

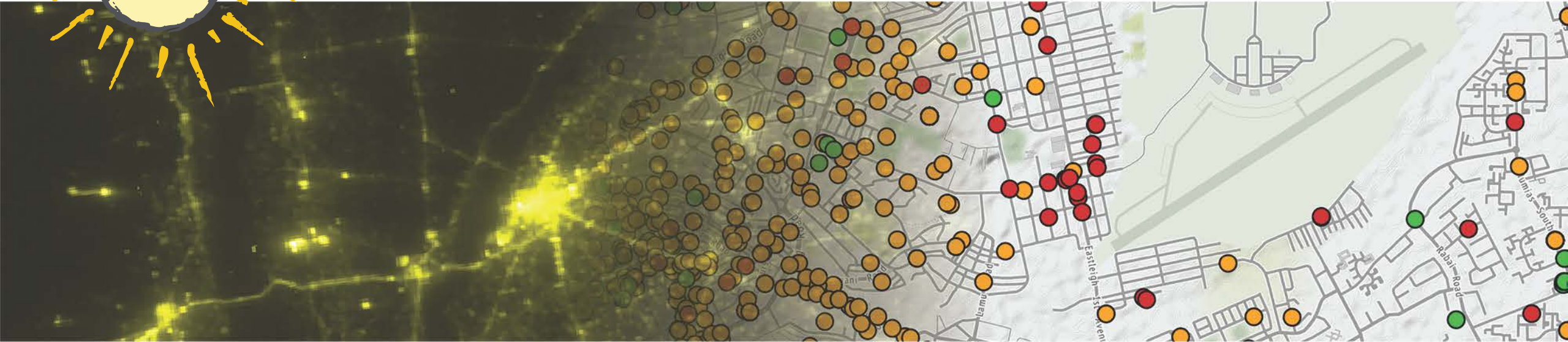


# IE CONNECT FOR IMPACT

Transforming the Growth Potential  
of Transport Investments

## Measuring gender-based violence (GbV) in the context of a road maintenance program

Laos Poverty Reduction Fund , World Bank East Asia and Pacific  
Social Protection, East Asia and Pacific Gender Innovation Lab

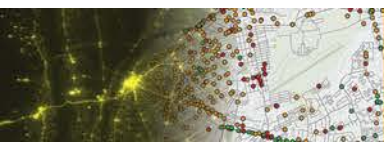


# Program impacts may not be positive

Usually, we tend to think of program impacts being positive...  
...but negative program impacts exist...

Unfortunately, the risk of harm is especially relevant in the context of increasing women's economic empowerment.

- Status quo of gender roles and social norms can penalize increased women's empowerment
- Particularly problematic when manifested in the form of violence (usually intimate partner violence or IPV)



# Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) - Theory

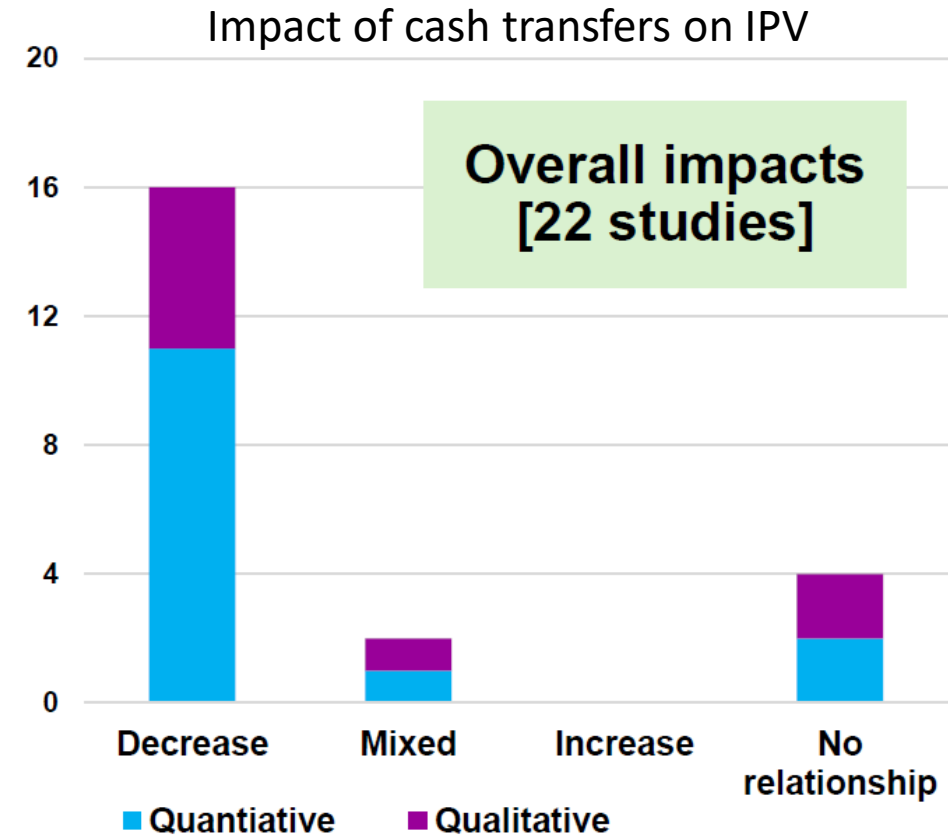
How does increased women's income affect intimate partner violence (IPV)?

- Theoretical predictions are ambiguous,
  - Nash-bargaining ↓
  - Asymmetric information ↑
  - Male backlash ↑
  - Stress reduction ↓



# IPV – Empirical evidence

- Evidence overall suggests decrease in IPV with increase in empowerment,
  - See for example graph showing evidence from cash transfers literature.
  - Reduction in gender wage gap decreases violence (Aizer, 2010)
- But not true in all cases. The evidence is mixed in some settings and in some sub-groups
  - Impacts of CCT on IPV depend on relative education level of partners in Ecuador (Hidrobo and Fernald, 2013)
  - Business training program leads to increase in income and IPV in Vietnam (Bulte and Lensink, 2018)



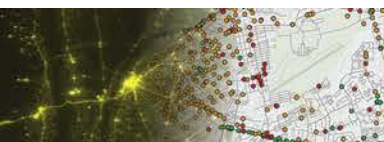
(Buller et al. 2018)



# Randomized Controlled Trial of a Road Maintenance Program

We are carrying out an RCT of the Laos Road Maintenance Groups (RMG) program and will measure its impacts on GbV

- RMGs offer **income and non-household employment**, like a Public works program, and **for women only**
- ... currently there is no evidence of PWP's impacts on IPV
- RCT currently ongoing
  - Collecting data on GbV as part of endline starting soon



# GbV data

Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) collect GbV data from a number of countries around the world

- Data on recent as well as historical incidence
- Committed by partner as well as others
- Physical, emotional and sexual violence
- Collected in face-to-face interviews



Demographic and  
Health Survey

**2018**

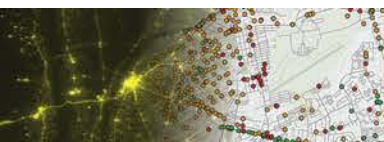
Key Indicators

# Collecting GbV data

First we tried to replicate DHS strategy

- Collect through face-to-face interviews
- Ensure privacy
- Collect data on different forms of violence from different actors

...Find zero incidence of any form of GbV (in the pilot)





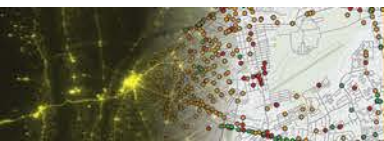
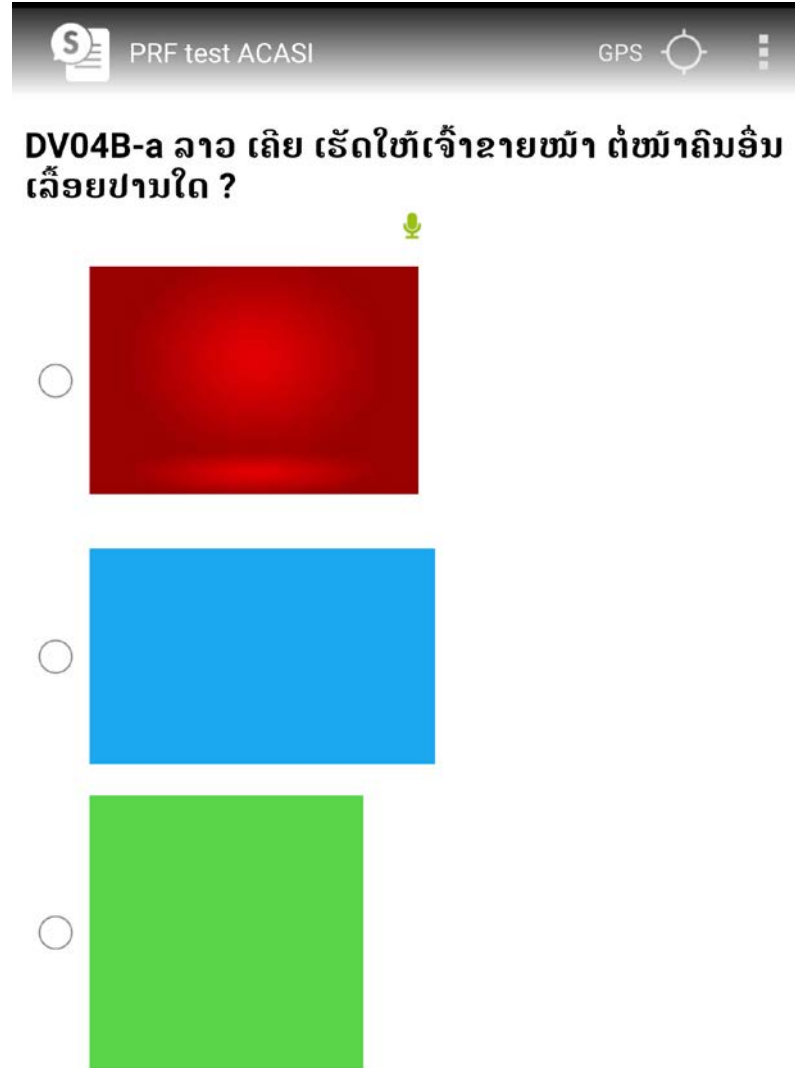
# Collecting GbV data

Setting of low-literacy and challenges ensuring complete privacy

- Settled on ACASI (Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviews)

After long period of development and simplification

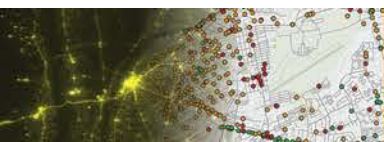
- ... incidence in subsequent pilots ~ 30-40%





# Summary

- Program impacts can be negative rather than positive
  - In cases where social norms and gender roles are binding, increased women's empowerment can trigger violence
  - May need complementary interventions to mitigate negative impacts on at risk groups... or changes in intervention design
- If there is a possibility of harm, collecting data to check this can still be pretty challenging
  - What works in the field is context dependent





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Thank you!

