

A large yellow abstract shape at the top of the page, with several red lines of varying lengths extending downwards from its bottom edge. The lines are positioned above the word 'RESPECT'.

R E S P E C T

W O M E N

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S T R A T E G Y
S U M M A R Y

Empowerment
of women

Empowerment of women

OBJECTIVE OF STRATEGY: Facilitate economic, social, psychological and political empowerment of women and girls to promote women's economic independence, improve relationships and promote equitable gender power relations within households, communities and society.

Rationale

Social, economic, psychological and political empowerment of women is a protective factor in reducing risk of violence against women,¹ as VAW is a manifestation of the low status that women occupy in society and the household.

Interventions under this strategy build women and girls' self-confidence and skills in self-efficacy, assertiveness and negotiation skills. They also increase women's economic literacy, assets, autonomy and reduce their financial dependence on men and other family members. Empowerment strategies help women to increase their bargaining power, confidence, decision-making autonomy, and give them choices and agency to act on their own and their families' behalf with respect to safety.

The strategy includes approaches to working with women and girls in communities, including marginalised groups of women (e.g. female sex workers and women with disabilities). The focus on approaches with particular groups of women is also in line with the guiding principles of RESPECT which includes leaving no one behind² by addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities. It also includes efforts targeted at adolescent girls, who face particular risks and vulnerabilities because of power dynamics related to their young age.

Risk and protective factors

This strategy aims to address the following risk factors and promote the following protective factors for VAW:

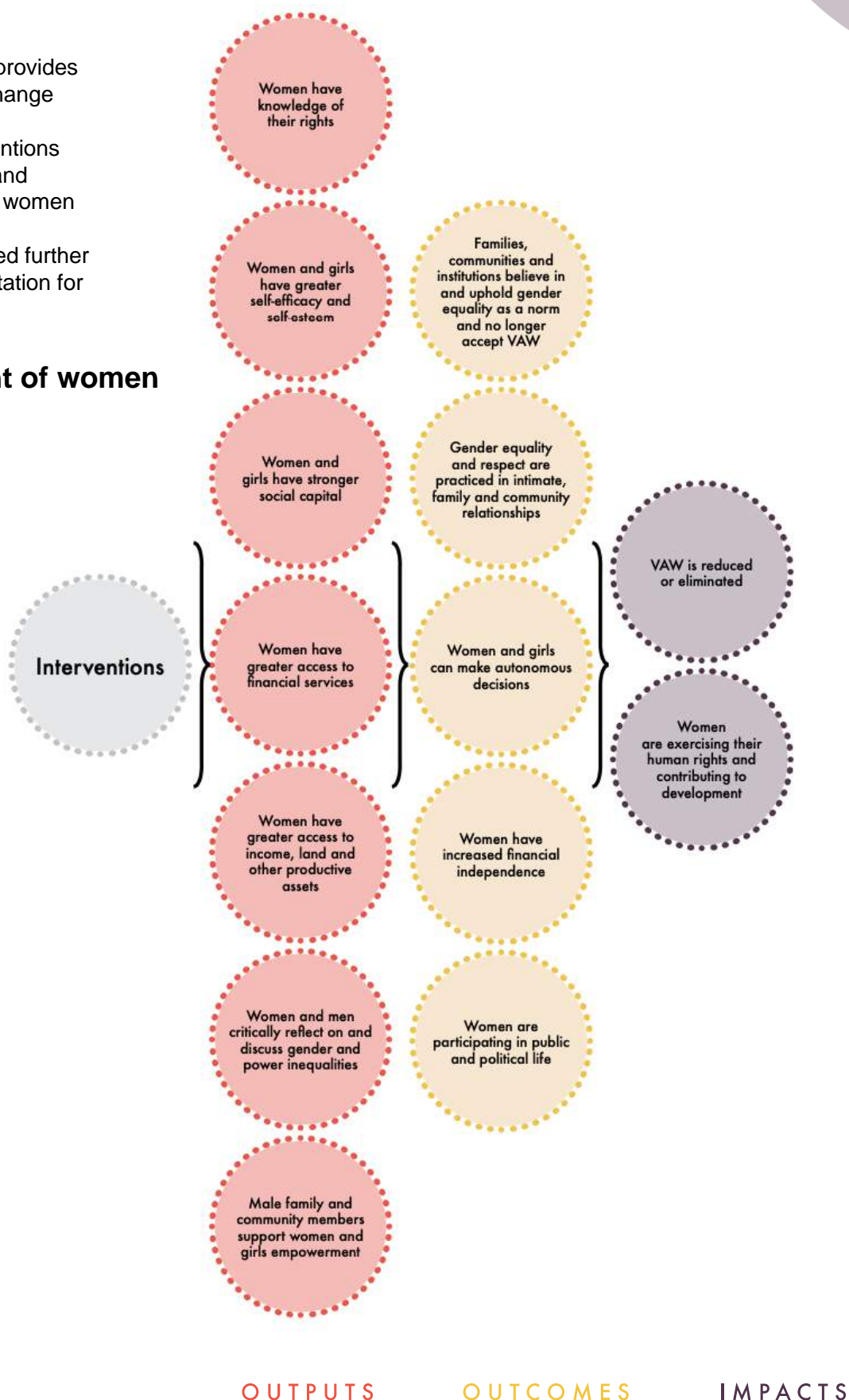
Level	Risk factors	Protective factors
Individual	<p>Economic insecurity (women)</p> <p>Attitudes condoning or justifying violence as normal or acceptable (women and men)</p> <p>Low self-efficacy and self-esteem (women)³</p>	<p>Economic insecurity (women and men)</p> <p>Financial autonomy (women)</p> <p>Gender-equitable attitudes and practices (women and men) and men</p> <p>High self-efficacy and self-esteem (women)</p>
Interpersonal	<p>High levels of inequality in intimate partner and in-law relationships</p> <p>Women's financial dependence & limited say in household decision-making</p>	<p>Intimate relationships are characterised by gender equality, including in shared decision-making & household responsibilities</p> <p>Greater parity in education levels between women and men</p>
Community	<p>Harmful gender norms that uphold male privilege and limit women's autonomy</p>	<p>Norms that support non-violence, respect for diversity and gender equality, and promote women's empowerment</p>
Societal	<p>Women's under- and unemployment and exploitative work environments</p> <p>Women's low political participation</p>	<p>High levels of women's employment</p> <p>High levels of women's education</p> <p>Women's active participation in political life</p>

STRATEGY SUMMARY

Theory of change




The following diagram provides a simplified theory of change demonstrating how evidence-based interventions which seek to socially and economically empower women can lead to reductions in VAW. This would need further development and adaptation for specific programmes.



E: Empowerment of women



Types of interventions

Interventions under this strategy include efforts to build women’s vocational, financial and life skills, address barriers to social, political and economic inclusion such as unequal inheritance and property rights regimes, and build social networks and collective agency. These strategies aim to build individual, group and collective power of women to challenge inequality and subordination in their relationships, families and communities. In some cases, programmes focus solely on economic or social empowerment; other programmes combine social and economic interventions. The following table outlines a number of promising approaches featured in the RESPECT framework and provides a brief overview of the current evidence base and example programmes.

Intervention type	Description	Summary of evidence	Example programmes
Empowerment training for women or girls including life skills, safe spaces⁴ and mentoring	This includes interventions focused on social empowerment of women and girls, including life skills, safe spaces and mentoring. It can also include collective empowerment with marginalised groups of women, such as sex workers.	 There is promising evidence from LMICs that this type of intervention can work to reduce women’s and girls’ experience of violence, including intimate partner violence (IPV).	The Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) (Kenya) AVAHAN sex worker collectivisation (India)
		 More evidence is needed from HICs that these kinds of approaches can lead to improvements in violence. When working with adolescent girls, the most effective approaches involve intensive group-based social empowerment interventions delivered over a year or more. ⁵	
Inheritance and asset ownership policies and interventions	This includes interventions targeted at improving laws on inheritance and property rights to increase women’s access to and control over land and other productive assets, as well as increase the worth of girls to their families.	 There is promising evidence from LMICs that reforming unequal inheritance and property regimes is an important part of reducing overall levels of VAW. This includes analysis from India, where in states where inheritance rights were made equal for males and females, aggregate levels of VAW reported to police fell by 36% from 1976 to 2004. There is no evidence from HICs.	The change in inheritance law (India)

Intervention type	Description	Summary of evidence	Example programmes
<p>Microfinance or savings and loans, combined with gender and empowerment training components</p>	<p>There are a number of promising approaches which combine economic and social empowerment components. These interventions take a holistic view of women’s and girls’ empowerment, combining building women’s social skills and confidence and activities focused on improving their financial literacy and independence. Some interventions engage male partners or boys as peers, to reduce any potential backlash and gain men’s and boys’ support. Other types of interventions engage men and boys more deeply in the programme, so that men and boys also receive the full economic and social empowerment intervention.</p>	<p> There is promising evidence from LMICs that interventions focused on the social empowerment of women and girls which combine economic and social empowerment components (including life skills, safe spaces and mentoring in combination with economic interventions) can work to reduce women’s and girls’ experiences of IPV. There is also evidence that when these interventions engage men and boys, they can reduce men’s reported perpetration of IPV. There is no evidence from HICs.</p> <p></p>	<p>MAISHA (Tanzania)</p> <p>Zindagii Shoista (Tajikistan)</p> <p>Do Kadam Barabari Ki Ore (Two Steps Towards Equality) (India)</p>

Example programmes

The following table summarises three different programmes which have been shown to deliver reductions in VAW prevalence within programmatic timeframes. The table should be reviewed alongside the **design and implementation checklist** on page 8, as well as the **guiding principles of effective programming** provided in the RESPECT framework when adapting any of these methodologies. More detailed information on each programme is provided in the **programme summaries**.

Approach	Description	Location	Target population	Core activities	Duration	Evaluation and Impact
MAISHA (based on IMAGE) ⁶	A microfinance plus gender empowerment intervention which aims to improve communities' economic well-being and independence and reduce vulnerability to HIV and VAW	Tanzania	Poor rural women in established micro-finance groups	Women in pre-established microfinance groups were invited to take part in a 10-session participatory empowerment programme over a 20-week period. Each session lasted 1.5–2 hours and was delivered by trained female facilitators following the <i>Wanawake Na Maisha</i> (meaning “women and life” in Kiswahili) curriculum.	24 months	Type of evaluation: Randomised controlled trial (RCT) and longitudinal qualitative research ⁷ Main findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced the risk of women experiencing physical and/or sexual IPV by a quarter • Improved attitudes towards IPV and increased women's self-confidence

Approach	Description	Location	Target population	Core activities	Duration	Evaluation and Impact
Zindagii Shoista (Living with Dignity)	A family-centred intervention which combined gender empowerment, training in setting up an income generating activity (IGA) and micro-grants to support this within households.	Rural Tajikistan	Young married women and their families (including in-laws)	<p>The intervention was implemented with up to four members of multi-generational households comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 social empowerment sessions over 10 weeks on building gender equity, respect, communication, and reducing violence. • Economic empowerment sessions over 10 weeks on gender, work and livelihood strengthening, business development and income generating activities (IGAs), targeted at young married women and another family member. • Each family given \$370 per household to start an IGA. • Supervision and accompaniment of IGAs.⁸ 	18+ months	<p>Type of evaluation: Mixed-methods evaluation⁹</p> <p>Main findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant positive changes were found in relationship dynamics, mental health and socio-economic status • A statistically significant reduction was found in all forms of IPV reported by men (perpetration) and women (experience)

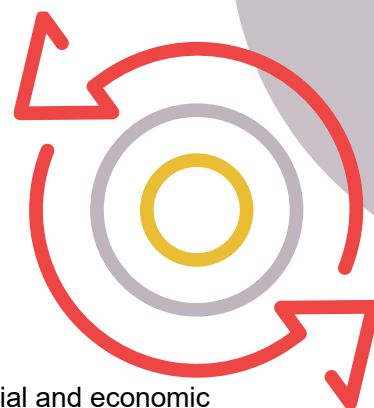
Approach	Description	Location	Target population	Core activities	Duration	Evaluation and Impact
<u>The Adolescent Girls Initiative, Kenya (AGI-K)</u>	Multi-sectoral empowerment intervention (social, health, education and economic) for adolescent girls	Two marginalised areas of Kenya: Kibera, Nairobi and Wajir County, Northeastern Kenya	Adolescent girls age 11-15	The AGI-K combines four different components: a community-based violence prevention programme, an education conditional cash transfer (CCT), health focused girls' empowerment clubs and financial education and savings	2 plus years	<p>Type of evaluation: RCT with four treatment arms¹⁰</p> <p>Main findings at the end of the two-year intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant positive effects on violence reduction, primary school completion, sexual and reproductive health knowledge, social safety nets, financial literacy and savings behaviour, and household economic status, in urban areas <p>Main findings two years after the completion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No sustained impact on violence • Significant positive effects for girls who were out of school at baseline in Wajir on delaying marriage and pregnancy, as well as increased school enrolment • Significant positive effects for older girls in Kibera on delaying sexual debut and childbearing

Design and Implementation Checklist

Common elements and principles of effective approaches to women's social and economic empowerment include:

Programme design and adaptation

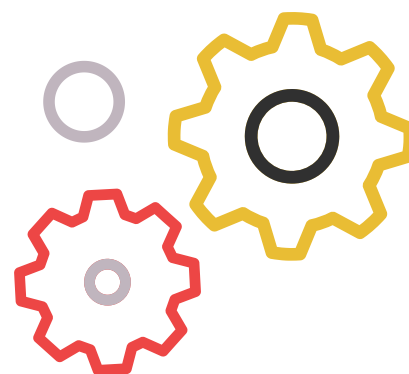
- 1. Identify the target population.** Work with the most marginalised women and girls through targeted approaches and appropriate interventions tailored to the lived realities of the target population. Participatory tools and consultation processes can be used to identify context-specific vulnerabilities and reach particularly marginalised sub populations such as out-of-school girls and women and girls with disabilities. Before designing the intervention, a situation analysis and needs assessment should be conducted to explore barriers facing particular sub-groups of women,¹¹ and intervention designs should be designed and adjusted accordingly.
- 2. Conduct formative research on norms around gender roles and income earning.** This is critical to understand under what circumstances it is deemed acceptable for unmarried and married women to be earning income, doing what kinds of work and why. This has a big impact on how men, family and community members react to a woman working. Where interventions are challenging gender roles, prepare for how to mitigate potential backlash.
- 3. Ensure economic empowerment components are based on local livelihood opportunities.** For example, economic empowerment interventions need to be designed on the basis of a market analysis of the livelihood options for women, and build where possible on any existing support available¹² (e.g. micro-loans, village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), self-help groups (SHGs)).
- 4. Recognise and mitigate against potential backlash.** This strategy may directly challenge traditional gender roles in patriarchal settings, so it must include efforts to mitigate against potential backlash, including the risk of increasing violence. This should include training on how to handle financial conflict within
- relationships or the household,¹³ and strategies to engage with male partners.¹⁴ For example, promoting the notion of working together for household economic development can help to ensure that women's increased financial gains are seen as contributions to the household. Where women's lives are constrained by in-law dynamics, family-based approaches may be appropriate. For example, Zindagii Shoista in Tajikistan targeted young married women and their families (including in-laws), which helped to reduce potential backlash, whilst addressing women's status within the family and the multiple forms of violence that they experience.¹⁵
- 5. Ensure sufficient time and resources for facilitator training and capacity building.** Gender transformative interventions require well-trained facilitators and ongoing support with sufficient time for personal reflection, debriefing, and for facilitators to learn how to handle different situations and participant questions. It is strongly recommended that facilitators experience the training first as participants.¹⁶ For example, MAISHA included extensive training to allow facilitators time to become familiar with the curriculum and practise skills.¹⁷
- 6. Ensure implementing partners have sufficient expertise.** Empowerment interventions like micro-finance require particular skills and experience, both institutionally (such as appropriate M&E systems) and individual staff competencies (such as strong facilitation skills and gender-equitable attitudes). Work should be delivered by strong implementing partners with relevant expertise who have received intensive training in how to deliver the intervention, including the values, principles and approach.¹⁸



STRATEGY SUMMARY

Implementation and scale-up

7. **Secure enough funds and allow enough time for sufficient intensity and duration of economic empowerment components to ensure significant change in women's economic situation.** The economic benefits of microfinance and small-scale IGAs take time to be realised by women and their households (12 months+) and can be threatened by unforeseen shocks. Economic gains for women should be significant enough to give women the economic assets needed to transform their relationships. It also takes time to allow changes in gender attitudes and practices, with a recommended 3+ years for implementation, including 1 year for preparatory work.
8. **Maintain separate funding for each component** when scaling-up to ensure the gender empowerment costs do not affect the microfinance costs which may be self-sustainable. The gender empowerment component is more like to require external funding.¹⁹
9. **Carefully monitor how increased savings and income are being used at the household level.** For example, to ensure that women have control or joint control over resources, and that violence within relationships and households does not increase as a result of the intervention.²⁰ Monitor also that the implementation of empowerment strategies, particularly economic empowerment ones, do not reinforce or perpetuate the idea of using women's unpaid labour or impose additional time burdens on them in ways that can be disempowering.²¹
10. **Integrate empowerment interventions with education and health in order to address girls' complex and multifaceted needs** to maximise the impact and cost effectiveness of interventions working with adolescent girls at a critical time in their lives. For example, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services is very important for adolescent girls so they can make choices over their own bodies and lives²², including adolescent girls with disabilities who are often denied access to SRHR information and services. In the spirit of do no harm: carefully monitor that any interventions to increase adolescent girls' ability to earn livelihoods does not inadvertently expose them to situations in which they can be exploited or abused or come at the expense of access to education/schooling.
11. **Plan activities to fit around the lived realities and constraints of women and girls.** For example, domestic and childcare responsibilities, school or university studies, restrictions on women's and girls' mobility after dark, safety and travel concerns etc.
12. **Avoid tokenistic participation** of women and girls, but instead build in opportunities for continuous reflection on how best to empower women throughout the project, with co-production in mind.
13. **Provide safe spaces where women and girls can meet, socialise, discuss matters of concern and develop skills.** For example, specifically designed safe spaces, women's centres or 'salons' or specific times set aside in community centres, clinics etc. Group-based interventions can provide a platform for women to support each other - sharing advice regarding relationship-building, communication, problem solving and business skills has been found to contribute to reduced risk of economic, emotional and physical sexual violence.²³ Safe spaces need to be accessible to all women and girls, including those who have specific vulnerabilities, and acceptable to other family members and the women and girls themselves.



STRATEGY SUMMARY

Entry points

The following table highlights some key entry points for this strategy, including programme examples.

Entry point	Rationale
<p>Existing community structures and microfinance or savings and loans services, SHGs, savings account, VSLAs</p>	<p>Existing community structures where women convene such as women's self-help groups (SHGs) or village savings and loan associations (VSLA), may provide an entry point for empowerment interventions, with opportunities for replication and scale up.</p> <p>For example, the Do Kadam Barabari Ki Ore (Two Steps Towards Equality) Programme in Bihar, India, consisted of four intervention targeted at different groups. One of the interventions targeted married women who were already members of existing village-level SHGs. The programme aimed to strengthen these existing SHGs, improving knowledge and awareness on VAW, supporting prevention activities and providing support to survivors. This intervention example uses existing savings group as an entry point, but it should be noted that it does not necessarily follow that forming savings groups reduces violence. Further research is needed on this, as the evidence is conflicting.</p> <p>Lessons learned include the need to dedicate resources specifically to strengthen the functioning of these community structures, build and sustain leadership (including addition of a literacy and numeracy component), and the need to consider different platforms to reach male partners, such as sports and youth clubs.</p>
<p>Girls groups and safe spaces in schools and/or communities</p>	<p>Female-only spaces where women and girls can feel physically and emotionally safe can be a good entry point for empowering women and girls, while also providing information and access to response services on violence. Safe spaces are typically either based in schools or communities. Community-based programmes can help reach marginalised adolescents, such as girls who are married, out-of-school, and/or girls with disabilities, who are at increased risk of violence and who are likely to be overlooked without intentional efforts to reach them.</p> <p>For example, the Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) in Kenya involved girls' empowerment clubs, which focused on improving health knowledge, self-efficacy, and social safety nets. Girls attended weekly group meetings, or safe spaces, facilitated by a young female mentor from the community. Girls discussed a range of health and life-skills topics, as well as having time for open discussion. As part of the intervention, some of the girls also followed a financial education curriculum in their safe spaces.</p> <p>Lessons learned include the challenges for girls in attending safe spaces on a regular basis due to conflicting responsibilities, such as weekend school sessions, attending boarding schools, household responsibilities, and religious services. The findings highlight the importance of building in time to understand women and girls' lived realities and to gain family support and understanding.²⁴</p>

S T R A T E G Y S U M M A R Y

Laws and legislation

According to the World Bank's Women, Business and Law report from 2020, 40% of the world's economies limit women's property rights.²⁵ Even where the law upholds women's property rights, practical application may remain challenging.

Advocates and social movements seeking to reduce violence should exert pressure to reform and implement inheritance, marriage, family and property laws that discriminate against women and girls.

Interventions with female sex workers

Interventions that aim to empower female sex workers are a good entry point for approaches to reduce violence from clients, police, and intimate partners. The programmes often involve sex-worker collectivisation to advocate for improvements to living and working conditions, as well as other strategies such as training on human rights, outreach activities to reduce stigma, and response services for sex workers facing violence. They are typically implemented by health NGOs, women's rights organisations or by organisations established by sex workers.

For example, the Avahan programme in India involves the mobilisation of female sex workers to collectively advocate for their rights. Implemented by the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHTP), the intervention includes a dedicated component to prevent client and police violence, with a 24-hour crisis management team in each district. Human rights lawyers have also trained sex workers on their rights and helped bring perpetrators to justice. An evaluation of Avahan found that sex workers experienced significantly less violence from clients and police officers.²⁶

Key Resources

Defining and measuring empowerment

[Understanding and Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment. Definition, Framework and Indicators](#), Washington, DC. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) Golla, Anne Marie, Anju Malhotra, Priya Nanda, and Rekha Mehra. 2011 *This useful document defines women's economic empowerment and presents a measurement framework and indicators which can guide the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes to economically empower women.*

[A Review of Approaches and Methods to Measure Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls](#), Gender and Development 22(2): 233–251. Perezniето, Paola, and Georgia Taylor. 2014 *This review aims to inform policy makers commissioning evaluations on how to ensure women's economic empowerment is captured, whilst helping practitioners to identify elements of successful economic empowerment interventions.*

Evidence on economic and social empowerment interventions

[Combined Economic Empowerment and Gender-transformative Interventions](#). Evidence Review. What Works to Prevent VAWG programme. Gibbs, A and Bishop, K. 2019 *This review presents findings from four empowerment interventions rigorously evaluated through DFID's What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls Global Programme (What Works).*

[Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment: What Works?](#) The World Bank Group, Policy Research Working Paper 7087. Buvinic, M. and Furst-Nichols, R. 2014 *A World Bank review of rigorous evaluations of economic empowerment interventions.*

[Gender, livelihood capabilities and women's economic empowerment: Reviewing Evidence Over the Life Course](#). London: AGEG. Kabeer, N (2018) *This report examines the evidence on policies and programmes designed to promote women's empowerment within the economic and livelihood domains. It includes an analysis of the evidence in relation to older women (60+), women of working age (20-59), and finally adolescent girls (10-19).*

Economic empowerment programming

[UN Women Economic Empowerment](#), New York: UN Women, 2020. *This webpage hosts information on UN Women's work on economically empowering women.*

[A Roadmap for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment](#). Exxon and the United Nations Foundation. Buvinic, M. et al. 2013 *This research report presents an evidence-based Roadmap for Action that presents programming and policy options to economically empower women in different country contexts. Primarily targeted at the private sector and public-private partnerships, the report measures empowerment as increases in productivity and earnings.*

Adolescent girls

[Investments in Adolescent Girls' Physical and Financial Assets: issues and review of the evidence](#). Girl Hub. Quisimbing, A.R. and Kovarik, C. 2013 *This paper presents a conceptual framework for the gendered distribution of assets, empowerment and well-being. It reviews the evidence on interventions aiming to improve girls' assets, in particular integrated and holistic programmes which combine efforts to improve financial assets with education and training.*

[Interventions Promoting Adolescent Girls' Economic Capabilities: What Works?](#) London: GAGE Programme, Stavropolou, M, 2018 *This rapid evidence review focuses on interventions that target adolescent girls in LMICs with economic strategies that seek to promote their economic capabilities and empower them.*

[Delivering Impact for Adolescent Girls: Emerging Findings from Population Council Research](#). New York: Girl Center, 2018 *This research brief summarises findings from nine impact evaluations to explore what package of interventions can deliver the best outcomes for adolescent girls, including violence and gender-equitable outcomes.*

Endnotes

¹ A study of macro-level factors associated with risks of intimate partner violence across 44 countries and 481,205 women showed that macro-level factors associated with reduced risk of intimate partner violence at the individual level included women's access to land, property, inheritance and assets. The study also concluded that women's access to employment, education and assets at the societal level are markers of women's empowerment and predict levels of intimate partner violence. Source: Heise, L. & Kotsadam, A. (2015) [Cross-national and multilevel correlates of partner violence: an analysis of data from population-based surveys](#), *Lancet Global Health*, 3(6): E332-E340.

² For more information on the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), see: United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) (2018) [Leaving no one behind](#); UNDP (2018) [What does it mean to leave no one behind?](#) New York: UNDP; United Nations SDG (2019) [Leaving No One Behind: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams](#), New York: UNSDG.

³ Self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in his or her capacity to execute behaviors necessary to produce specific performance attainment (Bandura, A. (1997). *Self-Efficacy: The exercise of control*. New York, NY: W. H. Freeman)

⁴ Safe spaces are places where women and girls can be supported through processes of empowerment. See International Medical Corps (IMC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) (2020) [Women and Girls Safe Spaces: A Toolkit for Advancing Women's and Girls' Empowerment in Humanitarian Settings](#). London and New York: IMC and IRC.

⁵ Kerr Wilson A, Gibbs A, McAslan Fraser E, Ramsoomar L, Parke A, Khuwaja H and Jewkes R (2020) [What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls? A Rigorous Global Evidence Review of Interventions to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls](#). South Africa; What Works to Prevent VAWG

⁶ Intervention for Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) Project (South Africa) – an intervention combining microfinance and gender training for women. See: Pronyk, P. M., Hargreaves, J. R., Kim, J. C., Morison, L. A., Phetla, G., Watts, C., ... & Porter, J. D. (2006) [Effect of a structural intervention for the prevention of intimate-partner violence and HIV in rural South Africa: A cluster randomised trial](#). *The Lancet*, 368(9551), 1973- 1983

⁷ Harvey, S., Mshana, G., Kapiga, I., Lees, S., Kapiga, S. (2019) [STRIVE Impact Case Study: MAISHA – set to reduce violence against women in Tanzania](#); Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit, Mwanza, Tanzania; National Institute for Medical Research, Mwanza, Tanzania; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK; 2019; Kapiga, S., Harvey, S., Mshana, G., Holm Hansen, C., Mtolela, G.J., Madaha, F. ... & Watts, C. (2019). [A social empowerment intervention to prevent intimate partner violence against women in a microfinance scheme in Tanzania: findings from the MAISHA cluster randomised controlled trial](#). *The Lancet Global Health*, 7(10), 1423- 34.

⁸ Gibbs, A., and Bishop, K., (2018) [Combined economic empowerment and gender-transformative interventions](#). Evidence Review. What Works to Prevent VAWG programme.

⁹ Mastonshoeva, S., Shonashimova, S., Gulyamova P., Jewkes R., Shai, N., Chirwa, E.D., & Myrntinen, H. (2019). [Mixed methods evaluation of Zindagii Shoista](#) (Living with dignity) intervention to prevent violence against women in Tajikistan.

¹⁰ Austrian, K., Soler-Hampejsek, E., Mumah, J., Kangwana, B., Wado, Y., Abuya, B., Shah, V. and Maluccio, J. (2018). [Adolescent Girls Initiative-Kenya: Midline Results Report](#). Nairobi: Population Council.

¹¹ Younger women <30yrs most vulnerable to IPV face barriers to participation ranging from household and childcare responsibilities limited participation and retention in WEE and SE programmes and less likely to benefit from social support and advice from their peer group support. See: Knight, L., Ranganathan, M., Abramsky, T., Polzer-Ngwato, T., Muvhango, L., Molebatsi, M., Stockl, H., Lees, S. & Watts, C. (2020) [Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity \(IMAGE\): Women's Engagement with the Scaled-up IMAGE Programme and Experience of Intimate Partner Violence in Rural South Africa](#). *Prevention science*, 21, 268-281. (Knight, 2019).

¹² Unlike newly established Economic Empowerment initiatives, existing and well-established platforms are often more stable and ready to take on added component / integration. Economic Empowerment interventions could be added to existing social empowerment (violence prevention) interventions. It is important to decide on delivery model and operationalisation and capacity building for each partner for combined intervention. See: Pronyk, K., Hargreaves, M., Morison L.A., Watts, C. & Porter, J. (2005) [Microfinance and HIV prevention—emerging lessons from rural South Africa](#). *Small Enterprise Development*, 16, 26-38.

¹³ Knight, L. et al (2020) *Ibid*.

¹⁴ Manji, K, Heise, L and Cislighi, B (2020) [Couples' Economic Equilibrium, Gender Norms and Intimate Partner Violence in Kirumba](#), Tanzania in *Violence Against Women* 1-21

¹⁵ What Works (2018) [Working with families to prevent violence against women and girls in Tajikistan](#). What Works Evidence review.

¹⁶ Goldmann, L., Lundgren, R., Welbourn, A., Gillespie, D., Bajenja, E., Muvhango, L. and Michau, L., 2019. [On the CUSP: the politics and prospects of scaling social norms change programming](#). *Sexual and reproductive health matters*, 27(2), pp.51-63.

¹⁷ Kapiga, S et al (2019) *Ibid*.

¹⁸ Milat, A., Bauman, A. & Redman, S. (2015) [Narrative review of models and success factors for scaling up public health interventions](#). *Implementation Science*, 10(15).

¹⁹ Hargreaves, J., Hatcher, A., Strange, V., Phetla, G., Busza, J., Kim, J., Watts, C., Morison, L., Porter, J., Pronyk, P. and Bonell, C., 2010. Group-microfinance and health promotion among the poor: Six-year process evaluation of the Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) in rural South Africa. *Health Education Research*, 25(1), pp.27-40.

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²⁰ Ranganathan, M., Knight, L., Abramsky, T., Muvhango, L., Polzer Ngwato, T., Mbobelatsi, M., Ferrari, G., Watts, C. and Stöckl, H., (2019) [Associations between women's economic and social empowerment and intimate partner violence: Findings from a microfinance plus program in rural North West Province, South Africa](#). *Journal of interpersonal violence*, p.0886260519836952

²¹ Molyneux, M (2008) [Conditional Cash Transfers: A Pathway to Women's Empowerment?](#) Pathways to Women's Empowerment Working Paper 5, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton

²² For example, the [Abriendo Oportunidades \('Opening Opportunities'\) Initiative](#) which provides vulnerable Mayan girls in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico with skills and support to improve their lives.

²³ Knight, L. et al. (2020) Ibid.

²⁴ Austrian, K., Soler-Hampejsek, E., Kangwana, B., Maddox, N., Wado, Y., Abuya, B., Shah, V., & Maluccio, J. (2020) [Adolescent Girls Initiative–Kenya: Endline Evaluation Report](#). Nairobi: Population Council.

²⁵ World Bank (2020) [Women, Business and the Law 2020](#). Washington DC.

²⁶ Beattie, T. S., Bhattacharjee, P., Isac, S., Mohan, H. L., Simic-Lawson, M., Ramesh, B. M., ... & Heise, L. (2015) [Declines in violence and police arrest among female sex workers in Karnataka state, South India, following a comprehensive HIV prevention programme](#). *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 18(1), 20-32.

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