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International Center for
Research On Women

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Combating Violence against Women

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Consultation on Violence Against Women and the MDGS

September 6-7, 2005

Division for the Advancement of Women

United Nations

New York

Violence Impacts Development

Violence costs development

Direct costs (health, social services, criminal justice system) and non-monetary costs (homicide, suicide, alcohol/drug abuse, depressive disorders)

Violence obstructs participation

Women are unable to leave their homes and control and change their own behavior

Violence contradicts development goals

Violence violates women's rights and limits their choices

Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education**
- Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women**
- Goal 4 Reduce child mortality**
- Goal 5 Improve maternal health**
- Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability**
- Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development**

How Violence Impacts the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Poverty Alleviation

Microfinance:

- Getting involved in microfinance programs may rather precipitate domestic violence.

Infrastructure projects:

- Infrastructural projects that are insensitive to gender division of labor can lead to increased violence against women.

Significant cost

- Loss of income from all paid work
- Cost of women missing housework
- Health care cost

How Violence Impacts the Millennium Development Goals (cont'd)

Goal 2: Education

- Violence affects the success of educational projects.
For example, a training program for girls in Malawi broke down because of sexual harassment

Goals 4-6: Health

- Nearly 50% of the women reporting physical abuse experienced the abuse during pregnancy.
- Women experiencing violence were unable to introduce vitamin A rich foods to their households in a nutrition intervention (case in Tanzania).
- Violence, and threats of violence, limits women's ability to negotiate safe sex practices, access testing and adopt practices to prevent MTCT.

Interventions for Combating Violence Against Women

Human rights instruments

- Global human rights, documents and policies

National, sectoral, and local interventions

- Gender-based violence laws, legal reform, conciliatory mechanisms, services for survivors

Regional and global initiatives

Global Initiatives

- Although the international community has rallied to address other epidemics (such as HIV and tuberculosis), it has not responded in the same way to the epidemic of violence against women.

Interventions for Combating Violence Against Women (cont'd)

□ *Regional Initiatives*

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has mainstreamed the objective of reducing domestic violence against women in its lending operations for citizen security. Six elements have contributed to the IDB's success.

- Relevance
- Leadership
- Grant financing
- Availability of expertise
- Research
- Openness to innovation

Key Challenges

- Lack of leadership on incorporating and monitoring in both the national and private sector.
- Commitment not translated into budgetary resources
- Lack of multi-sectoral approach that is needed to deal with the complex and intersecting dynamics that perpetuate violence against women.
- Lack of coordination between community level and national level responses
- Little recognition of economic costs of violence
- No systematic focus on prevention