Global efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Presentation to ANU Gender Institute
4 August 2015
Tania Farha
UN Architecture to address VAW

- UN General Assembly – Advancement of Women
- UN Security Council – Women, Peace and Security
- *Commission for the Status of Women*
- Human Rights Commission
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Statistical Commission (Indicators)
- UN Agencies and Funds (most recent – UN Women)
International Norms and Standards

- 1992 General Recommendation 19, CEDAW Committee (violence is a form of Discrimination)
- 1993 UN Declaration on Violence Against Women
- 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (VAW critical area of concern)
- Biannual resolutions in the GA
- Annual resolutions in the HRC
- Resolutions of the Crime Commission- Model Strategies for the Justice Sector to Respond to VAW (and most recent on the Taking action against Gender Related Killing)
- Adoption of CSW 57 agreed conclusions (2013)
However...

- Negotiating environment on women’s rights can be difficult
- Missed opportunity to include VAW in MDGs
- Growing consensus that EVAW should be a part of post 2015 agenda (target 5.2)
International Facts and Figures

• 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime (WHO, 2013). In some countries, national prevalence rates are up to 70%.

• Almost half (47%) of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to less than 6% of murders of men (UNODC, 2013).
International Facts and Figures

- Women and girls represent an estimated 55% of victims of forced labour but 98% of the estimated 4.5 million forced into sexual exploitation (ILO, 2012).

- Globally, an estimated 100 million to 140 million women and girls living today have undergone FGM/C in 29 countries for which we have data (UNICEF, 2014).
A woman dies at the hands of a current or former partner almost every week in Australia.

One woman in three has experienced physical violence, since the age of 15

One woman in five has experienced sexual violence.

One woman in four had experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner.

UN WOMEN

UN Women is the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Established in July 2010 - Operational in January 2011

Brought together:

• Division for the Advancement of Women
• International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
• Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
• United Nations Development Fund for Women
Thematic Areas of Focus

- Leadership & Political Participation
- Governance & National Planning
- HIV/AIDS
- Economic Empowerment
- Peace & Security
- Humanitarian Action
- Research and Data
- Violence against Women

(Post-2015 Development Agenda & SDGs)
How We Do Our Work

- Support to inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, GA, and SC

- Support to Member States to implement these standards (provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society (policy and programming work).

- Leadership and coordination of the UN system’s work on gender equality as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

- Advocacy and global campaigns (HeforShe etc…)

- Working with Civil Society and Women’s Organizations
EVAW Priorities

Addressing gaps in implementation in a range of areas:

- Laws and policies
- Data and knowledge
- Prevention
- Quality services
- Safe public spaces
- Humanitarian/conflict/political
VAW Legislation

Progress of the World’s Women 2011-2012
VAW laws and enforcement

Figure 15: The proportion of countries with laws to prevent violence and the extent to which countries report these laws as being fully enforced (n = 133 reporting countries)

- Against statutory rape: 64% fully enforced, 99% exists
- Against rape (forced sexual intercourse): 64% fully enforced, 98% exists
- Against contact sexual violence without rape: 57% fully enforced, 94% exists
- Against non-contact sexual violence: 51% fully enforced, 88% exists
- Domestic/family violence legislation: 44% fully enforced, 87% exists
- Against weapons on school premises: 57% fully enforced, 84% exists
- Against gang or criminal membership: 51% fully enforced, 81% exists
- Allowing removal of violent spouse from home: 38% fully enforced, 78% exists
- Ban on corporal punishment: 30% fully enforced, 76% exists
- Against rape in marriage: 43% fully enforced, 73% exists
- Against elder abuse: 30% fully enforced, 59% exists
- Against elder abuse in institutions: 20% fully enforced, 40% exists

Global status report on violence prevention, 2014
VAW Data and National plans

Figure 10: Proportion of countries with national survey data and national action plans, by type of violence (n = 133 reporting countries)

Global status report on violence prevention, 2014
## Areas of Focus

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<tr>
<th>EVAW Priority Area</th>
<th>Gaps to Address</th>
<th>Main Initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comprehensive laws and policies</strong></td>
<td>Laws and policies that address all forms of violence against women, laws that impact the discrimination and gender inequality (inheritance, family laws, access to property, equal opportunity)</td>
<td>National Handbooks on Legislation and National Action Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Measuring progress, Data and Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Lack of reliable and international comparable national-representative data on various forms of VAW (prevalence)</td>
<td>Working with Govts to develop laws and policies</td>
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<td>Lack of rigorous and ethical evaluation methods</td>
<td>VAW Data Proposal and Global Joint Programme</td>
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<td>Lack of concrete tools/practical guides on how to implement laws, policies, and programmes to EVAW</td>
<td>VKC to End Violence against Women and Girls</td>
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<td>UNSG Database on VAW</td>
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<td>UN Inventory</td>
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<td>Preventing violence against women and girls</td>
<td>Approach to prevention, largely fragmented</td>
<td>Global Framework on VAW Prevention (to be tested at national level)</td>
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<td>Lack of guidance on how to strategically and effectively prevent VAWG</td>
<td>UN Trust Fund (managed by UN Women) and country–led activities</td>
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<td>Integrate the prevention of VAWG across different policy frameworks</td>
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<td>Insufficient resources directed to prevention programming</td>
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| **Quality Services for VAW Survivors** | Lack of global guidelines and agreements to guide the design and implementation of quality services that respond to VAW –  
Insufficient dedicated resources to strengthen the quality of services for violence survivors | Essential Services – UN Joint Global Programme  
UN Trust Fund and country-led activities |
| **Safe Public Spaces**              | Absence of policies and programmes to prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces and lack of gender lens  
Lack of evaluated approaches  
Public space: A missing field for significant development solutions | Safe Cities Global Initiative |


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<td><strong>VAW in humanitarian settings (conflict and disasters)</strong></td>
<td>Lack of effective protection mechanisms and services for survivors</td>
<td><strong>Global-level coordination and activities (UN Action and GBV AoR) and country-led programmes</strong></td>
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<td>Widespread impunity</td>
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<td>Low funding levels for programmes – VAWG NOT a priority among main humanitarian actors</td>
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| **Support to Inter-governmental bodies (GA, CSW)** | Progression of normative standards | **Secretary-General’s reports on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, FGM and trafficking in women and girls**
| | | **Review Theme for CSW 60 (2016)** |
Impact Area 3: Ending Violence against Women

Impact Area 3 – Result Overview

In 2014, EVAW was a priority area of work in 80 countries out of 86 countries where UN Women had programme presence.

$46.4 Million Programme expenses under impact area 3
UN Women on behalf of UN system...

**UNTF to End VAW**
- Global, multilateral grant-making mechanism with annual cycle of grant making
- Established by UN General Assembly Resolution (1996) and administered by UN Women
- Inter-agency Consultative Mechanism (20 UN agencies + leading NGOs)
- It addresses all forms of violence & supports regional, country & local-level action
- UN Women provides the Fund with a strong institutional foundation
- UNTF reinforces UN Women’s efforts to prevent & end VAW/G

**SG’s UNiTE Campaign**
- Launched in 2008 by the Secretary-General & concludes in 2015
- Aims to raise public awareness globally, increase political will & resources
- Mobilizes individuals and communities, supports efforts of women’s & civil society organizations
- Proactively engages men, young people, celebrities, artists, sports personalities, private sector and many more
- UN Women manages campaign on behalf of SG and it is its main contributor and driver - particularly in area of national implementation & global communications
- Other main contributors at global, regional & national level include: UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and DPI
UN Women’s Communications & Advocacy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

- **COMMIT to End Violence against Women**, an action call for Governments to make new and concrete national commitments, launched in 2012. By the end of 2013, more than 63 countries and the European Union had joined the initiative.

- **HeforShe Campaign**, a solidarity movement for gender equality. Men and boys commit to taking action against gender discrimination and violence in order to build a more just and equal world. As well as IMPACT 10x10x10 engages key decision makers at governments, corporations, and universities around the world to drive change from the top ([www.heforshe.org](http://www.heforshe.org))
UN Joint Programme
Essential Services for women and girls subject to violence
Women’s experience of violence is high

- 35% of women worldwide have experienced intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

- In some countries, this figure increases to around 70%.
Women’s use of services is low

- We also know the majority of women experiencing violence mainly tell their family and friends.

- Even in Europe, where services have been operating for longer, a recent population based survey of all 28 EU countries showed that on average, only 33% of victims of intimate partner and 26% of victims of non-partner sexual assault reported the most serious incident of violence to police or services.
Why are services important

- They provide immediate protection and support following women and girls’ (and children) experience of violence;
- They help women and girls’ (and children) recover from their experience; and
- Can prevent future violence

* Most effective service delivery is where quality services are coordinated and working effectively together - not necessarily located in one place
How will joint programe will help

- Purpose - to increase access to essential services (e.g. police, justice, health-care, shelters/safe accommodation, legal aid) for women and children subject to violence

- To do so, must have quality services and responses.

- Despite years of progress – still have slow and uneven progress on the development of services and responses for victims/survivors.

- Even where services exist – lack integration and coordination and of variable quality

- Much guidance at the global normative level on what has to be done – this project is about the “how to…”

- Aim = sustainability (improving what exists)
Phases of the Programme

- Proposed multi-year programme of work (5 years)
- Consists of two phases (2013-2018)
- Phase 1 – project which includes:
  - reach global consensus on essential VAW services required;
  - develop and/or adaptation of guidelines for:
    - health
    - police and justice
    - social support services; and
    - coordination and governance of services
  - to provide evidence-based technical assistance, methodologies and policy guidance to assist implementation at the country-level
- Developed with a strong focus on low to middle income countries but has universal applicability
- Phase 2 – Implementation of standards to test
Agencies involved

- UN Women
- UNFPA
- WHO (health)
- UNDP
- UNODC (police and justice)
- Support from UNICEF (social services and impacts for girls and children)
What has been done to date

- Over the last two years we have developed and/or adapted global standards and guidelines for:
  - Health
  - Police and justice; and
  - Social services
- Standards and guidelines for coordination and governance of services will be finalized by August 2015;
- Development of implementation guide and capacity development manual for service providers in line with standards by November 2015
- Supported by a global advocacy and outreach process
What is yet to be done

- Testing the standards will begin in January 2016
- Countries where testing will take place are yet to be determined but will be across all regions.
Infographic
Where to find EVAW information

http://www.endvawnow.org
Questions