REAL FATHERS INITIATIVE

What Happened to the REAL Fathers One Year Later?

SVRI Forum | September 20, 2017
BACKGROUND: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN UGANDA

Harsh punishment of children and witnessing IPV are risk factors for IPV, yet:

• In Uganda, 43% of women in union reported ever experiencing physical or sexual violence by their current partner (DHS 2011).

• In a survey of 1,000 children aged 8 to 18 years across five districts in Uganda, more than 98% of children reported experiencing physical or emotional violence, and 76%, sexual violence (Naker, 2005).
REAL FATHERS INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Period
- **Pilot**: 2013-2015
- **Scale-up**: 2015-2017

Pilot Location
- 8 Parishes, Amuru District, Northern Uganda

Objectives:
- Reduce physical punishment of children and IPV
- Improve parenting attitudes and confidence in using nonviolent discipline
- Foster acceptance of non-traditional gender roles in parenting
64 mentors have **12 points of contact** over 6 months with each young father:

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

**Community posters** sequentially displayed with emotion-based messages to catalyze reflection on inequitable gender norms, parenting, and IPV

**Community celebrations** conducted to share testimonies and express commitment to sustain positive changes
**PILOT EVALUATION DESIGN**

**Post-Intervention Qualitative Methods:**

- **Life History Interviews** with 20 Fathers (3 months post-intervention)
- **In-depth Interviews** with 10 Wives/ Partners (10-12 months post intervention)
**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

**Parenting**
- Increased attitudes rejecting use of physical child punishment
- Increased confidence in using nonviolent discipline
- Increased positive parenting
- Increased father-child interaction
- Decreased physical child punishment

**Intimate Partner Relationships**
- Improved communication with wives/partners
- Increased attitudes rejecting use of IPV
- Decreased perpetration of IPV

**Gender Norms and Attitudes**
- More gender-equitable attitudes
- Fathers engage in non-traditional parenting roles
PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Age: 16 - 25 years (mean: 22 years)

Wive’s age: 15 - 25 years (mean: 20 years)

Education: 55% attended primary, 33% attended secondary

Employment: 90% farmers; 10% paid formal work

Childhood experience of violence:
- 22% often witnessed violence
- 57% sometimes
- 27% often experienced physical violence
- 54% sometimes

Relationship:
- 74% with partner 1 - 3 years
- 64% partially paid bride price
### REAL PARTICIPATION & PARENTING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Attended at least one individual and one group mentoring session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endline (n=435)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejects use of physical punishment (Rejects all)</td>
<td>1.6 [1.09, 2.49]**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident in using nonviolent discipline (Very confident)</td>
<td>2.5 (1.50, 4.28)***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father-child interaction (Yes to any)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.05, 4.33)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of physical punishment (Yes to any)</td>
<td>0.84 (0.55, 1.28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted for employment status, payment of bride price, couple communication, alcohol use, and experience of violence as a child; p-value: *<.05; **<.01; ***<.001
### REAL PARTICIPATION & INTIMATE PARTNER RELATIONSHIP OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endline (n=435)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple communication skills (Yes to all)</td>
<td>2.4 (1.54, 3.77)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justification of IPV (Justification for any reason)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.40, 0.98)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any form of IPV (Perpetration of any form)</td>
<td>0.48 (0.31, 0.76)**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## REAL PARTICIPATION & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Endline (n=435)</th>
<th>Longer Term Follow Up (n=399)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical violence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.71 (0.46, 1.11)</td>
<td>0.76 (0.38, 1.35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Yes to any)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psychological violence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.55 (0.35, 0.86)**</td>
<td>0.42 (0.24, 0.74)***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Yes to any)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Verbal violence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.51 (0.33, 0.79)**</td>
<td>0.56 (0.35, 0.90)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(Yes to any)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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## Real Participation & Agreement with Traditional Gender Norms

### Outcomes

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<th>Endline (n=435)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A woman’s role is to take care of her home and family</strong></td>
<td>0.65 (0.40, 1.07)</td>
<td>0.48 (0.30, 0.76)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Agree or Partially Agree)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bathing and feeding the child is the woman’s responsibility</strong></td>
<td>0.68 (0.44, 1.06)</td>
<td>0.40 (0.23, 0.69)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Agree or Partially Agree)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A man should have final word about decisions in his home</strong></td>
<td>0.60 (0.31, 1.14)</td>
<td>0.46 (0.27, 0.80)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Agree or Partially Agree)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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THE REAL EFFECT ON YOUNG FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Before this mentorship, I was a drunkard and violent...after REAL Fathers....my violence vanished, I started communicating and working well with my wife. I am responsible now. I look after our child at home most of the time. I advocated to my friends to stop drinking alcohol and battering their wives.”

– Young Father, Northern Uganda

What I like to do with my children, for example when I return from the garden, I sit and chat with them, I teach them some good things for life.....In the past I used to be so rough with them so they kept a distance from me, and now they like me so much, they run to welcome me and also play with me.”

– Young wife, Northern Uganda
REAL RESULTS: TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Short, 6-month mentoring program can reduce IPV and violence against children both in short and long term
- The effect on parenting outcomes is even stronger one year after end of intervention
- Changes in gender related norms take time, and require intervention beyond individual level!
WHAT’S NEXT FOR REAL?

Testing scale-up through integration into:

 ✓ Livelihood program in Northern Uganda
 ✓ Early education program in Karamoja, Uganda
 ✓ Family planning component added

Short term scale-up results show similar promising results as pilot. Long-term evaluation follow-up set for Spring of 2018.
Thank you!

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

www.savethechildren.org

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