

RETHINKING RELATIONSHIPS From Violence to Equality

Findings from DRC project on Preventing Violence
Against Women and Girls

11th DECEMBER 2018



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The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.

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“Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict-affected Communities”

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15 communities
Ituri Province, DRC

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2015 - 2017

tearfund





DOES FAITH MATTER?

Faith engagement, gender norms and violence against women and girls in conflict-affected communities



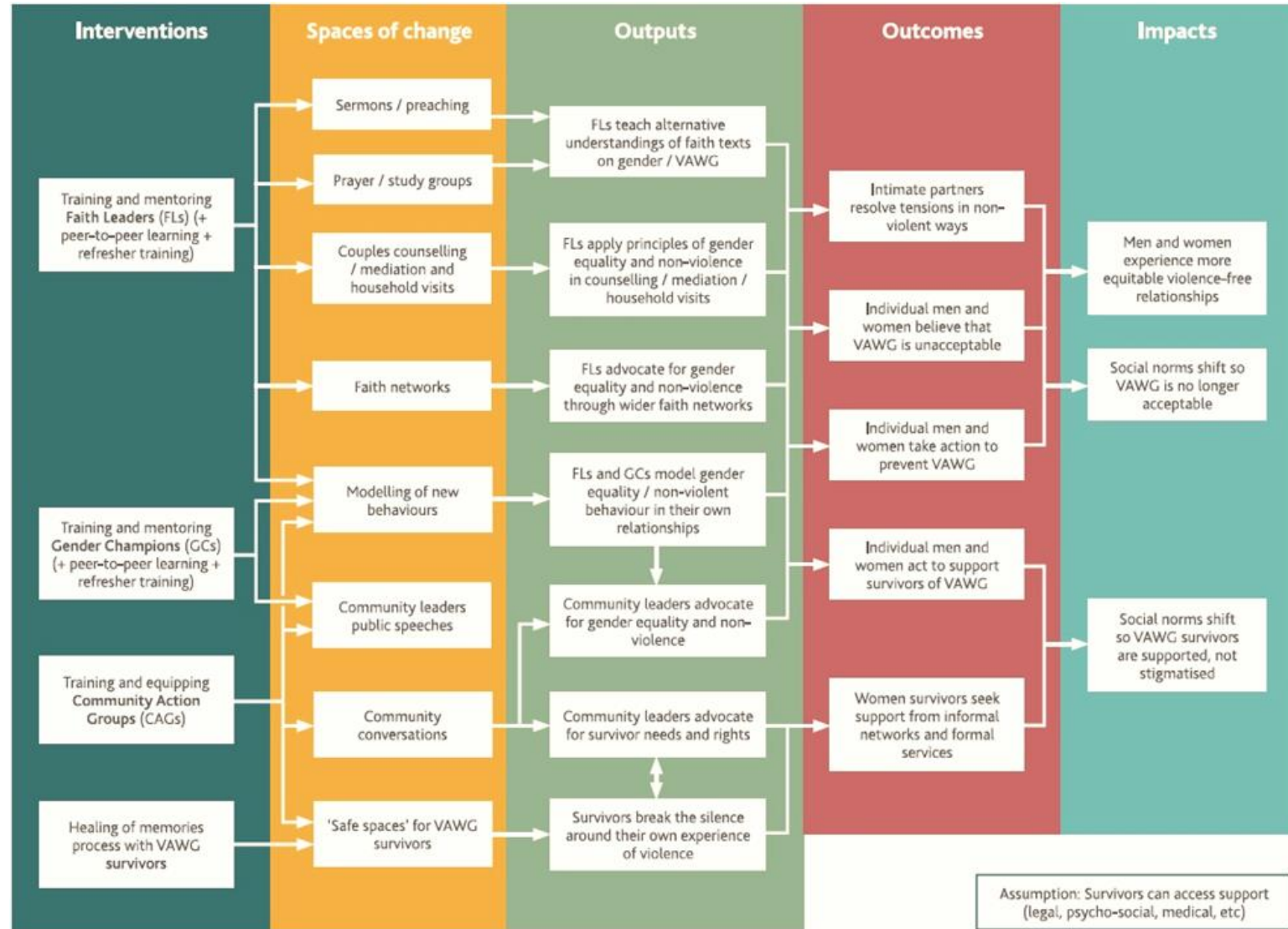
BASELINE RESEARCH IN ITURI PROVINCE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



KEY BASELINE DATA

- High prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (Physical, Sexual, Emotional)
38.4% IPV vs 20.8% NPSV
- 95% identify with a faith group
- For over 80% faith groups should have a role in GBV
- 17% survivors experienced support from community
- For 79%-87% men are superior to women
- For 47%-53% men and women are created equal

THEORY OF CHANGE





TRANSFORMING MASCULINITIES

Training manual used for faith leader workshops and to train Gender Champions.



INTERVENTION

- **ENGAGEMENT**
75 Faith Leaders; 30 Gender Champions; 15 Community Action Groups (225, 50:50 men:women)
- **TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**
VAWG root causes and theology; gender equality; support to survivors; basics counselling and mediation
- **COMMUNITY LED ACTIONS**
role models; information sharing; community dialogues; survivors support
- **MONITORING & MENTORING**

RESEARCH COMPONENT

Mixed method research

- Qualitative:
 - Panel study with direct beneficiaries (faith leaders & gender champions)
 - Survivor and community member interviews
 - Endline interviews and groups
 - Quantitative:
 - Baseline household survey
 - Endline household survey
 - M&E
 - Self-discovery tool
 - Self-monitoring
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CHALLENGES

- Communication
- Transcription & translation
- Challenges of being part of a bigger grant
- Conflict-affected area
- Challenges of being longitudinal study

From violence to non-violent responses



Significant reduction in IPV and NPSV.

Among men, self reported perpetration reduced from 68% to 24%

Among women, reporting IPV reduced from 69% to 29%

NPSV reported by women reduced from 21% to 4%

From male superiority to gender equality



Men have developed alternative patterns of masculinity.

Belief that men are superior to women has dropped from 90% to 70%.

Belief that God created men and women equally increased by 20% among men.

Women's attitude that their primary role is to care/cook for family reduced from 90% to 75%.

From tolerance to resilience



A number of attitudes to IPV reversed.

Justification on physical violence dropped from 71% to 55% among men

Belief that women aren't allowed to refuse sex dropped from 80% to 55% among men

Women's belief that disobedience of wives justifies violence dropped from 53% to 38%

From stigma to support for survivors



Survivors internal stigma reduced, as did external stigmatising attitudes.

Significant reduction in rape myth beliefs among men.

By endline, 40% of IPV survivors sought assistance from faith leaders - an increase from 2%

74% of endline respondents felt their faith institutions supported survivors.

From silent witnesses to vocal champions



Faith Leaders are effective change agents and have become primary group approached by survivors for support.

83% of all respondents attended a public talk or discussion related to VAWG by endline.

64% of respondents at endline had accessed couples counselling, mainly through faith leaders.



IMPLICATIONS

- Impact/influence of having robust evidence & being part of recognised, leading VAWG grant
- Faith leaders and faith communities as strategic entry point
- How do we understand community-wide impact? How do we measure it?
- Women's complicity



“Gender equality sends us straight to the Bible, because God created man and woman in His image and the two of them are therefore the same and are equal. If the husband deems himself higher than the woman, in that case, it is already violence. Because everyone is equal.”

Male Gender Champion



WhatWorks
TO PREVENT VIOLENCE
A Global Programme To Prevent
Violence Against Women and Girls



- Watch out for the report launch

- Get in touch

elena.bezzolato@tearfund.org

eleroux@sun.ac.za