Snapshot 2

Risk & protective factors & principles for prevention

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Identify risk and protective factors

What are the causes?
Overview

- Present research on risk and protective factors for violence against women (intimate partner violence and sexual violence)
- Outline how risk and protective factors can be used to inform interventions to address violence against women
Risk & protective factors?

- Aspects of a person (or group), personal experience and/or environment that make it more likely (risk factors) or less likely (protective factors) that women will experience violence.

- Not all risk factors are causal

- Many factors are related to multiple outcomes (IPV, SV, child maltreatment)

- The more risk factors a person has, the greater the likelihood they will experience violence

- The most effective prevention programmes work on both: reducing risks and enhancing protective factors
The Ecological Model
Risk factors can occur at multiple levels.

- **Individual**: Biological and personal history factors that increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.

- **Relationship**: Close relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or perpetrator.

- **Community**: Characteristics of settings, such as neighborhoods, in which social relationships occur that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.

- **Societal**: Broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited.
Individual

Risk factor                        Intervention

History of violence in childhood   Addressing childhood abuse

Low education                      Improving access to education & social skills

Harmful use of alcohol             Reducing harmful drinking

Personality disorders              Early identification & treatment of conduct disorders
Relationship

Risk factor | Interventions
--- | ---
Men’s control over women | Working men & boys to promote gender equitable attitudes & behaviours
Marital dissatisfaction | Promoting gender equitable attitudes & behaviours / healthy relationship skills among women, men & couples
Multiple partners |
Community level

Risk factor
Unequal gender norms that condone violence against women & weak community sanctions

Intervention
Promoting equitable gender norms through mass media, community mobilization, schools & religious institutions
**Societal level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk factor</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harmful use of alcohol</td>
<td>Policies to reduce harmful use of alcohol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s lack of access to education &amp; employment</td>
<td>Laws, policies &amp; programmes that promote women’s access to employment &amp; microcredit; girls’ access to education; &amp; that prohibit violence against women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender &amp; social norms accepting violence/ideologies of male entitlement</td>
<td>Interventions addressing social &amp; gender norms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack or poor enforcement of laws on VAW</td>
<td>Strengthen &amp; enforce legislation: prohibiting VAW; promoting equality in marriage &amp; divorce, property &amp; inheritance laws</td>
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Risk factors: Women's experience of partner violence: 10 country, multivariate analysis

Figure 1 Predictors of current IPV - the 'relationship approach'.

- Prior to relationship
  - History of abuse
    - History of mother beaten by partner (neither/ his only/ hers only/ both)
    - Abused in childhood** (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)
  - Education
    - Completed secondary education (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)
  *Control for woman's age

- **Abused in childhood refers to physical beatings for men and sexual abuse for women

- Current situation
  - Demographics & relative status
    - Household SES
      - Woman's age (15-19/ 20-34/ 35-50)
      - Age gap with partner (no gap/ her older/ him older)
      - Relative educational status (same completed level/ he has higher/ she has higher)
      - Relative employment (both working/ him working/ her working/ neither working)
  - Attitudes
    - Reasons for a man to hit partner (none/ any)
  - Alcohol
    - Heavy drinking (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)

- Other relationships
  - Woman has children from more than one relationship
  - Partner has had concurrent relationships

- Non-partner violence
  - Partner violent with others in past 12 months
  - Woman experienced physical violence >15yrs
  - Woman experienced sexual violence >15yrs

- Characteristics of union
  - Partnership type (married/ cohabiting/ not living together)
  - Duration of relationship (<1yr/ 1-5yrs/ >5yrs)*
  - Woman active in choosing husband**
  - Bride price/dowry**
  - Polygamy**

*among cohabiting women
**among married women
Risk factors for men's perpetration of partner violence:
6 Asia-Pacific countries, multivariate analysis
Gender equality & prevalence of recent IPV

In countries with greater gender equality... the prevalence of violence against women tends to be lower.
Gender equality & prevalence of recent IPV

ABOUT THE DATA: Prevalence data for all graphs is drawn from leading international surveys on violence against women: World Health Organization: International Violence Against Women Survey; MEASURE Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the World Bank Domestic Violence Dataset and is based on physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Detailed Technical Notes on the methodology and sources are available on request at www.helpdesk@unifem.org.

NOTES ON GRAPH: Secondary school enrollment is measured as the percentage of eligible girls enrolled in secondary school, based on data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on Female Secondary Net Enrollment Rate (2000-2009), with countries categorized from low to high enrollment rates. Prevalence data shown is the average per cent for countries in each category.

Evidence for women's status and IPV prevalence across countries

Cross-national analysis of data from 66 surveys /44 countries by Heise and Kostadam (Lancet Global Health, 2015) highlight the following

• Norms related to male authority over female behaviour (0·102, p<0·0001), norms justifying wife beating (0·263, p<0·0001), and the extent to which law and practice disadvantage women compared with men in access to land, property, and other productive resources (0·271, p<0·0001) are especially predictive of past 12 month physical and sexual violence
• Girl’s education is more strongly associated with reduced risk of partner violence in countries where wife abuse is normative than where it is not.
• Likewise, partner violence is less prevalent in countries with a high proportion of women in the formal work force, but working for cash increases a woman’s risk in countries where few women work.
HOW to Identify risk and protective factors and use them to select your intervention?

**Review** information about candidate factors from existing research
- Gather available data (e.g., on alcohol use or behavior surveys)

**Develop** your own information
- Conduct qualitative research (e.g., focus groups)
- Implemented surveys

**Select** risk & protective factors to be addressed
- Does it strongly influence the issue?
- Can it be easily changed?
- What is the appropriate mix of risk and protective factors?

**Use** information about...
- who is affected by multiple risk factors to help select your target group.
- the types of risk & protective factors to select strategies
Risk factors

1. Two main set of modifiable factors: **Childhood abuse & gender inequality**

2. VAW rooted in gender inequality: unequal gender norms, women's lack of empowerment, men's control & entitlement over women

3. Good understanding of risk & protective factors & target group required to develop prevention measures

4. Reduce risk & enhance protective factors (assets) to effectively address VAW

Key Messages