

# Household decision-making and its association with IPV: examining differences in men's and women's perceptions in Uganda

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



Sasha Zegenhagen,  
Dr. Ana Maria Buller,  
Dr. Meghna Ranganathan

SVRI

22 October 2019

Photo Credit: Mariola Acosta. Research Fellow IITA/CCAFS

# A couple planting groundnuts. Nwoya District



Photo Credit: Mariola Acosta. Research Fellow IITA/CCAFS

# Introduction

- Household decision-making (HH DM) is a commonly used indicator of women's empowerment
- Strengthening relationships skills, including shared decision making, is the first strategy to prevent VAW of the newly launched RESPECT framework
- Association HH DM and IPV → mixed results
- Most analyses consider only women's responses when measuring DM

# Aim and objectives

To explore the relationship between women's DM in the household and their experience of physical IPV

- a) Evidence and magnitude of the association between women's DM and IPV
- b) Differences in this association between the three DM domains
- c) Gendered differences in the association between women's DM and IPV



SSM Population Health - Volume 8  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100442>

# Methods



- Probit model, controlling for variables featured in our theoretical framework (ecological framework)
- Dependent variable: past year physical violence
- Independent variables: who usually makes decisions about the following domains



**Health Care**

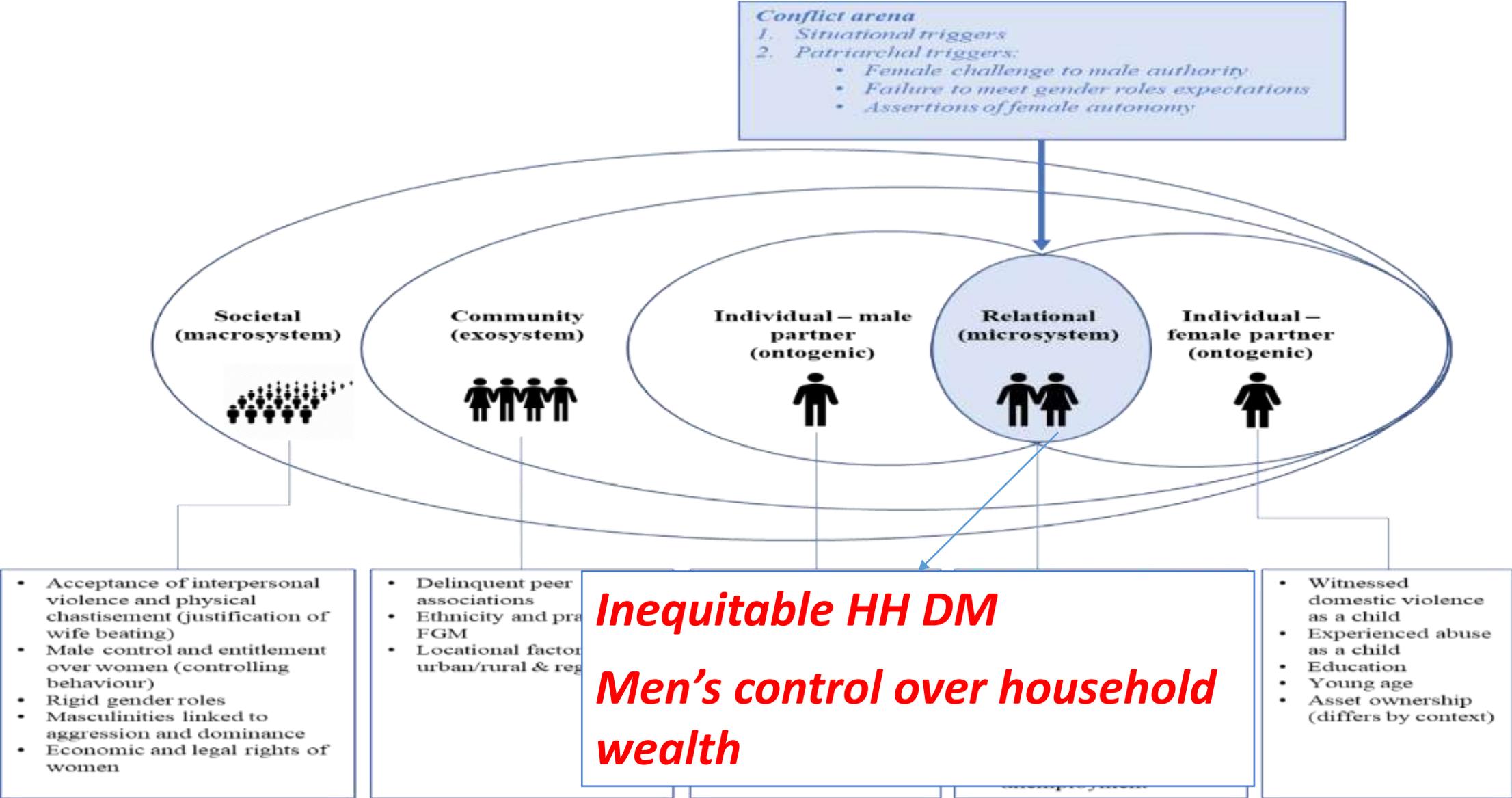


**Large HH purchases**



**How money earned is spent**

# Figure 1: Ecological framework



Note: Factors italicised in red are explanatory variables in this paper.

# Results

- Association between HH DM and women's likelihood of experiencing IPV depended on:



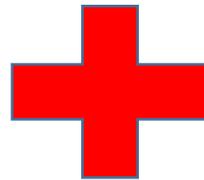
Health Care



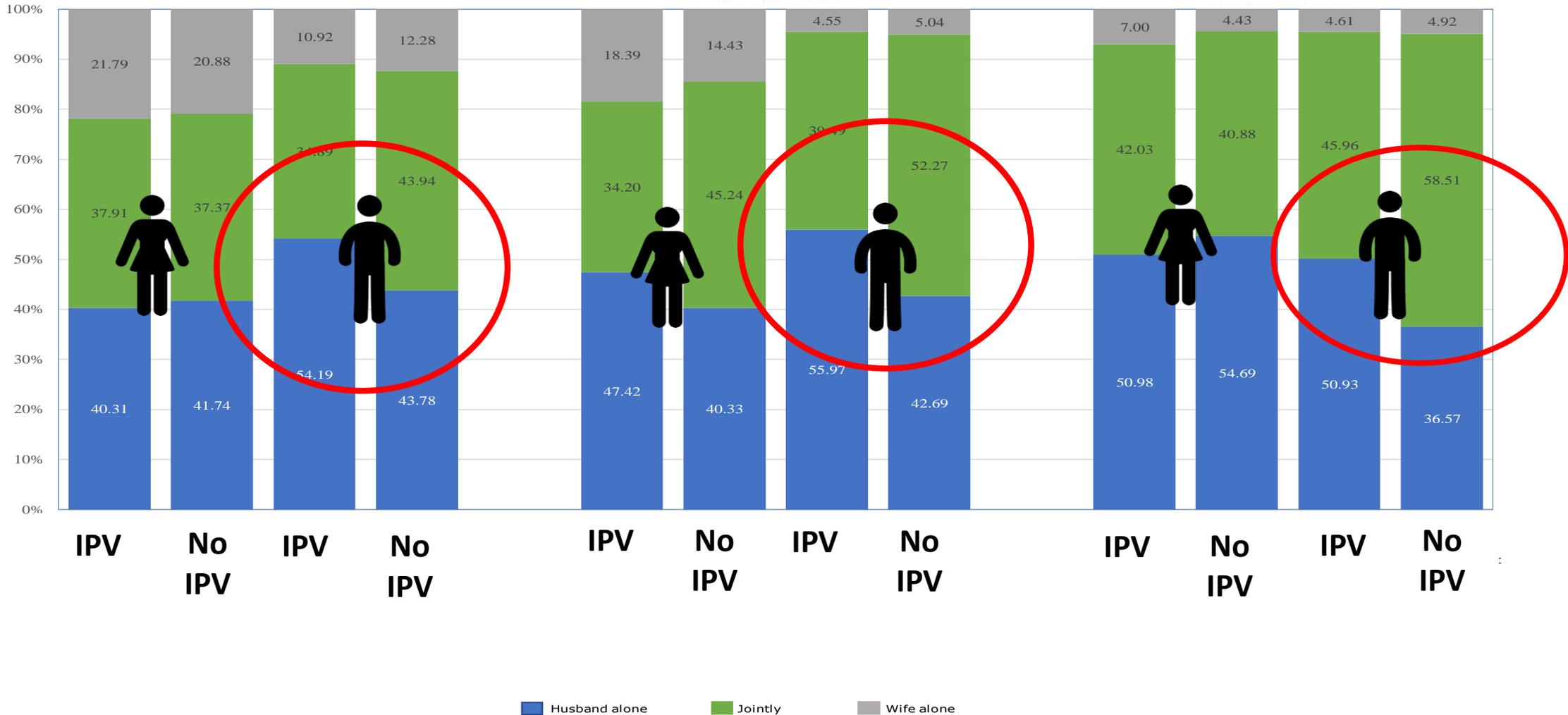
Large HH purchases



How money earned is spent



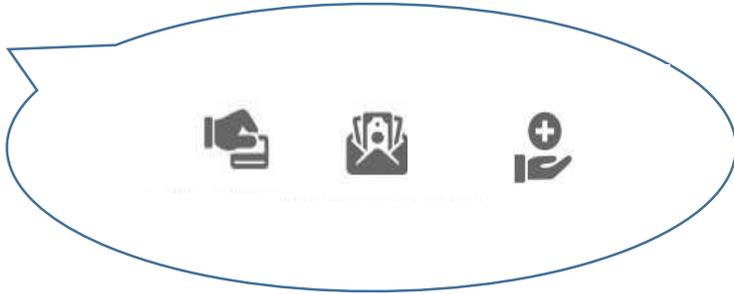
# Views on who makes decisions by gender and experience of IPV



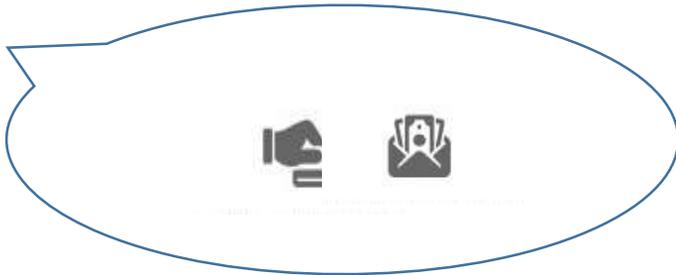
# Regression results

	MEN			WOMEN		
	Model 1:	Model 2:	Model 3:	Model 1:	Model 2:	Model 3:
	 Healthcare	 Large purchases	 Money	 Healthcare	 Large purchases	 Money
	-0.039 (0.025)	-0.043 (0.026)	<b>-0.073</b> <b>(0.029)*</b>	-0.010 (0.041)	-0.039 (0.041)	-0.016 (0.037)
	-0.049 (0.035)	<b>-0.088</b> <b>(0.036)*</b>	<b>-0.106</b> <b>(0.050)*</b>	0.024 (0.046)	-0.064 (0.047)	-0.016 (0.060)

In summary...



**Risk of IPV**



**Risk of IPV**

# Discussion: Key messages

- Men's perceptions of who makes decisions may be a more important predictor of IPV than women's perceptions
- As the potential perpetrator of IPV, men's perception of their wife's participation in decisions is important to whether it supports or undermines their concept of masculinity and challenges their views on household gender roles
- Decision making on some domains seem to associate with IPV and not others – this may vary by context and prevailing gender norms

# Discussion: Limitations

- DHS does not control for level to which a man or couple adheres to traditional gender norms
- Male perpetration of violence is measured with one generic question
- We do acknowledge criticism of DM module in DHS to be reductionist and not informative on the true power dynamics behind HH decision making (Bernard et al, In press). However the DHS provides men's perspectives which we do not usually have.

# Implications for research and practice

- This paper contributes to efforts to prevent IPV and its detrimental consequences by highlighting the role of an important variable at the relational level of the ecological framework
- Decision making measures need to be improved to take into consideration process and context
- Need to collect decision making data on men; as their views are important in programme design and evaluation
- Involving men in gender transformative IPV and women's empowerment programmes is necessary
- Further support for gender synchronised and programmes working with couples is needed

# Thank you

[Ana.buller@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Ana.buller@lshtm.ac.uk)

# References

- Zegenhagen, Sasha, Meghna Ranganathan, and Ana Maria Buller(2019). Household decision-making and its association with intimate partner violence: Examining differences in men's and women's perceptions in Uganda. *SSM-Population Health* 8 100442.
- Bernard, T., Doss, C., Hidrobo, M., Hoel, J., & Kieran, C. (2020). Ask me why: Patterns of intrahousehold decision-making. *World Development*, 125, 104671.
- Donald, A., Koolwal, G., Annan, J., Falb, K., & Goldstein, M. (2017). *Measuring women's agency*. The World Bank.

<b>Variable</b> (reference category: husband's sole decision-making)	<b>Model 1:</b> Respondents healthcare	<b>Model 2:</b> Large household purchases	<b>Model 3:</b> Husband's earnings
Coefficient (standard errors)			
<b>Decision-making: Men's perspective</b>			
	-0.033 (0.028)	-0.059 (0.030)*	-0.091 (0.035)**
	-0.025 (0.042)	-0.117 (0.041)**	-0.158 (0.053)**
<b>Decision-making: Women's perspective</b>			
	0.008 (0.031)	0.020 (0.029)	0.002 (0.031)
		0.085 (0.045)	0.092 (0.073)

# Regression results

	MEN			WOMEN		
	Model 1:	Model 2:	Model 3:	Model 1:	Model 2:	Model 3:
						
	-0.039 (0.025)	-0.043 (0.026)	<b>-0.073 (0.029)*</b>	-0.010 (0.041)	-0.039 (0.041)	-0.016 (0.037)
	-0.049 (0.035)	<b>-0.088 (0.036)*</b>	<b>-0.106 (0.050)*</b>	0.024 (0.046)	-0.064 (0.047)	-0.016 (0.060)
Statistically significant control variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older age (p)</li> <li>• Father beat mother</li> <li>• Richest (models 2 and 3) or richer (model 3) income quintile (p)</li> <li>• Views supporting wife beating in 1 or 3 domains</li> <li>• Banyankole ethnicity (p)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Father beat mother</li> <li>• Husband alcohol use (model 2 only)</li> <li>• Rich or richest wealth index (p)</li> <li>• Other ethnicity and Munyarwanda (model 3)</li> <li>• Husband's controlling behaviour</li> </ul>		

# Key messages

Differences in the association between women's joint and sole DM on IPV depends on whether the women's or men's data on DM is used

