Prevention of violence against women and girls: lessons from practice

LANCET SERIES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

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Background

- VAWG is finally recognized as priority health, development and rights issue.
- Primary prevention efforts increasingly seen as important: Stop violence before it occurs.
Aim & process

Aim:
Identify key principles for effective VAWG prevention based on lessons learned from practice in the field.

Process:
Draw on authors’ accumulated experience, published papers and approaches, and a literature review.
Common limitations of VAWG prevention efforts:

- Insufficient attention to primary prevention
- Focus on individual change and awareness-raising
- Silos: sectors, populations, types of violence
- Parallel actions without collective analysis
- Project logic
Understanding the problem
Envisioning change
6 key principles of effective VAWG prevention efforts:

1. Intersectional gender-power analysis

2. Work across the ecological model

3. Sustained, multi-sectoral and coordinated initiatives
6 key principles of effective VAWG prevention efforts:

4. Informed by theory and evidence

5. Inspires personal and collective reflection

6. Aspirational and fosters activism
Take action

• Prioritize primary prevention – and changing social norms.
• Experiment, innovate, learn.
• Coordinate & collaborate across sectors and fields.
• Integrate and implement principles of effective VAWG prevention.
• Think beyond projects: Sustain investments for long-term efforts.
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Violence is preventable