



"Violence against women: Good practices in
combating and eliminating violence against women"

Expert Group Meeting

Organized by: UN Division for the Advancement of Women
in collaboration with:
UN Office on Drugs and Crime
17 to 20 May 2005
Vienna, Austria

**Good practice in designing a community-based approach
to prevent domestic violence**

Expert paper prepared by:

**Lori Michau
Raising Voices
Kampala, Uganda**

Multiple inte

- + Norms granting men control over female behavior
- + Acceptance of violence as a way to resolve conflict
- + Notion of masculinity linked to dominance, honor or aggression
- + Rigid gender roles

- + Poverty, low socio-economic status
- + Associating with delinquent peers
- + Isolation of women and family

- + Marital Conflict
- + Male control of wealth and decision-making in the family

- + Being Male
- + Witnessing marital violence as a child
- + Absent or rejecting father
- + Being abused as a child
- + Alcohol use

The work of preventing violence against women is daunting yet the Ecological Model can provide a useful framework for understanding the task of preventing violence. Long-term success in the prevention of violence will increasingly depend on comprehensive approaches at all levels [of the Ecological Model] (Krug et al., 2002:16

of community mobilization. The activities are designed to help organizations re

As the figure below shows, their programs and activities aim to reach all spheres within the Ecological Model.

CEDOVIP activities across the Ecological Model Spheres of Influence

Societal	Community	Relationship	Individual
Newspaper Columns	Communication Materials	Booklet Clubs	Counseling
Radio Programs	Community Drama	Counseling and Mediation	School Outreach
Legislative Reform National	Sporting Events Fairs/marches	Couples Seminars	Peer-to-Peer Groups
Campaigns Local ordinances and bylaws	Beauty and Barber Shops	Door-to-Door Visits	Community Action Fund
Improving health service and law enforcement policy	Local Councils	Ssenga (traditional aunties) Outreach	Volunteer and Counselor Training
	Improving law enforcement and health services		

The Impact Assessment involved in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires with 180 married women and men ages 20–66 living in Kawempe Division. Qualitative in design, the study attempted to learn about perceived changes in experiences of domestic violence within their current relationship and to examine any changes within the spheres of influence for women and men: individual, relationship, community.³ Researchers were trained and WHO’s *Ethical and Safety Guidelines for Research on Domestic Violence against Women* (2001) were used to guide the study design and implementation.

The impact assessment found that the community mobilization project significantly contributed to individual, relationship and community change, which resulted in a decrease in levels of physical, emotional, sexual and economic violence against women in the home. While there was some reluctance to change among women and men as well as some backlash against the ideas, study participants reported a general trend toward more acceptance of women’s right to live free of violence. Table 1 shows the decrease in the types of domestic violence addressed in the project as reported by women and men and is followed by key aspects of the spheres of influence (Raising Voices and CEDOVIP, 2003).

Physical Violence

Forty eight percent of both women and men reported a decreased level of physical violence in their current relationship.

Eight percent of women reported an increase in violence against them and a further 16 percent experienced no change in the levels of violence.

Some men explained how they were using physical violence as a deliberate technique to maintain power over their wives while other men reported additional tactics to avoid physical violence such as marrying another woman or punishment to their wives through increased economic violence.

Emotional Violence

Fifty four percent of women and 52 percent of men said t

huma

Lessons Learned from Community-based VAW Prevention

Policy

Community mobilization is a complex yet possible undertaking. Activists must recognize that comprehensive solutions need to be sought if meaningful impact is to occur. Breaking down the process into more manageable steps allows for more systematic and thoughtful implementation.

Programs must move beyond raising awareness and help individuals and communities make

References

Bruntland, G. H., (2003), Violence, Health, and Human Rights: Toward a Shared Agenda for Prevention, in *Health and Human Rights: An International Journal*, Sophia Gruskin (ed.), Vol. 6, No. 2, Harvard School of Public Health, Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), adopted by the General Assembly on 20 Dec. 1993, UN Doc. A/RES/48/104.

Heise, Lori L. (1997), Global Organizing for Change, *Changing Societies*, Sage Publications, 7-33.

Heise, Lori L. (1998), An Integrated, Ecological Framework, *Violence Against Women*, Sage Publications, Inc, Volume 4, No.3, p.262-290.

Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottenmoeller, M. (1999), Ending Violence Against Women. *Population Reports*, Series L, No. 11. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Populations Information Program.

Krug, EG, et al., eds, (2002) *World report on violence and health*. Geneva, World Health Organization.

Michau, L., and Naker, D., (2003), *Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa*, Raising Voices, Nairobi, 110.

Community Mobilization to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Phased-in Approach

Phase	Objectives	Focus	Approach	Key Discussion Points
Community Assessment	<p>Learn common perceptions and practices about DV in the community.</p> <p>Develop relationships and start building trust with community member and leaders.</p> <p>Strengthen capacity of staff to begin working on DV.</p>	<p>Collecting information</p> <p>Understanding community</p> <p>Building relationships</p>	<p>Listening, Learning, Preparing</p> <p>NGO identifies key stakeholders, begins establishing presence in community.</p>	<p>Do you think something should be done about domestic violence?</p> <p>What types of domestic violence against women happen in your community?</p> <p>Who experiences violence in families most?</p>
Raising Awareness	<p>Encourage public dialogue on DV, question it's legitimacy.</p> <p>Begin talking about DV in the community – why it happens, its causes and negative consequences.</p> <p>Create materials and facilitate activities that stimulate personal reflection.</p>	<p>Introducing a gender-based analysis of DV</p> <p>Questioning legitimacy of practices and attitudes that violate women's right to safety</p> <p>Breaking the silence around DV</p>	<p>Engaging, Convincing, Inspiring</p> <p>NGO takes lead, initiates dialogue in community and strengthens capacity of stakeholders.</p>	<p>Domestic violence hurts all of us, not just women.</p> <p>Domestic violence is a public, not private issue that needs attention.</p> <p>Women experience many forms of violence – they violate her human right</p>