

## Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It?

UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, conducted by Partners for Prevention, a UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women and UN Volunteers (UNV) regional joint programme

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **QUESTION: What is the study about and why was it commissioned?**

**ANSWER:** The UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific is a multi-country study that investigates men's lives, attitudes, practices and use of violence against women. The aim of the study is to better understand what drives men's violence against women in order to prevent it, and to serve as a complement to existing research on violence conducted with women.

With data from more than 10,000 men and 3,000 women across six countries, it provides the largest multi-country data set on men's use of violence against women in the Asia-Pacific region. The groundbreaking new knowledge from men themselves will directly inform more effective programmes and policies to prevent violence against women. There has been very little research on men's use of violence and without it we cannot generate an understanding of what causes violence or how to prevent it. This information will inform better strategies to work with men, and their wider communities, to help stop violence against women from occurring.

#### **QUESTION: What is new about this study?**

**ANSWER:** This is the first time such detailed data on men's perpetration of intimate partner violence and rape has been collected on such a large scale from the general population. For the first time, a combined data set is available on the prevalence and patterns of violence perpetration across diverse sites in the Asia-Pacific region – derived from a survey with over 200 questions. This new data is critical to inform violence prevention strategies at the national and regional levels. The study also reinforces what is known from studies on gender and violence such as the WHO multi-country study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence [http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/en/](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/) and the International Men and Gender Equality Survey <http://www.icrw.org/publications/international-men-and-gender-equality-survey-images>

**QUESTION: How does this report fit into the wider Multi-country study?**

The UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific was a collaborative effort involving numerous partners from academia, research institutes, civil society, UN agencies and governments. The Study contains three components:

- quantitative household surveys to understand the scale and scope of violence perpetration and the factors associated with this violence;
- qualitative life history interviews with more than 100 men who were known to have used violence and those who did not to explore how influences and experiences across a life span shape dominant and alternative masculinities; and
- policy research to explore institutional factors and structural conditions which enable or can help prevent gender-based violence.

This report is the regional analysis of the quantitative household surveys. There are numerous other reports being generated from the Study and those can be found at [www.partners4prevention.org](http://www.partners4prevention.org)

**QUESTION: Who undertook this study?**

**ANSWER:** The study was developed to respond to a major gap in the literature on violence against women – namely to understand the drivers of men’s use of violence by talking to men themselves. The Study was coordinated by Partners for Prevention with support from the Medical Research Council of South Africa and study teams in each country who led the surveying. Partners for Prevention is a UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV regional joint programme for gender-based violence prevention in Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, Thailand. Partners for Prevention has received financial support from the governments of Australia, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**QUESTION: What was the study methodology?**

**ANSWER:** The population-based quantitative survey component of the study was conducted from 2010 to 2013. The data was collected and analysed from a scientific epidemiological perspective. To ensure data comparability across sites, the study used a standardized structured questionnaire. Male subjects were interviewed by highly trained male interviewers and female subjects were interviewed by female interviewers. Respondents were interviewed face-to-face in a private and confidential setting. The survey was conducted using iTouch devices with specially developed software (apps), which allowed men to answer questions in their own language about rape perpetration and other criminal acts in a totally anonymous way. The study followed rigorous international ethical and safety standards for research on violence against women.

The data analysis was conducted for each country and also across the whole combined dataset of more than 10,000 men. We looked at the percentage of men who reported perpetration of different forms of violence. We also conducted statistical analysis to explore the various factors (men's experiences and characteristics such as age, education, experiences of child abuse, alcohol use etc) found to increase or decrease the likelihood that a man used violence against women. The type of analysis carried out allowed us to account for relationships between various factors so that we could develop a model showing all the factors that are statistically correlated with different types of violence perpetration. The idea is that by addressing these factors we can reduce rates of violence against women.

**QUESTION: Where did the study take place, and who took part?**

**ANSWER:** More than 10,000 men and 3,000 women, aged 18-49 years were interviewed for the study, in nine sites across six countries in the Asia and East Pacific region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea). A representative sample was selected so the men interviewed reflect all men aged 18-49 in that particular site, for example Dhaka in Bangladesh. However, the sample does not represent the whole country, except in Cambodia, and does not represent the whole Asia-Pacific region. The sites represent varying dynamics, such as urban, rural and post-conflict characteristics. Most of the findings presented in the report refer to the nine research sites, except where the sample was national and this is indicated in the report. The analysis on factors associated with intimate partner violence and rape are presented by country and as a combined sample, adjusted by site. This was done to assess the variations between sites and also to explore common themes across the countries in the study.

**QUESTION: What are the study recommendations?**

**ANSWER:** The UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence is an action-oriented research study, committed to using research to promote gender equality and social change based on strong evidence and data. The study underscores the importance of prioritizing prevention, alongside response, to comprehensively and effectively address violence against women. This includes addressing gender inequality, promoting non-violent ways of being men and ending child abuse. The study recommends that to prevent violence against women we need to:

- Make violence against women unacceptable, for example through community mobilization programmes and engagement with cultural influencers;
- Promote non-violent and caring ways to be a man, for example through sustained school-based or sports-based education programmes;
- Address child abuse and promote healthy families, for example through parenting programmes, comprehensive child protection systems and policies to end corporal punishment;

- Work with young people, with a particular focus on boys and adolescents, to understand consent, healthy sexuality and to foster respectful relationships;
- End impunity for men who use violence against women, particularly marital rape, through criminalization of all forms of violence against women, and legal sector reform to ensure effective access to justice.