



A family in Rwanda.  
Plan International España

## INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

One of the most common forms of men’s violence against women, intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs in all countries. Although women can be violent in relationships with men and violence is found in same-sex partnerships, the overwhelming burden of IPV is borne by women at the hands of men.

IPV includes physical aggression, psychological abuse, forced intercourse and sexual coercion and controlling behaviors including economic violence and reproductive coercion. IPV both reflects and reinforces underlying gender-based inequalities. Exposure to IPV has been linked

with a multitude of adverse physical and mental health outcomes.

Several research interventions funded by the [Development Marketplace: Innovations to Address GBV](#) show promise at preventing and reducing the effects of IPV.

targeted to women – could put women at risk, as their husbands could inflict violence against them to take control of cash or as a backlash against a change in power dynamics.

The [International Food Policy Research Institute](#) undertook a study that addressed two key gaps in the evidence base. First, there were no rigorous quantitative research studies on cash transfers and IPV in South Asia, as most evidence came from Latin America. Second, there were no rigorous studies of what happens after programs end.

The study built on a program that provided cash or food transfers to poor rural women in Bangladesh, with or without intensive nutrition behavior change communication



Police officers in Peru. University of Lima

### CASH TRANSFERS & BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

#### RESULTS

Cash transfer programs have become an increasingly utilized approach to poverty reduction in low and middle-income countries. There have been fears that these programs – particularly when

(BCC). The BCC was focused on improving knowledge and practices in terms of infant and young child feeding in a gender-sensitive way that proved far more broadly transformative for women.

The researchers found no evidence of increased IPV – which is consistent with the global evidence, but notable because the study took place in Bangladesh, where there was an evidence gap. They found suggestive evidence that all interventions reduced IPV during the program. And they found clear evidence that only the combination of transfers and BCC caused sustained reductions in IPV, with 26% less physical IPV than in the control or transfers-only group, at 6-10 months post-program.

This suggests that cash transfer programs can reduce IPV even in conservative settings, deeper impacts are likely to be obtained when a cash transfer is combined with a gender-sensitive BCC program, and that these impacts can be sustained.

## TARGETING NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES

### WORK IN PROGRESS

With partners, the [Try Center for Training and Education](#) is studying whether a primary prevention program among new married couples in Jordan can increase knowledge and attitudes about gender norms and violence, strengthen communication and relationship skills in newly married couples and reduce IPV.

The research studies a national pre-marriage course targeted at those who will get married. This covers topics such as violence, reproductive health, communication skills, and rights. The researchers are also looking at a nine-month mentoring program that focuses on following up with new couples, especially during their first pregnancy.

## EXPLORING USING ECONOMIC INTERVENTIONS

### WORK IN PROGRESS

Despite an increasing evidence base, the exact impact of economic empowerment programs on violence – and particularly on IPV – is still unknown. [Send a Cow](#) and research partner the [Global Women's Institute](#) are undertaking a two-year research study to examine how economic interventions work to reduce IPV in target communities in Western Kenya.

## FOSTERING MORE EGALITARIAN RELATIONSHIPS

### WORK IN PROGRESS

The [University of Ibadan](#) and the [International Center for Research on Women](#) are testing a program in Ibadan that aims to increase women's participation in household decision-making by fostering more egalitarian relationships in young couples aged 18-35. The

research partners will examine if the program has an impact on emotional, physical and sexual IPV, and allow for a more nuanced understanding of how the program might help couples create a more equitable relationship and reduce violence.

## WORKING WITH THE POLICE

### WORK IN PROGRESS

In Peru, the police force has developed the Home Visits Program, in which women police officers visit victims of IPV. The [University of Lima](#) will monitor 1,600 women to study the police home visit program's impact. They will train police officers about gender roles, stereotypes, discrimination, and the causes, factors, types and manifestations of gender-based violence. They will identify women at a higher risk of being victims of violence again, who will receive additional police visits. ■

*Development Marketplace: Innovations to Address Gender-Based Violence funds ground-breaking GBV research in low- and middle-income countries across the globe. It is a partnership between the [World Bank Group](#) and the [Sexual Violence Research Initiative](#). Over four years, the partnership has funded research projects in 28 countries.*