

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



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

Louise Knight, Meghna Ranganathan, Tara Polzer Ngwato, Lufuno Muvhango, Mpho Molebatso, Nomanootcho Pakade, Shelley Lees, Charlotte Watts

- **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 IPV¹. 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).
 - Round 2: Follow same women. Survey & IDIs (Nov 2017).
- **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. (Pronyk 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.

Violence type	Age	All N=860	<35 n=145	35-55 n=409	+55 n=305	Chi2 pvalue
Physical/ sexual, 12m		7%	19%	5%	3%	<0.001
Emotional, 12m		11%	23%	11%	6%	<0.001
Economic, 12m		9%	15%	9%	6%	0.011
Controlling last relationship		52%	68%	57%	38%	<0.001

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!**

