



**VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**

**THE SILENT
EPIDEMIC**

IS YOUR VOICE BEING HEARD?

Regional 16 Days of Activism Campaign coordinated by:
www.preventgbvafrica.org



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is any **act of verbal or physical force, coercion, or life-threatening deprivation**, directed at an individual woman or girl that causes physical or psychological harm, humiliation or arbitrary deprivation of liberty and that perpetuates female subordination.¹

¹ Heise L.L., Pitanguy J. and Germain A. (1994). Violence against women: The Hidden health burden. Washington, D.C.: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 47.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Overall, **1 in 3 women** worldwide will experience violence in their lifetimes.¹

49% of women in rural Ethiopia, **33% of women** in urban Tanzania, **31% of women** in urban Namibia,² **49% of women** in Kenya³ report experiencing physical violence, often at the hands of an intimate partner.

12.9% of women in urban Namibia, **27.1 %** rural Tanzania, and **46%** in rural Ethiopia report having been physically forced to have sex²

- 1 World Health Organization (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Geneva: WHO.
- 2 Garcia-Moreno C., Jansen H., Ellsberg M., Heise L., & Watts C. (2005). WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses. Geneva: World Health Organization, 28.
- 3 UNAIDS. (2006). Violence against women and girls in the era of HIV/AIDS: A situation and response analysis in Kenya. Geneva: UNAIDS/ Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, 6. Originally from Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (2003).

HEALTH EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON WOMEN

- Physical **injuries**
- **Unwanted** pregnancy
- Increased risk of **STIs** including **HIV**
- **Mental health problems** (post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, etc)
- Increased **maternal health** problems
- **Death**

HEALTH EFFECTS ON CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

- Increased risk of **emotional** and **behavioral** problems
- Increased **vulnerability** to being either victims or **perpetrators of violence** as adults
- Use of **alcohol and drugs**
- **Anti-social** behavior
- **Problems** in school
- **Self-harm**

HEALTH EFFECTS ON THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

- **Strain on health** and other systems and services,
- Decreased **security**,
- **Higher disease** burden,
- Loss of the **potential contributions** of women,
- **Decreased progress** toward Millennium Development Goals.
- **Lost productivity** resulting from domestic violence
e.g. 1.2% of GDP in Tanzania.

**MANY PEOPLE ONCE
REMAINED SILENT ABOUT
THIS DEADLY EPIDEMIC . . .**

**BUT THE SILENCE IS
BREAKING.**

VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE!

EVIDENCE SHOWS . . .

- We can prevent violence by **influencing attitudes and behaviors** to reduce unequal power relationships between women and men
- The **health, security, law, faith, civil society and education** sectors are well positioned to prevent violence!
- We must **work together** and start today!

WHAT WILL BRING ABOUT **CHANGE?**

RESOURCES INCREASED

POLITICAL WILL

COURAGEOUS DECISIONS AND POLICIES

BREAKING OUT OF THE STATUS QUO

HOW WILL **YOU**
HELP TO END THE
SILENT EPIDEMIC AND
MAKE YOUR VOICE
BE HEARD LOUD AND
STRONG?

LEADERS LIKE YOU CAN ...

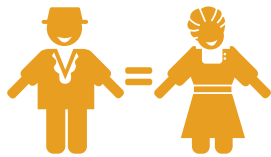


CHOOSE NON-VIOLENCE: in your personal and professional relationships be a role model.



SHOW LEADERSHIP: recognize VAW/G as an important barrier to health and development. Allocate the necessary resources to prevent and respond to violence.

LEADERS LIKE YOU CAN ...



CREATE EQUALITY: change laws, practices and policies that sustain inequality between women and men.



CHANGE NORMS: support and participate in local violence prevention programming for gender equitable norms.

LEADERS LIKE YOU CAN . . .



CHALLENGE SECTORS: Integrate undergraduate and in-service training for health, education, security and justice personnel

- Allocate budgets
- Create policies and implementing systems to identify and support survivors



INVEST IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAMING:

Support research and programing to learn how to best prevent and respond to VAW/G.

**WE CAN PREVENT
VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**IT'S UP TO US
START TODAY**