



SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO  
**PREVENTING VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**

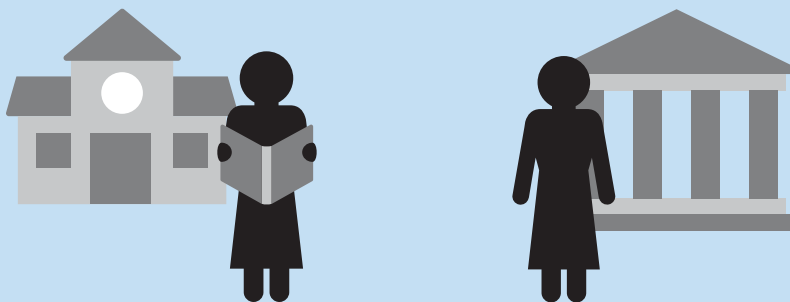
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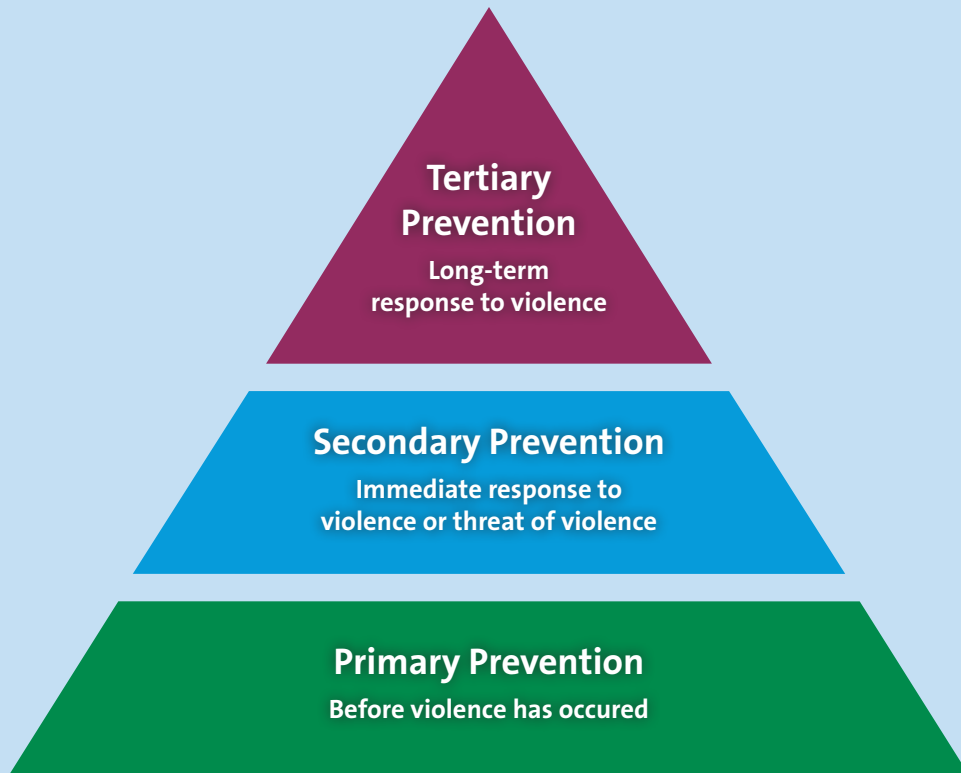


UN Women Bangladesh, with the support of the Government of Canada, is implementing a four-year project entitled “Combating Gender-Based Violence” in Bangladesh (CGBV), as part of its programme of Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW).

The project focuses on primary prevention and stopping violence before it occurs through multi-pronged approaches to ending violence against women and girls at the individual, family, organizational and societal levels.



## WHAT IS PREVENTION?



- ▶ **Primary Prevention:** Activities that take place before violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization. A primary prevention approach is guided by theory, strategy, and evaluation.
- ▶ **Secondary Prevention:** Immediate responses after the violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences of violence.
- ▶ **Tertiary Prevention:** Long-term responses after violence has occurred to address the lasting consequences of violence.

# CHARACTERISTICS, COMPONENTS AND STRATEGIES OF EFFECTIVE VAW PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

## A. CHARACTERISTICS



### MULTI-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

Programme design and interventions that target VAWG at multiple levels simultaneously- individual, interpersonal, community, and institutional (including policy and laws).



### MULTISECTORAL AND MULTIFACETED APPROACHES

Establishment of linkages between government, NGOs and communities, and ensuring collaboration between law enforcement, legal aid services, health care organizations, public health programs, educational institutions, and agencies devoted to social services and economic development.



### MEASURABLE GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES

Programme design and interventions need to be based on theories of gender and power to achieve outcomes related to reduction of VAW. The programme should aim to address toxic masculinities and harmful social norms, as these are predictive of actual violence perpetration.



### LONG-TERM PROGRAMMING

Programmes with dedicated staff and multi-year, substantive and flexible funding are essential in generating and sustaining changes needed to address deeply rooted gender biases and harmful norms that lead to VAW.



### CONTEXT SPECIFIC

Adaptation of VAW prevention approaches are done in close consultation with key stakeholders in the target communities and is informed by a comprehensive understanding of the available evidence and what works in the local context.

## B. COMPONENTS



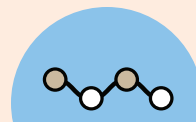
Includes relationship level / family interventions



Combines community mobilisation with other interventions to change social norms



Group education, primarily engaging men and boys



Linkage established with services for women and girls as part of the prevention programme

## C. STRATEGIES

- 1** Identification of key partners and entry points in order to promote good governance and heightened participation for VAW
- 2** Mobilisation of leaders (community, faith-based, government, heads of organisations)
- 3** SMART Programme Design: Identifying and addressing the drivers (root causes and risk factors) of violence + Identifying evaluation questions during programme design
- 4** Adaptation of tested models to new contexts, while maintaining fidelity to the core principles and components or methodologies
- 5** Internal capacity building and internalization of the values promoted at individual and organizational level
- 6** Coordination with key actors, including other UN agencies and development partners to create synergies across programmes
- 7** Designing from evidence while contributing to national and global knowledge base on effective VAW prevention



# WHAT WORKS

## Impact of intervention

	FAIR EVIDENCE	INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE
<b>EFFECTIVE</b> (Impact on VAWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Microfinance and gender transformative approaches</li> <li>▶ Relationship-level interventions</li> <li>▶ Group education with community outreach (men/boys)</li> <li>▶ Community mobilization - changing social norms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Social empowerment interventions with vulnerable groups</li> <li>▶ Alcohol reduction programmes (limited evidence from LMICs)</li> </ul>
<b>PROMISING</b> (Impact on risk factors only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Parenting programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Whole-school interventions</li> </ul>
<b>CONFLICTING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Bystander interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ School curriculum-based interventions</li> </ul>
<b>INEFFECTIVE</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Single component communication campaigns</li> <li>▶ WASH interventions in schools</li> </ul>

Summary table of availability of evidence and impact of interventions evaluated in What Works to prevent violence against women and girls review (2015)

## RISK FACTORS

### **Risk Factors associated with Sexual Violence Perpetration:**

- ▶ Beliefs in family honour and sexual purity
- ▶ Ideologies of male sexual entitlement
- ▶ Weak legal sanctions for sexual violence



### **Risk Factors associated with Intimate Partner Violence:**

- ▶ Past history of violence
- ▶ Marital discord and dissatisfaction
- ▶ Difficulties in communicating between partners
- ▶ Male controlling behaviours towards their partners





### **Risk factors for both intimate partner and sexual violence:**

- ▶ Lower levels of education (perpetration of sexual violence and experience of sexual violence)
- ▶ History of exposure to child maltreatment
- ▶ Witnessing family violence as a child
- ▶ Antisocial personality disorder
- ▶ Harmful use of alcohol
- ▶ Having multiple partners or suspicion of partners infidelity
- ▶ Community norms that privilege or ascribe higher status to men and lower status to women
- ▶ Low levels of women's access to paid employment



Source: WHO Factsheet on Violence Against Women (2017);  
available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

## Assess the **evidence** on **interventions**

### Relationships skills strengthened

Group-based workshops with women and men to promote egalitarian attitudes and relationships



Couples counselling and therapy



### Empowerment of women

Empowerment training for women and girls including life skills, safe spaces, mentoring



Inheritance and asset ownership policies and interventions



Micro-finance or savings and loans plus gender and empowerment training components



### Services ensured

Empowerment counselling interventions or psychological support to support access to services (i.e. advocacy)



Alcohol misuse prevention interventions



Shelters



Hotlines



One-stop crisis centres



Perpetrator interventions



Women's police stations/units



Screening in health services



Sensitization and training of institutional personnel without changing the institutional environment



Source: RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women.  
Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019 (WHO/RHR/18.19).  
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## Poverty reduced

Economic transfers, including conditional/ unconditional cash transfers plus vouchers, and in-kind transfers



Labour force interventions including employment policies, livelihood and employment training



Microfinance or savings interventions without any additional components



## Environments made safe

Infrastructure and transport



Bystander interventions



Whole School interventions



## Child and adolescent abuse prevented

Home visitation and health worker outreach



Parenting interventions



Psychological support interventions for children who experience violence and who witness intimate partner violence



Life skills / school-based curriculum, rape and dating violence prevention training



## Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms

Community mobilization



Group-based workshops with women and men to promote changes in attitudes and norms



Social marketing or edutainment and group education



Group education with men and boys to change attitudes and norms



Stand-alone awareness campaigns/ single component communications campaigns



## LEGEND

- **promising**, >1 evaluations show significant reductions in violence outcomes
- **more evidence needed**, >1 evaluations show improvements in intermediate outcomes related to violence
- ◆ **conflicting**, evaluations show conflicting results in reducing violence
- **no evidence**, intervention not yet rigorously evaluated
- ▼ **ineffective**, >1 evaluations show no reductions in violence outcomes

H World Bank High Income Countries (HIC) L World Bank Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC)

**UN Women Bangladesh Country Office**

Road: 43, House: 39, Gulshan 2,

Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh

Tel: +88 02 988 3828, 985 6641

Fax: +88 02 985 8a593

[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women