

# Outcomes of the Stepping Stones and Creating Futures trial to prevent IPV and HIV-risk in urban informal settlements in South Africa

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LONDON  
SCHOOL OF  
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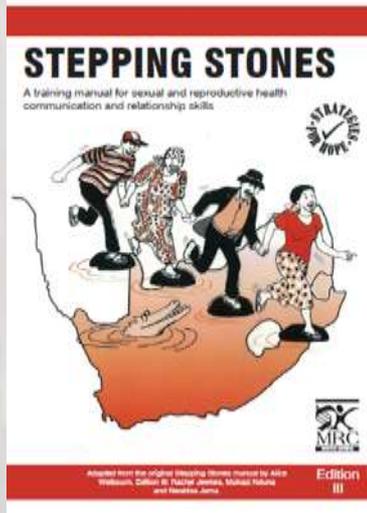
What Works  
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE  
A Global Programme to Prevent  
Violence Against Women and Girls



# Rationale

- Exceedingly high HIV/IPV amongst young people in urban informal settlements
- Reviews show very little evidence about effective ways to reduce HIV-acquisition and IPV amongst young women in these contexts [Gibbs et al, 2012; 2017; Swan, 2018]
- Very little research on inclusion of men in gender transformative and economic strengthening interventions [Gibbs et al, 2012]

# Stepping Stones and Creating Futures: supporting gender equity and stronger livelihoods



Two components:

1. Gender transformation
2. Livelihood strengthening

21 sessions; each session 3 hours long; primarily single sex; women and men are not in relationships



Delivered by trained peer-facilitators; based on assumptions of participatory methodologies

# Stepping Stones and Creating Futures methodology

- Learner centred
- Participatory
- Experience based
- Role plays, discussions, games



# Cluster randomized control trial

678 women

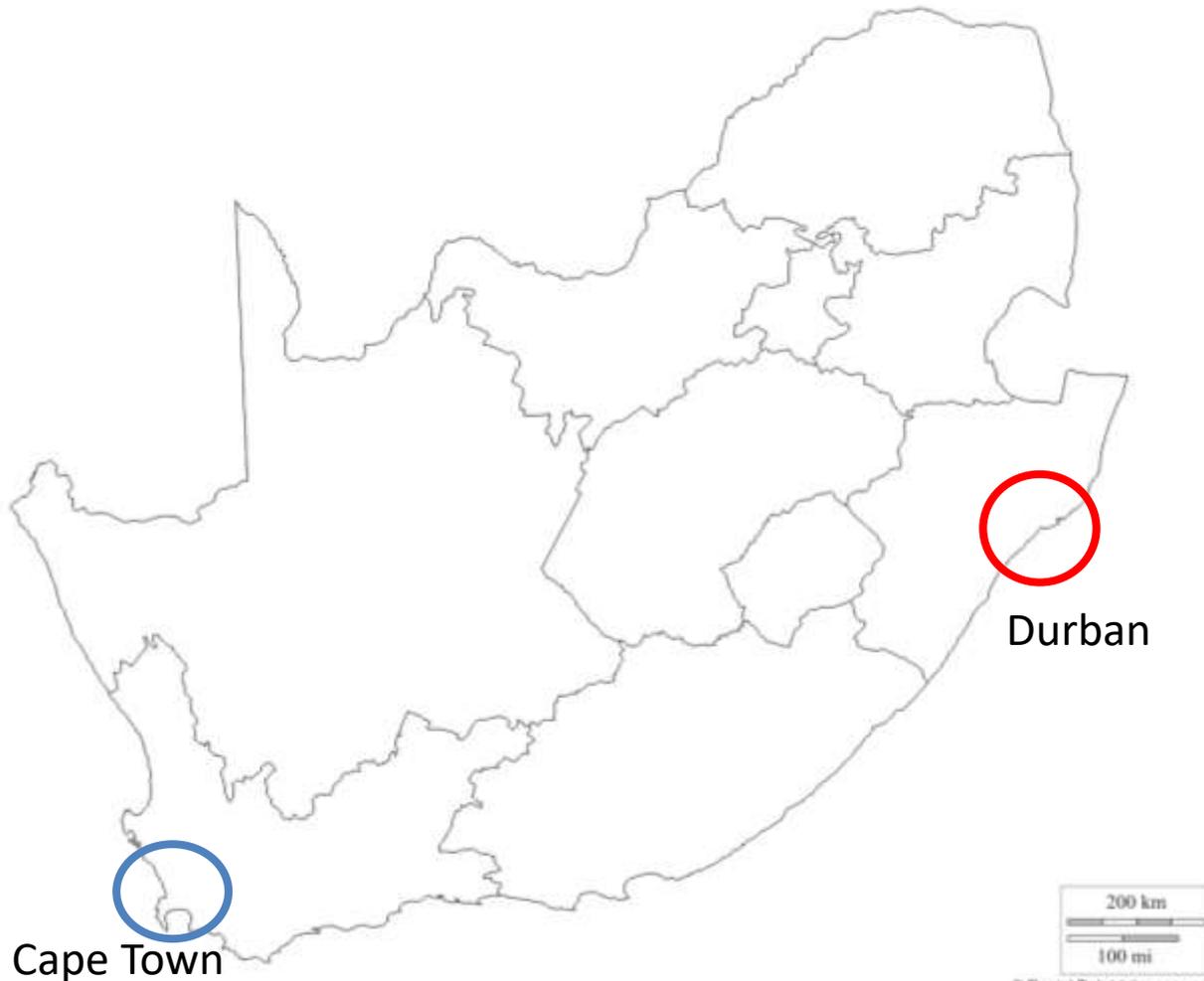
672 men

34 clusters

2 year follow up

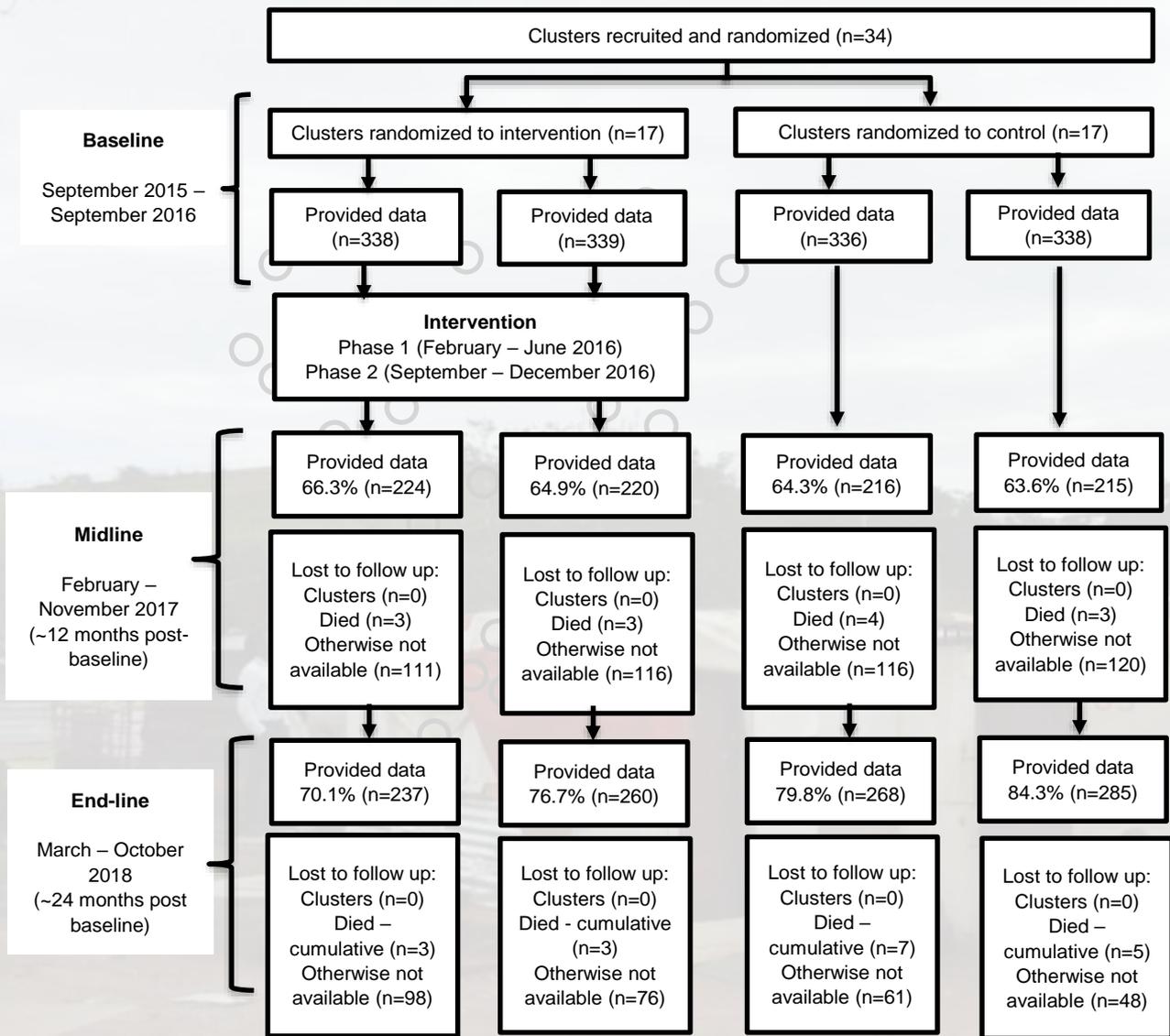
Sept 2015 – Oct 2018

74.9% men &  
79.8% women  
followed up



Cape Town

Durban



# Baseline data

Men's  
perpetration and  
women's  
experience of IPV

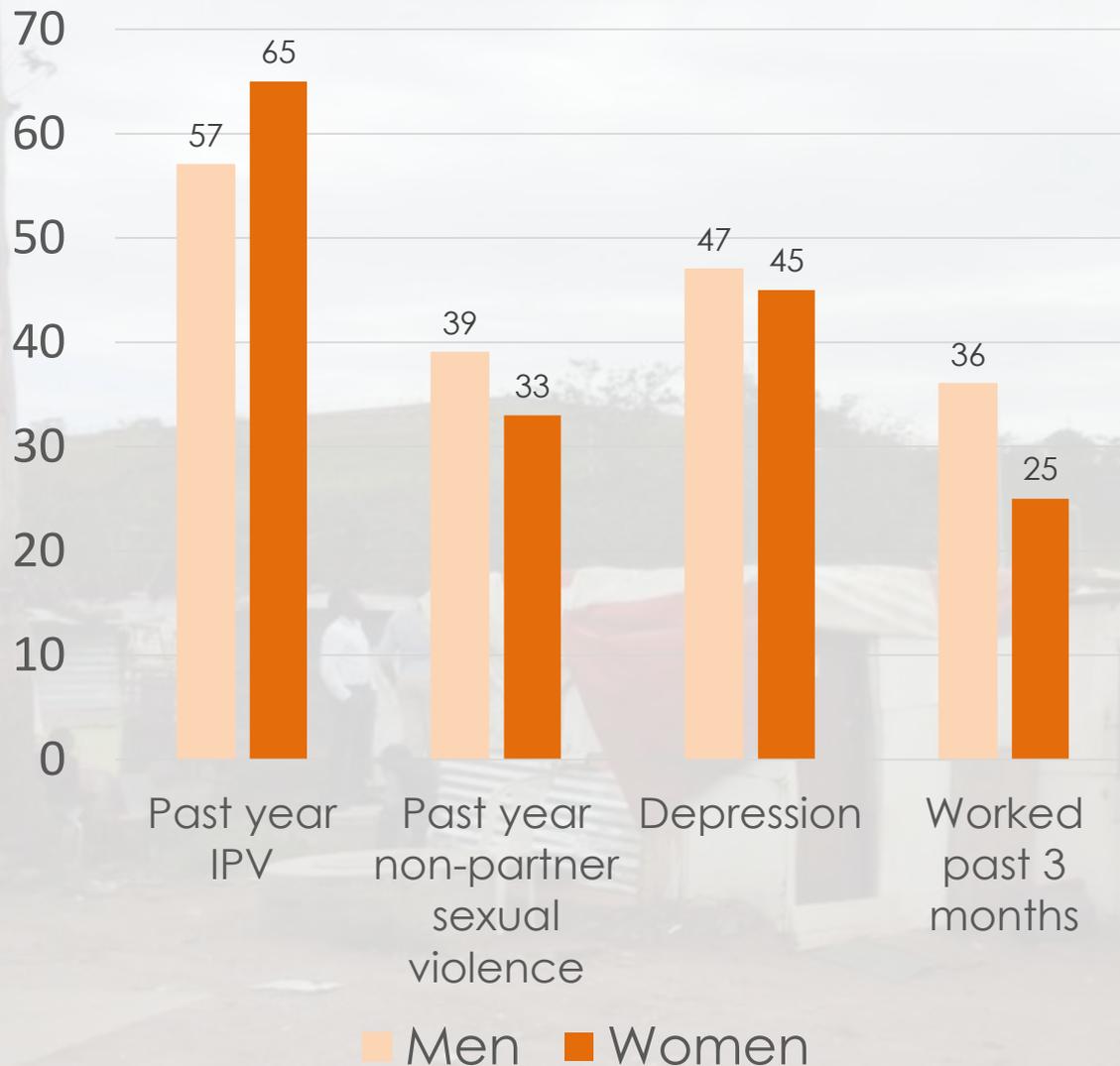
*Drivers: poverty,  
gender  
inequalities,  
trauma, racism*

*Average age*

*Men: 23.8 yrs*

*Women: 23.9 yrs*

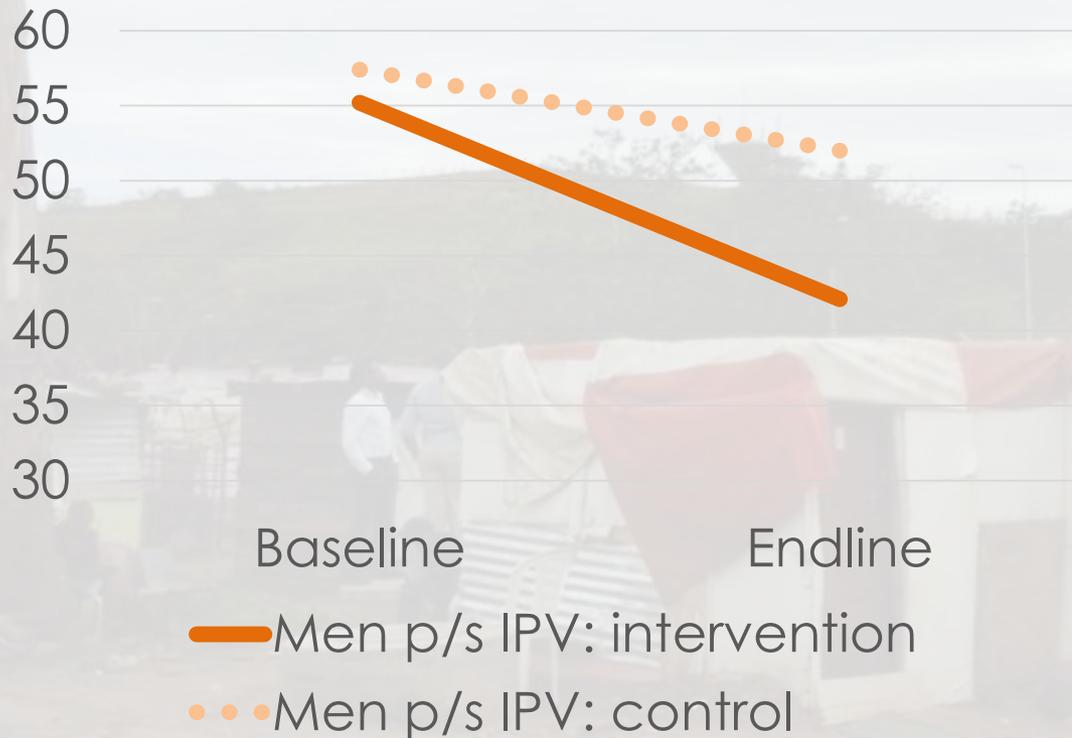
*Balance between  
arms*



# Trial outcomes



# Men's outcomes



## Men's self reported VAWG perpetration

**aOR 0.70 (0.52, 0.94)**  
p/s IPV

**aOR 0.65 (0.44, 0.97)**  
economic IPV

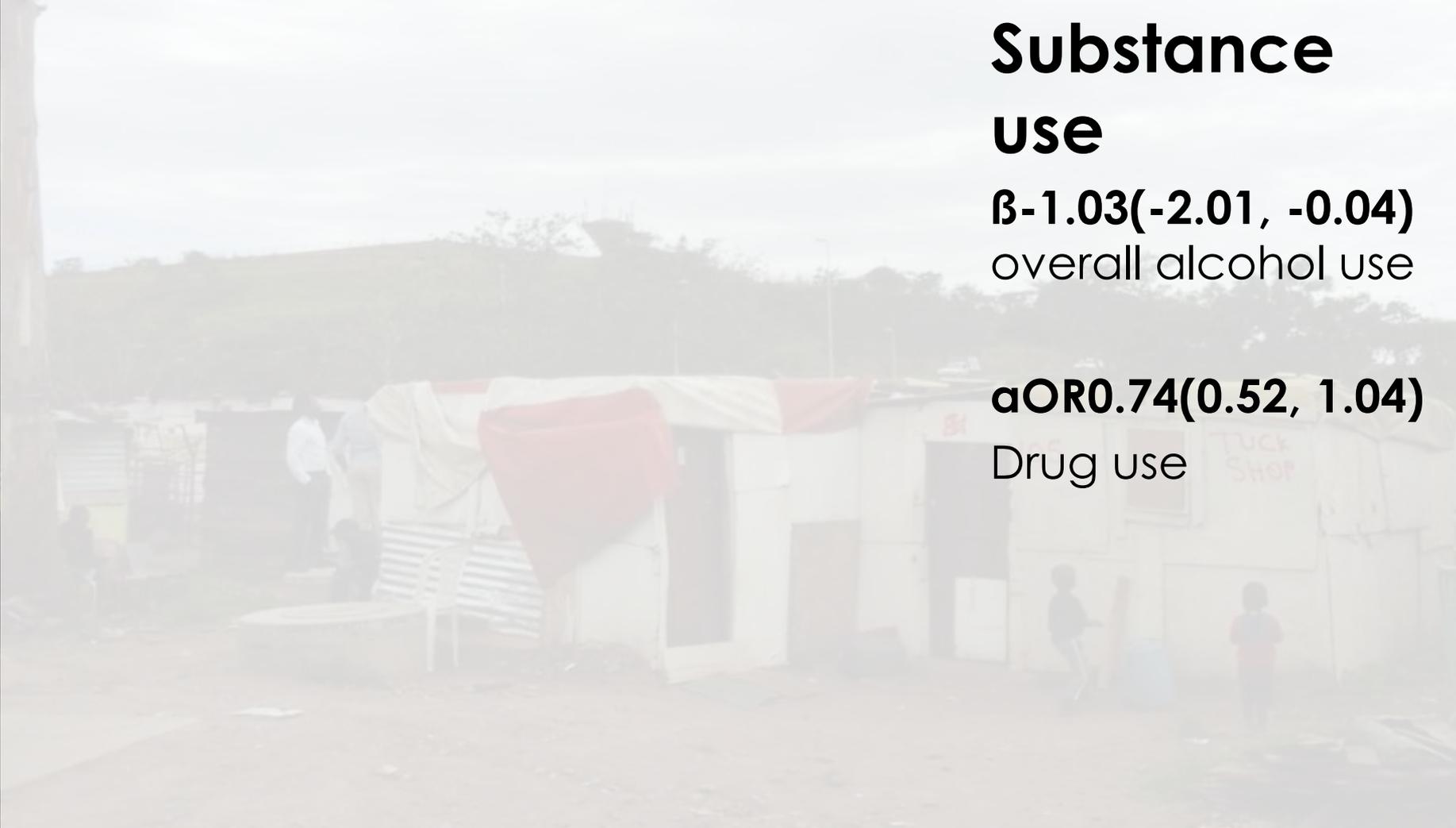
**aOR 0.78 (0.57, 1.07)**  
non-partner rape

# Men's outcomes

## Substance use

$\beta$ -1.03(-2.01, -0.04)  
overall alcohol use

$\alpha$ OR0.74(0.52, 1.04)  
Drug use



# Men's outcomes



## Men's livelihoods

Savings (total and past month)

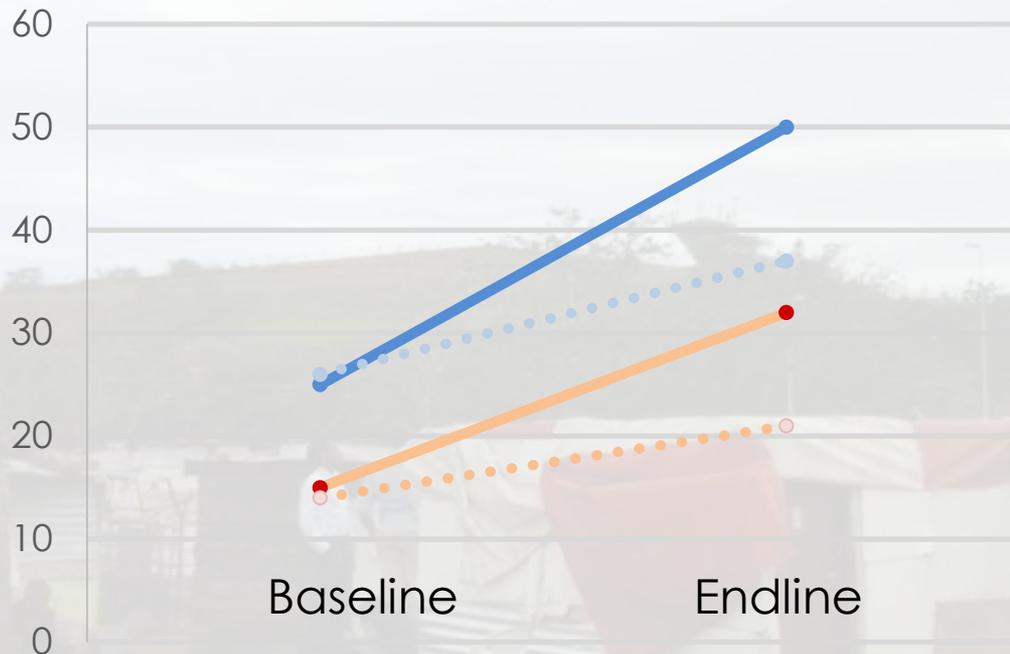
**aOR 2.56 (1.61, 4.09)**

Past year work consistency

# Women's outcomes



# Women's outcomes



- Worked past 3 months - Intervention
- Worked past 3 months - Control
- Work consistency past year - Intervention
- Work consistency past year - Control

## Women's work and earnings

Work patterns improved:

**aOR1.63(1.20, 2.23)**  
past 3 month work

**aOR1.74(1.14, 2.65)**  
past year work

Past month earnings increased significantly

# Women's outcomes

## Women's savings

Total amount, and past month savings improved



# Women's outcomes

## **Women's experiences of violence**

No impact on past  
year IPV or non-  
partner rape  
experience



# Men: Summary

- Consistent patterns for reductions in IPV & non-partner sexual violence perpetration, and reduced substance use
- Strengthened work engagement and savings
- No impact on HIV-risk
- Very similar, and stronger, the findings from the initial Stepping Stones evaluation in the Eastern Cape of South Africa (Jewkes et al, 2008)

# Women: Summary

- Strengthened economic position, and no increase VAWG
- Why no impact on women's IPV or HIV-risk?
  - Significantly improved economic outcomes, but absolute earnings low (mean R565/\$60/month)
  - Assumption of dyadic relationships
  - High levels unresolved trauma/mental health, may limit engagement in transforming relationships

# Other presentations

- Samantha Willan: *Young women in urban informal settlements in South Africa display agency after participation in the Stepping Stones and Creating Futures intervention* (Today: 14:30, Prevention Programmes)
- Laura Washington: *Examining the precariousness of young men's realities in the context of high levels of intimate partner violence perpetration* (Wednesday: 16:30, Understanding VAW)
- Abbey Hatcher: *Which men change in response to VAW prevention interventions?* (Thursday: 9:00, Complex Research)

# Stepping Stones and Creating Futures evaluation team

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