

Cost of Violence Against Women and Girls

Presenting preliminary results of an assessment on economic costs of domestic violence in Bangladesh

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to the

Interagency Gender Working Group



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Overview of Presentation

1. Background of CARE Bangladesh's Vision and Theory of Change on Women's Empowerment
2. Projects contributing to Women's Empowerment Program
3. Cost of Violence Project
 - Why measure cost of violence?
 - Key findings
 - Using findings in programmatic planning
 - Using findings in national and local advocacy for change
4. Conclusions



CARE Bangladesh's Impact Vision Statement

The most socially, economically and politically marginalized women are empowered. The anticipated paths of change are:

- Women exercising greater choice in decision affecting their lives;
- Reduced violence against women; and
- The emergence of strong social movements built on women's solidarity and participation of men.



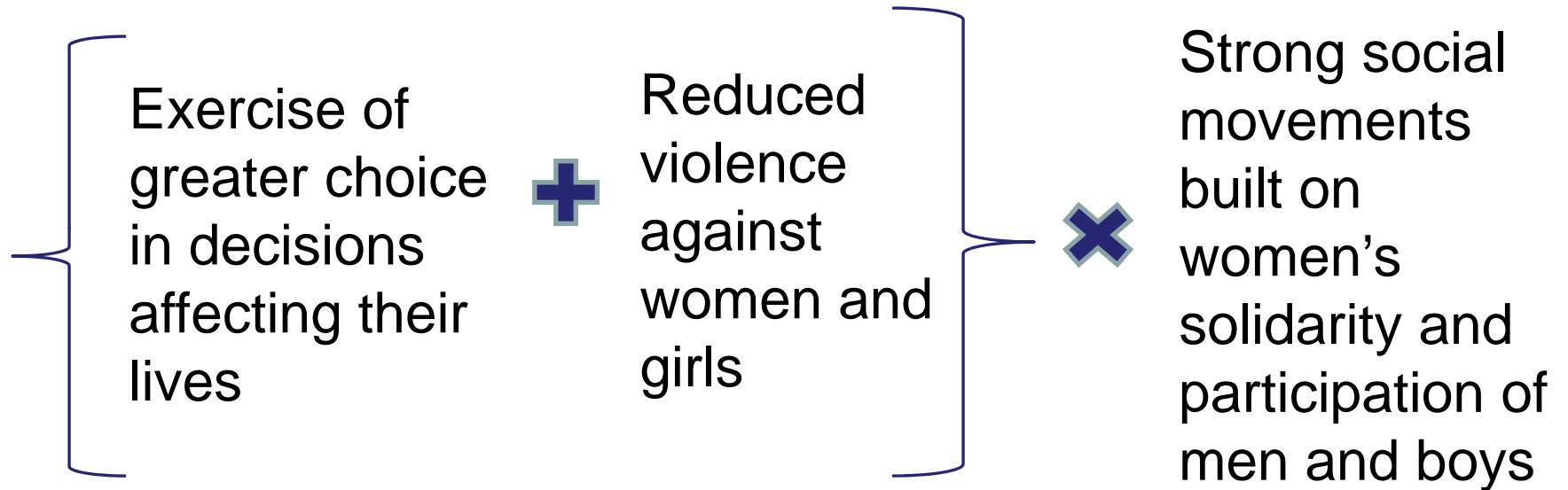
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CARE Bangladesh's Theory of Change for Women's Empowerment

Women will be empowered by:



Projects contributing to Women's Empowerment

1. Protirodh (January 2007-December 2009)

Objectives:

- To reduce violence against women and reinforce the fulfillment of women's rights in four unions (lowest administrative structure) in rural Dinajpur, and among sex workers in Dhaka, Khulna, and Tangail cities;
- To improve response to incidences of VAW; and
- To promote a more enabling environment for the fulfillment of women's (including sex workers) dignity and right to freedom from gender-based violence.



Protirodh....continued

Achievements:

- Women are expressing that they are facing violence - silence on this taboo issue has been broken
- Emergence of strong CBO engagement with targeted action on VAW
- Active involvement by men & boys
- Greater responsiveness by government courts (UP, Family Court, VAW standing Committee) in addressing VAW
- Strong engagement with the National level Advocacy forum like Citizen's Initiative in DV legislation



Projects contributing to Women's Empowerment

2. ARSHI (June 2006-June 2010)

Objective:

- To decrease maternal mortality and morbidity of adolescent girls and women in 10 upazillas of Sunamganj district of Sylhet division

Specific targets:

- To improve sexual and reproductive health among 281,000 youth aged between 10 and 24 years, with a focus on 165,000 girls.

Actions:

- CARE works to ensure safe motherhood and youth friendly services to empower women and youth with information and skills to support healthy practices, and to mobilize the community and the state to create a social and policy environment in support of the sexual and reproductive rights of women.



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ARSHI.....continued

Achievements:

- Enriched self-esteem for girls;
- Active social mobilization of men and boys to reduce stigma, discrimination, violence against women and girls, and increased commitment to egalitarian behaviors and attitudes;
- Community Led Total Social Change Initiatives resulting in formation of critical mass to prevent future incidences and at a point declaration of violence free and safe communities under
- Increased mobility for education and other development options;
- Social malice /harassment reduced, e.g. child marriages, dowry, “eve teasing”;



Projects Contributing to Women's Empowerment

3. **SHOUHARDO** (Strengthening Household Abilities for Responding to Development Opportunities)

Objective:

To sustainably reduce chronic and transitory food insecurity of 400,000 vulnerable households in 18 districts of Bangladesh by 2009.

Target Population: The poorest and most vulnerable households, and within them women and girls, living in the remote and difficult areas.

Partners: Government of Bangladesh, NGOs, community based organizations; research institutions; universities; the private sector; and civil society groups.

- One of the thematic areas is empowerment of women and girls and reduction of violence against women



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SHOUHARDO.....continued

Achievements:

- 400 solidarity groups established with poorest women & adolescent girls identified as problem solvers;
- Significant number of solidarity group members are now involved as Standing Committee members in their district;
- Standing Committee Members are taking an active role in the VAW Prevention committee to stop VAW, illegal divorce, wife beating, family conflict, child marriage, and promote marriage without dowry;
- Adolescent girls capacity being developed in stopping eve teasing;
- Increased enrollment in school, and drop-out rates decreasing



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Lessons and learning from these project and initiatives

- The barriers of silence and stigma are significant: still very difficult to promote discussion with and in the communities
- However, communities are increasingly recognizing violence as a problem in their lives
- Important to work to reduce social stigma/taboo, through careful discussion and promotion of change, economical /social/emotional support for survivors
- Communities have inadequate knowledge on laws and policies on VAW & inadequate information on the availability of support services like legal, health, social welfare



CARE Bangladesh's learning from these initiatives.....continued

- It's almost impossible for women to survive alone (lack of appropriate support from community, family and even state)
- Most VAW initiatives focus on women but for positive change to take place effective engagement with men and boys is necessary
- Sporadic efforts taking place nationally and locally needs more coordination to maximize impact
- Connecting the dots between the strong social movements present in country and outside has scopes for tremendous opportunity in reducing VAW



Cost of Violence Against Women (COVAW) Project

Oct 2008 – Sept 2011

Funded by USAID

Goal:

-To prevent violence against women by contributing to behavior change related to gender norms, practices, and behaviors regarding marriage (early marriage, dowry, polygamy) in three districts of Bangladesh.

Target areas: 24 villages in Dnajpur, Sunamganj, & Tangail
(40,000 participants)



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Cost of Violence Project

- Why measure cost of violence?
- Key findings
- Using findings in programmatic planning
- Using findings in national and local advocacy for change



Why measure the cost of violence?

- Data on social and economic costs will:
 - Supplement current discourse and information on domestic violence as a human rights issue
 - Add new awareness on out-of-pocket costs to families, community members and country of Bangladesh due to domestic violence
 - Bring a new dimension in policy framework
 - Contribute to evidence-based Government of Bangladesh policy making on spending priorities

Data demonstrate that violence affects everyone – it is not just a private matter



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Cost of Violence Project

Key findings of the study:

- **Direct Monetary Cost to the Victim's Family**
- **Direct Monetary Cost to the Perpetrator's Family**
- **Average loss of income to the victim & family in a year**
- **Average Loss of income to the perpetrators' family**
- **Costs for dealing with Violence Against Women at individual, state and non-state levels**



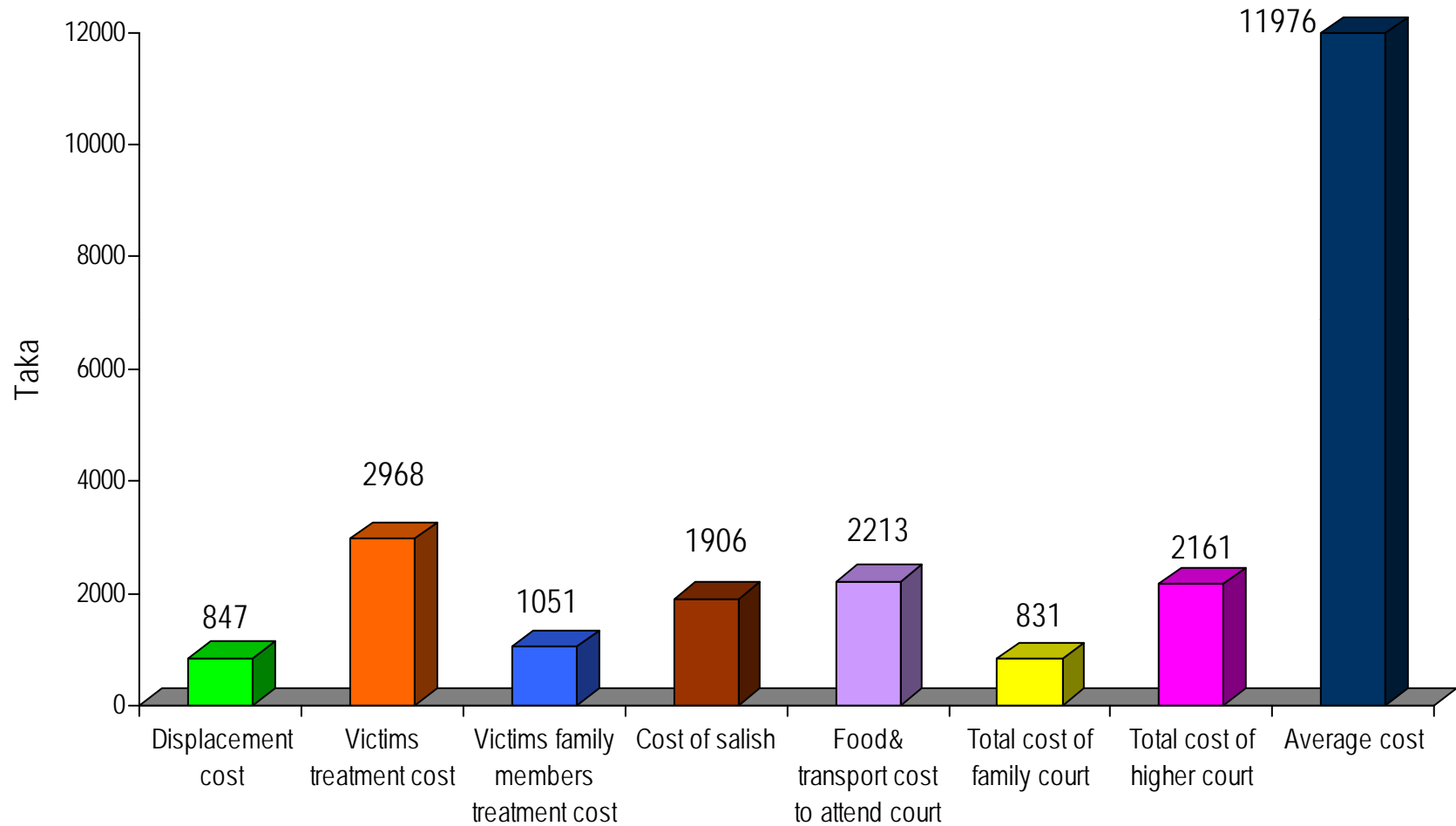
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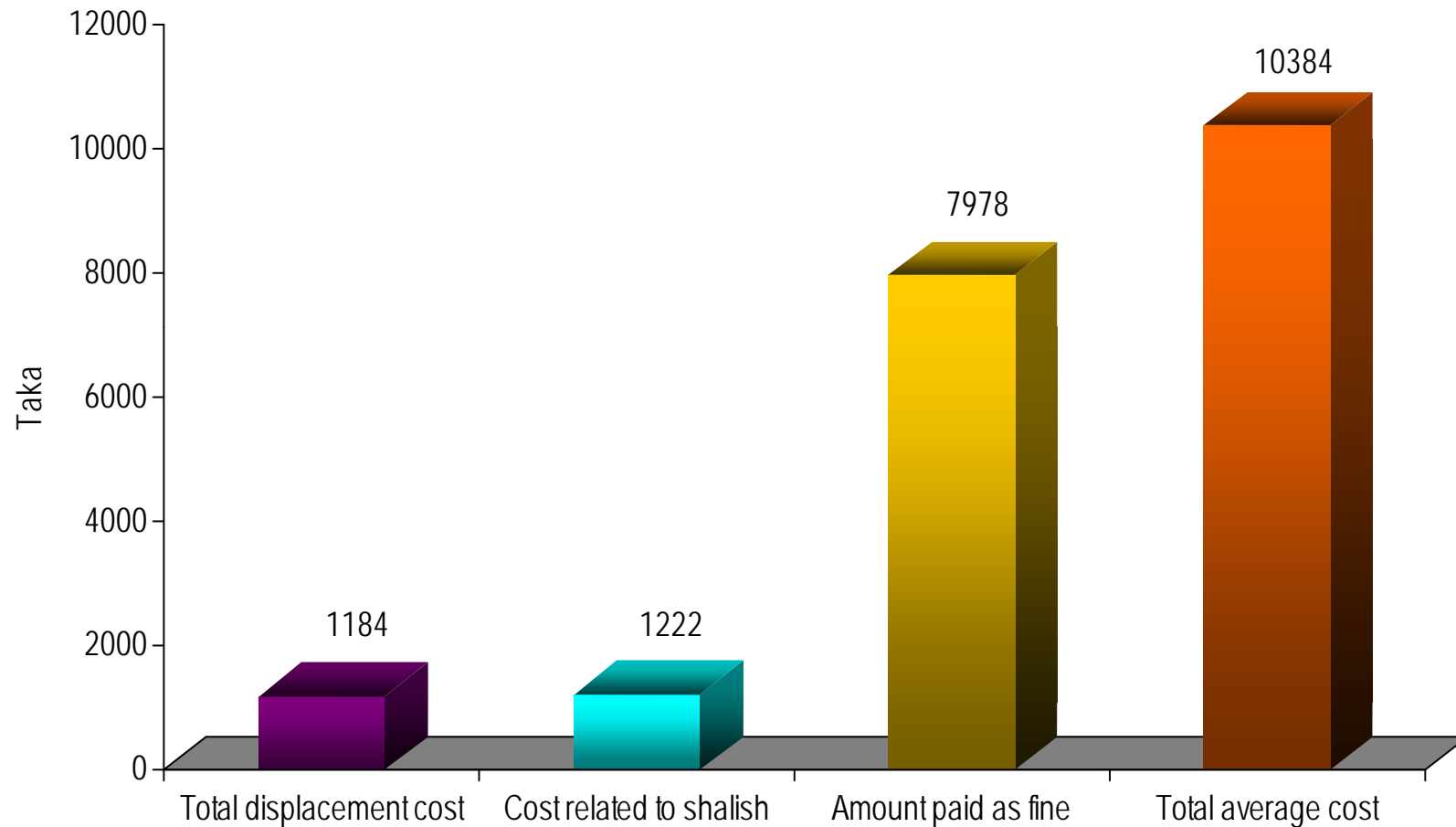
Study findings:

Direct Monetary Cost to the Victim's Family



Study findings:

Direct Monetary Cost to the Perpetrator's Family



Study findings:

Average loss of income to the victim & family in a year

Permanent Injury: 13,796

Attending Family court: 32,132

Attending district court: 66,903

Total average loss in Taka 1,12,831



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Study findings:

Average Loss of income to the perpetrators' family

Loss of income due to hiding: 13,4,244

Loss of income due to jail: 10,69,644

Total average cost 12,03,888 Taka



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Study findings: Costs for dealing with Violence Against Women

Costs of dealing with VAW	Taka (in crore)	Percent of total expenditure budget of the government	Percent of GDP
Individual and family level	14,084.56	12.37%	2.08%
State level	137.24	0.12%	0.02%
Non-state level	150.00	0.16%	0.03%
Total	14,411.80	12.65%	2.13%



How the study findings are being used in programming

1. Cost analysis toolkit developed, field tested and replicated beyond CARE-B areas
2. BCC intervention using Cost of Violence as lever for community mobilization designed and implemented
3. BCC module developed to more proactively target community attitudes and behavior related to masculinity, using positive role modeling for stopping domestic violence
4. Explore ways to contribute to decisions about compensation package to the victims, awareness raising, better reporting



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Conclusion

- This study is seen as a first step to provide an indicative estimate of cost of VAW for informing government decisions
- 2.05 % of GDP is almost equal to the total government expenditure for the health and the nutrition sector
- The majority of this expenditure is from family incomes, competing with needs for food, education etc
- The Cost Analysis Toolkit, modules, procedures, and motivation produced in this project can contribute to decisions about compensation package to the victims, awareness raising, better reporting to address the under reporting issue to strengthen the hands of NNPC (Nari Nirzaton Protirodh Cell)



Thank You!



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