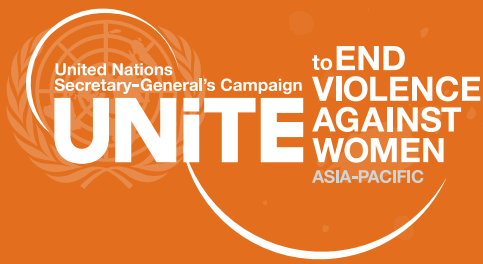


UNiTE: 5 YEARS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In unity we can achieve



Produced by the Asia-Pacific UNiTE Secretariat, housed in UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific UNiTE Inter-Agency Working Group and the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (RCM TWG-GEEW).

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ACRONYMS

AFPPD	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DV	Domestic Violence
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EVAW	Ending Violence against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
FBO	Faith-based organization
GBV	Gender-based Violence
ILO	International Labour Organization
NAP	National Action Plan
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
P4P	Partners for Prevention Joint Programme
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNiTE	United Nations Secretary-General Campaign to End Violence against Women
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls

CONTENTS

Introduction	7
Background	8
Goals of UNiTE	8
Summary: Progress in the Asia-Pacific region	10
Achievements in the region 2010-2015 against UNiTE Outcomes	12
OUTCOME 1	
Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls	12
OUTCOME 2	
Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans that are adequately resourced	15
OUTCOME 3	
Strengthen data collection and analysis on violence against women and girls	19
OUTCOME 4	
Increase public awareness and social mobilization to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls	22
OUTCOME 5	
Systematically address sexual violence in conflict	29
Moving forward	32



Photo: UN Women

“The word is spreading: violence against women has no place in any society, and impunity for perpetrators must no longer be tolerated”

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

INTRODUCTION

Deeply grounded in gender inequality, violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread violations of human rights, affecting one in three women globally. VAWG is a human rights violation that occurs at all stages of development, and at all social and economic levels. It is one of the leading causes of death and disability for women and is a huge impediment to social and economic development, peace and security.

VAWG occurs in the family, the community, society and across borders. It takes many forms, from domestic violence, trafficking and rape – in urban and rural areas, in refugee camps and as a tactic of war – to harmful practices such as child and forced marriage, “honour” killings, dowry-related violence and prenatal sex selection.

In addition to the severe and multiple physical, sexual and psychological impacts on women and girls themselves, VAWG also harms families and communities across generations and carries significant economic costs. Violence can also limit women’s ability to protect themselves from HIV, while women living with HIV/AIDS are often the target of abuse, stigma and discrimination. An expression of unequal gender power relations and men’s domination and control over women, VAWG is both a manifestation of gender discrimination and inequality and a tool with which such discrimination is perpetuated.

What is violence against women and girls?

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 48/104 DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (1993).

BACKGROUND

THE UNiTE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CAMPAIGN

In 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, launched the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign to End Violence against Women (UNiTE). The multi-year campaign aspires to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources to prevent and end of all forms of violence against women and girls across the world. The global vision of the UNiTE campaign is a world free from violence against all women and girls, which can only arise through meaningful actions and full implementation of political pledges of national governments, supported by adequate resources.

The UNiTE campaign calls on all governments, civil society, women's organizations, men and boys, young people, the private sector, the media, and the whole UN System to come together in addressing the endemic violence committed against women and girls around the world. Through its advocacy initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, the UNiTE campaign brings together individuals and communities to transform social norms and mobilize all segments of society for zero tolerance towards such violence. Alongside the support given to the enduring efforts of women's and civil society organizations, the campaign actively engages with less traditional representatives such as celebrities, artists, sports personalities, and many more.

GOALS OF UNiTE

The UNiTE Framework provides an 'umbrella' to guide actions by a range of actors to prevent and respond to VAWG, with a focus on achieving five key outcomes:

OUTCOME 1

Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls.

OUTCOME 2

Adopt and implement multi-sectoral national action plans that are adequately resourced.

OUTCOME 3

Strengthen data collection and analysis on violence against women and girls.

OUTCOME 4

Increase public awareness and social mobilization to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

OUTCOME 5

Systematically address sexual violence in conflict.

2010 UNiTE LAUNCH ASIA-PACIFIC



Photo: UN ESCAP

On 25 November 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, the UNiTE campaign was launched in the Asia-Pacific region by Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, UN Women Thailand Goodwill Ambassador for Ending Violence against Women. The Asia-Pacific regional component of UNiTE (Asia-Pacific UNiTE) is supported by a regional campaign secretariat, housed in UN Women and coordinated under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, which brings together over 25 entities of the United Nations family in the Asia-Pacific region and is co-chaired by The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

SUMMARY PROGRESS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

More than three quarters of the countries in the Asia-Pacific¹ region now have dedicated laws on ending violence against women (EVAW), compared to less than half in 2010.²

Almost all countries in Asia and the Pacific region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

A third of the countries in the region have now criminalized marital rape.³

Seven countries now have dedicated National Action Plans (NAPs) on VAW, with five new countries from the past year alone.⁴

Governments, civil society organization and United Nations agencies from the Asia-Pacific region played a key role in ensuring the adoption of the groundbreaking 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57), which calls for a holistic approach, which calls for a holistic approach to EVAW, including prevention and response.

Photo: UN Women

¹ The regions are divided in accordance to the regional distinctions of the UNiTE campaign.

² The following countries in the Asia-Pacific region now have dedicated EVAW/DV laws : Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea (the Republic of), People's Democratic Republic of Laos (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam.

³ The following countries in the Asia-Pacific region now have laws criminalising marital rape: Australia, Bhutan, Indonesia, Korea (the Republic of), Lao PDR, Marshall Islands, Nepal, New Zealand, PNG, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

⁴ Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste and Vietnam now have dedicated NAPs on VAW or DV; Australia, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam implemented new NAPs in 2014.

ARTICLE D

Address and eliminate, as a matter of priority, domestic violence through adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence

CSW57 AGREED CONCLUSION

At the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference for Beijing +20, over 600 government and civil society representatives, including several heads of states, reaffirmed their commitments to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, making concrete pledges to EVAW.

More and more countries have undertaken costing studies to assess resource requirements for service provision.

In November 2015, ASEAN Member States adopted the Regional Plan of Action on EVAW.

At least 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region have undertaken prevalence studies on VAW in the past five years, based on international guidelines, doubling the number of countries which had such data in 2010.

A range of sectors have joined social mobilization campaigns around the region, including men and boys, the private sector and sports communities that are speaking out against the harmful norms leading to violence.



Starting as the first campaign action of the UNiTE Youth Network in 2012, Orange Day has become a global phenomenon, reaching millions of people all around the world.

Photo: UN Women

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION 2010–2015 AGAINST UNiTE OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1 ADOPT AND ENFORCE NATIONAL LAWS TO ADDRESS AND PUNISH ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

To end VAWG, it is important for countries to enact legislation to punish all forms of VAWG and end impunity for perpetrators. This entails building capacity for reviewing and reforming existing legislation, developing protocols and regulations for all relevant sectors, including health, police and justice sectors, and ensuring that women and girls are aware of their rights and the availability of services. To assist governments in implementing legislation to end VAWG, the UN System is working to build the capacity of the law enforcement sector and the judiciary, as well as implementing measures to promote women's access to justice.

OUTCOME 1

CASE STUDIES

ADOPT AND ENFORCE NATIONAL LAWS TO ADDRESS AND PUNISH ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Photo: UN Women

Special session on VAW during Beijing+20 Regional Conference

Each year, on the 25 November, the world marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. On 20 November 2014, a special regional commemoration on EVAW was held within the context of the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: the Beijing+20 Review.

Over 600 representatives from Member States, civil society organizations, media, young people and UN agencies signed a commitment pledge to fast-track action and increase accountability for preventing and responding to VAWG. These included the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, who was the first to sign the pledge, followed by the Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar and UN Women Regional Director, Roberta Clarke.

Reinforcing legal and judicial systems for women's rights

With the support of UN Women's regional The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) programme, 7 countries adopted or amended legislation to increase the justice sector's response to cases of VAWG. With technical support from the UN System, a number of countries in the region have adopted new VAWG laws such as Lao PDR, China and Afghanistan, while others such as Myanmar are in the process of drafting new laws. Legal actors, service providers and legal advocates were also trained on a victim/survivor-centred approach to legal services, including 280 grassroots organizations and women leaders in Myanmar, resulting in improved access to justice for women who have experienced violence.

“The training workshop is very helpful for my daily work. It has become my conditioned response to review legislative documents from gender, CEDAW and other human rights conventions' perspectives”

PARTICIPANT FROM A WORKSHOP FOR POLICY AND LAW MAKERS ON TOOLS TO ADDRESS CASES OF VAW USING CEDAW PRINCIPLES IN VIETNAM

OUTCOME 1

CASE STUDIES

ADOPT AND ENFORCE NATIONAL LAWS TO ADDRESS AND PUNISH ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Training law-enforcement officials to ensure justice for survivors

As part of the education programme led by the Office of the Attorney General and the Thai Police Cadet Academy, with the support of UN Women, over 300 police cadets were trained on VAWG to support them in implementing the 2007 Protection of Domestic Violence Victims Act. The course is now being actively integrated into the general Thai Police Cadet Academy's curriculum, to ensure justice for survivors and a victim/survivor-centred approach to case handling.

Photo: UN Women

Mariam Mohammadi, a female police officer in Kabul, attended a training on GBV provided by HEWAD Organization, one of the implementing partners of the UNFPA in Afghanistan. She expressed that while she handled cases of VAW or GBV based on her personal judgement prior to the training, she now feels capable of recognizing GBV. During her training at the Police Academy of Kabul, this form of violence was not included in the curriculum.

Photo: UNFPA

So far, the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with UNFPA have trained over 2,500 female and male police officers on responding to GBV in an ethical and respectful manner, based on the national legislation.

“Gender-based Violence Training not only improves skills, but also changes mind-sets. The training was very helpful. Now I can use my knowledge in the daily practice”.

MARIAM MOHAMMADI



Protection of domestic workers

At least 52 million people worldwide are employed as domestic workers, with approximately 21.5 million working in private households. The Asia-Pacific is the region with the largest number of domestic workers, the majority of whom are women. Despite the size of the sector, many domestic workers experience poor working conditions and insufficient legal protection. Only 10 percent of all domestic workers are covered by general labour legislation. In June 2011, the first Convention (Domestic Workers Convention, 2011, No. 189) recognising the rights of domestic workers was adopted by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Member States, which includes protection against VAW. In September 2012, the Philippines became the first country in the Asia-Pacific to ratify this Convention.

“Each Member shall take measures to ensure that domestic workers enjoy effective protection against all forms of abuse, harassment and violence.”

**DOMESTIC WORKERS
CONVENTION, No 189,
ARTICLE 5**

OUTCOME 2 ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT MULTI-SECTORAL NATIONAL ACTION PLANS THAT ARE ADEQUATELY RESOURCED

National Action Plans (NAP) on ending VAWG enables governments to systematically implement and monitor the national framework and legislation on VAWG. To this end, the UN System provides technical support in the development of NAPs, through the collaboration with governments, NGOs and advocates. It is essential that consultations with relevant stakeholders such as the health service providers, women's groups and community leaders are held in order to ensure that the strategies are coordinated and effectively respond to the needs of women and girls.

OUTCOME 2

CASE STUDIES

ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT MULTI-SECTORAL NATIONAL ACTION PLANS THAT ARE ADEQUATELY RESOURCED

Lawmakers committing to EVAWG

A number of Parliamentarians from across the Asia-Pacific region have led reforms to support the elimination of VAWG. In 2012, leading up to the Pacific Islands Forum in the Cook Islands, parliamentarians on behalf of eight Pacific Island Countries released a signed statement calling for increased efforts and action to eliminate violence against women and girls under the UNiTE campaign. In South East Asia, a series of regional-level parliamentarian conferences were also held, with technical support from the Partners for Prevention regional joint programme (P4P) to promote a more comprehensive policy response to prevent VAWG.

Mobilizing male parliamentarians for EVAWG

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), established the Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls in 2009. The Standing Committee aims to raise awareness of men's role in eliminating VAW, promote women's rights and the sharing of best practices and experiences, and generate political commitment and recommendations for preventing VAW. The Committee is comprised of a core base of Parliamentarians and Ministers who are committed to gender equality and are willing to wield significant influence in various committees and Ministries within their governments.

The Committee developed sub-regional focus area and action plans. For the Pacific, the priority focus areas was advocacy for legislation on marital rape. For South East Asia, the thematic area identified was trafficking, and for South Asia, the focus was on child marriage.

ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), and Thailand's National Office for Women's Affairs developed the first-ever ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women. UN Women provided technical inputs and supported the coordination of national and regional consultations. In the ASEAN Summit held in November 2015, ASEAN Heads of State adopted this Regional Plan of Action that aims to accelerate implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children in ASEAN.

Government entities and CSOs have enhanced capacity to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national laws and action plans on ending EVAW

With the support of the Australian Government, UN Women runs a South-East Asia regional programme that seeks to promote the use of technical tools, evidence and community engagement to advance the implementation of laws and provision of services to women experiencing violence. Through this programme, governments and civil society have increased knowledge and capacity to monitor and evaluate the implementation of laws and policies, such as through a review of the Domestic Violence Act in Indonesia and an evaluation of the NAP on GBV in Timor-Leste. The programme is also piloting innovative social accountability tools to increase community-level monitoring of and demand for legal implementation.

Family protection centres

In Afghanistan, six family protection centres have been established inside the regional hospitals, providing counselling, case management and referral support to GBV survivors. UNFPA has developed training curricula on addressing GBV prevention and response for the National Afghan Police, along with the standard operating procedures and protocols for the Police and Family Response unit.

Cambodia launches second NAP to prevent VAW 2014-2018

The Cambodian Government launched its second NAP to Prevent and Respond to VAW/2014-2018. The NAP was adopted following a highly participatory process that included, with the support of UN Women, a series of consultations with civil society, women's rights advocates and community leaders in the development of the Plan.

“The UNiTE campaign offers a significant opportunity to strengthen coordination and increase the impact of our work to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in Cambodia.”

**DR. ING KANTHA PHAVI, MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA**

Gender-based violence training in Kabul

The establishment of Family Response Units and the training and sensitization programmes for police is part of UNFPA long-term commitment to develop field police officers' skills to prevent and respond to cases of VAWG. UNFPA has also developed a model of coordinated response to GBV, focused on the health sector. The project aims to introduce a One Stop Assistance Centre for survivors of GBV, including forced and child marriages, within health facilities.

ESCAPING CHILD MARRIAGE

“I am educated, that's why I could refuse my parents' decision [to marry the older man]. But my sister is only thirteen years old and they will marry her with that old man.”

FRESHTA, 15 YEARS OLD

Blueprint for strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to VAW

In many countries, the justice chain is still failing women victims of violence due to loopholes in criminal legislation, poor enforcement of criminal laws and regulations, and lack of proper capacity in the criminal justice system. This failure results in a high number of cases of violence going unreported and unprosecuted. In order to address these gaps in the justice chain, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has developed comprehensive guidance on how to improve, both from a normative and operational perspective, the response of the criminal justice system to VAW. In Viet Nam, a trainee's manual for law enforcement and the justice sector on preventing and responding to DV was also developed,

OUTCOME 2

CASE STUDIES

ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT MULTI-SECTORAL NATIONAL ACTION PLANS THAT ARE ADEQUATELY RESOURCED

Handbook on effective prosecution responses to VAWG

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which provide a comprehensive policy framework to assist States in developing responses and carrying out actions to eliminate VAW and to promote gender equality within the criminal justice system. Drawing upon the recommendations and guidance contained in the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, the UNODC and UN Women, in cooperation with Thailand Institute of Justice, have drafted the Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls with a view to assist prosecutors in their duty to uphold the rule of law, firmly protect human rights and serve their community with impartiality and fairness in cases involving VAWG.

Refuges and shelters for women experiencing VAWG

Across the region, UN agencies, governments and women's organizations are working to ensure that women who have experienced violence have the right to access health and other services and be empowered to claim their rights and seek redress. For instance, in Afghanistan, UN Women is supporting twelve Women Protection Centres as well as five Family Guidance Centres which provide protection, legal aid, health care, counselling, referral, mediation and services to VAWG survivors.



Photo: UN Women

One policewoman makes a difference in Timor-Leste

A policewoman in Timor-Leste – Sergeant Amelia de Jesus Amaral – of the Vulnerable Person's Unit of the National Police has a very strong commitment to EAW and empowering women, despite facing risks and threats daily. Her message that she tells female members of the communities where she works is clear: "If you are being hurt, call me, I will come and pick you up and take you to a safe place. I will help you report the police who don't take your calls to a higher authority. It is our job to take your case seriously and to help you get to the Prosecutor's Office".

Safe spaces for the 'Left Behind Girls' in China

The United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) recognises and supports pioneering initiatives around the world that aim to break new ground to eliminate VAWG in all of its manifestations. In the Asia-Pacific region, the UN Trust Fund currently funds 19 programmes in 14 countries to address VAWG, 26% of its global portfolio. With the support of the UN Trust Fund, safe spaces for girls in rural China who have been 'left behind' by migrating parents have been set up and trainings are on-going for children, teachers, community leaders and public authorities to prevent sexual violence. The project also provides technical assistance on reducing the risk of sexual violence against rural children, with a particular focus on girls whose parents have migrated to the cities.

OUTCOME 3 STRENGTHEN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Comprehensive and up-to-date data and its analysis enables governments to develop informed VAWG legislation and action plans. It is also essential for governments as well as for NGOs to pinpoint areas in which further actions are required. The UN System works closely together with government bodies in the collection of comprehensive data on VAWG, such as undertaking population-based surveys as well as in integrating sex-disaggregated data collection into their administrative and routine reporting systems, including for health, police and justice.

OUTCOME 3 CASE STUDIES

STRENGTHEN DATA COLLECTION AND
ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

Multi-country study on men and violence in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam

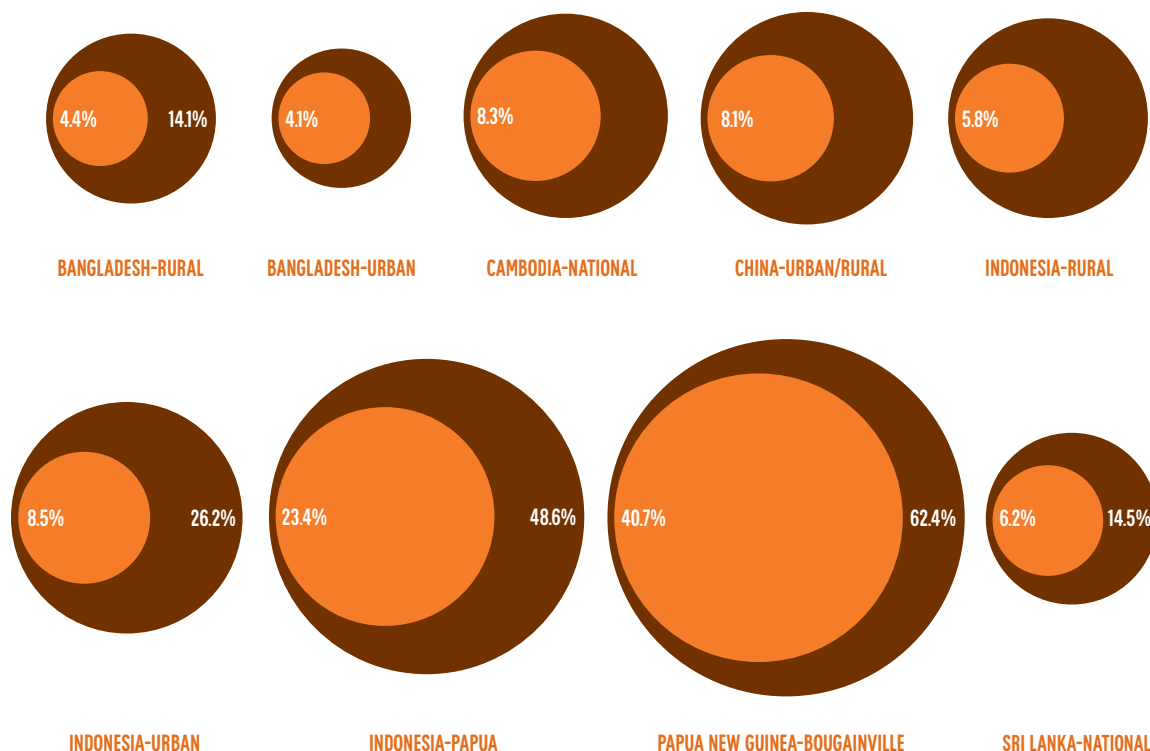
In 2013, Partners for Prevention (P4P), which is a UN Joint Programme for the prevention of VAWG combining the efforts of UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV, produced a ground-breaking multi-country study on men and violence in six countries in Asia and the Pacific. The multi-country study provides new, multifaceted insights into the personal, communal and institutional factors that contribute to GBV.

The United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific is based on the largest cross-country comparable data set on men's use of violence in Asia-Pacific to-date, providing insights from over '10,000' and '3,000' women on what drives some men to become violent against women and what can be done to prevent it.

The findings reaffirm that VAW is an expression of women's subordination and inequality in the private and public spheres.

PERCENTAGE OF MEN REPORTING PERPETRATION OF RAPE AGAINST FEMALE PARTNERS AND NON-PARTNERS, BY TYPE AND SITE

● ANY RAPE OF A PARTNER OR NON-PARTNER ● RAPE OF A NON-PARTNER



Source: Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T. and Lang, J. (2013), *Why Do Some Men Use Violence against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV

Multi-country study on the interrelatedness between sex work, violence and HIV in Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka

In 2011, a research partnership among United Nations agencies, governments, sex worker community groups and academics was formed to address gaps in knowledge regarding the links between sex work, violence and HIV in Asia. Based on the study's findings, recommendations to the governments were made which include the recognition of sex work as legitimate work as well strengthening the sex workers' access to justice and informing them about their rights.

Standardizing indicators for VAWG across the region

An increasing number of countries in the Regions are using an internationally standardised set of indicators on VAWG, developed by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission that includes physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. The indicators have also been included in the recent ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on EVAW.

OUTCOME 3

CASE STUDIES

STRENGTHEN DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Comprehensive prevalence data in the Pacific Region

Eleven Pacific Island countries have conducted national prevalence studies on VAW, eight of which with the support of the UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional office (PSRO), in Suva, Fiji. The data collected in these studies provides a powerful evidence-base for advocacy on policy and legal reform as well as programme development. In Kiribati and Solomon Islands, national EAW policies have been passed since the completion of the studies, and implementation of the NAPs is supported through comprehensive UN Joint Programming.



National capacity for VAW prevalence data collection has been strengthened

Governments of ASEAN Member States have collaborated with UNFPA, along with other UN agencies and civil society networks to address VAWG by strengthening national capacities to gather reliable and comparable evidence to guide policy and programmatic responses. In this context, a series of regional workshops have been held to strengthen national capacities to collect data. Through these workshops, technical capacities of representatives from national women's machineries, Ministries of Health, and National Statistics Offices have increased in undertaking VAW prevalence surveys.

Photo: UN Women

Costing studies on violence helps to inform national budgeting

There is increasing evidence from the Asia-Pacific region that violence carries significant costs, not only to women themselves, but also to society at large. To help close the funding gaps and facilitate evidence-based policy-making, UN Women has also supported governments to implement costing studies to assess the costs of delivering a multi-sectoral package of response services for survivors, most recently in Indonesia, Lao PDR and Timor-Leste.

National prevalence data has led to law reforms

Evidence dictates the development of key interventions for the prevention and response to VAWG, and contributes to VAW-specific legislation and informed new initiatives such as capacity building of service providers. In Viet Nam for example, national prevalence data has been used to guide the drafting of the National Health Management Information System. In Tonga, following the publication of national data, a new Family Protection Bill (2012-13) was drafted and approved by the Parliament.

OUTCOME 4

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In order for increased public awareness and social mobilization to prevent and end VAW, effective and evidence-based national and local prevention strategies are critical, including those directed at particular strategic groups (e.g. children, adolescent girls and boys, men, the media, and traditional and faith-based leaders). To achieve this outcome, the UN System has collaborated widely with a range of key strategic actors, including men and boys, young people, faith-based organizations (FBOs), the private sector, and other key groups. Other necessary strategies include increasing capacity and opportunities for women's groups and networks to participate in social mobilization and awareness-raising and other prevention strategies as well as enhancing the involvement of the media in challenging gender stereotypes and promoting positive and responsible reporting.

OUTCOME 4

CASE STUDIES

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

Photo: UN Women



The '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' is an annual international campaign running from the 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until the 10 December (Human Rights Day). Beginning in 1991, initially as a civil society initiative, it is now used by individuals and organizations globally to call for the prevention and elimination of VAWG.

In support of this initiative, every year, the UNiTE Campaign calls for global action to increase awareness and generate opportunities to discuss the challenges and solutions to end VAWG. In 2014, the UNiTE campaign called upon UN entities, civil society organizations, individuals and governments to 'orange their neighbourhoods' in order to raise public awareness about the issue of VAWG. In 2015, the global UNiTE theme for this campaign was "Orange the World".

OUTCOME 4

CASE STUDIES

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

One Million Signature Campaign to end VAWG

UN Women launched the One Million Signatures Campaign during the annual 16 Days of Activism in Pakistan in 2011 alongside a network of national women's organizations. The campaign witnessed the mobilization of a huge number of social media and community members including at least 1500 Pakistani female leaders.



Orange Day Campaign

Originally created by the Asia-Pacific UNiTE Youth Network when they first met in Bangkok in 2012, The United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women has proclaimed the 25th of each month as 'Orange Day', a day to raise awareness and take action against VAWG. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from VAWG, for the UNiTE Campaign. Orange Day calls upon activists, governments and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending VAWG. In 2014, as part of the 'Orange Your Neighbourhood: End Violence against Women,' 'orange' activities were organised by over seventy countries around the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, youth showed their strong support of the 16 Days of Activism, through interactive discussions and the arts, including dance routines, discussions with TV personalities, university workshops, dramatic performance and flash mobs.

In Samoa, local businesses have brought this global initiative home and have come together to raise awareness and show solidarity with the Orange Day movement. UN Women partnered with leading fashion and retail businesses to promote the "Sell it! Buy it! Wear it!" campaign. Stores have agreed to put designated orange items on sale to promote Orange Day and to encourage clientele to "shop orange".



OUTCOME 4

CASE STUDIES

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

High-profile celebrities from the region support the quest for gender equality

A number of high-profile celebrities lent their voices to promote gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region. Sania Mirza and Farhan Akhtar from India were appointed UN Women Goodwill Ambassadors for South Asia. Farhan, an actor-filmmaker-singer, was the first man to be chosen as a Goodwill Ambassador in the organization's history, while Sania, a professional tennis player, was the first South Asian woman to be appointed. Two leading television movie stars, Natthawut Skidjai and Wanchana Sawasdee joined UN Women's work in Thailand to advocate for gender equality and ending VAWG, showing their support for men's role in EAW in public speeches at local events, including a mini-marathon. Women's work in Thailand to advocate for gender equality and ending VAWG, showing their support for men's role in EAW in public speeches at local events.



Aluna, a Laotian role model and celebrity, topped the Lao National music chart with her song advocating for EAWG. In Vanuatu, Vanessa Quai produced the song 'No More', a tribute to the UNITE campaign released in 2012. She was also chosen as one of 25 artists from 20 countries featured on the song release, 'One Woman' on 8 March 2013, in honour of International Women's Day as a call to end violence and discrimination against women. Noel Cabangon, an award-winning Filipino folk singer-songwriter also wrote a song on positive model of masculinity entitled "Men Move."



Photos: UN Women

Male advocates for ending violence against women and gender equality

The United Nations Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders comprise of male activists from all walks of life, including current and former politicians, civil society and youth activists, religious and community leaders, cultural figures and other prominent individuals. The 'Men Leaders' work in their spheres of influence to undertake specific actions to EAW, and inspire men and boys everywhere to speak out against violence.

The Good Men Campaign in Cambodia and the Joint Communications Campaign in Viet Nam works to end VAWG by promoting a foundation of gender equality, respect, and healthy relationships. These campaigns were coordinated by Paz y Dessarrollo (PyD) with the Vietnamese Government, the UN and NGO partners and were supported and documented by P4P.

In East and South East Asia, a consortium of NGOs, activists and practitioners from 10 countries, through forming the Regional Learning Community for Transforming Masculinities to Promote Gender Justice for East and South East Asia, with support from P4P, have strengthened the capacity of community members to understand masculinities, gendered power relations, and patriarchy.

Additionally, in South Asia, the South Asian Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) with support from P4P, have built a culture of resistance to VAWG by challenging customs that correlate violence and masculinity.

Established by UN Women, the HeForShe Campaign is a solidarity movement for gender equality that engages men and boys as activists and stakeholders in order to break the silence, raise their voices and take action, to achieve gender equality. The campaign aims to spread awareness and embolden men and boys to be accountable for the elimination of discrimination against women and VAWG.



Photo: Nur Hasyim

“In Indonesia, the idea of a “new man” is beginning to take hold. Around the country I now run workshops for men who have perpetrated violence where they are invited to reflect on the effect violence has on their families, their wives, their children and themselves. Once men understand the true consequences of their attitudes and behaviour, they feel stronger, more respected, when they exercise the right not to use violence, not to strive to be dominant over women.”

NUR HASYIM - FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF “ALIANSI LAKI-LAKI BARU” (NEW MEN ALLIANCE) IN INDONESIA, A PRO-FEMINIST MEN’S MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL NETWORK FOCUSING ON ENDING VAWG.

OUTCOME 4

CASE STUDIES

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Muaythai champion, Buakhao supports HeforShe.



Photo: UN Women/Niels den Hollander

Male dominated sports promoting positive masculinity

The International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (IFMA), the World Muaythai Council (WMC) and UN Women are collaborating to engage and build the skills of trainers and athletes within the sport of muaythai to prevent and respond to VAWG. They joined forces to work with young people and role models to promote gender equality and defy harmful notions of masculinity and challenge gender stereotypes in order to end VAWG.

“Using violence against women is not manly; it’s cowardly and unacceptable at all times.”

STEPHAN FOX, GENERAL SECRETARY OF IFMA

Photo: UN Women



Young people as agents for change

Young people are the voice of the future and hold tremendous power to bring about social and cultural change. In May 2012, the Global UNiTE Youth Forum brought together youth activists from around the world to create a unique network to end VAWG. Together they wrote the Global UNiTE Youth Statement which was then hand delivered and read out by the Secretary-General.

Around the regions, a number of youth led initiatives have sparked change in the community. For example, young

activists from thirteen countries across the Asia-Pacific attended a regional training of trainers (ToT) for ‘The Change-Makers: A Young Activist’s Toolkit for Ending Violence against Women’. Trained to be agents for change, these young leaders went back to their respective communities and delivered advocacy and awareness raising training to their peers.

For example, in Viet Nam, two young activists in Da Nang organized the first-ever training for deaf people on VAWG which attracted 45 deaf people and 30 students in the hand language sign club.



School-related gender-based violence

The UN family, under UNGEI (with support of UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women), have developed joint advocacy materials and teacher guidance for preventing and addressing school-related GBV, including a regional activity-based, modular curriculum resource for teachers at lower secondary schools that can be adapted for use across the region.

“I firmly believe in the power that youth have to overhaul the power structures that have led to discrimination in our society. I wish that many more of us could begin to ask questions about the world around us to end the different forms of gender based discrimination in our lives.”

PRABHLEEN TUTEJA- YOUTH ACTIVIST, INDIA



In India, the Must Bol campaign called for young people to take action to end GBV during 2011-2012 examine violence in their lives and speak out against it. In China, the “17 man” social media campaign (“17 man” means “being real men together”) engaged young people on the theme of gender equality on social media platforms, in combination with on-the-ground live events.

In Viet Nam, the ‘Love Journey’ campaign targeted young men and women from 15-25 years-old, and aimed at promoting the idea that a healthy relationship (or a “cool relationship”) is one that is loving, trustful, caring, respectful and non-violent.

Photo: UN Women

As a result of the successful social media campaigns, P4P developed a guide on Applying Social Media Tools for the Primary Prevention of GBV. Social media can be a mobilizing force and a tool for creating dialogue and fostering an enabling environment.

Faith-based organizations preaching for an end to violence against women

Faith-based organizations, religious leaders and religious institutions often function as gatekeepers to communities they serve, seen as a community’s custodians of culture. Through partnerships between Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), religious leaders and UNFPA, communities have been encouraged to explore how human rights and gender issues contribute to the well-being of women, men, young people and families.

OUTCOME 4

CASE STUDIES

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Safe Cities Global Initiative

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces are an everyday occurrence for women and girls around the world. UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative includes two main flagship programmes. In 2010, with UN-Habitat and 50 other global and local partners, UN Women launched 'Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls' in cities around the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, New Delhi, India; Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; and Manila, the Philippines have launched the Safe Cities Initiative. It is the first-ever global comparative programme that develops, implements, and evaluates tools, policies and comprehensive approaches on the prevention of, and response to, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls across different settings.



Making markets safe for women vendors in Papua New Guinea

Research has found that over half of women vendors in Papua New Guinea experienced some form of sexual violence in market spaces. In 2011, UN Women with the support of the Government of Spain, worked with vendors' associations to establish innovative initiatives undertaken to build safe markets with, and for, women and girls. The Geheru market has upgraded its infrastructure such as bathrooms and showers as well as renovated market stalls and shaded areas and potable running water are now available. Moreover, new innovative cashless methods for collection of fees are being implemented to prevent extortion and theft. A market vendor association has also been established, and a referral system for survivors of family and sexual violence in the markets is currently being piloted.

Photo: UN Women



Seed Community Theatre Group changing social norms on VAWG

The Pacific region has one of the highest rates of VAWG in the world. The Pacific Regional EAW Facility Fund aims to redress this through a specialised regional facility to support civil society organizations and governments in the Pacific to prevent and respond to VAWG. For example, through the support from the Pacific Fund to End Violence against Women, Seeds Community Theatre Group was able to deliver 42 performances on harmful gender norms to over 5,000 people in remote communities across Papua New Guinea.

OUTCOME 5

SYSTEMATICALLY ADDRESS SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

In order to redress sexual violence as a tactic of war, a number of protocols have been established by the Security Council in its deliberations, resolutions, mandate renewals and follow-up, including Resolution 1820 (2008). UN agencies work closely with governments to ensure that dedicated staff to prevent and respond to sexual violence s are posted in all conflict and post-conflict situations. UN Peacekeepers and other international and national security personnel are explicitly mandated, trained and resourced to protect women and girls from sexual violence during and immediately following conflict. Comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence must be made widely available and accessible, and sexual violence offenders must be brought before the law and impunity for such crimes eliminated.

The UN System supports the implementation of international instruments, such as Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 on women, peace and security, as well as the inter-agency initiative “Stop Rape Now”, to ensure government accountability and to support governments and civil society in preventing and addressing sexual violence in conflict situations.

“Sexual violence in conflict needs to be treated as the war crime that it is; it can no longer be treated as an unfortunate collateral damage of war.”

UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT, MS. ZAINAB HAWA BANGURA

OUTCOME 5

CASE STUDIES

SYSTEMATICALLY ADDRESS
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN
CONFLICT

Multi-sectoral GBV coordination mechanisms

Eight countries in the region have multi-sectoral GBV coordination mechanisms for addressing GBV in humanitarian crises, inclusive of conflicts, led by the UNFPA and relevant government counterparts (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Mongolia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vanuatu).

A regional curriculum for building capacity for addressing GBV in humanitarian crises in the Asia-Pacific was developed, and has been piloted at regional level targeting UN, Government staff and NGOs from across 9 countries.



Photo: UNFPA

Women and girls' centres in Kachin State

Eight women and girls' centres in Kachin State have been established with the support of UNFPA, five of which are in the non-Government controlled areas. Through supporting local NGOs, the project is more

sustainable and conducive to building the capacity of local women who can deliver the services in a way which is appropriate the ethnic women whom they serve.

UNFPA is managing Justice Protection roundtables in Kachin state in an attempt to bridge the mistrust between survivors and civil society who represent them and the formal justice system. In so doing, UNFPA will not only be working to strengthen the safety and adequacy of legal referral pathways but also work towards the ultimate goal of ending impunity.

As a preparedness measure (as well as to enforce efficacy of response) UNFPA has also built strong relationships across civil society and local organizations across the conflict affected regions to ensure that when conflict does strike, UNFPA can mobilize the distribution of clean delivery kits and dignity kits into conflict affected areas where only those groups have access.

“GBV is a life-threatening protection issue primarily affecting women and children. All humanitarian actors have a responsibility to take action from the earliest stages of an emergency to prevent GBV and provide appropriate assistance to survivors”.

IASC GUIDELINES FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS, 2005



Photo: UNFPA

Multi-sectoral gender-based violence prevention and response services to displaced women

In Pakistan, following the 2011 floods, 52 per cent of surveyed communities reported that privacy and safety of women and girls was a key concern. In a 2012 Protection Rapid Assessment with conflict-affected internally displaced persons, interviewed communities reported that a number of women and girls were facing aggravated DV, forced marriage, early marriages and exchange marriages, in addition to other cases of GBV.

Multi-sectoral GBV prevention and response services have been established with the support of UNFPA for the displaced women and girls from the conflict affected area of North Waziristan, establishing 5 Women Friendly Health Spaces (WFHSS), two Women Protection Desks with respective mobile teams, which is facilitating the referrals to specialized services. The established spaces are providing health, protection related services, psycho-social support, and further referral to specialized services for conflict affected women and girls. The gender-based coordination mechanism (sub-cluster) is revising the national standard operating procedures (SOPs) for GBV in emergency situations along with key GBV actors and government counterparts. The GBV SOPs will be rolled out in the conflict affected area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

MOVING FORWARD



Photo: UN Women

Since the launch of Asia-Pacific UNiTE in the region five years ago, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have seen impressive achievements. Laws and policies have been strengthened, efforts have been made to enhance the availability and quality of services for survivors, and our collective evidence base of the problem, and how it can be addressed, is growing. Reflecting on the progress that has been achieved also represents a unique opportunity to take stock of lessons learned, and to look forward, towards an Asia-Pacific where all women and girls can live free from violence and discrimination.

Long a “missing target” in the international development agenda, VAWG is now firmly positioned as a global policy priority. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls has become a standalone goal, with ambitious targets to eliminate all forms of VAWG in public and private spheres and to end all harmful practices.

This is a testament to the continued surge of global activism to put the moral imperative to end VAWG at the forefront of the global policy agenda. Through Asia-Pacific UNiTE, the UN System will continue its efforts to raise public awareness, political will and resources to eliminate violence against women and girls, and to assist governments and other stakeholders in implementing the commitments they have made. If we act in unity, we can achieve the vision for a sustainable, prosperous and peaceful world by 2030.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET 5.2

Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.



Photo: UN Women

“Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act.”

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON



SCHOOL-RELATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SRGBV) IN ASIA-PACIFIC

VIOLENCE IN, ON THE WAY, AND AROUND SCHOOLS IN ASIA-PACIFIC OFTEN STEMS FROM RIGID SOCIAL AND GENDER NORMS

WHAT IS IT?

IT TAKES PHYSICAL, SEXUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FORMS

- CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** (Illustration: hand holding a stick)
- VERBAL ABUSE** (Illustration: speech bubble with symbols)
- BULLYING** (Illustration: one child hitting another)
- PHYSICAL VIOLENCE** (Illustration: clenched fist)
- SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT** (Illustration: one child touching another)

In Asia-Pacific, girls are more likely to face social exclusion, sexual and psychological violence while boys are more likely to experience corporal punishment, bullying and other forms of physical violence. Violence experienced by transgender students is poorly discussed and documented.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- LEARNING OUTCOMES** (Illustration: book): It can impact school participation, achievement and continuation, particularly for girls
- HEALTH IMPACTS** (Illustration: ambulance): Violence in schools, as in any setting, can have impacts on physical, mental and sexual health
- INTERGENERATIONAL VIOLENCE** (Illustration: child and adult): Boys who witness or experience violence are more likely to use violence in their relationships as adults

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

- ENCOURAGE PROTECTION POLICIES IN SCHOOLS** (Illustration: shield with figures)
- PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND NON-VIOLENCE IN CURRICULUM AND TEACHING PRACTICE** (Illustration: teacher and student)
- ENGAGE YOUTH IN CREATING SOLUTIONS** (Illustration: group of people)
- STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN SCHOOLS, HOMES AND SERVICES** (Illustration: puzzle pieces)

UNICEF IF YOU HAVE WITNESSED OR EXPERIENCED SRGBV SEEK HELP FROM SOMEONE YOU TRUST

United Nations Girls Education Initiative

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Photos: UN Women

