

# SASAA!



Preventing Violence Against Women and HIV



Evelyn Letiyo, Senior Program Officer

Raising Voices, Uganda  
evelyn@raisingvoices.org  
www.raisingvoices.org

# Raising Voices

*preventing violence against women & children*

- Based in Uganda, working in the Horn, East and Southern Africa
- Translates ideas into practical methodologies
- Helps organizations use methodologies through technical support, learning center
- Increase interest and skills in prevention through GBV Prevention Network
- Broader advocacy for violence prevention



# What is SASA!?

New *Activist Kit* for mobilizing communities to prevent violence against women and HIV. Organized into four phases to influence community norms:

- **S**tart: foster the power within ourselves to address VAW and HIV
- **A**wareness: encourage discourse on men's use of power over women and the community's silence about it
- **S**upport: help individuals and groups join power with others to give support to women, men, activists
- **A**ction: encourage community members to use their power to prevent VAW and HIV



# Why was *SASA!* created?

- Need for engendering HIV prevention approaches
- Long-term, systematic programming challenging for NGOs to design
- Urgent need for approaches that move beyond traditional VAW and HIV programming to focus on root issues: power imbalances



# Systematically Tracking Process and Progress

Specific intended outcomes developed for each phase. Indicators for each phase to monitor progress/impact.

- **Start:** Knowledge and Attitude  
(staff/activists)
- **Awareness:** Knowledge and Attitude  
(community)
- **Support:** Skills
- **Action:** Behaviors



# Programmatic Monitoring

Developing new tools to help non-researchers meaningfully track progress and impact.

- Rapid Assessment Survey
- Outcome Tracking Form



Also: timelines, chapati diagrams, pre and posts, FGDs, exit interviews, MSC, case studies

# The SASA! Study

Generating evidence to further understand the impact of the SASA! approach



Bringing activists and researchers together

- Raising Voices
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Gender, Violence & Health Centre
- Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)
- Makerere University, School of Medicine
- Funded by Irish Aid



# The SASA! Study (cont.)

Explores perception and experiences of power, gender inequalities, rights, VAW, HIV/AIDS, and activism

Rubaga and Makindye Divisions of Kampala District

Eight sites (separated by geographical buffer) selected as eligible for intervention

Sites: 4 intervention;  
4 control





# Study Design

- Cluster randomised trial
- One site from each pair randomly selected to receive intervention (September 2007)
- Two cross-sectional surveys (baseline and follow-up 3 years later)
- Baseline survey 1585 community members: 716 women, 865 men between 18 and 49
- Complementary programme of qualitative work, ongoing process evaluation

# Study Results: Controlling behaviours by men in past 12 months

Controlling Behaviour	INTERVENTION		CONTROL	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Become angry if she talked to other men	58.1%	46.2%	57.9%	45.4%
Insisted on knowing where she was at all times	53.4%	27.9%	55.3%	32.2%
Prevented her from working outside the home	22.0%	7.4%	17.9%	6.9%
Tried to keep her from seeing her friends	24.6%	12.5%	23.8%	13.4%
Done things to scare or intimidate her on purpose	28.5%	3.8%	33.7%	5.1%
Threatened to hurt her or someone she cares about	13.2%	1.6%	17.9%	2.1%
<b>One or more of above</b>	<b>75.3%</b>	<b>50.3%</b>	<b>75.1%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>

# Study Results: Physical & sexual IPV among ever married women

	<b>SASA!</b>	<b>DHS Kampala</b>
<b>Ever</b>		
Physical and/or sexual violence	48.8%	41.0%
Physical	43.6%	29.8%
Sexual	21.6%	24.3%
<b>Past year</b>		
Physical and/or sexual violence	30.8%	23%-26%



# Study Results: Financial related power sharing

In the past year male partner has:	Women	Men
Hidden money so partner wouldn't take it	48.3%	35.2%
Refused to give money to partner for household expenses, even when he had money for other things	25.5%	20.1%
Refused to allow partner to take a job for money	21.6%	8.1%
Made all of the decisions about how family finances were spent independent of her	34.3%	20.2%
Taken partner's earnings or savings against her will	20.5%	11.5%

# The SASA! Study: Qualitative Component

- Qualitative
  - 24 females and 24 males for in-depth interviews (half intervention and half control sites)

*A woman was also created as a human being but not as a tool for use or abuse so it [violence] is injustice.*

Female community member



*To me being a man, I understand that it means having authority and being able to make your own decisions.*

Male community member

# Reflections

- Important to unpack gender and focus on power imbalances between women and men to effectively address VAW and linkage to HIV/AIDS
- Meaningful change requires time, we must get better at learning what milestones along the way demonstrate progress toward ultimate goal



# Reflections (cont.)

- Simple and practical M&E tools can be used by grassroots NGOs to monitor quality and programming. M&E must move beyond number counting to tracking change in knowledge, attitudes, skills and behavior
- Challenging to use RCT design on structural intervention that is based on community diffusion
- Research/rigorous evaluation of systematic prevention efforts is essential if we are to replicate promising approaches





Thank you!