

# Indicators to measure violence against women Can we decide on the building blocks?



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violence against women  
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# Report of this Expert Group meeting

Limited to scope, prevalence and incidence of VAW

Give an overview of existing initiatives for the development of indicators

Consider the types of violence that should be covered in a possible set of indicators and propose an approach for defining a technical description of each possible indicator



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# Essential challenges

## **(1) What is the purpose?**

- National /vs trans national
- Awareness, influencing policy, comprehension, policy evaluation

## **(2) Tension between comprehensive and minimum (ideal vs realistic)**

## **(3) Taking account of differential resources and capabilities**

## **(4) Methodological challenges: ethical and safety measures, interviewers**



# Types of violence

- Intimate partner violence
- Rape
- Other sexual assault
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment at work
- FGM
- Forced marriages
- Honour based crime
- Murder of women

One generic indicator?

Sources of data



- Intimate partner violence
- Rape
- Other sexual assault
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment at work
- FGM
- Forced marriages
- Honour based crime

"Universal"	Context specific
XX	
X	?
X	?
?	?
?	?
	X
	X
	X



# Dimensions of the indicators

- Definitions of the types of violence
- Perpetrator
- Prevalence: Lifetime, last year
- Number of incidents in the last year (intensity, frequency)
- Severity, threshold
- Study population of women



# Intimate partner violence

Nature of violence	Comments
Physical violence	Relatively easy, high validity and reliability, used in all studies (CTS experience)
Violence resulting in injuries	Measure of severity, only for physical, but not all severe violence results in injuries..
Violence in pregnancy	Measure of severity, only for ever pregnant women
Sexual violence	Increasing experience, not measuring the same phenomenon everywhere
Emotional violence	Methodological development underway, problem with threshold, comparability
Controlling behaviours	As above, abuse or risk factor
Economic violence	Limited experience
Stalking from partner	Limited experience



# Measurement of physical violence by partner

Has your partner ever.....

- Slapped or threw something at that could hurt you?
- Pushed or shoved you or pulled your hair?
- Hit with his fist or with something else that could hurt you?
- Kicked, dragged or beat you up?
- Choked or burnt you on purpose?
- Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against you?

Moderate

Severe



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# Measurement of sexual violence by partner

- Were you ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
- Did you ever have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what he might do?
- Ever force you to do something sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?



# Measurement of emotional abuse:

Has your partner ever....

- Insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself?
- Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?
- Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose (e.g. by the way he looked at you, by yelling and smashing things)?
- Threatened to hurt you or someone you care about?



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# Perpetrator

- Intimate partner violence
- Rape (by non partner)
- Other sexual assault
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment at work
- FGM
- Forced marriages
- Honour based crime

Current partner	Prev .partner	Relative	Stranger	Someone known
X	X			
		X	X	X
		X	X	X
x?	x?	X	X	X
				X
X	X	X		



# Incidents

- Intimate partner violence
- Rape (by non partner)
- Other sexual assault
- Stalking
- Sexual harassment at work
- FGM
- Forced marriages
- Honour based crime

Frequency in past year
X
X
X
X
X
X

Once, a few  
times, many  
times??



# Suggestions for all types of violence against women

- Define the study population broadly
- Use behaviorally specific questions: specific acts
- Specify time frames (last year, ever) and frequency
- Context and how the questions are phrased
- Cue respondent to different contexts and perpetrators



In reporting be specific about what you measured!

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# What is the purpose?

- To raise awareness about the problem
- To influence policy

**Short  
module**

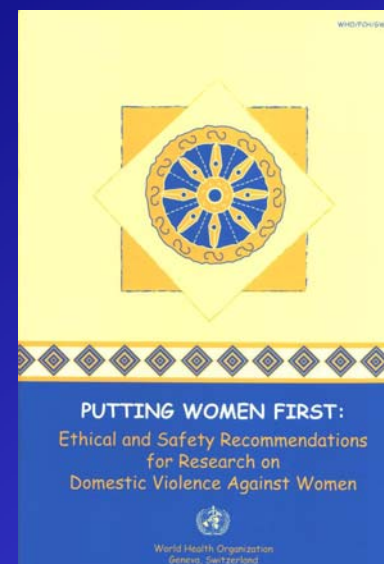
- To monitor trends
- To contribute to indicators at global level
- To compare between countries
- To understand more about violence, the impact, risk and protective factors

**Special  
survey**



# Putting women's safety first

1. Safety of respondents and research team
2. Studies need to be methodologically sound
3. Confidentiality for safety and data quality
4. Selection and training of team members
5. Actions to reducing distress to respondents
6. Possibilities of referral, support mechanisms
7. Proper interpretation and use of study results
8. Violence questions in other surveys



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THANK  
YOU



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