



LEARNING FROM PRACTICE: PREVENTION SERIES

SURVIVOR-CENTRED, MULTISECTORAL SERVICE PROVISION AS PART OF PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

LESSONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED BY THE UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women fisherfolk brought out protest against fishing ban decision. Credit: Yusuf Shahrier Muntaqim/Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh)

Good-quality services that are delivered in ways that respect women and their rights can reduce risk factors for violence against women and girls (VAW/G) and strengthen factors that protect against VAW/G. Moreover, such services can assist in the early identification of violence and reduce its recurrence. Primary prevention interventions also often increase the number of women disclosing the violence they are experiencing or have experienced. Services for survivors therefore exemplify how VAW/G prevention and response work together and contribute to the eradication of VAW/G.

This paper, part of the Learning from Practice: Prevention Series, draws on the experiences of eight UN Trust Fund-supported civil society organizations (CSOs) leading projects in Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya (one project), Egypt, Fiji, Iraq and Serbia that were survivor-centred and relied on multisectoral collaboration.

Key lessons learned include:

1. Survivor-centred approaches to VAW/G prevention

Survivor-centred programming empowers and includes survivors of violence, such as by ensuring they participate in design and decision-making overall. For example, for its economic empowerment programming in safe houses in **Serbia**, the non-governmental organization B92 Fund assessed the needs of survivors, at-risk women and other women in the community, and then developed 20 training programmes, each with a different focus, to better serve the varied needs of survivors.

2. Multisectoral collaboration on services

Some form of multisectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that survivors receive the services they need, that the programming is appropriate and relevant, and that outcomes are sustainable. Experience shows

that CSOs are not always simply partners within the multisectoral collaboration structures created by other stakeholders. Rather, they often start, coordinate and lead the collaboration.

For example, World Hope International in **Cambodia** worked alongside service providers and systems that supported survivors, including building on the frameworks that the Cambodian Government had set in place to protect women and children. The goal was to improve service delivery and create change at governmental level through developing and facilitating training sessions for district-level government offices and commune committee members.

Key recommendations from practitioners include:

- Explore the possibility of taking the lead in creating, leading and managing multisectoral collaboration around service provision.
- Develop policies and funding that support economic empowerment programmes for survivors, as these enhance links between prevention and response.
- Conduct more research on survivor-centred approaches for prevention programmes, learning from CSOs that incorporate such approaches in their programming.

For the full set of conclusions and recommendations, please read the paper through the QR code below:



About the Prevention Series

As part of its commitment to elevating practice-based knowledge, the UN Trust Fund commissioned a prevention series of 10 papers on “Learning from Practice”, produced in collaboration with almost 100 grantees and external researchers. Each paper in the series draws on the monitoring and evaluation reports of 10 civil society organizations that are implementing prevention projects funded by the UN Trust Fund in different countries and contexts. The findings identified 10 key pathways to prevent violence against women and girls. Each theme is explored in conversations with 10 grantees, resulting in one detailed report per theme.

About the UN Trust Fund

The UN Trust Fund, managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, remains the only global, multilateral grant-giving mechanism exclusively dedicated to supporting efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls. Since its establishment in 1996 by UN General Assembly [resolution 50/166](#), the UN Trust Fund has awarded USD 215 million to 646 initiatives in 140 countries and territories. Focusing on preventing violence, implementing laws and policies, and improving access to vital services for survivors, the UN Trust Fund invests in life-changing initiatives for millions of women and girls around the world.

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