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World Health Organization
RESPECT
WOMEN

Preventing violence against women.
Violence against women... 

...takes many forms

Intimate partner violence: the most common form of violence experienced by women.
30% globally: have experienced physical &/or sexual violence by an intimate partner
Political commitment to the health system’s response to violence

69th World Health Assembly, May 2016

The Ministries of Health of the 193 Member States of WHO, endorse the global plan of action on strengthening the health system’s response to violence against women and girls and against children.
Commit to

Know the facts p.4

Assess risk and protective factors p.5

Implement 7 strategies to prevent violence against women p.8

Assess evidence for interventions p.10

Develop a theory of change p.12

Apply the guiding principles for prevention p.14

Strengthen enabling environment for prevention p.16

Adapt and scale-up what works p.18

Monitor, evaluate and measure progress p.20
Implement 7 strategies to prevent violence against women

- **Relationship skills strengthened**
  refers to strategies aimed at individuals or groups of women, men, or couples to improve skills in interpersonal communication, conflict management, and shared decision-making.

- **Empowerment of women**
  refers to both economic and social empowerment including inheritance and asset ownership, microfinance plus gender and empowerment training interventions, collective action, creating safe spaces and mentoring to build skills in self-efficiency, assertiveness, negotiation, and self-confidence.

- **Services ensured**
  refers to a range of services including police, legal, health, and social services provided to survivors.

- **Poverty reduced**
  refers to strategies targeted to women or the household whose primary aim is to alleviate poverty ranging from cash transfers, savings, microfinance loans, labour force interventions.

- **Environments made safe**
  refers to efforts to create safe schools, public spaces, and work environments, among others.

- **Child and adolescent abuse prevented**
  refers to establishing nurturing family relationships, prohibiting corporal punishment, and implementing parenting programmes as mentioned in INSPIRE-7 strategies for preventing violence against children.

- **Transformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms**
  refers to strategies that challenge harmful gender attitudes, beliefs, norms, and stereotypes that uphold male privilege and female subordination, that justify violence against women and that stigmatize survivors. These may range from public campaigns, group education to community mobilization efforts.
Develop a theory of change

**Interventions**
- Relationship skills strengthened
- Empowerment of women
- Services ensured
- Poverty reduced
- Environments made safe
- Child and adolescent abuse prevented
- Transformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms

**BARRIERS**
- Limitations on women’s autonomy
- Children exposed to violence
- Social norms that perpetuate male power
- Inadequate services
- Inadequate legal and social protections for women
- Lack of political will and resources
- Underserved women’s organizations or movements

**OUTCOMES**
- Programmes to address VAW widely implemented
- Increased resources and political will to address VAW
- Increased awareness about VAW as a public health problem and that it is preventable
- Sectoral outcomes related to health, economic, and social development improved (e.g., improved mental health, reduced household poverty, improved women’s and children’s health, improved women’s education and earnings, and reduced absenteeism)
- Families, communities, and institutions believe in and uphold gender equality as a norm and no longer accept VAW
- Men accept and treat women as equals
- Women can make autonomous decisions
- Women have knowledge of their rights and access to programmes

**IMPACT**
- Improved health and development outcomes in households, community, and society
- Women are exercising their human rights and contributing to development
- Violence against women is reduced or eliminated
- Equality and respect are practiced in intimate, family and community relationships
- Interpersonal conflicts are resolved peacefully

**Outputs**
- Women facing violence
- Families affected by violence
- Communities with high levels of violence

**Panels & Comparisons**
- [Image of panel comparing different aspects of the theory of change]
Assess the evidence on interventions
Strengthen **enabling environment** for prevention

**Build political commitment** from leaders and policy makers to speak out, condemning violence against women.

**Put in place and facilitate enforcement of policies and laws** that address violence against women and that promote gender equality.

**Allocate resources** to programmes, research, and to strengthen institutions and capacities of the health, education, law enforcement, and social services sectors to address violence against women.

**Invest in, build on the work of, resource, and support women's organizations.**
Apply the guiding principles for effective programming

**CORE VALUES**

- Put women’s safety first and do no harm
- Promote gender equality and women’s human rights
- Leave no one behind

**PROGRAMME DESIGN**

- Develop a theory of change
- Generate and disseminate knowledge
- Promote evidence informed programming

**Strategic Implementation**

- Use participatory approaches
- Promote coordination
- Implement combined interventions
- Address the prevention continuum
- Take a life-course approach
Adapt and scale-up what works

Align with national commitments (e.g., a national plan, policy, strategy) to end violence against women, or to promote gender equality or women’s health.

Identify and maintain fidelity to core principles of gender equality, rights and safety as well as to minimum “dosage”, while also adapting to context, including language and culture.

Programme for synergy, combining multiple strategies and interventions at the individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels for sustained impact.

Invest in capacity among implementers, and giving enough time to scale-up and to allow for change to occur and sustain.

Build on on-going initiatives, integrating prevention activities into existing health, development and other existing sectoral programmes.

Design with “scale” in mind, investing for the long-term, keeping costs and sustainability in mind.

Start small, document and evaluate the adaptation and scale-up in order to innovate and strengthen evidence-informed programming.

Support a community of practice among programme developers and implementers to facilitate learning and knowledge sharing.
Commit to change

Start today

Support evidence-based approaches

Join others

The way forward: a call to action

https://youtu.be/kYu3mFjuhTM