

Hot Topic

The Power of Property: Reflections from South Africa

This Issue's Theme: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluating gender-based violence prevention projects is vital. It helps organizations to

- systematically measure the effect of their interventions
- prove that their programs are effective and relevant
- ensure more funding support
- foster learning among other organizations within the region.

"We can and must strive to create simple yet meaningful measurements of our work," says Lori Michau of Raising Voices. "We owe that to ourselves, our funders, and most of all for the women for whom we do this work." Look inside, and read about the work members are doing in this dynamic field of M&E.

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individuals and organizations have renewed their memberships or joined the Network since July 2007

when the Network kicked off its registration and renewal drive. A warm welcome to all our new members – learn all about who they are and what they do on the website. There is still time to renew online at www.preventgbvafrica.org and receive your Welcome Kit, full of exciting promotional materials about the Network!

Next Issue's Theme: WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Our next issue will be published in March 2008 with the theme: "Working with the Media." Please share your experience working with the media around GBV prevention issues. We shall be happy to feature your work in *Perspectives on Prevention*. Write to us by January 15th 2008 at: info@preventgbvafrica.org

Member's News

Curious about what is happening with member organizations across the region? Check this space to learn about new developments, appointments, events and projects that your colleagues are undertaking.

Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) – Kenya. Ann Njogu, the Executive Director of CREAW, a committed gender activist and human rights lawyer, is currently running for Member of Parliament in Nairobi's Kamukunji's constituency. Elections will be held later this year.

Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR). On 20th September 2007 the ECWR was granted consultative

In August this year, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) held a workshop in Kampala, Uganda, to disseminate the findings of research commissioned by ICRW in South Africa and Uganda on the links between poverty, inheritance rights, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. At the workshop, eight ICRW grantees shared their program interventions with regard to women's property rights, including Helène Combrinck who presented on a program of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children. She shares with the Network the South African legal situation regarding women's property rights, and reflects on some lessons to be drawn regarding violence prevention in South Africa.

Currently, there is an increasing focus internationally on the strengthening of women's property and inheritance rights as a possible strategy to reduce their exposure to gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

The Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution contains provisions that are important for the protection and promotion of women's property rights. The first significant section is the equality clause (sec 9), which states that every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. The clause also prohibits unfair discrimination, both direct and indirect, on a number of listed grounds, including sex, gender, pregnancy, marital status and sexual orientation.

Sec 31 states that persons who belong to a cultural or religious community may not be denied the right to enjoy their culture or practice their religion - as long as this right is exercised in a way that is consistent with the Bill of Rights. This section must be read with the right to freedom of religion (sec 15), which allows for the recognition of systems of personal or family law based on religion (such as Muslim Personal Law), provided again that this is consistent with the Constitution.

These constitutional guarantees have allowed for successful challenges to African customary law under the equality clause, such as the ground-breaking case of *Bhe v Magistrate, Khayelitsha*. The facts in this case were as follows: a couple had been living together in Cape Town as husband and wife, on a plot owned by the man. They had two young daughters. The man passed away, leaving no will. The rules of African customary law applied, which meant that his closest male heir would inherit his estate – his partner or daughters could not inherit (this is the principle of "male primogeniture"). In this case, this male heir would have been the deceased's father, who had indicated that he planned to sell the plot to cover the costs of his son's funeral. This would have left the woman and her two daughters homeless and destitute. She went to court to contest this rule, and the Constitutional Court upheld her claim.

status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECWR will now serve as an expert point of contact for ECOSOC in its research and fact-finding.

Engender – South Africa won a 2006 Sangonet Web Award for excellence in non-profit online communications. The Engender website www.engender.org.za was selected for its warm tone and clarity, and its poetry to communicate critical issues. The award was received by Bernadette Muthien and Ruen Govender on behalf of Engender.

Kenya Female Advisory Organization (KEFEADO) just launched their new Gender and Development project

South African law of marriage and divorce has also undergone reforms in recent years to become more equitable. Where a couple is married in community of property, they have equal decision-making power regarding the joint estate. Where they are married out of community of property, the accrual system applies (unless the couple expressly excludes this system by contract). This means that although they maintain their separate estates, any accrual ("growth") in their estates during the course of the marriage will be shared between them if the marriage ends. This system is designed to benefit the wife who devotes her time and energy to the home and children, rather than building up her career and her assets, as her husband is able to do during the course of the marriage.

Although it would therefore appear that women's property and

Strengthening women's property and inheritance rights is seen as a possible strategy to reduce their exposure to gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

inheritance rights are in theory relatively well-protected in South Africa, there are some areas where there is still cause for concern. The first is in the case of women who are in cohabitation relationships (i.e. living together as husband and wife without being married). There is a general misperception that our law recognizes so-called "common law marriages" – that the couple automatically obtains rights by living together as husband and wife for a certain period. This is not the case, and a woman can find herself, after having lived with her male partner for a number of years, without any assets and without any claims against him for maintenance or other support. A recent attempt to challenge this position in the Constitutional Court was unsuccessful.

A second problematic area is that of women's rights to land tenure in rural areas, where the provisions of the recently enacted Communal Land Rights Act have been fiercely criticized by women's rights groups.

Having given this generally favorable review of the South African situation, one has to caution that there is a long distance to cover between law and reality. One of the major difficulties experienced in practice is that women do not know their rights and do not have adequate access to legal advice. This often means that

women agree to a detrimental marital regime when they get married or that they "sign away" their entitlements on divorce. Another major difficulty is that a generous legal frame-

work for property ownership is not of much use when women cannot afford to buy or rent property, or cannot get access to a house due to the housing backlog.

Experience has taught us in South Africa that women often stay in or return to abusive relationships because they literally depend on the abuser for the roof over their head. Realistically, this means that property rights are only the beginning: one also has to look beyond this to women's economic empowerment as the next step towards freedom from violence.

This article was written by Helène Combrinck of the Gender Project, Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape hcombrinck@uwc.ac.za

Women's Information Services and Networks Organization (WINO) – Ethiopia is planning to undertake a pilot survey in Ethiopia entitled "The Impact of Domestic Violence on the Academic Performance of Students in Primary School: Gender Perspective." The study is expected to provide information for WINO's lobby and advocacy initiatives, and to contribute to effective communication materials for awareness campaigns to prevent domestic violence in schools.

Please keep us posted on new developments in your organizations. Send an email to: info@preventgbvafrica.org



Photo by Nathan Shields

Gender-based violence has increasingly gained international recognition in the last two decades. New laws, policies, interventions and preventive strategies have been developed, and more resources are being committed.

As the field continues to grow, those working in GBV prevention have an obligation to monitor and evaluate their work. As a field, it is our responsibility to provide evidence on the effectiveness of our efforts - not only to ensure more funding support and foster learning and replicability among other organizations, but to remain accountable to the women and men, families and communities for whom we are doing this work.

"There are some promising approaches emerging," says Liz Dartnall of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) "but the extent to which these programmes can be applied in different settings among different population groups needs to be evaluated and monitored to document effectiveness and replicability."

Monitoring and evaluation can easily be integrated into programming from the start if it is planned for. This article is meant as a basic overview to help you think about your own M&E system and what improvements might be possible.

Kenya

Oxfam GB Kenya

We Can Africa Alliance: A Campaign to End Violence Against Women in East Africa

Within 2008, "We Can Africa Alliance," an alliance of NGOs in East Africa, will launch a campaign to end violence against women. In preparation, a baseline study was conducted to provide a benchmark for monitoring progress and enable the design of relevant materials.

The first step was a desk review. This was a review of documents conducted in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania which mapped the situation regarding violence against women, the legal and policy framework, the available services in prevention and protection, the cultural environment and the media context.

Next, qualitative information was compiled in three project sites: Mathare in Kenya where

the alliance collaborated with Men for Gender Equality, Gulu in Uganda where the alliance worked with UWONET and the women's wing of the Acholi religious leaders NGO, and finally in Mwanza, Tanzania where the Alliance collaborated with Kivulini Women's Rights Organization. The field study used participatory methodologies, primarily using focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with key informants.

The next step in the process is to conduct a quantitative survey and develop the monitoring and evaluation framework based on the studies.

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PRO

What is monitoring & evaluation?

Monitoring and evaluating (M&E) are two separate efforts that provide various levels of information to assess whether strategies are working. The point of M&E is to "prove" and "improve" our work.

Monitoring is examining the **process** on a regular basis to be sure you are on track with your program. Evaluation is looking at the **outcome** and the **impact**, asking yourself what has changed? How effective was our program?

Monitoring mechanisms can and should be incorporated within the project activities at the design stage. Simple mechanisms can be created to collect information that is used for day-to-day project management without much extra effort, for instance, regular staff meetings and weekly reporting forms that might track the kinds of activities you do, the numbers of people you reach and learnings from those activities.

SAfAIDS in Zimbabwe uses monitoring processes which are easy to implement in order to track the effectiveness of their Women's Literacy Treatment Toolkit, a project which helps women to adhere to ART medications.

"Our distribution tracking form helps to ensure that the literacy toolkit reaches its intended targets," says Cecilia Mhiti of SAfAIDS. "And our information use form [describing how people are using the kit] is specifically designed to give SAfAIDS an indication of whether the whole intervention is worth continuing."

Evaluations on the other hand, utilize all information collected in the monitoring processes and, in addition, collect more detailed information using more rigorous methodology. This information is used to determine the relevance of the project, efficiency of activities conducted and the effectiveness of impact resulting from the project activities.

Evaluations can be conducted during various phases of the project. For example, a baseline study collects data before the project is implemented and it is against this data that progress towards achievement of objectives can be compared at either mid-term or project completion. At the mid-term, an evaluation can help organizations see if they are on track, if changes need to be made and if the activities are producing the intended results. At the end of the project, an evaluation may be conducted to determine the impact and relevance of the project, to inform future plans for the project's continuation or replication in other areas.

Effective M&E begins during the project design and is woven throughout the project lifecycle. A few key components of an effective monitoring and evaluation system are as follows.

SMART objectives

When you begin your evaluation, decide what to measure based on the objectives of the project. Your objectives should be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound. Once your objectives are SMART it becomes easier to develop realistic project outcomes - the long and short term impact you expect to achieve as a result of your project activities. It is from these outcomes that you can design indicators that help you to measure the progress of your project towards achieving its objectives.

Baseline is crucial

Once you have defined your objectives, baseline information should be collected from the community prior to the program. This information provides a picture of the situation on the ground. The type of data you collect will be determined by your project objectives. The information generated at this stage is used as a benchmark to measure the progress of a project. Baseline information may also help at design stage of the project to create relevant programs that are suited to the context of the community.

Used together, these methodologies reinforce each other. For example, stories and quotations from village x will provide us with an understanding as to why 30% of women in that village experience domestic violence.

Mixing various methodologies to investigate the same issue, or to study different groups of people is referred to as triangulation. This helps you check the validity of the data you have collected using different methods. They should all build on and reinforce each other.

Quantitative methods include: surveys, cohort studies and case control studies using questionnaires. Qualitative methods include rapid assessments and in-depth surveys using the following techniques: in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, participant and non-participant observation.

Appropriate sampling methods

Sampling is an important part of quality evaluations. Having a clear sampling plan will give you more reliable and valid results. Qualitative studies usually use a small number of respondents that are selected purposefully to provide rich and detailed data. Quantitative studies usually aim to use random sampling so that the data will be representative of the population and generalizations can be made.

The type of sampling right for your M&E will depend on the goal of your research, what type of data you need, what questions will be asked, and your human and financial resources.

Since sampling can be complex, activists are encouraged to get sup-

Uganda

Rakai Health Sciences Program The Safe Home and Respect for Everyone (SHARE) Project

The SHARE Project is a community based violence prevention intervention conducted by the Rakai Health Sciences Program in Uganda. SHARE works in partnership with various stakeholders to raise awareness, build capacity and implement change toward the prevention and mitigation of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS and the promotion of improved reproductive health and rights.

SHARE follows a series of reporting procedures in order to effectively monitor their work.

First, they conduct weekly check-ins with each of their six departments to help monitor the progress and accountability of each group's work.

They also use various reports, such as activity reports, which are standardized forms completed by each staff member that track the details of each activity. Strategy summary reports are completed by heads of department and are compiled at the end of every phase of the project

to summarize the activities conducted within that strategy, identify successes and challenges encountered and outline plans for the next phase. Phase reports are completed by the SHARE coordinator who documents lessons learned in narrative form during each phase.

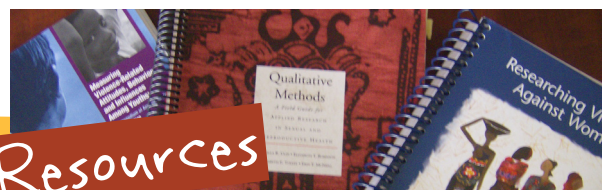


In addition, Community Volunteers' fill out monthly activity report forms which are edited and collected at the end of the month so as to assess the progress and performance of individual volunteers. And finally, selected police officers complete SHARE specific forms which record the violence-related cases handled in their post, the nature of the cases, the means used to resolve incidents of violence and recommendations for improvement.

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Multiple methods

Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies should be used depending on the project's objectives and resources. Quantitative methodologies are those that collect and present information in numbers e.g. 30% of women experience domestic violence in village x, while qualitative methodologies collect and present information in words e.g. using stories or case studies to illustrate the situation based on community members' experiences.



Resources

Measuring violence-related attitudes, behaviors and influences among youths: A compendium of assessment tools. Dahlberg LL, Total SB, Swahn M, Behrens CB. (2005). 2nd ed., Atlanta, Georgia: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This compendium provides gender-based violence prevention practitioners with tools to assess beliefs, behaviors and influences in relation to violence.

Researching violence against women: A practical guide for researchers and activists. Ellsberg M, Heise L. (2005). Washington DC, United States: World Health Organization, PATH.

This manual is a must read for all practitioners in the field of violence against women. It provides the reader with a background on violence against women, and detailed information for researching violence against women including but not limited to: ethical considerations, tools, analysis and turning research into action.

Focus group discussions are an effective M&E tool that many organizations use in their violence prevention programming.

Uganda

Raising Voices and Center for Domestic Violence Prevention

SASA! Community Mobilisation Program to Prevent Violence Against Women and HIV

Raising Voices, the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP); the Gender, Violence, and Health Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Makerere University are collaborating to conduct the "SASA! Study" - an evaluation of the SASA! Intervention to prevent violence against women (VAW) and HIV in Kampala, Uganda. SASA! is a Kiswahili word for "now!" and also serves as an acronym for the major phases of the program: Start, Awareness, Support, and Action. The intervention seeks to prevent VAW and HIV by changing the attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate power imbalances in relationships between men and women.

The first step in the M&E process involved outlining the process and outcome objectives of the intervention. This information was used to develop a graphic model of the intervention and to develop a log frame which detailed the target populations, indicators, means of verification, and relevant topics associated with each objective. These tools were then used to create a baseline survey.



Next, eight communities eligible to receive the intervention were identified. Through a randomization process, four of these eight communities were selected to act as control groups, and four were selected to act as sites where the intervention will take place. Surveys will be administered in both intervention and control sites before the implementation of the SASA! intervention and again, three years after the initiation of the intervention.

Households to survey were selected using household mapping methods. From these households, a total of 800 males and 800 females will be interviewed at baseline using a structured closed-ended questionnaire. The survey will be conducted by the Project Leader, four Field Research Supervisors, and 16 Field Researchers. They all completed an intensive 4-week training before beginning fieldwork.

When the baseline survey is completed, the SASA! intervention will be conducted in the four intervention communities. Monitoring will be ongoing over the three years following the baseline survey. Data will be gathered from existing weekly, monthly and quarterly monitoring forms, semi-structured key informant interviews, focus groups, and key actor meeting and community activity observations. Information from these activities will be analyzed to track project progress.

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GRAMS

M&E

Qualitative	Quantitative
Intensity sampling provides rich information from a few cases that show the issue intensely	Simple random sampling is a chance selection of respondents from a list of the population
Extreme/ deviant sampling selects highly unusual manifestations of the phenomenon in question	Systematic sampling selects every nth person from the sampling frame, for example every 5th person.
Snowball sampling depends on referrals through peer and professional networks	Stratified sampling groups the study population into subgroups and then individuals are randomly selected

Qualitative methods: A field guide for applied research in sexual and reproductive health. Ulin. PR, Robinson ET, Tolley EE, McNeill ET (2002). North Carolina, USA: Family Health International.

This book provides in-depth information that will guide practitioners to apply qualitative methodologies while conducting M&E processes of gender-based violence programs.

Gender-based violence tools manual: For assessment & program design, monitoring and evaluation in conflict affected settings. The Reproductive Health Response in Conflict Consortium. (2004). New York.

This manual presents various tools that could be utilized by staff within the field of GBV. Tools highlighted range from assessment tools, program design tools, and program monitoring and evaluation tools

port and advice from researchers when designing their sampling frames.

Analyzing data

Once data has been collected, it needs to be systematically arranged and analyzed to develop meaningful results and draw conclusions. Data may be analyzed using computer packages, like the statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) for qualitative surveys or NVIVO for qualitative studies. Organizations may choose to use simpler packages like MS Excel that is available on many computers. Both quantitative and qualitative analysis generally involve grouping people together on the basis of specified characteristics in order to describe these groups and explore the relationships between them.

Common pitfalls

One of the most common mistakes that organizations make in their M&E efforts is that they start without baseline data. Lack of baseline data

At left are different types of sampling as highlighted in *Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists* (see resources box below for full citation).

from which to compare and determine progress, or effect of the intervention, forces evaluations to be conducted retrospectively, and it becomes very difficult to measure any impact.

Second, many organizations are unfamiliar with sampling methods and include so many respondents that they end up with too much data and are unable to process and analyze effectively.

Third, organizations sometimes use only one method in their M&E processes, which may cast doubt on their findings or render findings less valid.

Fourth, many organizations see M&E as only useful to donors when in reality it should help us learn from and guide our programs. As Shanaaz Mathews of the Medical Research Centre in South Africa says "monitoring and evaluation should be not be implemented as an after thought or used to fulfill funding requirements. It should be an ongoing process seen as an important component of program planning."

Helpful suggestions

Not an M&E expert? Try partnering with research institutes or researchers interested in violence. "You may invite researchers to assist you in your

M&E efforts," says Dartnall of SVRI, "thereby ensuring that the data you are gathering can effectively inform and strengthen your work."

Member organizations that are interested in building up their skills in M&E of GBV prevention programs can also join the GBV Prevention Network's thematic group on M&E and Research. Activities of this group may include collaborating with other group members on joint research projects, training opportunities and sharing research on M&E.

SVRI has reviewed a number of evaluation instruments that have been used in investigations of empirical healthcare-based interventions for women who have experienced sexual violence. They have featured 29 of these assessment instruments on their website at <http://www.svri.org/aiabstract.htm>. Members may utilize or adopt the tools to suit their contexts.

However big or small your organization, however much or little your funding, effective M&E is not only possible, but necessary. "As a field, we can and must strive to create simple yet meaningful measurements of our work," says Lori Michau of Raising Voices in Uganda. "We owe that to ourselves, our funders, and most of all for the women for whom we do this work."

Update

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Campaign

In our first issue of "Perspectives on Prevention," in December 2005, we highlighted the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition's role in promoting the African Protocol on Rights of Women. Caroline Muthoni from Equality Now's Regional Office in Nairobi, which is also the SOAWR Secretariat, provides the following update.



The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women ('the Protocol') was adopted by the African Union Heads of States and Government on 11th July 2003. The Protocol is the first African human rights instrument to fully and comprehensively address the human rights of women and cover a broad range of women's rights.

Organizations interested in promoting women's rights in Africa, noting the slow pace of ratifications, came together to form the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) coalition to work on a joint campaign to speed up the ratification of the Protocol in order to safeguard the gain made for women.

The campaign objectives are to achieve universal ratification of the Protocol; to popularize the Protocol; and to ensure that it is implemented in all countries and becomes part of the domestic law.

The Protocol came into force on 25th November 2005 making it the first African human rights instrument to come into force with such speed. Since then, seven more countries have ratified the Protocol, bringing the total by September 2007 to 43 countries who have signed the Protocol and 22 African countries who have ratified it. In addition to this achievement, SOAWR has generated and channelled significant grant funds to its members. It has created opportunities for learning around the Protocol and gained experience on advocacy. It has increased the visibility for women in national coalitions and networks as well as mobilized women's organisations in 17 countries to campaign for the Protocol. SOAWR has increased its membership to 26 members across Africa all working towards the objectives of the campaign.

SOAWR has entered into its second phase of the campaign which is now focusing on the countries that have ratified to push them to begin the domestication and implementation process at the national level while at the same time still pushing for the universal ratification of the Protocol.

SOAWR has also produced informational pieces on the campaign, such as advocacy materials in various media including special issues of Pambazuka News (www.pambazuka.org), and books such as "Not Yet a Force for Freedom," Breathing Life into the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa," and "Grace, Tenacity and Eloquence: The Struggle for Women's Right in Africa."

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Recent Additions to www.preventgbvafrica.org

"Cultural Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices of the People Residing in the Seke Area that Predisposes them to HIV Infection" by Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS). This report details issues like wife inheritance, girl child sacrifice and other forms of gender-based violence practiced in Seke, a rural area in Zimbabwe. Read about it in the "What's New November" section of the website.

"Rape in Namibia: An assessment of the operation of the Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000." Legal Assistance Centre 2006. The report examines Namibian police statistics on rape from 2000-2005 to see how Namibia's Combating of Rape Act 8 of 2000 is working in practice. The report provides learning for programs that are dealing with prevention or response to sexual violence. Read about it in the "What's New October" section.

"Reducing Women's and Girls' Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS by Strengthening their Property and Inheritance Rights," by the International Center for Research on Women, May 2006. An Information Bulletin on the project implemented in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA/UNAIDS) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address poverty, HIV/AIDS and women and girls property ownership and inheritance rights. Read all about it in the "What's New October" section.

Research findings

Alcohol-related IPV: Findings from VCT clients in Kenya



From 5th to 9th August 2007 a practicum titled "HIV and Alcohol, Gender Norms and Gender-Based Violence: A Strategic Communication Perspective," was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was organized by AfriComNet, a network of more than 700 strategic communication practitioners who reside, work or have a primary interest in Africa. Its aim was to enable participants to integrate alcohol, gender norms and gender-based violence into HIV and AIDS community outreach, advocacy, media, client education and counseling programs. Karusa Kiragu, a Senior Research Officer with Population Council, presented a paper based on a research she conducted with colleagues as well as Liverpool VCT staff. She shares a summary here of what she presented.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is most frequently directed at women: the recent 10-country WHO study on domestic violence found that anywhere from 15-71 percent of ever-partnered women reported physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner at some point in their lives¹. These figures were higher than had been previously documented². Alcohol is a known risk factor for IPV, in part because of its disinhibitory effect, excusatory behavior, and the tendency for alcohol abusers to also have impulsive personalities^{3,4}. The same disinhibitory effect may be associated with concurrent sexual partnerships combined with a lower likelihood of condom use, elevating the risk for HIV acquisition.

Therefore, in a country like Kenya, where alcohol is the most socially-accepted and frequently-abused substance, interventions to reduce HIV risk may be more successful if they address alcohol itself and consequently, IPV. As such, in 2006, the Horizons Program of the Population Council conducted a study examining the risk of IPV in the context of alcohol use among voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) clients in Kenya.

For the study, exit interviews were conducted with 1073 VCT clients in eight districts in the central and coastal regions of Kenya. About half (53 percent) of the study respondents were male and single (54 percent), and 77 percent had a sexual partner. About 21 percent said they currently consumed alcohol, 44 percent had done so in the past but had stopped, and 35 percent never drank alcohol. Men were 2.4 times as likely as women to be current consumers of alcohol. When asked whether their present partner drank alcohol, 26 percent of respondents answered affirmatively (11 percent of males and 45 percent of females).

When respondents were asked whether anyone in their family had an "alcohol problem", 54 percent said they did. Male family members were most likely to be reported as having a drinking problem.

Almost three out of four (73 percent) of respondents reported that they felt pressured by friends to drink, with no differences between men and women. Partnered respondents who drank were

asked whether they had ever been violent to their current partner while intoxicated, and 33 percent reported they had, including 35 percent of alcohol-using males and 28 percent of females. Therefore, while male-to-female violence was more common, female-to-male violence was also relatively frequent. This suggests that when under influence, the violence differentials between males and females may narrow.

This study suggests that alcohol risk reduction may be important to consider as part of HIV risk-reduction activities as an appreciable proportion of current alcohol users have been violent with their partners. Findings that three out of four alcohol users feel pressured to drink by friends may suggest a lowered decisiveness under the influence, and an inability to stand for oneself. This may also indicate that such individuals could be unable to resist a partner who wishes to have unsafe sex, putting themselves at risk for HIV.

The finding that alcohol users are slightly more likely to also have other family members who use may also indicate a clustering effect of alcohol-related problems. This is a particular concern because it suggests that young people within that cluster could be exposed to alcohol from several family members, making it harder for them to resist it themselves. Put together, the data suggest the need to build self-awareness and resilience skills among alcohol users, and in particular to address it at a familial level.

This article was written by By Karusa Kiragu, based on a research paper she prepared with Caroline Mackenzie (Population Council), Nduku Kilonzo and Rukia Yassin (Liverpool VCT) in 2006. For more information contact: kkiragu@pcnairobi.org.

Network News

Member Training

From the 12th to 16th of November, Network members will attend a capacity building workshop in Nairobi that will enhance their skills in researching violence against women. This is the final module of a two-module series of trainings in research, the first module was held in July 2007.

New Staff Member

The Network has a new staff member, Jean Kemitare, who is in charge of coordinating activities and communications for the Network. Jean is a social worker with eight years experience in community development and social research. She is also currently pursuing her master's in Social Sector Planning and Management at Makerere University. Jean can be reached at: info@preventgbvafrica.org

16 Days of Activism

This year 23 organizations have been selected to participate in the 16 Days of Activism campaign from November 25th to December 10th 2007. The theme for this year is "I Commit to Preventing Violence Against Women". The selected organizations will receive the GBV Prevention Network's 16 Days of Activism Action and Advocacy Kits. All materials will be available for download from www.preventgbvafrica.org in November if you'd like to use them in your 16 Days efforts. The following are the participating organizations:

1. Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (South Africa)
2. AIDS Legal Network (South Africa)
3. Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (Uganda)
4. Centre for Rights Education & Awareness (Kenya)
5. Child and Youthcare Trust (Tanzania)
6. Coalition on Violence Against Women (Kenya)
7. Focus On Rural Development (Uganda)

8. FriendlyHaven (Namibia),
9. Kenya Female Advisory Organization (Kenya)
10. Kivulini Women's Rights Organization (Tanzania)
11. Lifeline (South Africa)
12. Liverpool VCT (Kenya)
13. Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (Malawi)
14. Men for Gender Equality Now Network (Kenya)
15. Mifumi (Uganda)
16. Oxfam GB (Uganda)
17. Raising Voices (Uganda)
18. Rakai Health Sciences Program (Uganda)
19. Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (Rwanda)
20. Siqqee Women's Development Association (Ethiopia)
21. Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination (Zimbabwe)
22. Women and AIDS Support Network (Zimbabwe)
23. Women's Information Services and Networks Organization (Ethiopia)

(Endnotes)

1. Garcia-Moreno, C., Jansen, H., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., Watts, CH. 2006. Prevalence of intimate partner violence: findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *Lancet*, 368, pp. 1260-1269.
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