Converging drivers of interpersonal violence: Findings from a qualitative study in post-hurricane Haiti

Linkages between violence against women and violence against children

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Hurricane
Matthew October
4, 2016
Category 4 = winds of
235 km/h
Affected 2,128,700
people including
894,100 children (20% of Haiti’s pop)
Prevalence Rates of Violence in Haiti (EMMUS 2016-2017)

IPV: Girls and women age 15 -49

Violence against children: 1 to 14

Source: EMMUS VI, 2016-2017
Methodology: Photo elicitation

8 women 🌸

10 men 🧘

8 adolescent girls 🌸

10 adolescent boys 🧘

* Family relationships, family safety and changes in family dynamics
Methodology: Quality analysis based on in depth interviews

❖ Participant driven
❖ 3 interview sessions/participant to build trust & progression
❖ Total = 108 sessions
❖ Semi-structured interview guide using prompts
Drivers of interpersonal violence

- Post hurricane experience
- Gender
- Community norms
- Family relationships
- Community violence
- IPV
- Violence against children
Results: Converging drivers of violence

Inequitable gender norms

Learned behaviors
Intergenerational cycle of abuse

Intimate partner violence

Children exposed to violence

Children use violence with siblings and/or grow up to be in violent relationships

@ 15 year old boy; P19.S3.F1

@ 16 year old boy; P2.S2.F4
Key drivers of violence

- Economic adversity
- Food Insecurity
- Unemployment

Accumulation of daily stressors & loss of power/control
## Key drivers of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers of violence</th>
<th>VAW</th>
<th>VAC</th>
<th>Community Violence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accumulation of daily stressors</td>
<td>Female asks male to improve economic stability of household, provoking physical conflict. Men may use physical violence to assert control and dominance in contrast with the loss of control they may feel over their inability to provide for the household.</td>
<td>Economic, job and food insecurity, compounding existing stressors of parenting. Parents use physical violence to punish children who are perceived to be non-compliant, disrespectful or behaving in a way that is aggravating to the parent/caregiver.</td>
<td>Conflicts over property and resources (particularly livestock) escalate to physical altercations; lack of potable water also drives fights between adolescents tasked to collect water.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(I/R/C)</td>
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<td>Loss of power/control</td>
<td>Violence against women when partner feels loss of control over inability to provide financially, their partner’s fidelity or their partner’s behaviour.</td>
<td>Physical punishment used more often when adult or older sibling feels aggrieved, disrespected or unable to control child’s behaviour.</td>
<td>Hurricane devastation reduced ability to control economic future; conflicts over scarce resources.</td>
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<td>Learned behaviour/cycle of abuse (I/R/C)</td>
<td>Intimate partners who physically harm or intimidate one another have learned behaviour from observing their parents/caregivers</td>
<td>Parents/caregivers who use physical punishment to discipline children have learned behaviour from observing their own parents/caregivers</td>
<td>Physical altercations become normalized as a means to address disputes within the community.</td>
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<td>Need for behaviour regulation (R/S)</td>
<td>Physical violence used to modify behaviour of partner including real or imagined infidelity and perceived disrespect</td>
<td>Physical punishment to correct behaviour, including hitting siblings due to poor grades, not doing homework/ chores, showing disrespect</td>
<td>Physical violence used to intimidate others from trespassing on property or stealing; and to retaliate for perceived injustices</td>
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<td>Gender norms (S)</td>
<td>Societal gender norms about masculine power and control driving violence against women</td>
<td>Societal gender norms that reinforce hierarchies give children little to no agency;</td>
<td>Masculine behaviour driving fights after sporting matches and/or alcohol consumption, escalating disputes to violent confrontations</td>
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Conclusions

➢ Violence exacerbated in crisis
➢ Egalitarian decision making in household = less physical violence

Joint response to VAW/VAC = more efficient use of resources, better coordination and greater impact

Responses should:
• Be community led
• Promote gender positive social norms (decision making)
• Promote positive parenting
• Include provision of services (including economic support/ job creation)
• Include food and non-food items
Mesi anpil!