

Lessons learned from measuring violence against women

From the case of the National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam, 2009-2010

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- CSW59, New York – 17 March 2015

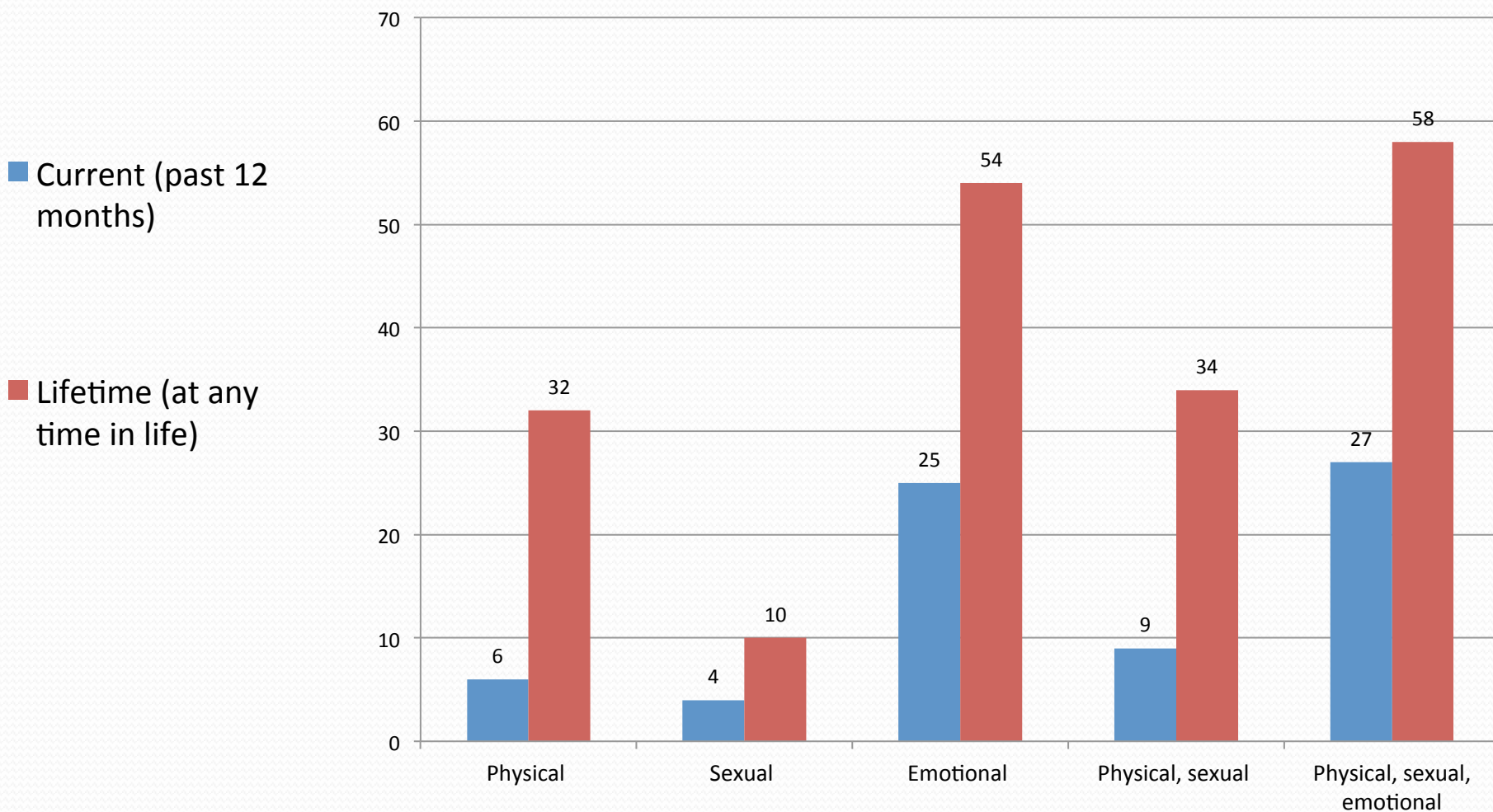
Introduction

- The Vietnamese Government ratified several core international human rights treaties: ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CRC, commitments in MDGs, which were later integrated into national laws and policies
- 2 laws on **GE, Law of DV**...with related Directives, Decree & Circulars..
- There is a gap between the theory and practical implementation at all levels. The knowledge and perceptions about domestic violence among both the public and duty bearers still remains limited
- Some small-scale quantitative and qualitative studies could not show a national picture of violence against women in Viet Nam
- Methodology: WHO tool on VAW measurement, UNSD guidelines, 9 VAW indicators in 52 core gender indicators

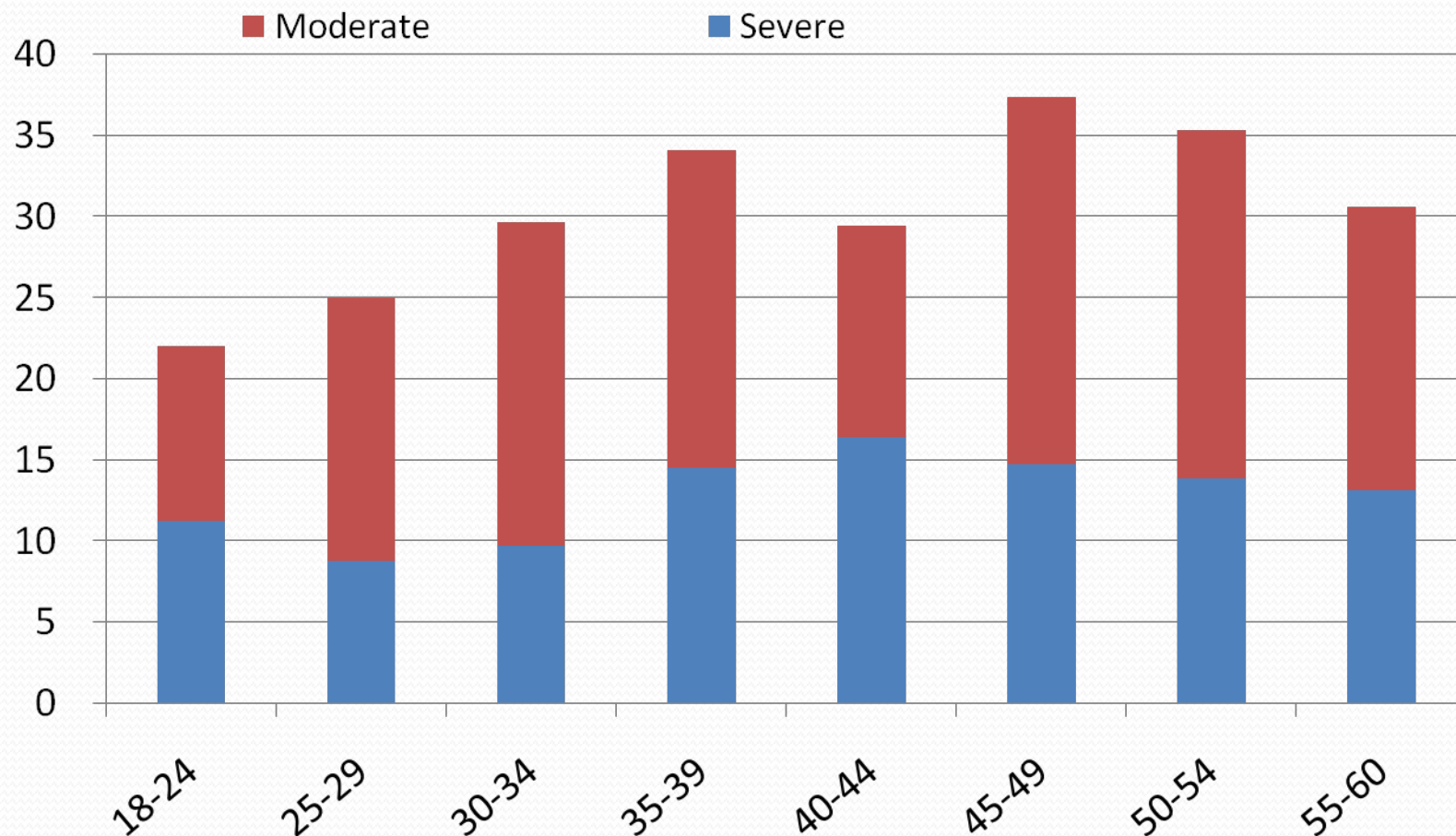
Key Findings from VAW study

“He beat me, then he pulled me like a dog from the gate to inside house; my hair was messed up... My god, he took the small chair from the dining table; he took a brick to beat me... He took off his shoes and threw them at my face. That was painful. I ran away, but I could not run fast enough. He took the chair and threw it towards me...”

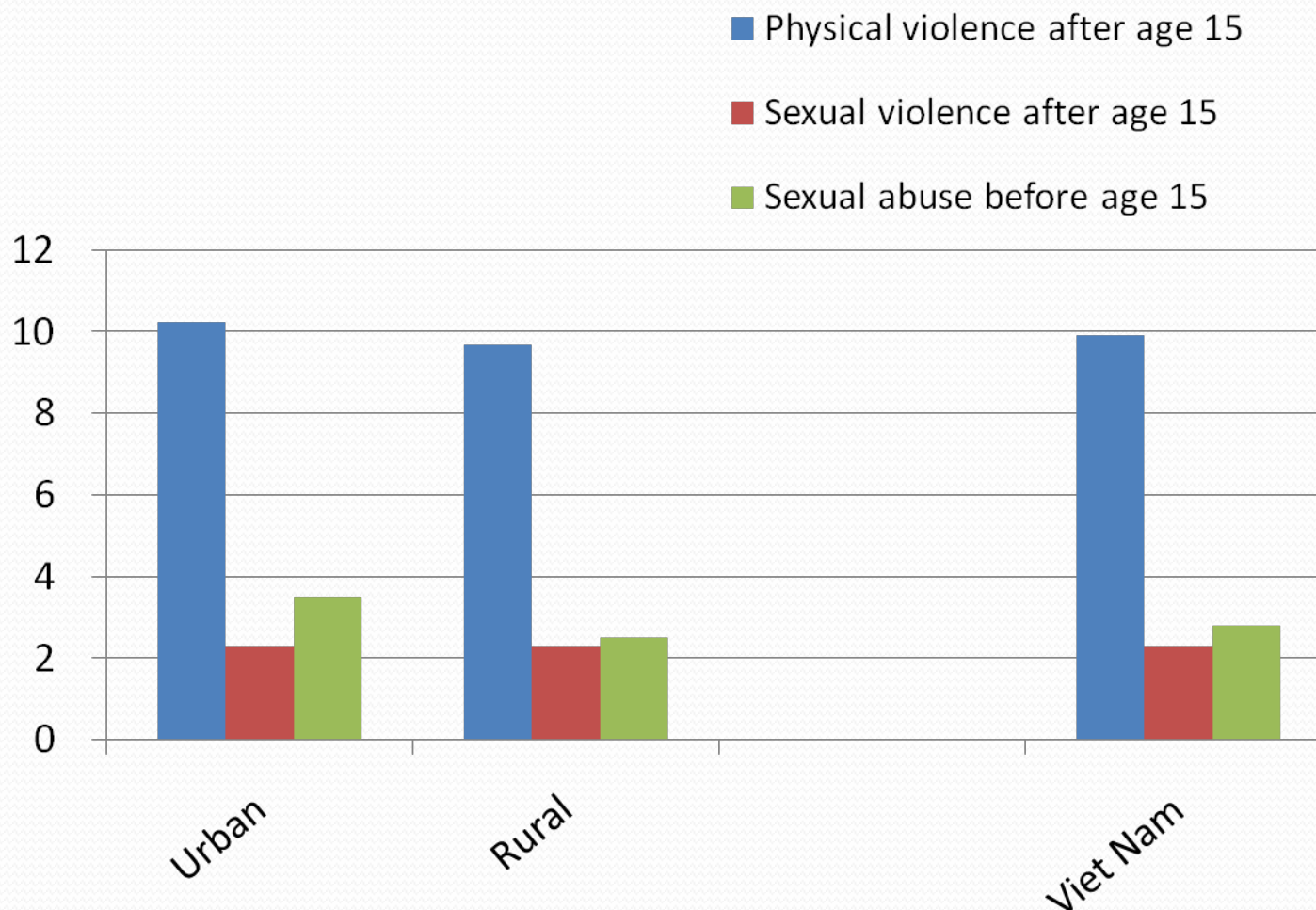
Prevalence of ever-physical, sexual and or emotional violence by husband, among ever-married women, by region, Viet Nam, 2010 (N=4561)



Prevalence of moderate and severe physical violence by husband, among ever-married women, by age, Viet Nam, 2010



Prevalence of violence by persons other than husband, among all interviewed women, Viet Nam, 2010



Safety & ethical issues

- Name of study changed to “*Women, health and life experience*”, term “violence” not used in any documents for culturally sensitive reasons
- The guidelines on ethics and safety considerations from WHO, applied strictly in all actions
- Confidentiality agreement: All staff signed a confidentiality agreement as part of their work contract
- Informed consent: The invitation letter sent to selected women explained the elements in the informed consent: confidentiality, voluntary participation, right to refuse to answer, etc.
- The set of materials was given to the interviewed women well in advance
- One woman per household; one site, one day
- Interview venues: in a neutral location instead of the homes

More than a number...

“When I encounter a case of abuse, sometimes I feel tense and end up stopping the interview to invite the woman to take some water, give her a tissue; and at the same time, I take a sip of water myself to restore my own psychological balance”.

Quantitative interviewer

More than a number...

“I did not sleep that night, and in my mind was still the image of the woman who had been beaten up by her husband and traumatized spiritually”.

“She came to see me hoping to get help. Since I could not help her directly in any way, I felt so bad and kept thinking of her. It’s been more than 5 months since the survey ended, and I still cannot get over the terrible feeling of not having been of any help.”

Quantitative interviewer

More than a number...

“I feel a lot better having talked with you. I could not figure out why I told you all these secrets of my life that even my mother is not aware of. I thank you very much for listening to my unhappy stories. I’ll take your advice. I will not kill myself.”

Respondents in quantitative component

More than a number...

- *“I am lucky... In participating in this survey, in having my current family, current life.... I better respect and love my family life...”*
- *“... I have gained more experience and understanding about life and society and developed a better sense of responsibility for myself and my community to deal with cases of violence.... Also I have become more self-confident and gained more courage”.*

Quantitative Interviewer





MÌNH LÀ ĐÀN ÔNG
Mình chống Bạo Lực Gia Đình







From data to actions - Impact

- More attention from parliamentarians, communist party members and leaders of relevant ministries and local authorities on domestic violence prevention
- Communist party developed handbook to integrate domestic violence prevention in their programmes and actions
- 'VAW' and 'DV' as a part of 'GBV' interventions included in one plan – Government Program of Actions, other DV intervention programmes of MOCST, MOLISA, MOH, Social Organizations, PCSA*, MPS, and relevant ministries and local sectors.
- Domestic violence intervention models are being developed at selected provinces for nationwide application
- Strong technical assistance and financial support from UN to generate the evidence in programming, action plans and policies

Thank you/Xin cảm ơn

