

# BUILDING OUR FUTURE: SUPPORTING HEALTHY AND HAPPY RELATIONSHIPS



**Location:** Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia

**Time Frame:** 2015 - 2017

**Participating Agencies:** UNFPA, UN Women, UNV and Ministry of Women's Affairs, with technical assistance from Partners for Prevention Joint Programme (P4P)

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## INTERVENTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) IN CAMBODIA

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV, with support from Partners for Prevention are implementing a VAWG prevention project in five communes of Kampong Cham, Cambodia. The intervention addresses key risk factors for VAWG as identified in the UN Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence. It works with 300 participants, adolescents (ages 12-14) and their caregivers (e.g. parents/guardians, teachers, youth service providers).

Adolescent girls and boys attend year-long sessions designed to:

- Change the social norms that perpetuate gender inequitable attitudes and that support harmful constructions of masculinities; and
- Change other modifiable risk factors identified in the research such as addressing anger management, quarreling with partners, and promoting school completion.

Caregivers are engaged to decrease the use of harsh punishments, increase supportive parenting/caregiving, model positive behaviours and attitudes, and promote school completion.

The intervention employs a participatory methodology that has been shown to be key to effective prevention of VAWG in existing intervention studies. Participatory group sessions delivered by trained and supported community facilitators paired with the promotion of volunteerism helps ensure sustainability beyond the project time frame.

### KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM THE UN MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY ON MEN AND VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA (2013)

- **Prevalence of intimate partner violence:** 34% of men reported using physical and/or sexual violence against an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- **Higher prevalence of sexual violence in intimate partnerships:** Sexual intimate partner violence was 50%, while physical violence was 36%.
- **Non-partner sexual violence:** Sexual violence against a non-partner was 8% and gang rape was 5%, which was high compared to other study sites, as was economic and emotional abuse.
- **Rape perpetration begins at an early age:** More than half of men who reported having perpetrated rape did so as teenagers.
- **High levels of child abuse:** 65% of men reported that they had experienced physical abuse as a child.
- **Risk factors for perpetration of intimate partner violence :** Quarrelling with a partner; childhood experiences of violence; depression; multiple sexual partners; low gender equality attitudes; use of weapons; and alcohol abuse.

## Words from a female participant

*"My husband and I understand each other better now after joining in this community dialogue."*

## Words from a male Community Council member

*"I am excited to participate in this community dialogue. In my capacity as a commune council member, I will do everything in my power to solve VAW by raising the important lessons regarding gender equality in the family."*

## Words from a female participant

*"The training helps me to be able to manage my anger and how to communicate better with my daughter."*



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## PROJECT OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

- **Outcome:** Girls and boys (ages 12-14) have gender equitable attitudes, low levels of violence-acceptance attitudes, and are supported by their caregivers and communities.
- **Output 1:** A primary prevention intervention is adapted from existing tools and best practices for youth, parents, the community and partner NGO's, and facilitators' capacity is built to implement the intervention.
- **Output 2:** Access to referral information on health, counselling and other social welfare services is increased for adolescents (ages 12-14), parents and other project beneficiaries.
- **Output 3:** Adolescent boys and girls (ages 12-14) and their caregivers (parents/guardians, teachers, youth service workers) are engaged to promote gender equitable, non-violent attitudes and behaviours.
- **Output 4:** A promising, multi-faceted model is developed for preventing violence and transforming masculinities for young adolescents.

## STAY CONNECTED

**Partners for Prevention:** Working to prevent violence against women and girls  
UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women & UNV Regional Joint Programme for Asia and the Pacific

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