

## The Gender-based Violence Prevention and Masculinities Research Project

A Collaborative Research Project for Asia and the Pacific

*Understanding the root causes of violence against women to stop violence before it starts*



Despite decades of work to end violence against women, there is no indication that aggregate levels of violence have decreased in Asia and the Pacific. *What are the root causes of violence against women? How can we stop violence before it starts?*

The majority of research and interventions on violence against women focus on women's rights and empowerment, legal reform, protection and service provision. While these interventions continue to be key priorities, to prevent violence we need to better understand and address the connections between practices and representations of masculinities and the natures and impacts of violence because violence against women is rooted in power relations among women, men, girls and boys and linked to dominant notions of "what it means to be a man".

**The Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Masculinities Research Project** is undertaking cutting-edge research to understand the root causes of violence against women and their relation to masculinities. Over 15,000 men and women are being surveyed across Asia and the Pacific – providing a comprehensive and holistic picture of the social structures, underlying norms, attitudes and behaviours related to the use of gender-based violence in different countries in the region.

*"This kind of research has never been done. It is part of a new wave of work that will produce valuable, cutting-edge material, and open opportunities for new information and new ways of thinking."* Raewyn Connell, Professor, University of Sydney, author of *Gender*, and Technical Advisor to the GBV Prevention and Masculinities Research Project

### Objectives

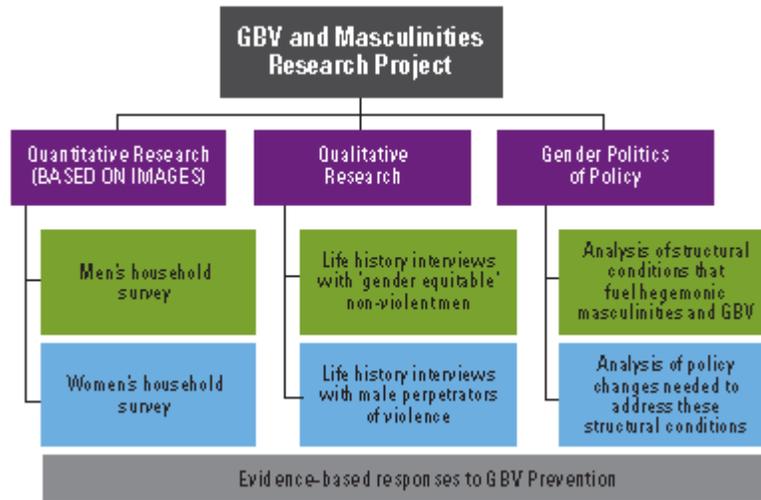
The Gender-based Violence Prevention and Masculinities Research Project aims to prevent violence against women in the region by:

- Deepening understandings of masculinities and their connections to gender-based violence in Asia and the Pacific
- Translating research findings into comprehensive evidence-based programmes and policies for VAW prevention across the region, particularly engaging boys and men
- Providing a baseline/benchmark of boy's and men's attitudes and behaviours related to VAW and masculinities in Asia and the Pacific
- Developing research tools for future use in the investigation of VAW and masculinities

The GBV Prevention and Masculinities Research Project is coordinated by **Partners for Prevention: Working to Prevent Violence against Women**, a UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV regional programme for Asia and the Pacific. Project partners include: Aakar, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C), ICDDR,B, Instituto Promundo, International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Medical Research Council, South Africa, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, University of Sydney, WHO and other research, government and civil society partners.

*Partners for Prevention gratefully acknowledges AusAID, DFID, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SIDA for their generous support of this programme.*

Figure 1: Research components of the Gender-based Violence and Masculinities Project



*“This project is particularly exciting because it is a collaboration between the UN family, civil society, government and researchers, and brings together leading development practitioners, activists and academics from around the globe. In addition, as the coordinating body, Partners for Prevention offers the unique space to use this research as a foundation for advocacy, communications and programme enhancements across the region.” Emma Fulu, Research Coordinator, Partners for Prevention*

**Project overview**

- Participating countries include: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam (as of March 2011).
- The project methodology combines quantitative, qualitative, sociological and ethnographic methodologies at the national and regional level (see figure 1).
- Fieldwork is being conducted in 2011, with findings available in 2012.
- Based on the policy recommendations that stem from this research, a series of regional and country level initiatives will be launched to advocate for specific policy changes and the

prioritisation of comprehensive GBV prevention.

- The project aims to inspire future research on GBV and masculinities, providing a comprehensive set of research tools on GBV and masculinities and baseline data against which change can be measured.
- A pooled data set with a sample of more than 15,000 men and women will provide unprecedented power for analysis on masculinities and violence in the region and be made available to qualified researchers for ongoing analysis for many years to come.

*“The research will help development partners, government and civil society in deepening understandings of the role of gender norms in violent behaviour in crisis and post-crisis settings. We particularly look forward to using the new knowledge on men and boys’ experiences as victims and perpetrators of violence to identify ways that programming can include men in transforming harmful norms and preventing violence.”*

*Amelia Kinahoi-Siamomua, Senior Gender Advisor, UNDP PNG and Member of the GBV and Masculinities Research Project Steering Committee*

*This project stems from the Men and Gender Equality Policy Project (MGEPP), led by Instituto Promundo and the International Centre for Research on Women. P4P gratefully acknowledges that this project draws on the experiences and tools of the MGEPP, particularly IMAGES, the WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women and the Medical Research Council Relationship Household Survey.*

**For more information:**  
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