Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) Cohort Study

How are women’s lives influenced by IMAGE at scale today?

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- **IMAGE intervention**: Microfinance loans (Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF)) + 10 sessions participatory gender training (Sisters for Life (SFL)).
- **Background**: Proof of concept - 2006 South Africa Cluster RCT: 55% reduction in IPV. Now an operational, non-research based violence prevention programme.

**What’s happening 10 years on?**

- **Scale-up**: 3 provinces in South Africa (Limpopo, North-West province and Mpumalanga); >25,000 households.
- **Objectives**: Examine changes in women’s vulnerability to intimate partner violence (IPV), and indicators of health and economic empowerment among intervention recipients + explore scale-up operational lessons
- **Cohort Study**: Two rounds data collection in rural Mahikeng, North-west Province.
  - Round 1: n=860 women (Nov 2016) post receiving IMAGE intervention + 30 in-depth interviews (IDIs).
- **Questions**: Socio-demographics, women’s partnerships, household decision-making, sexual behaviours, experience with IPV, financial literacy, employment and economic empowerment, perceptions of the intervention.

1. (Prorok et al, 2006).

**Round 1 results - Women’s experience of IMAGE and recent IPV**

- **Sample**: 860 women, median age 48y, IQR: 39-58y.
- **Prevalence of IPV (n=860)**: All violence types are significantly higher in younger women. Remains so among currently partnered women for all violence types, except economic violence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence type</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>&lt;35</th>
<th>35-55</th>
<th>45-55</th>
<th>Chi2 value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical/ sexual, 12m</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional, 12m</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic, 12m</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>0.011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling last relationship</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Experiences of IMAGE**: Women are very positive!

- **86%** attended half or more sessions, <35yr attended less, with 75% attending half or more sessions (p=0.026)
- **99%** agreed that trainers were well informed, **95%** people in group supported them when they had a problem, **95%** agreed they often spoke to others of what learned and **98%** agreed that training had a major impact on their life. No difference across age groups.
- **Experience of economic empowerment and violence over time will be explored at follow-up... coming soon!**