



From work with men and boys to changes of social norms and reduction of inequities in gender relations: a conceptual shift in prevention of violence against women and girls

LANCET SERIES ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rachel Jewkes, Michael Flood, and James Lang



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



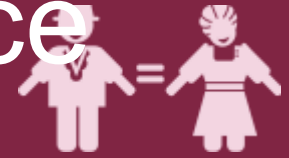
*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Setting the stage



- “Working boys and men” has expanded tremendously over the last 2 decades. There is a huge diversity of projects.
- Definitions of what we mean by involving men and boys are blurred and typologies on interventions are inadequate
- Not all are about gender justice, and the subfield has at times, reflected the narrative of privilege and dominance that we are trying to change

Men's involvement in violence



Most of the perpetrators, and many of the victims, of violence are male.

There are connections, albeit complex ones, between men's perpetration of violence against women and girls and perpetration against other men, and between victimisation and subsequent perpetration.

Effective interventions are informed by ***theory and evidence*** regarding men and masculinities.

Violence and masculinity

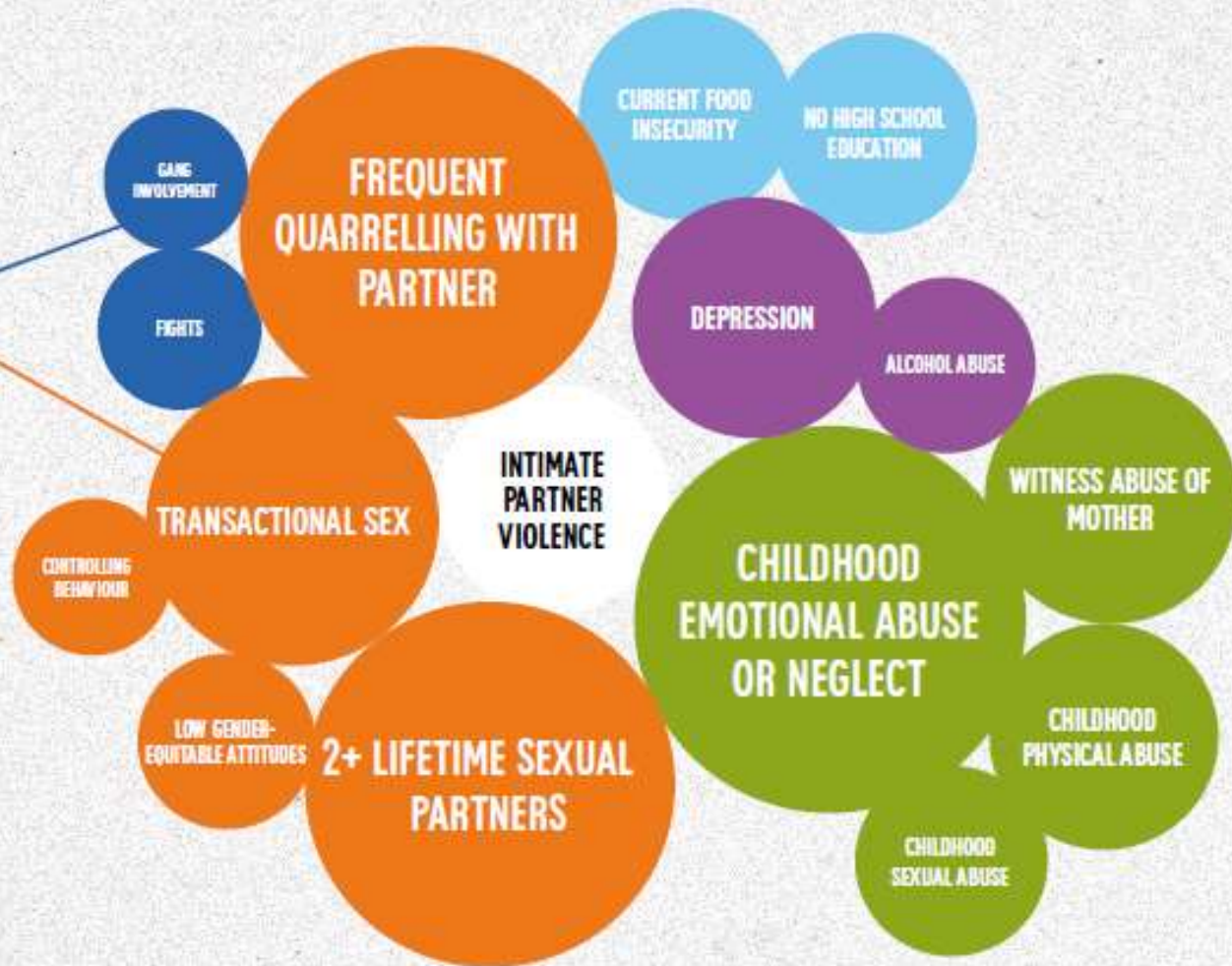


- The associations between violence and men are social, the outcome of the social construction of masculinity.
- Social ideals of manhood in many contexts include emphases on power and control.
- Assertions of aggression and dominance by men are normalised by both men and women.
- Violent masculinities also may reflect social marginalisation and disadvantage.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH MEN'S

PERPETRATION OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Ideals of manhood that justify and celebrate toughness, male sexual performance & dominance over women



Involving men and boys in violence prevention

- Interventions vary in their participants, strategies, structure, setting, goals, and theoretical frameworks.
- Common strategies include small group education, bystander interventions, community mobilization, campaigning and social marketing, and combinations of these.
- Gender is mobilised in various ways: by reframing common ideals of masculinity, using male 'role models', etc.



Evidence and lessons

- The evidence for effective interventions is limited, but some are promising.
- More effective interventions explicitly address ideals and practices associated with masculinity.
- Some increasingly popular strategies, such as bystander intervention, show little evidence of effectiveness.
- Prevention often is focused on attitudes, although the relationship between these and behaviours is complex.



Evidence and lessons *continued*



- Prevention efforts should be tailored to men's differing levels of violence and allegiance to social norms.
- Work with perpetrators also has a limited evidence base.
- Violence prevention and reduction is particularly difficult in communities with lengthy histories of conflict and high normative support for violence.
- Interventions with men and boys which also address trauma, substance misuse, and mental ill-health may be productive.

Masculinities & change



- Programme planning should draw on local data on patterns of masculinity, gender, and other factors.
- Interventions with men should address risk factors for perpetration, including e.g. hegemonic masculine ideals of entitlement and control, social marginalisation, and victimisation.
- Interventions should acknowledge men's diverse and shifting experiences and challenge homophobia.
- Work with both men and women is necessary to shift the collective maintenance of gender power hierarchies.

Masculinities & change *continued*



- Interventions should explicitly address constructions of masculinity.
- Multi-level, ecological approaches are required to drive change.
 - -This requires collaborations between organisations.
- Work with men is not an alternative to work with women, but its complement.
- Finally: Intensifying men's support for and involvement in violence prevention is crucial.

Acknowledgements



Rachel Jewkes was supported by the MRC of South Africa and received funding from DFID.

Michael Flood is supported by the University of Wollongong (Australia).

James Lang was supported by UNDP.

This document is an output from What Works to Prevent Violence: a Global Programme, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).