

## **Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender-Based Violence: Methodologies and Field Implications**

Presented by the  
Gender-Based Violence Task Force of the IGWG  
November 25, 2008

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of IPV Prevention Programs: Insights from the IMAGE and SASA Studies**

**Charlotte Watts, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

Dr. Watts opened the day's discussion by affirming the need for strong monitoring and evaluation methodology to improve research and influence policy. "To focus on how to respond effectively, we must build an evidence base," she said. Watts added that researchers are falling short in answering the question of what works and what do we do about it. There is no set package of interventions and only a handful of GBV studies that are themselves small in relation to the scale of need. The challenge lies in identifying strong models that can be replicated and ensuring that we are collecting the research and data that can be used in alternate settings. From her experience, there are certain questions that policy makers want answered: is the intervention feasible, is it cost-effective, and can it be scaled up.

Dr. Watts presented lessons learned and challenges from her recent work. The Intervention for Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) study is a small, three-year cluster randomized study examining whether the provision of microfinance and participatory training on gender violence and HIV to poor, rural women could affect the incidence of intimate partner violence and HIV-risk behaviors. The study showed a 55% reduction in violence and significant reduction in HIV-risk behaviors in young people. The SASA! study in Kampala, Uganda, engages men, women and local stakeholders through a process of change. It examines the impact of a community mobilization program, the pathways and process of change, a costing study, and research to learn what are the key indicators for future monitoring and evaluation. The study of less ambitious monitoring models is important for community groups who often do not have the means to conduct full evaluations but want to present evidence of change to both stakeholders and funding bodies. The IRC/MRI study in Côte D'Ivoire is collecting baseline data that measures impact on gender attitudes and behaviors, including perpetration of violence by men, among intervention participants and the wider community.

Each of these examples has demonstrated the importance of a mixed-methods approach that uses quantitative studies at baseline and post-intervention and complementary qualitative research with participants, project staff and key stakeholders.

Three lessons from the three studies were presented to the group:

- 1) It is important to have a clear conceptual framework to guide evaluation. The SASA! intervention used the behavioral change steps of start, awareness, support then action to figure out the context, range of activities, immediate and long-term outcomes, and impacts on violence and HIV behaviors;

- 2) It is useful to have multiple forms of evidence. The IMAGE study used quantitative measures to find decreased vulnerability in the microfinance community. In-depth interviews were used to find out how women were responding, i.e. were their relationships changing, seeking divorce, taking a greater role in family finances, etc.
- 3) Costing is an important element of an intervention evaluation. Economic data is seldom mentioned though it's central to argue the affordability, financial value and feasibility of scaling up. For example, in the IMAGE study, the trial cost US \$43/woman, and once the study had been scaled up it only cost \$13/woman.

The lessons also came with challenges for current and future work. There is always the potential for reporting bias of gender norms and violence. Researchers need to consider that after an intervention violence may appear to increase when women may feel more comfortable reporting instances of violence and men may be less likely to admit to violence. The LSHTM team has chosen to rely on women's reports because if there is a reduction it is more likely to be a true effect and it can be triangulated with qualitative research. Another challenge is the unpredictability of this area of work. Randomized controlled trials are usually used for drug research, but GBV research isn't as predictable and change is not as easily reported to donors. Third, evaluations are difficult and getting reliable evidence on impact is not easy. It is not fair to ask small NGOs to show impact. It can be difficult to set up control communities, as they want the intervention too. One option is offer the control villages alternate activities that don't relate to gender and violence.

In conclusion, there is tremendous value in good M&E evidence. Quantitative, qualitative, and economic evidence are needed to inform policy. Some challenges of building a strong evidence base are learning how to transition from monitoring levels of activity to levels of change, the difficulty of showing impact in prescribed time frames, and the risk of other results we may miss by relying on a violence lens. The way forward is to document experiences and lessons learned, to lobby for strategic investments in multi-disciplinary evaluation research that borrows from other fields, and to recognize the need for more methodological work.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls: A Compendium of Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators**

### **Shelah Bloom, MEASURE Evaluation**

Dr. Shelah Bloom presented MEASURE Evaluation's new compendium of sound M&E indicators that can be used in the field. MEASURE started with an extensive literature review to see what programs were using and what they needed, and to identify existing sources of data that could be used for new indicators. The collaborative process included a technical advisory group composed of representatives from USAID, UN agencies, NGOs, consultants, and researchers. The TAG did not try to be comprehensive, but instead focused on identifying key indicators to help people specify what they wanted to show instead of trying to measure everything.

The indicators examined by the TAG included prevalence measures for the magnitude and characteristics of different forms of VAW/G, programmatic sectors,

under-documented forms of violence and emerging areas, and prevention programs. Areas not covered were those best assessed by qualitative methods where an indicator might not be the best measure; emergent areas, such as “stalking”, where there is insufficient research to justify it as a good indicator; and national and policy-based indicators where groups, such as Global Fund recipients, were not the target audience of the compendium. A list of suggested indicators is available in the back of the publication.

The compendium is being targeted at audiences working in the area of VAW/G-- program managers, individuals providing technical assistance to individuals or organizations, and those not working only in VAW/G but whose overall scope of work includes the area. The compendium will be disseminated to organizations via TAG contacts and is available at <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications>. It has already been used in several instances, including in the aftermath of the Kenya election, in assessing Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and in the provision of short M&E trainings for people who would like to use the compendium. The trainings could be implemented for regional, country or smaller audiences, to provide a “M&E 101,” and to help assess when technical assistance is needed. Moreover, MEASURE will partner with programs to test validity and reliability by region in order to modify them for cultural contexts.

### **Evidence to Support the Scale-up of Work with Men: Men and Gender Equality Policy Project**

**Margaret Greene, International Center for Research on Women**

Dr. Greene stated that men and masculinities need to play a greater role in the global gender discourse, adding that we have talked about gender mainstreaming, targeting, budgets, etc., but there is still much confusion about what to do with men. The Men and Gender Equality Policy Project has used the concept of masculinities to map different gender differentials. Men don't always use the services available to them, there are structural difficulties in making good policies work, and there is still some resistance to working with men. Greene said the gender discourse is often framed in terms of women. Programming has a tendency to focus strongly on the health sector, and purely regards men as helpers of mothers instead of focusing on their full roles as household members and fathers.

A key question for policy development is not if men are changing, but how and why are they changing? Since men and masculinities are changing all of the time, the project has asked what are the factors associated with that change. The increasing evidence base indicates that interventions are working, but little scaling up has occurred. More examples like ICPD, the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW are needed as good policy examples that have led to positive change. To change policy, it needs to be approached at the legal, institutional and individual level. It is also important to look at how to make gender equality a more accessible concept to more people. The project goals are: to increase men's visibility in conversations about gender equality, to look at influences to individual behaviors and change structures, and to study how to move gender equitability from the feminist movement to the mainstream.

ICRW and Instituto Promundo in Brazil are partnering on this project. There are four major project activities. First, they will conduct comparative research in India, Mexico, Brazil, Croatia, Chile and South Africa (the UK, US and others may join later). This will consist of a policy scan, qualitative study of men in non-traditional caregiving roles, and the quantitative International Men and Gender Equality Study (IMAGES). Second, they will develop a conceptual framework and national policy advocacy briefing for each setting. Next, they will create a comparative analysis and framework for international use. A policy analysis tool-kit will be available for countries looking to engage men and boys in gender equitable policies. Policy briefings will be held in Washington, DC, New York, and four international conferences. And finally, they will develop a video documentary of men and change in diverse settings to present alternate discourse on men and change, and to build an opportunity for advocacy in non-academic audiences. It is hoped that the video, directed by Rahul Roy, will be done by next summer.

The policy analysis included drug laws, parental leave, and violence – all possible areas that might directly or indirectly affect the lives of men. The qualitative component, titled “Men Who Care,” works with men in paid or unpaid care giving work such as preschool teachers, nurses or stay at home fathers. The IMAGES study includes questions on family background and influences, if a man was subject to violence or harassment of any kind as a child in his family, the nature of his intimate relationships, time use, contraceptive use, support for partner in seeking services, attitudes regarding sexual orientation, knowledge and attitudes of laws and policies, perceptions of gender split in workplace, and general attitudes toward gender equality. In hopes of unique comparative data, the study will be conducted with 1500 men ages 18-59 and 500 women in two urban areas, with a goal of 90% of questions in the final instruments will be common across all countries, and up to 10% country specific. Dr. Greene invited any other country partners interested in participating to contact her.

### **In Conclusion: Issues, Themes, Challenges and Next Steps** **Sunita Kishor, Macro International**

In a wrap-up of the morning’s session, Dr. Kishor said that one of the interesting aspects of talking about gender-based violence is that it brings together work from so many different fields and so many different angles. The common thread is that “we are all trying to answer the same sets of questions.” The take-home message from Dr. Watts is that evaluation of these projects is essential, and more importantly, it is doable. There are certain essential things that need to be incorporated in the way we do these evaluations. There are methodological signs, ethics involved in all sides. Also, if we ignore the economics we are then ignoring the possibility of allowing these projects to grow. To maintain research ethics, we must remain objective. Dr. Bloom’s work reminds us that there is an obvious field need for this work and underlines the difficulty of dealing with the issue of men. Dr. Greene has been a champion of working with and for men without undermining the efforts of gender equality. Gender equality can only be attained by a joint effort between men and women