REAL FATHERS INITIATIVE

Preventing violence with Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers

SVRI| Bangkok, Thailand | October 2013

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Institute for Reproductive Health Georgetown University

Save the Children

Project Snapshot

- **Partners:** Georgetown University's Institute for Reproductive Health (IRH) and Save the Children

  - **Purpose:** *Develop and test* a set of father-centered interventions that reduce IPV and harsh punishment of children

  - **Duration:** Oct 2012 to Sept 2014

  - **Location:** Post-conflict northern Uganda

  - **Beneficiaries:** Young fathers (ages 17-25) who are cohabitating with an intimate partner and parenting toddlers

Intervention: Mentoring Program

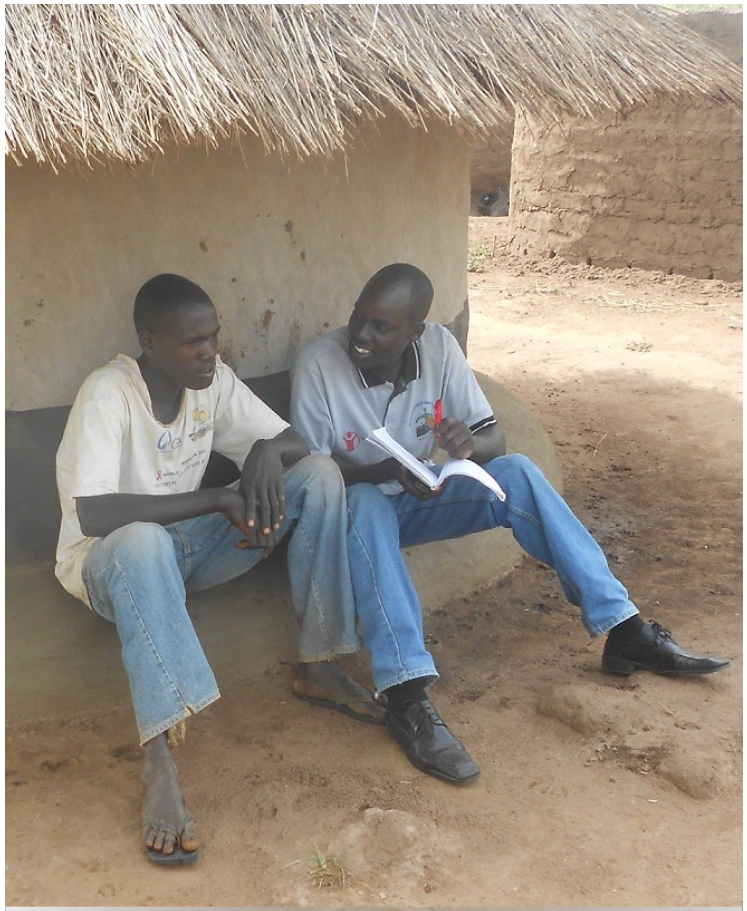


Photo Credit: Save the Children/Dickens Ojamuge

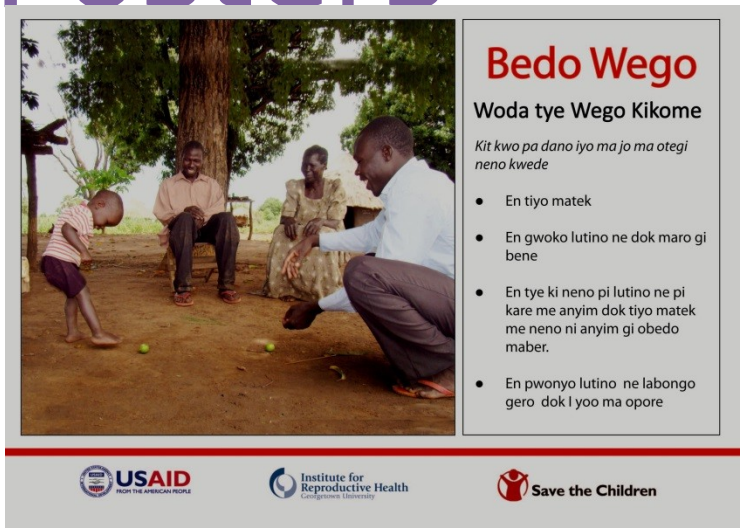
44 men were identified and trained to serve as mentors to young fathers

Each mentor will advise/ guide/ support up to 4 young fathers using a structured protocol

Mentors will have 12 points of contact with each young father:

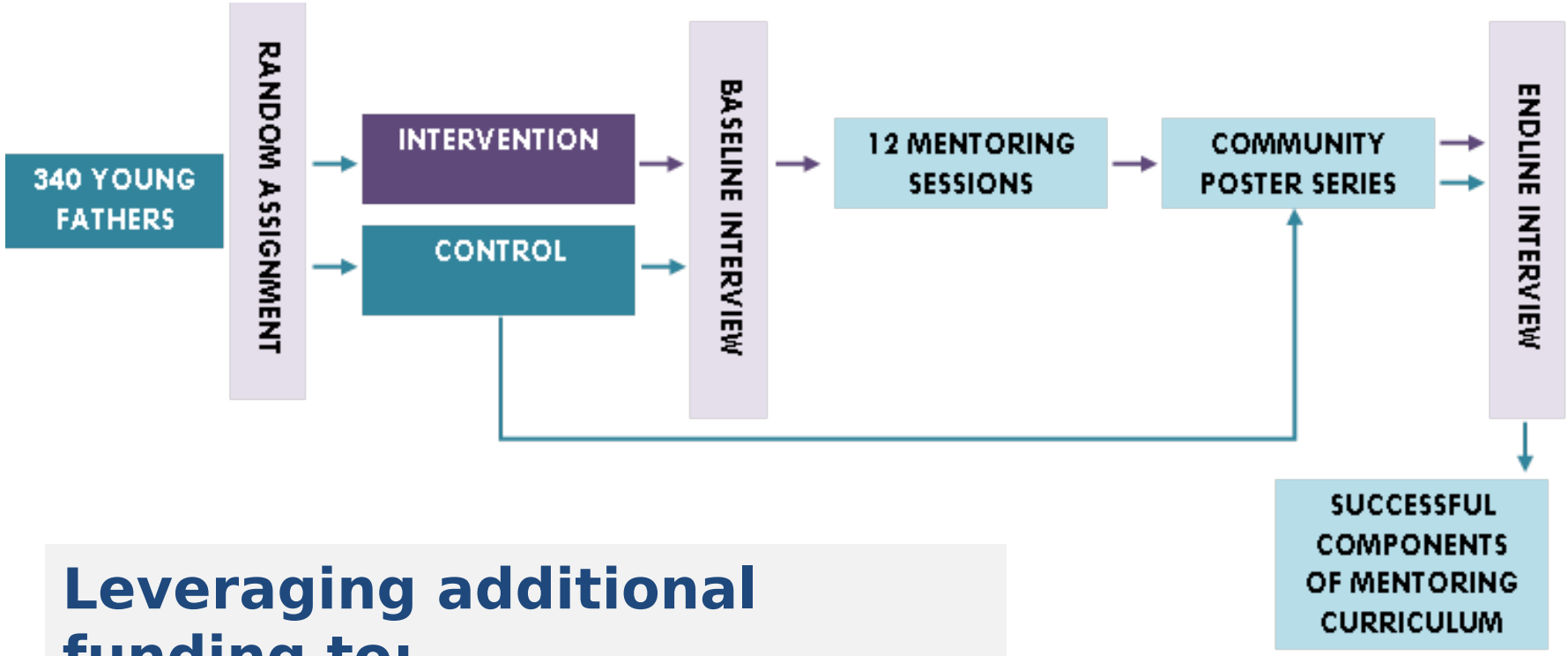
6 individual home visits (2 couple-based)
6 group meetings

Intervention: Community Posters



- 6 large posters sequentially unveiled and displayed at community meeting points
- Posters have images and emotion-based messages to catalyze reflection on inequitable gender norms, parenting, and IPV

Experimental Design



Leveraging additional funding to:

- **Increase sample size**
- **Interview wives**
- **Add 12-month follow-up**

What have we learned to date?

GREAT Ethnographic Research (2011)

Purpose: Inform GREAT intervention development

- Life histories with 40 adolescents (10-19)
- IDI with 40 influencing others (19-53)
- Semi-structured interview guide
- Participatory games, projective techniques

REAL Formative Research (2012)

Purpose: Inform REAL intervention development

- Focus group discussions with 19 fathers (ages 16-25) in groups of 5-6
- Focus group discussions with 10 young couples (ages 16-25)
- Semi-structured interview guide

REAL Baseline Study (2013)

Purpose: Evaluate REAL intervention

- Structured interviews with 340 young fathers (ages 17-25)
- Structured questionnaire with participatory exercises
- DHS, GEM Scale, Parenting Scale, MICS

Participant Characteristics

Photo Credit: Save the Children/Dickens Ojamuge

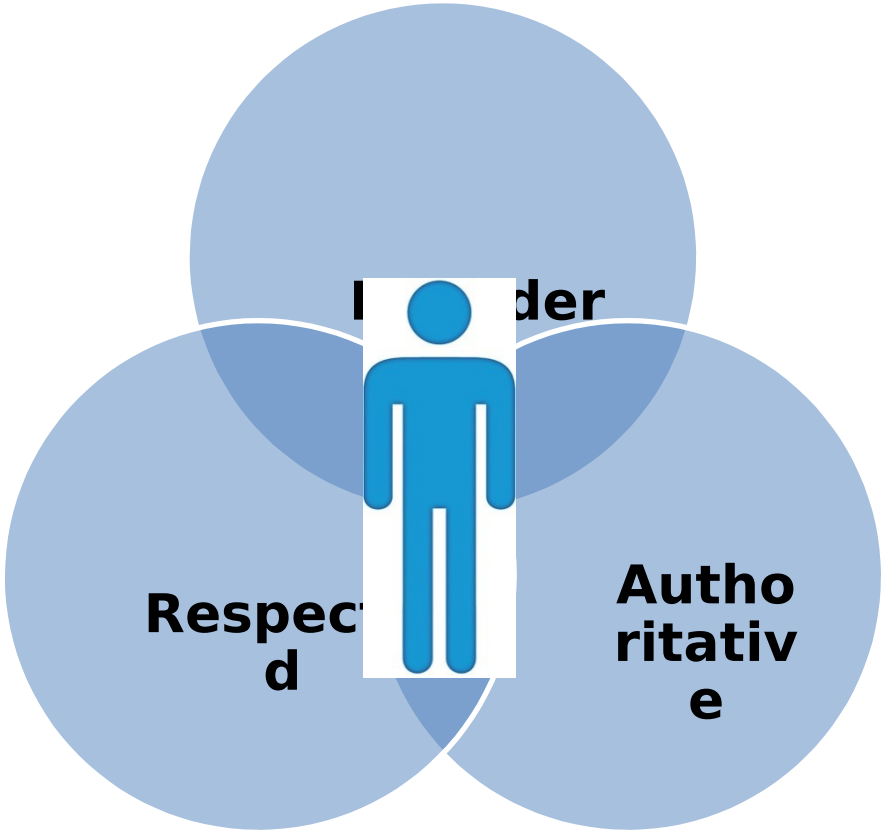
Age: Mean: 22; range:17-25 years
Education: 24% completed primary school
Employment: farmers; 15% engaged in paid work
Relationship:
74% with partner 1-3 years
64% partially paid bride price
Companionship, economic benefit, love
Wife age: mean age: 20; range:15-25 years

Key Finding:

Ideal masculinity connected to gender power imbalances

60% agree their friends would tease them if they helped their wife with child care

86% agree a woman should obey her husband in all things



81% agree a man should have final word about decisions

Key Finding:

Violence used to achieve ideal manhood

PARTICIPANT: A husband beating his wife because she has delayed to cook is acceptable…Even myself, I once slapped my wife so badly at one moment, because my wife eats and goes to sleep. For me, when I come back and find nothing for me to eat, I beat you.

INTERVIEWER: Huh, how did you feel about your act of beating her?

PARTICIPANT: I was relieved because there was some improvement afterwards…this is because, the next day I came back and found food was there.

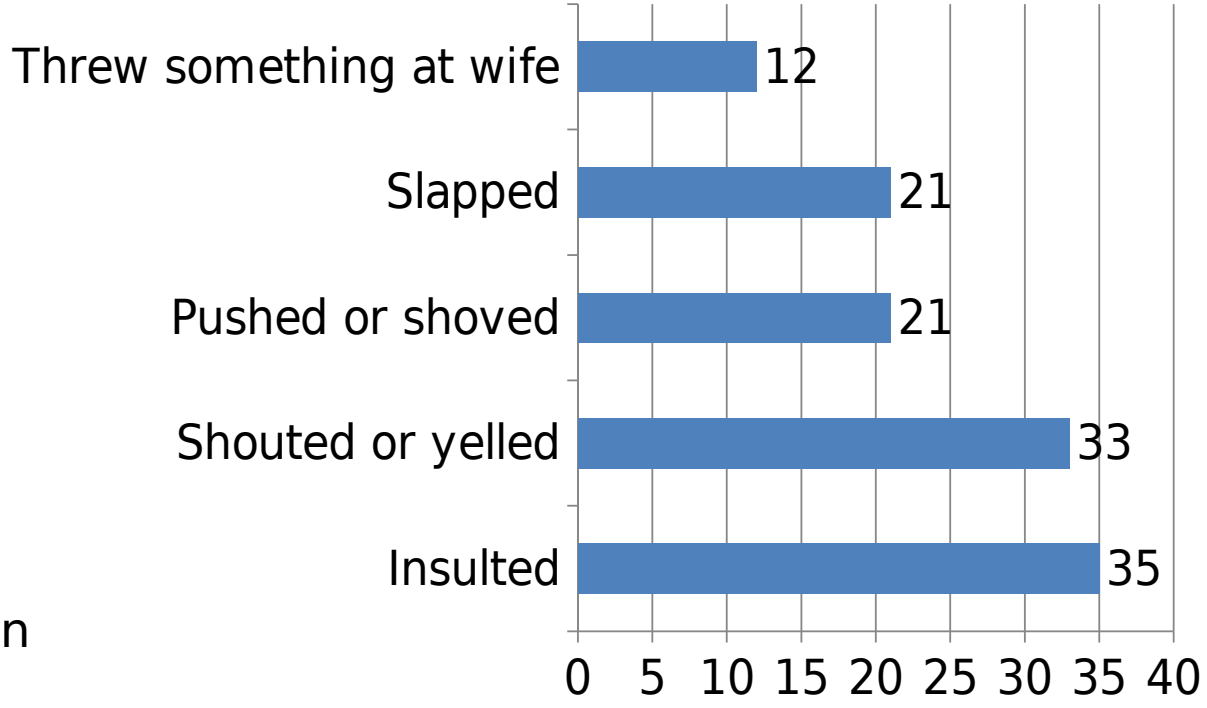
be beaten

Male, 27 year

24% of men report wives experienced physical injuries

36% have been told by wives they are afraid

% of fathers reporting perpetrating in past 3 months (by type)



38% have been told by wives they are violent

Logistic regression: IPV (perpetration)

	Respondent slapped wife	Respondent pushed wife or shoved her	Respondent threw something at wife that could hurt her
Completed primary school	1.193	**0.416***	0.525
Paid bride price partially or fully	1.244	1.136	0.748
Alcohol (days drank past month)	**1.104****	**1.092****	1.038
Supportive attitudes toward IPV (index)	**2.255***	**6.825****	**9.408****
Witnessed IPV growing up	1.566	0.943	1.202
Was spanked/slapped/beaten growing up	0.692	0.821	0.486

* $p < 0.05$

** $p < 0.01$

Logistic regression: IPV (effect on wife)

	Wife suffered physical injuries due to respondent's violence	Wife told respondent she is afraid of him	Wife told respondent they are violent
Completed primary education	0.634	1.072	0.906
Paid bride price partially or fully	1.296	0.977	0.841
Alcohol (days drank past month)	1.042	1.027	**1.062***
Supportive attitudes toward IPV (index)	**23.921****	**8.288****	**6.962****
Witnessed IPV growing up	0.614	1.636	1.446
Was [illegible]	**0.261****	**0.319****	**0.505***

* P < 0.05
** P < 0.01

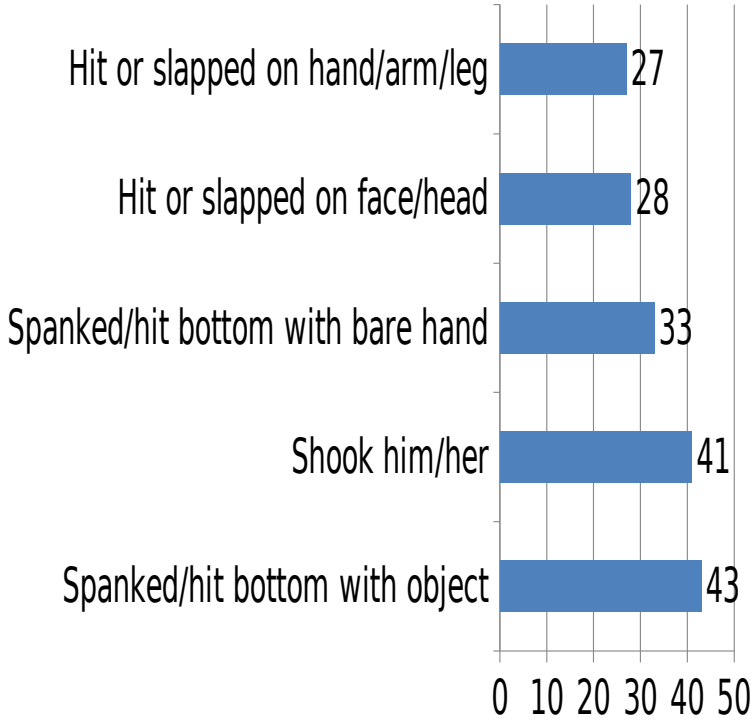
Key Finding:

Use of IPV and physical child punishment is linked and inter-generational

67%

agree that stubborn young children need to be hit to teach them right from wrong.

% of fathers who used physical punishment in past 3 months (by type)



87%

embarrassed if others saw child misbehave and they didn't discipline strongly

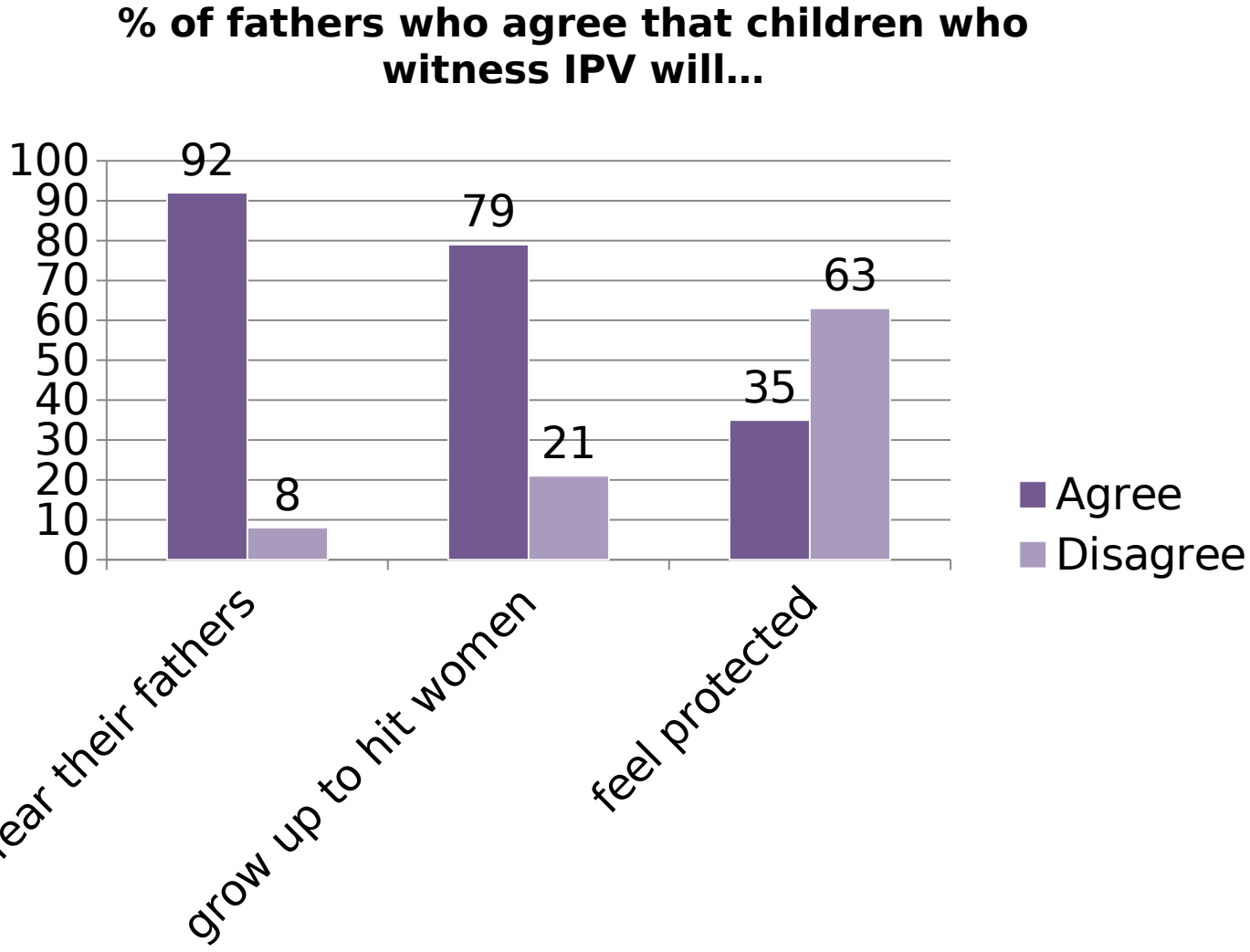
Linear regression: child physical punishment index

	Coefficient
Education past primary level	-**0.085***
Paid bride price partially or fully	-0.016
Alcohol (days drank past month)	0.004
Supportive attitudes toward IPV (index)	**0.376****
Witnessed IPV growing up	0.030
Was spanked/slapped/beaten growing up	**-0.085***

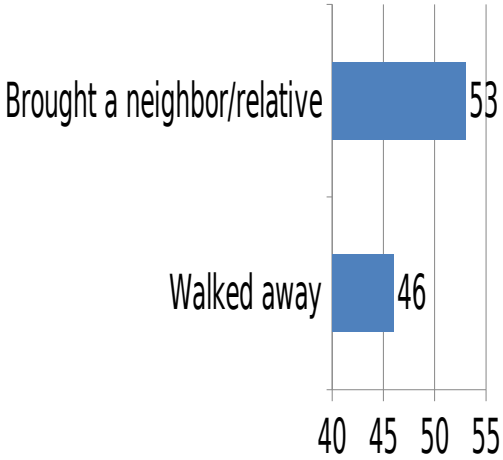
* $p < 0.05$
** $p < 0.01$

Key Finding:

Fathers are open to non-violent alternatives



% of fathers using non-violent conflict resolution (by type)



In the past 3 months….

% of fathers who used non-violent discipline (by type)

Father Engagement

- 87% gave child reward for good behavior
- 84% have praised their child
- 83% showed physical affection
- 77% told child they loved them
- Over 60% have told stories, sang, and played with their children

Photo Credit: Save the Children/Dickens

Conclusions and Implications

1. Childhood experience of violence and alcohol linked to perpetration of IPV

…REAL addresses intergenerational transmission of violence and mitigates excessive alcohol use

2. Structural issues contribute to the challenges men face in being non-violent

…REAL strives to engage broader community but does not respond to structural issues

3. Young men view being a good father as core element of masculine identity

…REAL leverages men's commitment to fatherhood and builds on existing positive attitudes and behaviors

Photo Credit: Save the Children/Dickens Ojamuge

“ I want my child to appreciate me for what I will have done. I can’t say what that is now, but I am trying to build it.”

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www.irh.org/projects/real-fathers-initiatitve/