Session 1: Importance of Costing VAW

Expert Group Meeting

Step by Step towards Costing Violence against Women in the Arab Region
Session Objectives

- Brief overview of importance of costing VAW
- Relevance and importance of costing studies for Arab States
- Experts’ input – why costing VAW is important
- Draft training manual/guidelines: *Issues to be Considered*
- Discussion of *Issues to be Considered*
- Experts’ input – initiation of costing studies (except for UK and Egypt)
Prevalence of VAW

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner.

Map showing prevalence of intimate partner violence by WHO region.

All statistics can be found in the report entitled ‘Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence,’ by the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and the South African Medical Research Council, found here:
VAW: An Economic Issue

- Much of the discourse and policy advocacy on VAW focuses on its rights violation and public health dimensions.

- Normative argument - response required because VAW fundamentally wrong.

- Economic dimension – equally, women and families incur significant costs that are invisible or ignored, with considerable implications for businesses and the economy.
Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- Eating disorders, self-harm
- Physical injury, pain, disability, suicide, suicidal ideation
- Increase in household poverty
- Reduced capability over the lifetime for women and children
- Substance use, substance dependency
- Depression, panic attacks
- Low earnings, employment instability, low productivity
- Inability to undertake care work, poor educational outcomes, drop-out
Evidence needed for policy and advocacy

- Policymakers need:
  - Evidence on costs of inaction – not simply costs but data on how violence can undermine effectiveness of government investments
  - Cost effectiveness of prevention interventions to identify areas to scale-up
  - Costs of solution to understand levels of resources required

- Advocates need same information to ensure government response
Examples of Impact on Decision-makers

South-East Asia

- In *Vietnam*, the government agreed to a minimum package of services after seeing the results of the costing study.

- Fokupers NGO in *Timor Leste* used the costing data to advocate for increased budgetary allocations.
Conclusions

- Establishing economic costs of VAW (or the cost of inaction) critically important to highlight urgent need to act

- Establishing *effectiveness of prevention interventions* (and their cost effectiveness) is key to highlight specific *areas of investment*

- Establishing *resource requirements for services* urgently needed to advocate for *budgetary allocations*