ISRCTN12311597 https://doi.org/10.1186/ISRCTN12311597

Reducing violence against women and girls in a time of crisis: an impact evaluation of a gender-based violence prevention program in Haiti

Submission date 28/03/2024	**Recruitment status** No longer recruiting	[_] Prospectively registered [X] Protocol
Registration date 02/04/2024	**Overall study status** Completed	[_] Statistical analysis plan [X] Results
Last Edited 12/08/2025	**Condition category** Other	[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
A 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) report on the global and regional prevalence of violence against women estimates that 35% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner or a non-partner at some point in their lives. Interventions to prevent and respond to VAWG use multiple approaches to reduce violence. Recent reviews suggest that programs involving community mobilization are among the most promising and show significant evidence of reducing rates of IPV (Ellsberg et al. 2014). Community mobilization interventions aim to reduce violence at the population level through changes in public discourse, behaviors, and social norms regarding gender and violence. The principle aim of this study is to evaluate the combined effectiveness of community mobilization approach, using the SASA!, Power to Girls and Safe and Capable methodologies/resource packs, on preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG), as implemented by Beyond Borders (BB) in Haiti.

Who can participate?
Women and girls aged 15-64 years resident in selected communities within the intervention (La Valle) or comparison (Marigot) Communes

What does the study involve?
Three waves of cross-sectional data collection (quantitative and qualitative) within intervention and control communities where the intervention is a multi-level community mobilization activity about shifting power and reducing violence.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
There are no specific individual benefits but the overall benefits are increased local and international knowledge about what works to prevention violence against women and girls. The risks include potential distress from recounting experiences of violence and familial/societal consequences if experiences of violence are disclosed due to breaches in confidentiality.

Where is the study run from?
The Global Women's Institute at George Washington University (USA)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
August 2016 to July 2022

Who is funding the study?
Novo Foundation (Denmark)
Inter-American Development Bank (USA)
United Nations Trust Fund (USA)

Who is the main contact?
Maureen Murphy, maureenmurphy@gwu.edu

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
091616

Study information

Scientific Title
A quasi-experimental evaluation of a community mobilization to reduce experiences of intimate partner violence among women and girls in rural Haiti

Acronym
CMIPVH

Study objectives
Residing in a community receiving the Rethinking Power program will reduce reported experiences of past 12 months intimate partner violence amongst women and girls (VAWG)

compared to women and girls living in communities that do not receive the Rethinking Power program

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
1. Approved 04/11/2016, George Washington University (1922 F Street NW, Washington, 20052, United States of America; +1 202-994-2715; ohrirb@gwu.edu), ref: 091616-27827

2. Approved 24/01/2017, Comite National de Bioethique (National Bioethics Committee) (29, 1 avenue du Travail, Port-au-Prince, -, Haiti; +509 4432-8401; nfo@mspp.gouv.ht), ref: 161711

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Mixed-methods quasi-experimental community-based evaluation

Study type(s)
Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Prevention of intimate partner violence in women and girls

Interventions
The intervention is a multi-level, community-based program that uses a community mobilization approach to change attitudes and social norms around gender and violence. The control was no treatment.

The intervention was implemented over the course of a 4 year period and includes three components:

1. Originally developed by Raising Voices in Uganda, SASA! is a methodology implemented over the course of three to five years to mobilize entire communities to change social norms to prevent VAWG. Through benefits-based activism, gender power analysis, a phased process of change, and holistic community engagement, organization staff and a pool of community activists and leaders create a process of community-wide social norms change. The role of staff is largely to identify, train and support community-based activists and leaders throughout the entire phased process of change. Community-based activists and leaders become protagonists in the change process in their own communities. Community Activists are a diverse group of women and men who lead informal activities in their everyday lives that encourage their families, neighbors, and others to rethink how they use their power. Community Leaders are a group of religious and community leaders, service providers, business leaders, and other influential people who use their roles and platforms to influence and to lead by example, encourage other leaders to do the same, and establish a new normal in communities where violence is not tolerated. The engagement and support of these activists and leaders is central to community change. Each uses particular materials, such as discussion-based posters, comic strips, games, and dramas, to lead conversations in their own circles of influence.

2. Completing the SASA! methodology, Power to Girls combines girl-centered programming with a community-wide and school-wide social norms change process that highlights the role of parents and caregivers. Power to Girls is designed to (1) decrease violence against girls, (2) increase girls' sense of safety, and (3) increase their freedom to make decisions; it does this by combining multiple violence-prevention strategies. Community based activists, leaders, girls' group mentors, and school personnel are identified, trained and supported by staff through the phased process of change. They, in turn, use engaging materials in their own circles of influence to create change, such as discussion-based posters, dramas, quick chats for parents and caregivers, girls' group mentor manuals, and school curriculum that is carefully connected to Haitian school curricula.

3. Safe and Capable is a resource pack designed to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities by mobilizing the entire community to protect their rights and well-being. Safe and Capable includes tools and activities to help community members examine the power imbalances between women and men, girls and boys, and between people with disabilities and those without disability. Community groups and other stakeholders can use these resources to change what community members know, how they feel and what they do to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. Past 12 months experiences of physical or sexual intimate partner violence measured using the WHO domestic violence module at baseline, 2 years and 4 years

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Past 12 months experiences of emotional or economic intimate partner violence measured using the WHO domestic violence module at baseline, 2 years and 4 years
2. Gender Equitable Attitudes using the WHO domestic violence module at baseline, 2 years and 4 years
3. Acceptance of Violence using the WHO domestic violence module at baseline, 2 years and 4 years
4. Experiences of non-partner sexual violence using the WHO domestic violence module at baseline, 2 years and 4 years

Completion date
30/07/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Be women aged 15 to 64 years old
2. Currently reside in one of the selected sites of the study (La Valle or the comparison communities)
3. Usually either live in the selected household, be visiting the household and been sleeping there for at least 4 weeks, or be working as a domestic servant in the household and usually sleeps there for at least 5 nights a week).

Participant type(s)
Population

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
15 Years

Upper age limit
64 Years

Sex
Female

Total final enrolment
6500

Key exclusion criteria
1. Be unable to speak one of the languages of survey administration; nor
2. Be mentally incompetent, seriously ill, or deaf.

Date of first enrolment
03/03/2017

Date of final enrolment
30/07/2022

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Haiti

Study participating centre
Pentagone Consulting Group
30, Delmas 40B, Rue Marcadieu, Haiti
Port-au-Prince
Haiti
None

Sponsor information

Organisation
George Washington University

ROR
https://ror.org/00y4zzh67

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
NoVo Foundation

Alternative Name(s)
NoVo, The NoVo Foundation

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location
United States of America

Funder Name
Inter-Agency Development Bank

Funder Name
United Nations Trust Fund for Ending Violence Against Women

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study will be available upon request from Maureen Murphy - maureenmurphy@gwu.edu.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		09/08/2025	12/08/2025	Yes	No

Protocol file	16/10/2016	02/04/2024	No	No