalities between men and women. I understand how to treat my female family members, friends and colleagues with respect.

I have shared what I learned from the club with my family and friends and have even given suggestions to my father on how to treat my mother better. I will continue to engage and lead in the prevention of violence against women to work towards a violence free community."



Sy, a member of the Male Advocate Club

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PROJECT OUTCOME

Younger and older men demonstrate increased engagement in volunteerism, more gender equitable attitudes and less acceptance of violence, better relationship quality, lower depression and higher self-efficacy, and stronger intentions to continue VAWG prevention advocacy work.

STAY CONNECTED

Partners for Prevention: Working to prevent violence against women and girls
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