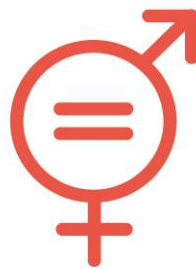


R E S P E C T

W O M E N



Strengthening the Enabling Environment for VAW Prevention

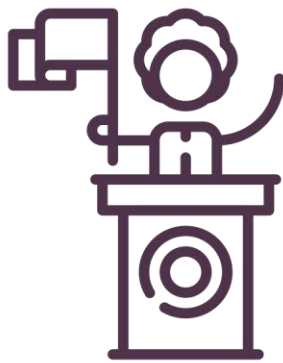


Strengthening the Enabling Environment for VAW Prevention

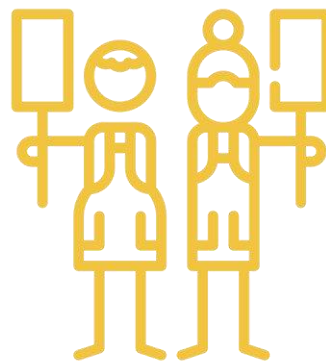
Overview

Violence against women (VAW) is rooted in unequal power relations between men and women. These gender inequalities are created and reinforced through discriminatory social norms, practices and structures within families, communities, workplaces, state and non-state institutions. Gender inequalities also intersect with violence and discrimination based on other characteristics such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability/disability and citizenship status.

To prevent violence against women, it is critical to address the broader environment that either enables or inhibits violence. This document provides guidance on how national policymakers and their funding partners can strengthen the enabling environment for VAW prevention in four key ways:



BUILD POLITICAL COMMITMENT



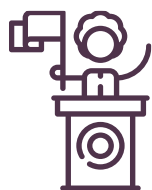
INVEST IN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS



IMPLEMENT LAWS AND POLICIES



ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VAW



BUILD POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Outcome: Build political commitment from leaders and policy makers to speak out, condemning violence against women.

Objective: Leaders and policymakers at different levels - particularly national, sub-national and community leaders - speak out and condemn gender inequality and violence against women and take concerted action to prevent and respond to it.

Rationale: Building political commitment to prevent and respond to gender inequality and VAW is central to implementation of the RESPECT framework. For example, generating buy in and support from national and sub-national leaders and policymakers can help to ensure that intimate partner violence (IPV) is recognised as a human rights abuse and as a social problem of public concern rather than a private issue. This support is also important to address related aspects of women’s empowerment such as education, assets and leadership. Political leaders can give visibility, profile and momentum to the issues of gender equality and VAW and can galvanise support and action from others.

Political commitment is also a vital ingredient to support systemic change in preventing and responding to VAW, which requires the development and implementation of new laws, policies or national action plans, and the sustained

allocation of financial resources. Political leaders, alongside other influential leaders and role models, can also play a key role in the process of shifting social norms around VAW through speaking out to condemn discrimination and violence.¹

Case study: Fiji

The Fijian government is one of the first countries in the world to develop an inclusive, whole-of-government national strategy to prevent violence against women and girls. The five year strategy (2020-2025) has high level commitment, with a clear and costed budget for implementation. Using an evidence-based approach, the strategy will set out short, medium and long term measures to prevent violence.

Key considerations for policy makers: The following key considerations can help to guide work to build political commitment among influential leaders and other policy makers.

Key consideration	Details
Engage national, sub-national and local community leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target key influential leaders and policy makers at all levels – national, sub-national and community-level stakeholders. Evidence shows that engaging both formal and informal community leadership structures (including elected, traditional and religious leaders) in rural communities is particularly important.²
Make the moral and economic case for action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local experts to increase awareness amongst leaders and policy makers of the scale and dynamics of VAW in the national and sub-national context, including evidence on the negative social and economic impacts on women, their children, families and communities and the national economy and how this resonates with the global evidence base.³ Make both moral and economic arguments: gender equality and VAW are violations of human rights as well as barriers to family well-being and economic development. Target arguments to the audience and champions who will transmit these messages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise the greater social and economic costs of inaction, versus the cost of prevention.⁴
<p>Fund and partner with women's movements and women-led civil society organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and funding to amplify the voices of national and sub-national women-led organisations in advocating for greater attention to VAW. Evidence shows that supporting women's organisations can build political will to address VAW, as well as support members of legislatures and bureaucrats' efforts to do so, through showing public support.⁵ • Support alliance building around a VAW advocacy agenda within the women's movement, women's rights organisations, and across other sectors of civil society, including developing shared messages at a local, regional and global level.
<p>Build cross-party support and use cross-government structures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build cross-party and cross-government support for the prevention of and response to VAW. Work with and strengthen existing government structures mandated to work on gender inequalities and VAW. For example, working with the gender ministry and cross-government institutional bodies can be effective ways to make government, including the legislature, more gender-responsive.⁶ • Given that gender ministries often have limited political influence, capacity and budget, it is also useful to look for allies in other ministries and strengthen capacity where possible. <div data-bbox="916 622 1433 965" style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Cambodia's second National Action Plan (NAP) to Prevent VAW 2014-2018 was designed in consultation with the courts, prosecutors, local authorities, police and civil society, and covers multiple actors including relevant government ministries, development partners, civil society, and survivors.</p> </div>
<p>Harness national and international law and commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use international and regional conventions, declarations and resolutions and existing national legislation and policy as the basis for advocacy to incentivise political commitment and to further improve national laws and policies and their implementation.⁷ These might include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and legally binding regional and international treaties and instruments (e.g. CEDAW, Maputo Protocol, Belém do Pará and Istanbul Convention) to frame national agendas and policies. • Look for opportunities for national leaders to show leadership on VAW at the UN and other multilateral or regional forums.
<p>Increase the visibility of VAW issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data to document the scale and severity of VAW and its consequences. It is important to look for ways to build ownership and buy-in from national stakeholders in the data collection process. • Encourage and incentivise leaders and public figures at national and local levels to speak out against VAW. For example, First Ladies have driven several campaigns against VAW across sub-Saharan Africa.⁸ • Consider champions from other sectors, including sports stars and celebrities. • Provide relevant platforms and opportunities for leaders and policymakers to make public statements in support of ending VAW. • Work with the media to improve reporting on VAW to raise awareness about the extent, causes and consequences of violence rather than reinforce harmful gender norms and stereotypes.⁹ • Edutainment and digital technologies have the potential to reach large numbers of people and can help raise awareness about VAW - although there is not yet evidence that they can reduce violence on their own.¹⁰

Case study: Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, civil society organisations used several high-profile cases of sexual violence as well as data showing a sharp increase of sexual assault cases in the previous year to mount pressure on the Government to act. This included a campaign led by the First Lady, and in February 2019, the President declared a State of Emergency over VAW, which allowed his government to introduce new regulations immediately, including new provisions for survivors and more severe punishments for perpetrators.

The State of Emergency enabled the Government to act quickly, focus national attention on the issue of sexual violence, and to fast-track court cases. But there was a mixed response, and a questioning of the legality of using emergency measures to effect legislative change. In response, the Government revoked the State of Emergency in June 2019, and reintroduced its changes through parliament, which passed in September 2019 through amendments to the 2012 Sexual Offences Act. Changes included increasing the minimum sentence for rape, and provisions for new offences, such as solicitation by persons in authority (e.g. teachers).

Source: Martin, L.S. and Koroma (2020) [Sierra Leone declared a state of emergency over sexual violence](#). African Arguments.

Further resources:

[‘Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women’](#), Weldon, S.L. and Htun, M. in *Gender & Development* 21 (2). 2012. *This ground breaking analysis on VAW in 70 countries from 1985 to 2005 reveals that the most important and consistent factor driving policy change is feminist activism.*

[‘Economic and Social Costs of Violence: Evidence Brief’](#) What Works to Prevent VAWG Programme. 2020. *This evidence brief provides a useful tool for dialogue with political leaders and policy makers. It presents key findings about the impact of VAWG on national economies and society in Pakistan, Ghana and South Sudan.*

[‘Estimating Macroeconomic Loss Due to Violence Against Women and Girls: A Policy Toolkit.’](#) Raghavendra, S., Kim, K., Ashe, S., Chadha, M., Piironen, P.T. and Duvvury, N. Galway: NUI Galway. 2019. *This policy toolkit provides a simple guide for estimating both the direct and indirect costs due to VAWG. The toolkit also provides a way to articulate the costs to economic growth by estimating the cost premium that violence imposes on growth.*

[Global Scoping of Advocacy and Funding for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls.](#) The Equality Institute (2019). *This paper presents an overview of funding patterns and donors for VAWG prevention programming from 2012-2017, lessons learned, opportunities, gaps and recommendations for advocacy and funding.*



INVEST IN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

Outcome: Invest in, build on the work of, resource and support women's organisations.

Objective: Women's rights organisations and movements have the resources, capacity and space to advocate for gender equality, implement innovative and effective violence prevention and response programmes, and hold state and non-state actors accountable to women.

Rationale: Women's rights organisations (WROs) are on the frontline of supporting survivors and have pioneered effective models to prevent and respond to violence against women (VAW). This has included: designing community mobilisation strategies which have reduced levels of violence; advocating for better referral systems and formal services (e.g. women's police stations, family courts); providing informal services (e.g. shelters, psychosocial support) and direct accompaniment to survivors so they can access the services they need; and promoting the use of technology to monitor VAW and support women's safety.¹¹

Women's rights organisations create spaces for collective action by women to advocate for social change which is locally owned and accountable to women. They have campaigned for changes in legislation and research shows that policy and advocacy by feminist movements - and the women's rights organisations that drive them - has been the most important factor in improvements to

national legal and policy frameworks to end all forms of violence against women.¹²

At an individual level, women's rights organisations create opportunities for women to take on leadership and decision-making roles, especially where traditional political structures exclude women. This provides a route to women's political empowerment, one important factor in increasing gender equality.¹³

Yet, despite the role played by women's rights organisations in driving strategic, sustainable, structural and cost-effective social change around violence, they are significantly underfunded, receiving only around 1.5% of aid money committed for work on gender equality.¹⁴ For women's movements to be able to continue to lead and catalyse efforts to prevent and respond to violence, local and national women's rights organisations need adequate funding and a key role in research, programming and decision-making on VAW.

Key considerations for policy makers: The following key considerations can help to guide organisations committed to invest in women's rights organisations.

Key consideration	Details
Support diverse women's rights organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a diversity of women's rights organisations from small, informal organisations operating at the local level to larger, high-profile organisations active in advocacy and accountability work at national, regional and international levels. Support women's rights organisations who work to advance the rights of women more broadly, in addition to those focusing on the prevention of violence and discrimination against specific groups of women e.g. younger or older women, women with disabilities, or women from sexual or ethnic minorities.¹⁵

<p>Carefully consider the best type of funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the flexible, core and longer-term funding that best supports women’s rights organisations’ work to build movements, respond to unanticipated opportunities and threats, build their organisational capacity, scale up their programming and create sustainable, structural change.¹⁶ • Consider a range of funding modalities to support women’s rights organisations of different sizes: including funding for advocacy and networking; flexible funds for short-term innovation, research and learning; and longer-term core support. • Support funding through specialist funders such as women’s funds to get resources to smaller women’s rights organisations.¹⁷
<p>Provide support beyond direct funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide ongoing, flexible, long-term accompaniment that supports women’s rights organisations to strengthen and expand their work on VAW prevention, including technical advice, financial support and opportunities to share learning. • Support women’s rights organisations to build capacity to diversify funding sources and mobilise resources locally, including from national and local governments. • Work with national women’s movements to bring their agendas into global and multilateral spaces and create opportunities and platforms for women’s rights organisations to form networks and alliances, and to have voice. For example, by funding networks and convening events and by including women’s rights organisations on formal government delegations (e.g. to the annual two-week sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York). • Advocate internationally and locally for feminist agendas, for the inclusion of women’s rights organisations in political decision-making processes including peace processes, and sustained financial support.¹⁸ • Proactively engage women’s rights organisations representing women who face multiple disadvantages, to ensure funding rounds are accessible and inclusive.¹⁹
<p>Support the safety and independence of women’s rights organisations²⁰</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and support women human rights defenders (WHRDs), including documenting and responding to violence against them and raising this as part of policy dialogue and wider diplomatic efforts.²¹
<p>Build on the existing work of women’s rights organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and value women’s rights organisations’ deep knowledge of their own communities and contexts. • Support women’s rights organisations to improve their ability to document and share their work, learning and impacts e.g. monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks, commissioning research and documenting practice-based learning.²² • Co-develop, in partnership with women’s rights organisations, reporting systems that track the structural change they are trying to catalyse, allowing simple, creative, and efficient measures to monitor and report this change.²³
<p>Build strong partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve women’s rights organisations as experts in designing and managing funds and ensure that they sit on funds’ boards. • Foster equal partnerships with women’s rights organisations – in terms of control of programme budgets, voice in decision-making and access to all levels of information. • Fund and support coalition-building between women’s rights organisations, and with other social movements, to strengthen collective voice and impact.

Case Study: Raising Voices and CEDOVIP in Uganda

The long-term and flexible partnership between Irish Aid and Raising Voices and CEDOVIP in Uganda is a good practice example of how partnerships between funders and women's rights organisations can evolve over time as women's rights organisations grow and develop domestic sources of funding and support.

Raising Voices is a women's rights organisation based in Uganda which develops and implements community-based approaches to change social norms and reduce VAW. Its partner is the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), an independent Ugandan NGO, co-founded by Raising Voices in 2003.

Irish Aid initially funded Raising Voices through the Irish Embassy in Uganda and this support helped Raising Voices to develop its flagship community mobilisation programme SASA!. In 2012, with joint funding from the UK, a randomised control trial (RCT) of SASA! showed successful results and the potential for scale-up. As Raising Voices began to adapt the methodology for use in different contexts, and increased its advocacy and learning efforts, Irish Aid decided to shift its funding from Embassy to Headquarters, and from project-based to flexible, core funding. Irish Aid also offered additional non-financial support including linking Raising Voices with new partners and funders, and facilitating their global influence.

As Raising Voices scaled its methodology beyond Uganda, CEDOVIP continued their project work in Uganda, and they together established a partnership with the Government of Uganda. This enabled Irish Aid to work with Raising Voices and CEDOVIP on a two year transition period designed to ensure progress achieved to date will be sustained through partnerships with the government and other donors.

Source: Esplen, E. (2016) *Donor support to southern women's rights organisations: OECD Findings*. OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality.

Further resources:

['Toward a Feminist Funding Ecosystem: A framework and practical guide'](#) AWID Resourcing Feminist Movements Initiative. 2019. *This guide examines how funding practices can better serve feminist movements.*

['Feminist Pocketbook'](#) The Coalition of Feminist for Social Change (COFEM). 2017. *This useful resource includes [Tipsheet 4: Staying Accountable to Women and Girls](#) and [Tipsheet 10: Feminist Movement Building](#)*

['Donor support to southern women's rights organisation: OECD Key Findings'](#) Esplen, E. 2016. *This report documents trends and strategies in donor support to southern women's rights organisations, and identifies approaches, models and mechanisms for donors to strengthen the quantity and quality of support to southern women's rights organisations.*

['Standing with the changemakers: lessons from supporting women's movement'](#) Womankind Worldwide. 2017 *This report highlights the roles of women's rights organisations and movements in bringing about advances in women's rights, and what the international community can do to support them.*



IMPLEMENT LAWS AND POLICIES

Outcome: Put in place and facilitate enforcement of laws and policies that address violence against women and that promote gender equality, including access to secondary education.

Objective: Laws²⁴ and policies to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women are created and enforced, including through developing institutional and duty-bearer capacity and accountability.

Rationale: National laws are the first step in guaranteeing rights and fundamental freedoms, as set out in international and regional instruments including the [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), the [Belém do Pará Convention](#), the [Maputo Protocol](#) and the [Istanbul Convention](#). Laws provide the basis for the recognition, protection and enforcement of rights. Government policies, strategies and action plans that promote gender equality and address violence against women can also be an important statement of commitment and provide a framework for action.

Over the past 30 years, the number of countries introducing laws to address domestic violence has risen from close to zero in 1990, to 155 by 2020.²⁵ These include laws to enable the prosecution of domestic violence cases, to issue protection orders, and to stipulate the rights to services for survivors, including, in some cases free health care and legal aid. There are also a range of other specific laws to prevent VAW including laws to criminalise sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, child marriage and coercive control.

There is emerging evidence that wider laws that promote gender equality – including on

inheritance, land and property rights, marriage custody and divorce - may also help reduce levels of VAW. For example, a study assessed the impact of equalising inheritance rights for men and women on levels of VAW in 16 states in India and found that women who married after the amendments were less likely to experience IPV.²⁶ Laws and policies to improve access to secondary education are also important for empowering girls and reducing women’s future economic dependency on male partners. Men are likewise less likely to perpetrate physical and/or sexual IPV if they have completed secondary education.²⁷

However, it is important to note that while strong legal and policy frameworks are important for protection and response and a vital part of expanding women’s access to justice, there is little evidence that laws against VAW act as a deterrent for perpetration or reduce levels of VAW.²⁸ In many countries, there is also a significant implementation gap and laws and policies are not implemented, especially in more remote areas. Effective implementation of laws and policies requires political commitment, dedicated budgets, trained personnel, coordinated action and comprehensive access to services.²⁹

Key considerations for policy makers: Some key considerations for national policymakers – and those advocating for and supporting reforms - to consider when developing, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of laws and policies include:³⁰

Key consideration	Details
Reform process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure states comply with the ‘due diligence’ standard in international law which requires states to take ‘reasonable’ action to prevent, protect against, prosecute, punish and provide redress for violence against women. • Adopt a comprehensive legislative approach that moves beyond simply criminalising violence to incorporate civil remedies and legislative provisions around prevention, awareness-raising, institutional mechanisms and judicial protection of survivors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with relevant stakeholders including survivors, women’s organisations and relevant civil society organisations, government departments and service providers, national human rights institutions, police, legal professionals, healthcare professionals, social services, national statistical offices, religious and community leaders.
Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define violence against women in its broadest form (covering physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence) and in accordance with international human rights standards. Laws should then contain specific provisions for different types of violence including sexual harassment, different forms of violence within the family and in interpersonal relationships, as well as cover different spaces (e.g. public spaces; homes, workplaces, schools, cyber violence). • Protect all women equally, including provisions on non-discrimination against different groups of women and provisions for the inclusion of vulnerable groups. • Clarify the relationship between customary and/or religious law and informal and formal justice systems including survivors’ rights under both processes.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a national action plan or strategy for comprehensive and coordinated implementation of laws and policies by different government (and civil society) actors to prevent violence against women, including creation of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms. • Develop a specific strategy to disseminate and popularise new laws and policies as this is important both to implementation and to start to shift social norms around the acceptability of gender inequalities and violence. • Commit adequate budgets for implementing laws and policies, including for frontline prevention and response services, for example via gender-responsive budgeting (see brief on Allocate Resources). • Build institutional capacity to address VAW and promote gender equality, by providing specialised and ongoing gender transformative training and protocols for duty bearers who respond to violence against women, including healthcare professionals, police and justice officials. To be effective, the training must explicitly focus on addressing harmful attitudes and norms around gender equality and violence against women. Refresher training and on-the-job mentoring is also important. • Ensure survivors can access coordinated care and support services delivered by different sectors (e.g. health, security, legal, social services). Access to 24-hour phone helplines and shelters are also important for providing information and support to women facing violence. • Improve access to justice including through legal aid, specialised courts or procedures, courts with specially trained judges, and other mechanisms to protect survivors’ privacy and rights.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a monitoring and accountability framework for implementation of new laws and policies with clear outcomes, indicators and milestones to be tracked. • Monitor the implementation of laws and policies through institutional mechanisms, for example by establishing multi-sectoral task forces, committees, national rapporteurs, or observatories. • Civil society actors and women’s rights organisations can set up shadow reporting mechanisms and reports to track progress and advocate for further change.

Country example: Brazil

Brazil's *Maria de Penha Law* is a landmark legislation, named after a women's rights activist who was left paraplegic after a violent assault by her husband. Enacted in 2006, it is the first Brazilian federal law to combat domestic violence against women. The law defines forms of domestic and family violence and created a range of prevention and response mechanisms, including special courts for domestic and family violence with stricter sentences, women's police stations and 24-hour shelters for women in cities of more than 60,000 inhabitants. A women-led observatory³¹ was also established to track where and how the law is being applied. Research shows that nearly all Brazilians (98%) have heard of the law, with most (66%) being familiar with its purpose and function.³² However, the impact on preventing violence remains mixed with some evidence of increases in the reported prevalence of physical violence, although this may be due to increased awareness and reporting.³³ More recently, Brazil passed a femicide law in 2015 to clearly define the gender-related killing of women and increase criminal sentences to up to 30 years for convicted offenders.

Further resources:

Handbook for Legislation on Violence against Women: United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA/DAW). 2010 *Provides detailed guidance to support the adoption and effective implementation of legislation, which prevents violence against women, punishes perpetrators, and ensures the rights of survivors.*

Protecting Women from Violence - Bridging the Implementation Gap Between Law and Practice: Global Indicators Group. 2019. *This short brief identifies where gaps exist in implementing laws and protecting women from violence, based on the Women, Business and the Law dataset.*

Do our Laws Promote Gender Equality? A Handbook for CEDAW-based Legal Reviews: CEDAW. 2012. *This handbook presents a framework for assessing compliance of national laws with CEDAW. Although primarily targeted for practitioners in Southeast Asia, it can also be used in other regions.*

Women, Business and the Law. The World Bank. *These annual reports provide comparable global monitoring data from 173 countries covering a range of indicators, including protecting women from violence.*

Virtual Knowledge Centre legislation module. UN Women. *provides advice on drafting, advocating, implementing and monitoring national legislation.*

VAWG Resource Guide: Citizen Security, Law and Justice Brief: The World Bank. 2015. *This brief identifies key areas for integrating VAWG in citizen security, law and justice.*



ALLOCATE RESOURCES

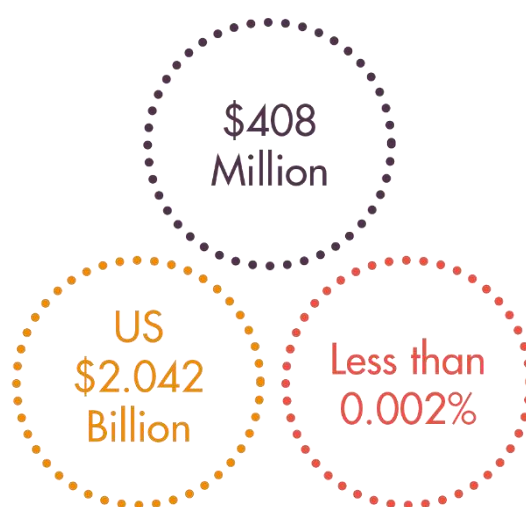
Outcome: Allocate resources to programmes, research, and to strengthen institutions and capacities of the health, education, law enforcement, and social services sectors to address VAW.

Objective: Increased and sustained investment in research, innovation, programmes and services to deliver effective interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.

Rationale: Creating an enabling environment for preventing VAW requires national and local governments to invest financial and human resources dedicated to prevention. Funding is needed to develop and implement specific prevention programmes, for research and data collection, for legal and policy reforms, and for longer-term capacity strengthening of government bodies, services and civil society partners. VAW also needs to be prioritised and resourced across other sectors and systems, including but not limited to health, education, law enforcement and social services sectors. Allocating resources to address gender discrimination in institutions and build institutional capacity is also critical for strengthening the enabling environment.

Globally, there has been an increase in investment in preventing VAW. However, funding is often irregular and focused on small scale projects that are not commensurate with the scale of the challenge. At the national level, government ministries responsible for addressing VAW are often those with the smallest budgets and these have mostly been focused on VAW response services not prevention – and thus only support a minority of women suffering violence or at risk.³⁴

There is a need to allocate sufficient resources to scale up effective models of prevention and to innovate and develop new approaches and interventions.



Over the past five years, an estimated US\$2.042 billion has been invested in prevention of violence against women - about \$408 million per year. However, this is less than 0.002% of annual ODA³⁵.

Key considerations for policy makers:

Here are some key considerations³⁶ for national policymakers – and their funding partners - when allocating resources for VAW prevention:

Key consideration	Details
Strategic and evidence-based approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific prevention goals /outcomes and consider a range of strategies to achieve these and their resource implications, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify existing opportunities and entry points to make progress on VAW prevention e.g. regional initiatives, new partnerships, social shifts, decentralisation of services. Consider scaling up interventions already tested in your national context that have proven to be effective. Consult with programme designers, implementors and researchers to understand how best to adapt and scale up interventions.

	<p>Advice on how to scale up interventions to prevent VAW can be found on the Community for Understanding Scale Up (CUSP) and ALiGN platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider adapting prevention approaches that have been effective in other contexts for implementation in your national or local context. This requires both technical prevention expertise and strong contextual knowledge. Advice on adapting evidence-based initiatives can be found on the What Works to Prevent VAWG website.³⁷ ○ Identify opportunities to create greater impact with fewer resources, for example by integrating approaches into ongoing initiatives or working within and across sectors.
<p>Resource planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify the specific inputs needed to deliver a prevention intervention e.g. fixed costs (e.g. buildings, equipment, vehicles), development costs (e.g. training, manuals), and more flexible costs (e.g. staff, supplies, maintenance of vehicles/buildings).³⁸ ● Calculate the costs of different inputs. When calculating how much it will cost to implement different prevention interventions, consult guidelines for conducting cost analyses of interventions to prevent VAW, and compare with how much prevention programmes cost in different contexts. ● Develop a plan for mobilising resources from other sources if needed e.g. public/private partnerships, philanthropic donations and international donors.³⁹ ● If looking for donor financing, make the case for investment in VAW prevention. There are several resources to draw on to highlight the economic and social costs of violence, such as this DFID-funded What Works study on the impact of VAW on national economies and society in Ghana, South Sudan and Pakistan.
<p>Allocate resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use a multi-year funding cycle to allow adequate time to develop and build ownership of multi-stakeholder prevention strategies; put in place the governance and coordination structures needed and to design, adapt and implement VAW prevention programming. ● Fund women’s rights organisations as partners and implementers. See earlier section on how to support and invest in Women’s Rights Organisations. ● Include resources for adequate research, piloting and monitoring to adapt strategies, interventions and services to your context, monitor their effectiveness as well as any unintended consequences, and build the evidence base on prevention. ● At the programme / project level, ensure longer-term funding. For example, for VAW prevention programmes, there is considerable evidence that short-term project cycles of 1-2 years do not work to prevent violence.⁴⁰ Time is needed upfront for formative research, intervention design / adaptation and capacity development including sufficient time and budget to carefully select and train frontline staff, and provide ongoing support and mentoring.⁴¹ ● Plan for sustainability once an intervention has ended, including meaningful leadership and ownership within communities to sustain change.⁴²
<p>Oversight of resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Track disbursements to ensure funds are received by the relevant government departments and are spent on activities to address VAW. ● Ensure transparency of resource use so donors, women’s rights organisations/civil society can assess whether funds are being used efficiently and effectively, with a focus on whether the investment is cost-effective over the long-term (value for money) rather than simply the lowest cost.

Country example: VicHealth, Australia⁴³

In Australia, the state of Victoria has led the development of a whole-of-government approach to VAW prevention. This has included work to build the case for VAW prevention; to develop the [National Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022](#); followed by the 'Change the Story' national prevention framework (2015). There has been investment in leadership, governance and coordination at local, regional and state levels and the allocation of dedicated funding for long-term implementation and research. This has included the creation of [ANROWS](#) (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety) and dedicated funding to [OurWatch](#).

Country example: South Africa⁴⁴

In November 2018, South African President Ramaphosa convened the [National Gender-based Violence and Femicide Summit](#) and subsequently the [National Strategic Plan](#). The Government designated ZAR1.6 billion (approx. US\$92 million) for the plan, based on budget reprioritisation. A multisectoral GBV Fund, drawn from the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders, will also be set up to align investments with the wider national priorities set out in the plan. The steering committee which drives the implementation of the plan, including resource allocation, is located in the Presidency and co-chaired by civil society organisations and government. The plan allocates resources to prevention programming as well as measures to strengthen the criminal justice system and provide better safety and protection for people of all ages, locations, disabilities, sexual orientation, sexual and gender identity, nationality and other diversities.

Further resources:

[Handbook of National Action Plans on Violence against Women](#) UN Women. 2012. *Chapter 3.6 on budgets provides examples of how different country contexts have funded VAW work.*

[Global scoping of advocacy and funding for the prevention of violence against women and girls](#) Equality Institute. 2019. *This scoping study provides analysis on key donors and funding patterns for VAW prevention work at the international level.*

[Guidelines for Conducting Cost Analyses of Interventions to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls in Low and Middle Income Settings](#). What Works to Prevent VAWG Programme. 2019. *These guidelines provide a standardised approach to costing VAW prevention interventions and are designed to help you identify the specific resources you need to deliver your intervention, and how to assign a value to these resources.*

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This document is part of the RESPECT Framework Implementation Guide, commissioned by UN Women and developed by Social Development Direct, which can be found [here](#).

Suggested citation: UN Women and Social Development Direct (2020) RESPECT Framework Strengthening the Enabling Environment for VAW Prevention.

Endnotes:

¹ Alexander-Scott, M. Bell, E. and Holden, J. (2016) [DFID Guidance Note: Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\)](#). London: VAWG Helpdesk

² Jewkes, R. et al. (2019) [Community activism approaches to shift harmful gender attitudes, roles and social norms](#). Pretoria: What Works.

³ See step 1 of the Workbook to develop national strategies focused on the prevention of VAW for further guidance on how to undertake a situational analysis at the national level.

⁴ Georgia, T. (2015) [DFID Guidance Note on Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Through DFID's Economic Development and Women's Economic Empowerment Programmes – Part B](#), London: VAWG Helpdesk; What Works to Prevent VAWG Programme (2020) ['Economic and Social Costs of Violence: Evidence Brief'](#) Pretoria: What Works.

⁵ Weldon, S.L. and Htun, M. (2012) ['Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women'](#), in Gender & Development 21 (2).

⁶ V4C Nigeria (2017) [Thinking and Working Politically for Legal Reform on Gender Equality](#). Abuja: V4C

⁷ Fraser, E and Wood, S (2018) [VAWG Legislation](#), Helpdesk Research Report No. 156. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk.

⁸ E.g. in [this one in West Africa; Gambia; Malawi; and Namibia](#)

⁹ See UN Women (2019) [The Big Conversation. Handbook to Address Women against Women in and through the Media](#). Geneva.

¹⁰ Kerr-Wilson, A.; Gibbs, A.; McAslan Fraser E.; Ramsoomar, L.; Parke, A.; Khuwaja, HMA.; and Rachel Jewkes (2020). [A rigorous global evidence review of interventions to prevent violence against women and girls](#), What Works to prevent violence among women and girls global Programme, Pretoria, South Africa

¹¹ Bishop, K and McLean, L (2017) Ibid.

¹² Weldon, S.L. and Htun, M. (2012) ['Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women'](#), in Gender & Development 21 (2).

¹³ Womankind (2017) [Standing with the changemakers: lessons from supporting women's movements](#). Womankind Worldwide.

¹⁴ ActionAid (2020) [Women's Rights Organizations Challenging Violence](#). ActionAid UK.

¹⁵ Womankind Worldwide (2017) Ibid.

¹⁶ Moosa, Z. and Daly, S. (2015) Ibid. ; Esplen, E. (2016) Ibid.

¹⁷ Esplen, E. (2016) Ibid.

¹⁸ AWID (2019) Ibid.

¹⁹ Esplen, E. (2016) Ibid.

²⁰ Nagarajan, C and Fraser, E (2016) Supporting a healthy WRO/CSO sector working on VAWG (and related gender outcomes) at the national/ large sub-national level, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report No. 122. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk.

²¹ Womankind Worldwide (2017) Ibid.

²² Esplen, E. (2016) Ibid.

²³ Esplen, E. (2016) Ibid.

²⁴ This includes laws and policies that: criminalise sexual abuse; promote equality in inheritance; ban child marriage and FGM; marriage, custody and divorce laws that guarantee equality for women; action plans that promote gender equality and address violence against women. It also includes implementing justice and law enforcement services such as arrest orders and legal aid

²⁵ World Bank (2020) [Women, Business and the Law 2020](#), Washington D.C.: World Bank.

²⁶ Amaral, Sofia (2017) "Do Improved Property Rights Decrease Violence Against Women in India?" Institute for Social and Economic Research. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2504579>. For a summary see <https://prevention-collaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Study-summary-Inheritance-India-FINAL.pdf>

²⁷ Abramsky T, Watts C, Garcia Moreno C, et al. (2011) [What factors are associated with recent intimate partner violence? Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence](#). Biomed Central Public Health; 11(109): 1-17.

²⁸ Heise, L. (2011) [What Works to Prevent Partner Violence: An Evidence Overview](#).

²⁹ Detailed guidance on the adoption and enforcement of national laws and policies on violence against women can be found in the UN Handbook for Legislation on VAW.

³⁰ Based on lessons from evidence highlighted in the Key Resources box

³¹ Observatório Lei Maria da Penha (Maria de Penha observatory consortium - OBSERVE)

³² Gattegno, M, Wilkins, J and Evans, D (2016) ['The relationship between the Maria de Penha Law and intimate partner violence in two Brazilian states'](#), International Journal of Equity and Health, 15: 138.

³³ Gattegno, M, Wilkins, J and Evans, D (2016) Ibid.

³⁴ Equality Institute (2019) [Global scoping of advocacy and funding for the prevention of violence against women and girls](#)

³⁵ Equality Institute (2019) Ibid.

³⁶ Based on lessons from evidence highlighted in the Key Resources box

³⁷ Including [VAW prevention curricula](#), a [rigorous evidence review](#), and [effective design and implementation elements](#) in VAW interventions.

³⁸ The What Works to Prevent VAWG research programme has conducted the first ever substantial multi-country body of evidence on the impact and cost effectiveness of preventing VAW. The research found that staff costs make up a sizeable portion of costs in VAW prevention interventions and that type and intensity of interaction between staff and beneficiaries is therefore the key cost driver for VAW prevention. See: Torres-Rueda, S., Ferrari, G., Orangi, S., Hitimana, R., Daviaud, E., Tawaih, T., et al (2020) [What will it cost to prevent violence against women and girls in low- and middle-income countries? Evidence from Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia](#), Health Policy and Planning, czaa024.

³⁹ For an overview of key donors, see the Equality Institute's (2019) [Global scoping of advocacy and funding for the prevention of violence against women and girls](#)

⁴⁰ What Works to Prevent VAWG global research programme / Equality Institute (2019)

⁴¹ Jewkes, R., Willan, S., Heise, L., Washington, L., Shai, N., Kerr-Wilson, A, Christofides, N. (2020) Effective design and implementation elements in interventions to prevent violence against women and girls. What Works To Prevent VAWG? Global Programme Synthesis Product Series. South African Medical Research Council, Pretoria

⁴² Goldmann, L., Lundgren, R., Welbourn, A., Gillespie, D., Bajenja, E., Muvhangom, L. & Michau, L. (2019) On the CUSP: the politics and prospects of scaling social norms change programming, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, 27:2, 51-63.

⁴³ See <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/PVAW/Violence-Against-Women-Research-Overview.pdf>

⁴⁴ Letter from President Ramaphosa to South Africans: <https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/president-ramaphosa-personally-responsible-gender-violence-action-plan/>