

What works to prevent violence against women and girls?



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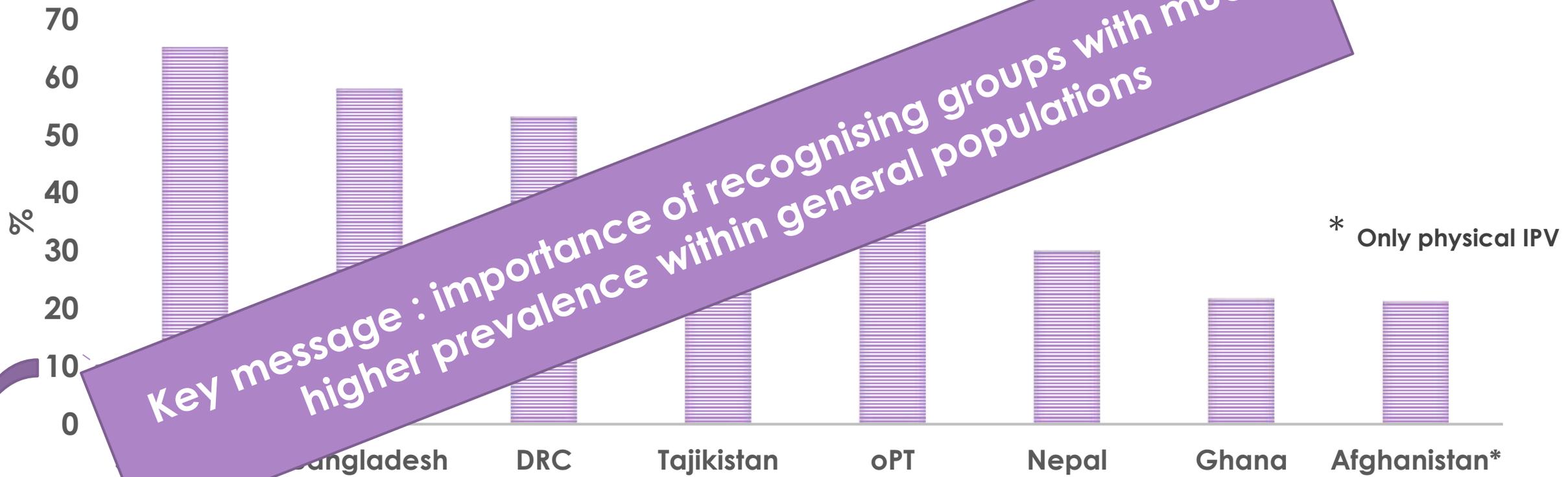
DFID flagship programme: What works to prevent violence against women?

- ▶ **What Works** has generated new knowledge on :
 - ▶ **drivers** of violence
 - ▶ What works in **prevention**
 - ▶ **costs** of violence prevention
- ▶ Work has been conducted in **13 countries** of Africa and Asia
- ▶ We have evaluated **15 VAWG prevention interventions** and have **6 costing studies**



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SCALE OF THE PROBLEM : Women's experience of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months



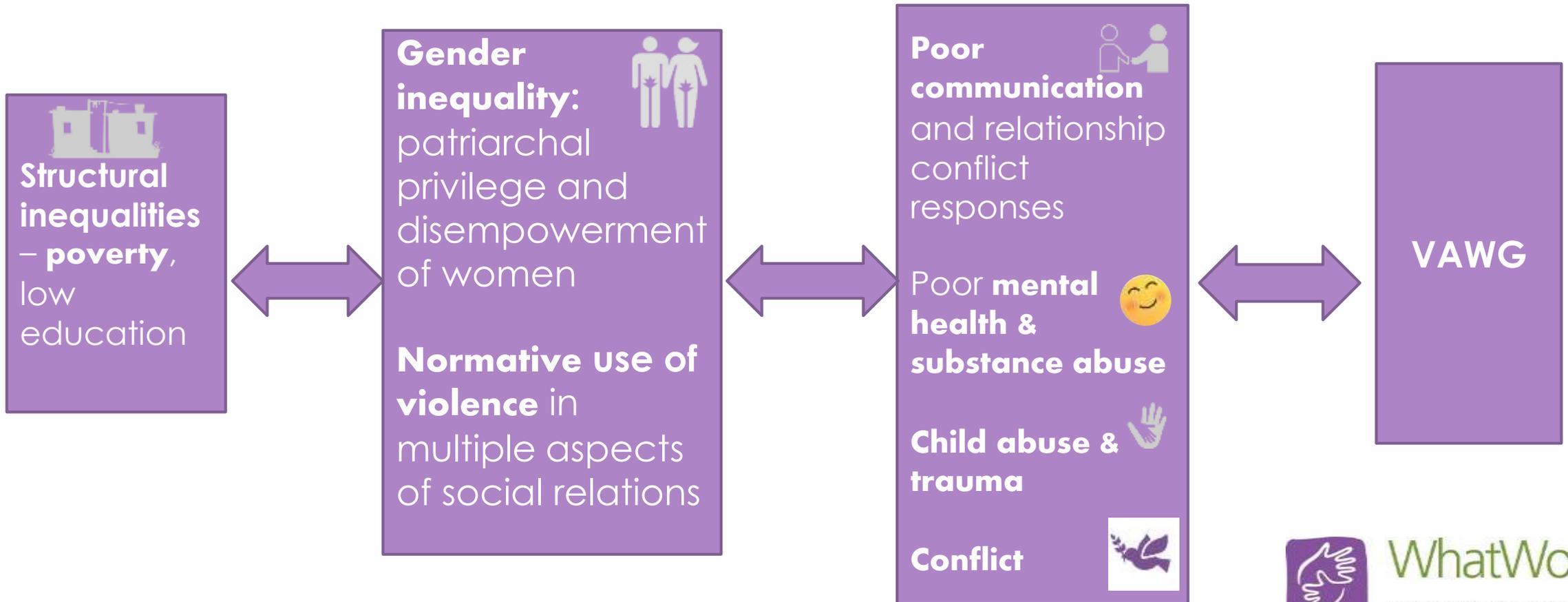
Key message : importance of recognising groups with much higher prevalence within general populations

South Africa DHS 2016 – past yr physical IPV



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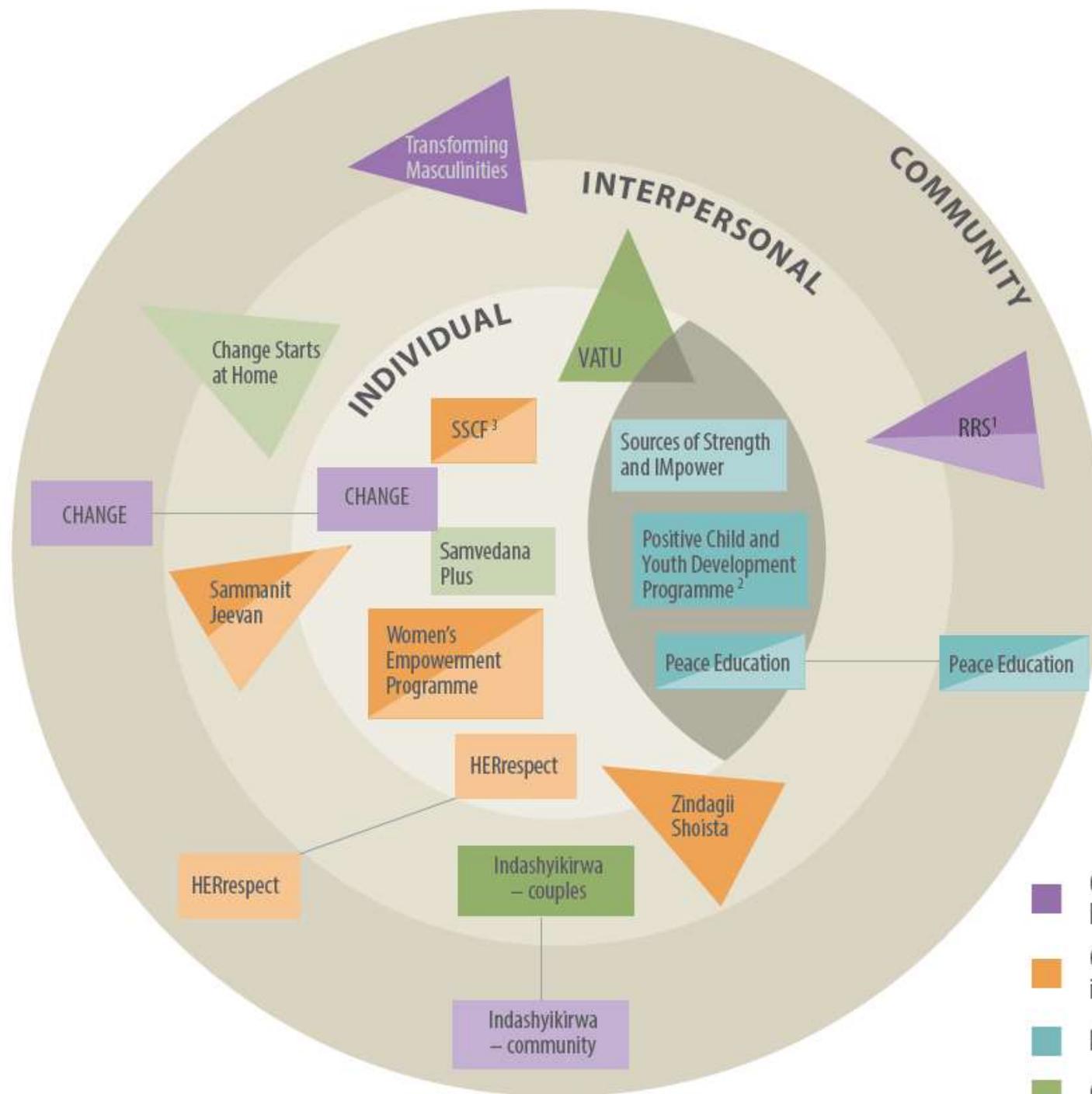
Drivers of VAWG:



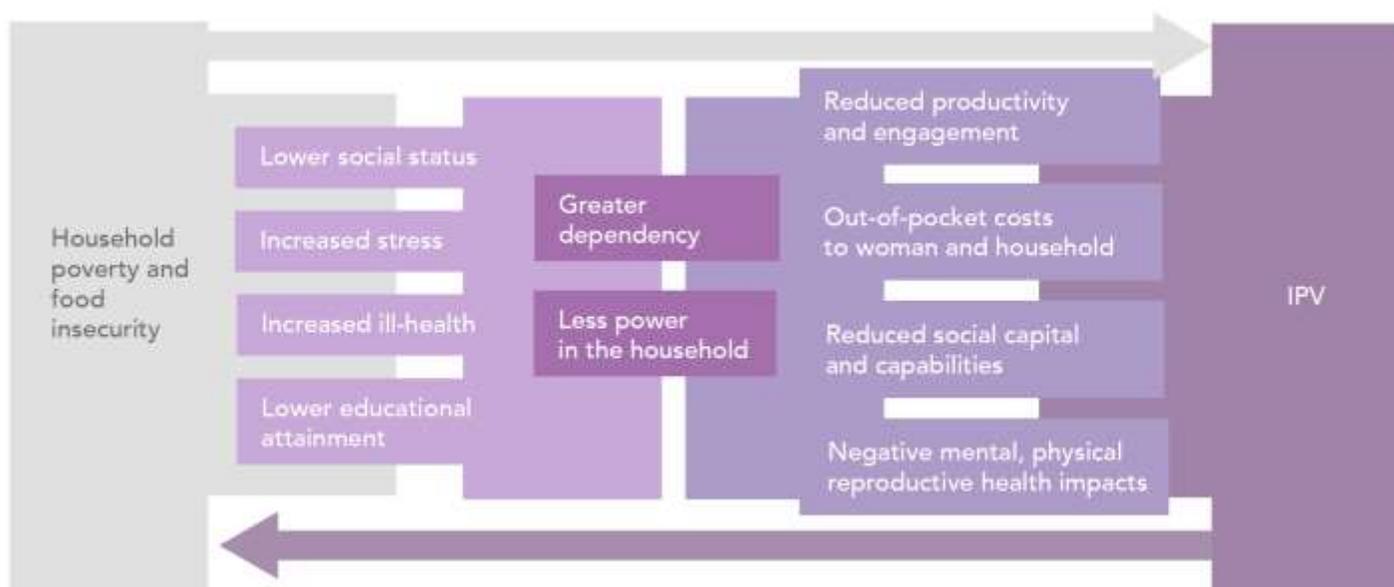
What Works studies have evaluated programming on..

-  Community activism approaches to shift harmful gender attitudes, roles and social norms
-  Gender transformative and economic empowerment intervention approaches
-  Prevention of violence among and against children
-  Couples and special groups

What Works interventions & indicative effectiveness mapped on to the socio-ecological model



VAWG PREVENTION THROUGH GENDER TRANSFORMATION AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES



There is compelling evidence that **cash transfers** can reduce women's experience of IPV, particularly when combined with conditionalities

Economic interventions on their own have not been shown to reduce IPV

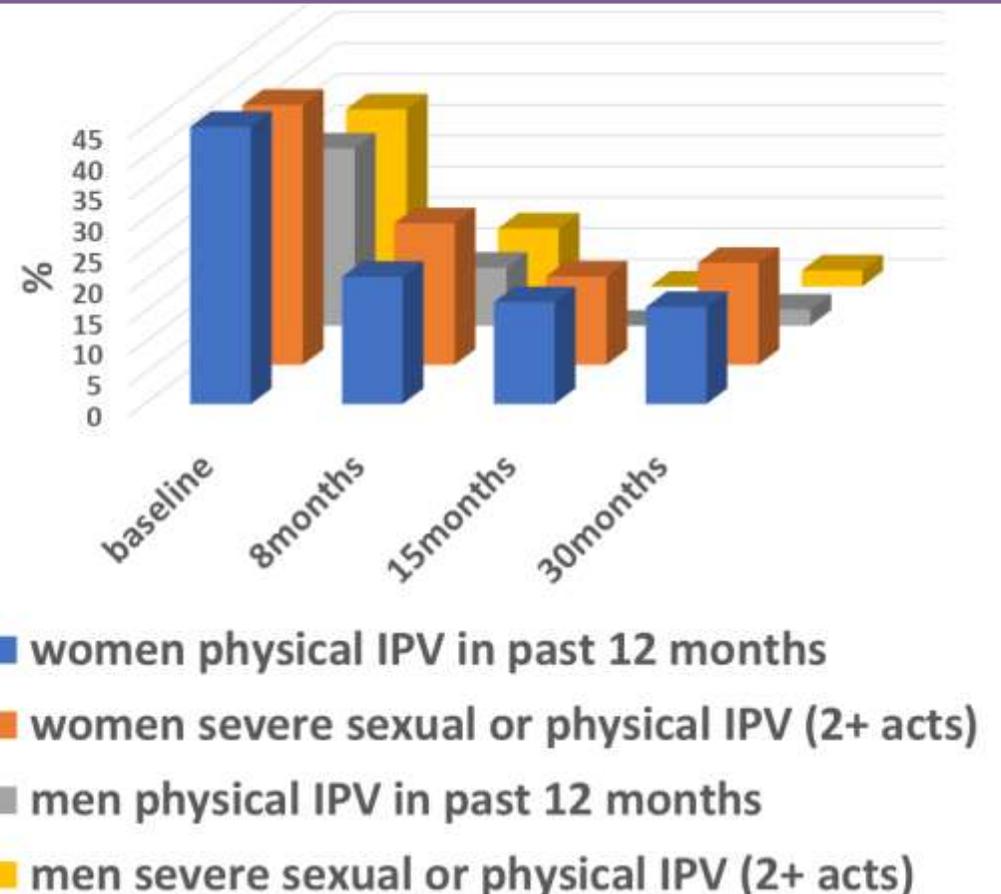
A gender transformative intervention with economic empowerment interventions can **reduce IPV**, **prevent** possible **backlash** IPV and **improve** economic **outcomes**

- ▶ **Poverty & women's financial dependence on men are very well established drivers of VAWG**

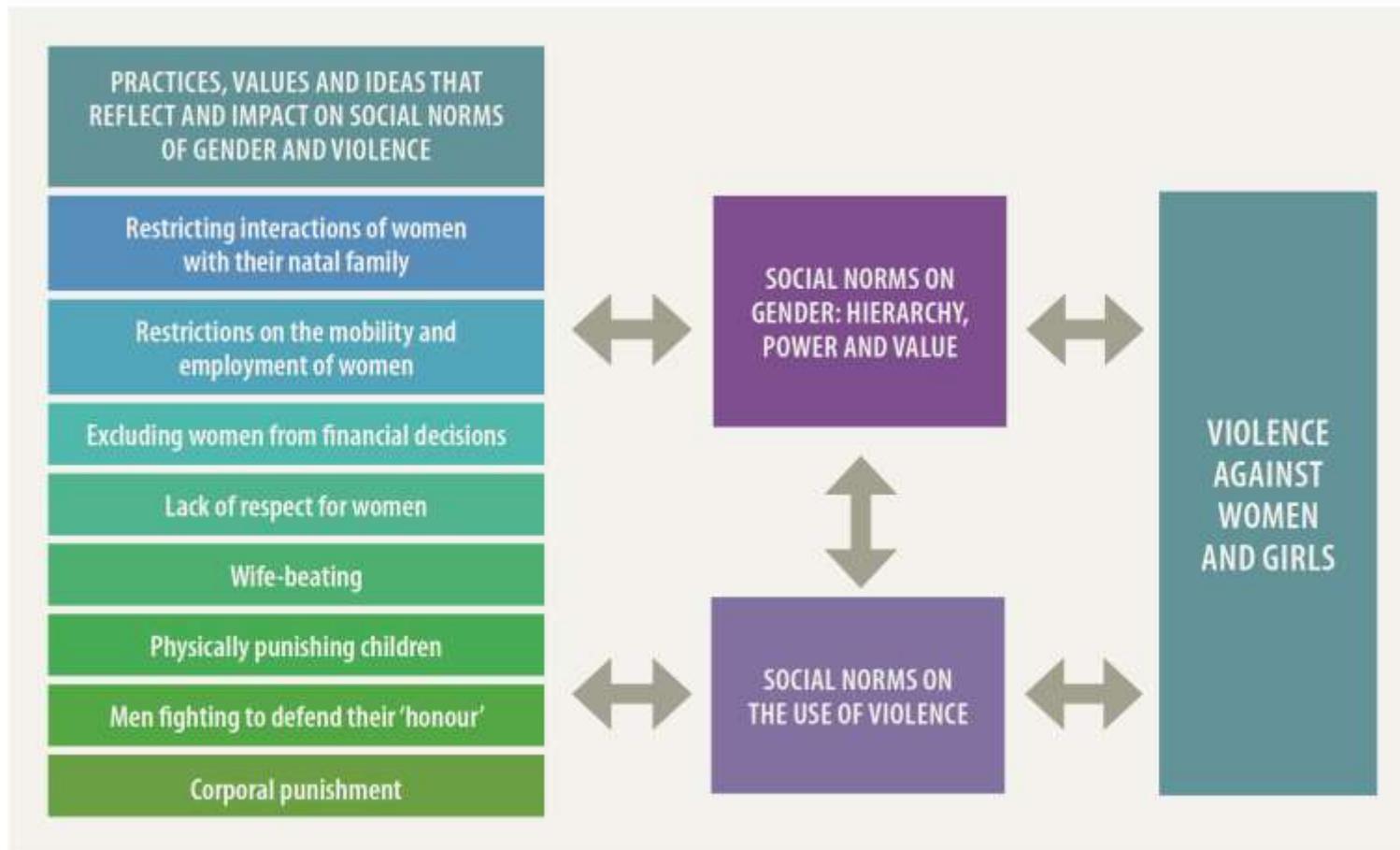
What Works' contribution

- ▶ Interventions must be built on a **strong contextual understanding**
- ▶ Emerging evidence from What Works has pointed to the value of economic interventions **with poor and marginal men** and shown that they may enable engagement around gender and power that would otherwise not be possible
- ▶ It has also shown the value of **interventions with families**
- ▶ Interventions must be **sufficiently intensive**
- ▶ Delivered by highly trained and supported staff
- ▶ The quantum of **economic empowerment must be meaningful**

Zindagii Shoista, Tajikistan: impact after 15 months intervention



Interconnection between gender attitudes and roles, and social norms on gender and violence and practices of VAWG



- ▶ There is good evidence that interventions using volunteer community activists can change attitudes and norms related to the use of VAWG in communities



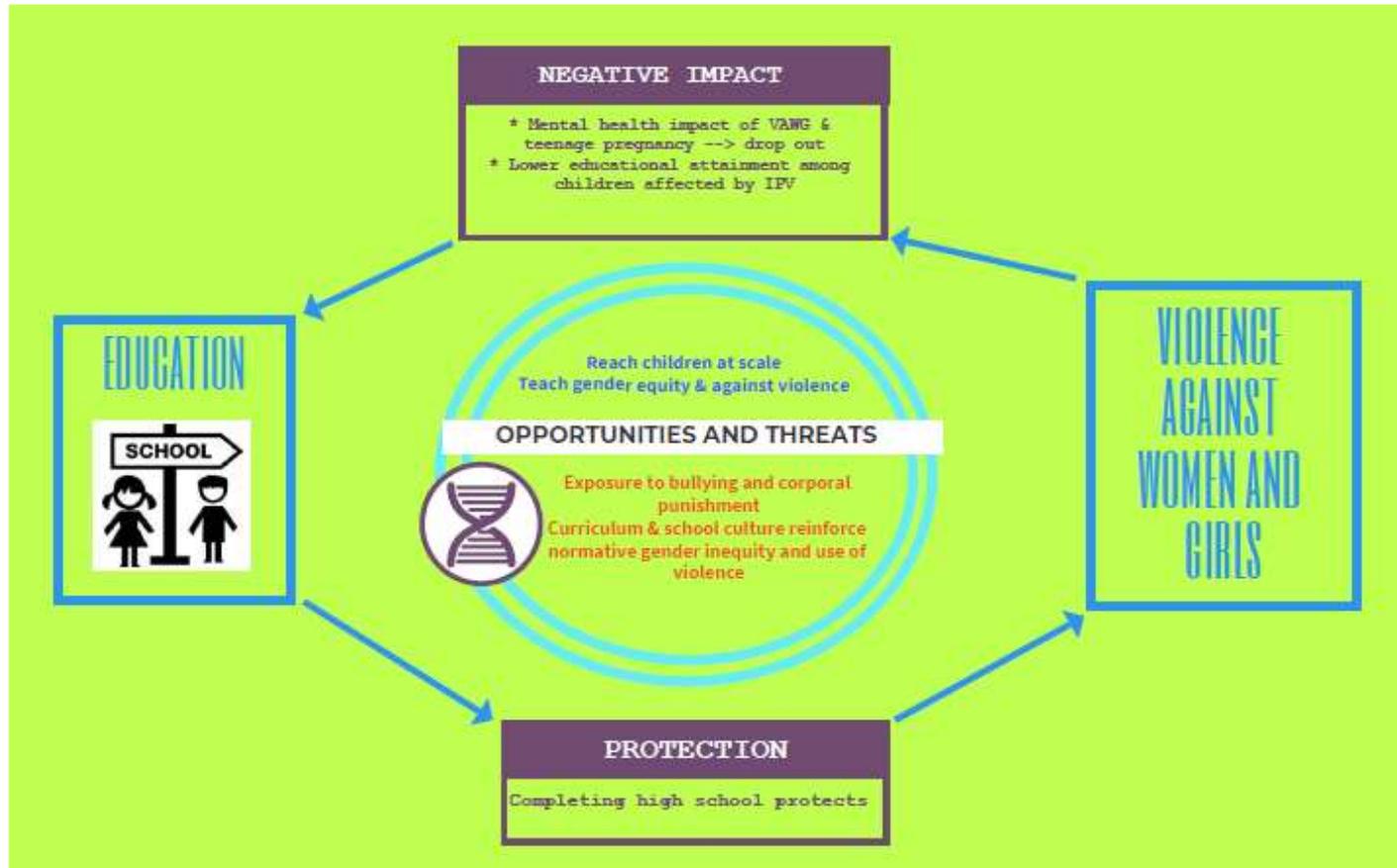
Interventions to change gender attitudes and roles, and social norms on gender and violence

- ▶ **Well trained and supported community activists can be very effective in VAWG prevention**
- ▶ **Awareness raising alone does not change behavior.** It must be followed by **meaningful interpersonal engagement** and programmes addressing drivers of violence **using participatory methods**
- ▶ Effective interventions **constructively engage community leadership structures** – religious and traditional – as well as **engage and support the police, health and social services**
- ▶ **Direct engagement with couples experiencing IPV and enabling access to services are key elements of more effective interventions**
- ▶ **Interventions are successful when they are:**
 - ▶ Sufficiently long (2+ years)
 - ▶ Based on a strong contextual understanding, theory of change, and each stage is properly prepared for, resourced etc
 - ▶ All workshops and activities need to have manuals



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Connections between VAWG and education



- ▶ There is evidence for the effectiveness of school-based interventions for reducing dating violence, but mainly delivered outside the class room teaching

KEY LEARNINGS FROM WHAT WORKS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND WITH CHILDREN

- ▶ Interventions must **empower children**
- ▶ Must be **age appropriate**
- ▶ Children take time to process and learn new ideas: Effective interventions are delivered over a **long period of time**
- ▶ Designed to address **multiple drivers of violence**
- ▶ Effective methods are **participatory (including play-based)** and **build gender equity** and **relationship and communication skills, fostering positive interpersonal relations**



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Couples and special populations

- ▶ Couples programming **can be delivered safely** and **reduce IPV**
- ▶ We have demonstrated particular benefit in:
 - ▶ Couples (family) economic & gender empowerment interventions
 - ▶ Substance abuse driven violence
 - ▶ Highly patriarchal & traumatised populations
 - ▶ Counselling as an adjunct to social norms change interventions
- ▶ These interventions are effective where the overall interventions **addresses the key drivers for VAWG** and where there is a direct and **overt focus on building** the relationship of **'the couple'**
- ▶ **Effective interventions for couples:**
 - ▶ **in the general population**
 - ▶ **with substance abuse problems using psychotherapeutic approaches**



Design and implementation features of interventions that are successful

- ▶ having a **strong theory of change** based on a **contextual** understanding of drivers of violence and **social and gender empowerment theory**, but some evidence for psychotherapeutic approaches, when needed
- ▶ Address **multiple drivers** and (mostly) work with men and women (+/- families)
- ▶ **carefully designed** to ensure different parts of the intervention could achieve the goals of the theory of change – **appropriate manuals and materials**
- ▶ well established behaviour change methods using **participatory (group) learning approaches** for adults and children, including **emphasis on critical reflection and positive interpersonal relations** -communication and conflict resolution skills building.
- ▶ **Support survivors** or positively engage with couples with IPV
- ▶ **Age appropriate** design

Implementation

- ▶ Programming with **sufficient intensity** and **duration** (no short interventions)
- ▶ Personnel (**staff and volunteers**) – selected with established **gender equitable attitudes and non-violent**
- ▶ Personnel – **comprehensively trained, supported**



	Good Evidence	Insufficient Evidence
Effective	<p>Cash Transfer Programmes</p> <p>Economic and social empowerment programmes</p> <p>Parenting programmes to prevent IPV and child maltreatment</p> <p>Community activism approaches to shift harmful gender attitudes, role and social norms</p> <p>School-based interventions to prevent dating or sexual violence</p> <p>Interventions for alcohol and substance misuse (with or without other prevention elements)</p> <p>Couples interventions</p> <p>Female Sex Worker Interventions on client, police or others' violence</p> <p>School-based interventions for peer violence</p>	<p>Table of What Works? based on an indepth review of the physical/sexual IPV prevention field 2019</p>
Promising	Self-defence interventions for women at college	
Conflict- ing	<p>Self-defence interventions for girls at primary and secondary schools</p> <p>Working with men and boys alone</p>	
No effect	Economic empowerment	<p><i>Unlikely to work as a standalone intervention:</i></p> <p>Awareness raising campaigns</p> <p>Digital technologies for decision support</p> <hr/> <p><i>Requires further innovation:</i></p> <p>Female Sex Worker interventions (on non-client partner violence)</p> <p>Workplace interventions</p>
Harmful		

Conclusion

- ▶ **Violence against women and girls is preventable** in programmatic timeframes
- ▶ We have a **repertoire of interventions** that are effective that can be adapted and taken to scale
- ▶ **But not every intervention**, used in every setting **works – careful adaptation and testing is needed** for new interventions and to adjust promising models that have not yet been demonstrated to be effective
- ▶ **Robustly designed and implemented interventions** are essential for success
- ▶ We have the ability to make a real difference to women's and girls' lives and it's vital that we grasp this opportunity

Acknowledgements

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- ▶ The work was managed by the South African MRC, LSHTM and Social Development Direct assisted by Ladbury Consulting and a team of technical assistants
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