BREAKING THE CYCLE

Understanding and Addressing the Intersections of Violence Against Women and Children

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. How did we get here?
   - A historical recap
2. What do we mean?
   - Defining the intersections between violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC)
3. How do we move forward?
1. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

1960s/1970s
Women’s rights

1980s / 1990s
Violence against women

2003
Sexual Violence Research Initiative

Growing awareness of the intersections
WHY HAVE WE GROWN IN SEPARATE WAYS?

- New fields of knowledge that are drastically underfunded
- Separate advocacy, research, programmatic and policy efforts
- Competing agendas: Protecting children vs. protecting women
- Risk that focus on ‘violence against children’ will undermine violence against women agenda
- Limited understanding about intersections
2. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “INTERSECTIONS”?

2.1 Shared risk factors
2.2 Co-occurrence
2.3 Intergenerational effects
2.4 Similar consequences
2.5 Violence against women starts early
2.6 Some prevention strategies may be effective for both VAW and VAC
2.1 What do we mean by intersections?

SHARED RISK FACTORS
SELECTED SHARED RISK FACTORS FOR PERPETRATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL</th>
<th>RELATIONSHIP</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| • Witnessed or experienced violence as a child  
• Young age  
• Alcohol and drug use  
• Personality disorder / antisocial behaviour | • Family breakdown / poor family functioning  
• Male dominance in the family  
• Marital conflict and instability  
• Economic stress  
• Poverty/destitution  
• Number of children in the household |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>SOCIETAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Institutions that tolerate/fail to respond to violence  
• Community tolerance of violence  
• Lack of “social capital” or services for women, children, families  
• Gender and social inequality in the community  
• Community norms about privacy in the family  
• Presence of armed conflict | • Lack of adequate legislation  
• Social norms that support the use of violence, including physical punishment of wives/children  
• Social, economic, legal and political disempowerment of children and women |
SHARED LOGIC OF BEATING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- “If it is a great mistake, then the husband is justified in beating his wife. Why not? A cow will not be obedient without beatings.” (husband in India)

- “Every child needs punishment to grow. Yes I beat. The harder you beat the better he will learn what you teach.” (female teacher in Uganda)
AGREEMENT THAT WIFE-BEATING IS JUSTIFIED, BY REASON, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SURVEYS
PARENTS’ ATTITUDES: NECESSITY OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
(Source: Lansford et al. 2010)
2.2 What do we mean by intersections?

CO-OCCURRENCE
INTERSECTIONS: CO-OCCURRENCE

- Intimate partner violence and violence against children taking place during the same time period within a single family
- Limited data from low- and middle-income countries
- Challenges in measurement
- US & Europe:
  - CM and IPV present in 6% of general population
  - CM is present in 40% of families with IPV (Knickerbocker et al. 2007)
  - Co-occurrence may be higher when there is severe IPV (Smith Slep et al. 2005)
PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO THE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE

- Colombia 2005: 69.2% (among women who reported partner violence), 57.6% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
- Bolivia 2003: 66.0% (among women who reported partner violence), 50.9% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
- Jamaica 2008/9: 64.5% (among women who reported partner violence), 52.1% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
- Guatemala 2008/9: 56% (among women who reported partner violence), 38.8% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
- Nicaragua 2006/7: 41.2% (among women who reported partner violence), 32.3% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
- Paraguay 2008: 34.8% (among women who reported partner violence), 23.3% (among women who reported NO partner violence)
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries
2.3 What do we mean by intersections?
INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECTS
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF KEY FACTORS IN MALE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PERPETRATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Source: Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, 2013
PREVALENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE, ACCORDING TO WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE IN CHILDHOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent Among Women Reported Being Beaten as a Child</th>
<th>Percent Among Women Reported Not Having Been Beaten as a Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua 2006/7</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador 2004</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador 2008</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala 2008/9</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay 2008</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica 2008/9</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent
PREVALENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE, ACCORDING TO WHETHER MOTHER (OR STEPMOTHER) WAS BEATEN

- Bolivia 2003: 60.1%
- Peru 2007/8: 49.8%
- Colombia 2005: 48.9%
- Ecuador 2004: 43.6%
- Nicaragua 2006/7: 41.9%
- El Salvador 2008: 41.5%
- Guatemala 2008/9: 37.3%
- Paraguay 2008: 34.7%
- Haiti 2005/6: 33.7%
- Jamaica 2008/9: 32.5%
- Dominican Republic 2007: 28.1%

Among women who reported mother (or stepmother) was beaten
Among women who reported mother (or stepmother) was NOT beaten
Globally, 133 – 275 million children witness violence at home each year.
2.4 What do we mean by intersections?

SIMILAR CONSEQUENCES
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SELECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS, FEMALES 13–24 YEARS OLD, SWAZILAND, 2007

# Health Outcomes Associated with Violence Against Women

## Fatal Outcomes
- Femicide
- **Suicide**
- AIDS-related mortality
- Maternal mortality

## Non-fatal Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Sexual &amp; Reproductive</th>
<th>Psychological &amp; Behavioral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fractures</td>
<td>Sexually-transmitted infections, including HIV</td>
<td><strong>Depression and anxiety</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic pain syndromes</td>
<td>Unwanted pregnancy</td>
<td>Eating and sleep disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibromyalgia</td>
<td>Pregnancy complications</td>
<td><strong>Drug and alcohol abuse</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent disability</td>
<td>Traumatic gynecologic fistula</td>
<td>Poor self-esteem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastro-intestinal disorders</td>
<td>Unsafe abortion</td>
<td>Post-traumatic stress disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Self harm</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adapted from Bott, Morrison and Ellsberg, 2005
2.5 What do we mean by intersections?

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN STARTS EARLY
PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, BY AGE

[Bar chart showing prevalence of intimate partner violence by age and country across different years.]
PERPETRATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE STARTS EARLY

73% of men in South Africa who said they had raped a woman or girl, carried out their first assault before the age of 20

Source: Jewkes et al. 2009
WHAT ABOUT ADOLESCENT GIRLS?

- UN definition of child = under 18
- Most studies on IPV define women as over 15
- Girls age 15-19 should be of concern to both VAC and VAW
3. How do we move forward?

INTEGRATING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
PREVENTION POINTS

Prevention before occurrence

Physical abuse
Sexual abuse
Emotional abuse
Neglect
Exposure to IPV

Prevention of recurrence

Prevention of impairment

Long-term outcomes

(Adapted from MacMillan et al., 2009)
PREVENTING VAW AND VAC REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change laws and policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Transform responses and capacities of whole institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change social norms / socio-economic disparities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educate providers, professionals and other key leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthen the knowledge, attitudes, skills and resources of individuals and families</td>
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</table>
WE CAN DO IT!
LAWS CAN PROMOTE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, WHEN SUPPORTED BY ADDITIONAL EFFORTS

Change in physical punishment in Sweden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Positive attitude towards physical punishment</th>
<th>Uses physical punishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000s</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Banning corporate punishment in Sweden

- 1958 – Prohibited corporate punishment in schools
- 1970s – Media attention to high profile cases ‘gone too far’
- 1979 – Prohibited corporate punishment by parents
- Intensive media campaigns about law
- Mass distribution of pamphlets promoting nonviolent parenting
CHANGE SOCIAL NORMS / SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

- Combined programing challenging violent ‘discipline’ of both children and women
- Combine microcredit efforts with participatory discussions on gender, power and discipline
DELIVER JOINT PREVENTION STRATEGIES

- Home visitation programs
  - Integrate discussion and skills building around child discipline
  - Assess for IPV, as well as child maltreatment
- Parent training programs
  - Integrate material on gender socialization and more equitable treatment of boys and girls
- Target children exposed to violence

Slide adapted with permission from presentation by Lori Heise
TRANSFORM RESPONSES AND CAPACITIES OF WHOLE INSTITUTIONS

- Post-rape care services:
  - Ensure services are age-appropriate

- Services for women survivors:
  - Inquire about children
  - Engage appropriate responses

- Services for children survivors:
  - Engage the mother
  - Screen and provide services when appropriate

- Ante-natal services as an entry point

- Schools and sexuality education
EXAMPLE OF A COMBINED IPV-CHILD DISCIPLINE INTERVENTION

- Community dialogue on corporal punishment
- Safe schools initiative
- Eliminating corporal punishment in schools
- Parenting programs
- Reflection on woman abuse
- Family pledges of violence free home

Source: Presentation by Lori Heise, 2012
HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?

- Address social norms that deem violence against children or against women to be acceptable
- Focus prevention efforts on both violence against children and against women
- Target children exposed to violence directly or indirectly
- Promote an age-appropriate and multi-faceted response
- Close the gaps in research
WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF A COMBINED AGENDA?

- Not everything needs to be ‘integrated’
- Will children’s voices be heard?
- Will services be adequately tailored to the needs of children and adolescents?
- Will children’s rights take precedence over women’s safety?
- Will women be penalized when children are exposed to intimate partner violence?
- Will women’s needs be overlooked?
- What about intersections with other forms of violence?
EVERY CHILD, WOMAN AND MAN HAS A RIGHT
TO BE FREE FROM VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND

Thank you for listening!