Addressing gender norms within economic programming: results from a randomized controlled trial in Côte d’Ivoire

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(PIs: Jhumka Gupta and Jeannie Annan)
Domestic Violence: An Urgent Humanitarian Crisis

47-49% of women in regional and community-based surveys report lifetime physical or sexual IPV

(Gupta et al, 2010; Hossain et al, 2010)
**Village Savings and Loans Associations**
- 15-30 women per group
- Meet twice monthly

**Gender Dialogue Groups**
- 8 sessions on financial literacy, gender equality, and non-violence
- For women and their male partners (or male family member if unpartnered)

**Business Skills Training**
- Competency-based Economics, Formation of Enterprise (CEFE)

*Developed by International Rescue Committee*
**Economic Empowerment Component:**
Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)

**Social Empowerment Component:**
Gender Dialogue Groups

**Reductions in IPV**
Intervention Overview

**Economic Empowerment Component:**
Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs)

**Social Empowerment Component:**
Gender Dialogue Groups

**Secondary Outcomes**
Gender Attitudes
Economic Abuse

Reductions in IPV
RCT Study Design: 2-armed trial

- Conducted across 24 villages (48 groups) in rural Côte d'Ivoire
- All women eligible to participate (N=1,271 at baseline)
- All groups received VSLAs; 1/2 also received gender dialogue groups
- Waitlist control design
RESULTS
## Participants (N=934 Women*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Characteristics**</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age</td>
<td>37.7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Occupation</td>
<td>45.5% Small business owner only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Formal Education</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>62.6% Yacouba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pregnancies</td>
<td>73% had 4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner’s occupation</td>
<td>73.9% Farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>44.0% Christian</td>
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*983 Partnered women originally completed baseline
**Characteristics did not differ significantly by treatment arms
### Key Findings*

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<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Direction of Change</th>
<th>Intent to Treat</th>
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*Analysis: 4-level multi-level model accounting for individual, group and village clustering*
### Key Findings*

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*Analysis: 4-level multi-level model accounting for individual, group and village clustering;<sup>1</sup> Women and partner attended 75% or more sessions
Past year physical IPV reduced by 55% (per protocol)

“Since I joined the group, there is a change in my life. My friends say before he was like that, violent with his wife and children. Now, I am learning other ways.”
(Male participant)

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<th>Treatment (High Adherent)</th>
<th>7.5%</th>
<th>15.4%</th>
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<td>Treatment (Low Adherent)</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
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<td>VSLA only (Control)</td>
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aOR: .45 95% CI (.21, .94)
aOR: .93 95% CI (.49, 1.77)
Past year Economic Abuse reduced by 69% (per protocol)

Before, when I earned some money, I did not present it to my wife, I made the expenditure alone like as I wanted and for a certain moment, I realized that money is finished and I cannot take care the family, but since EASE has given me this idea, I sit with my wife and we share ideas and I realize that it better and we are happy. (Male Participant)

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<td>21.2%</td>
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<td>28.1%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
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aOR: .31 95% CI (.18, .52)

aOR: .41 95% CI (.27, .81)
Limitations

- Time overlap of intervention and follow-up period
  - Delays due to election-related violence
- Lower statistical power
  - Widows
- No quantitative assessments of men
- No true control group
• Adding a dialogue component tailored to male partners to economic interventions has the potential to empower women and reduce IPV

• Ongoing follow-up is needed to determine the impacts of the intervention over time

• Investigating impacts among sub-groups of women and community-level modifiers of intervention success

• Examining the intervention across multiple contexts will determine global impacts (ex. Abidjan)
Acknowledgments

Study Partners

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