

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN\* IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND GLOBAL PANDEMIC

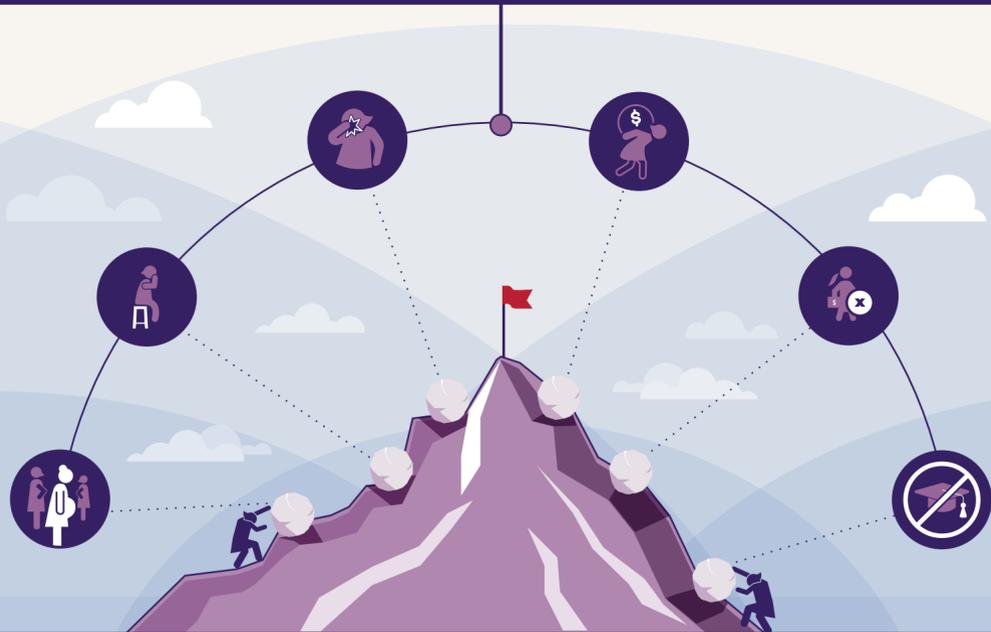


## ONE IN THREE WOMEN WORLDWIDE

has experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) or nonpartner sexual violence in her lifetime. (WHO, 2013)

The impact of this violence is multifaceted, with far-reaching repercussions for individuals, communities, countries, and the world.

Women who experience violence face a range of negative consequences that limit their ability to realize their full potential.



**NEGATIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES** including increased risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, miscarriage, and low birth weight

- A meta-analysis of data from 29 countries found that women's experience of IPV was associated with a **30% INCREASE IN RISK OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCY**. (Maxwell, 2017)

**PHYSICAL INJURY, DISABILITY, OR EVEN DEATH** (homicide and suicide)

- 42% OF WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE IPV REPORT AN INJURY** as a consequence of the violence. (WHO, 2013)

**LIMITS ON EARNING POTENTIAL** because of injury or inability to work as a result of violence

- In Tanzania, **WOMEN EXPERIENCING IPV AND WOMEN EXPERIENCING SEVERE PARTNER VIOLENCE EARNED 29% AND 43% LESS RESPECTIVELY**, than women who had never been exposed to violence from their partners. (World Bank, 2013)

**POOR MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES**, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, low self-esteem, and alcohol and drug abuse

- Women who experience IPV are **TWICE AS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION**. (WHO, 2013)

**FINANCIAL BURDEN** associated with obtaining medical and legal services, relocating, and/or seeking refuge from violence

- A household survey in Vietnam estimated that out-of-pocket expenditures for accessing services and replacing damaged property resulting from partner violence averaged **21% OF WOMEN'S MONTHLY INCOME**. (UN Women Vietnam, 2012)

**CURTAILED EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

- Every year of early marriage before the age of 18 – a form of violence against girls and young women – **REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT GIRLS WILL COMPLETE SECONDARY SCHOOL** by four to six percentage points. (ICRW, 2017)

The widespread burden of violence against women yields tremendous financial impact because of lost productivity and the cost of delivering services to survivors.



### BUSINESSES



### COUNTRIES



### GLOBAL

- Studies from Bolivia and Peru report that companies **lose US\$2 billion and US\$6.7 billion, respectively**, per year because of lost productivity resulting from violence against women (including physical, sexual, and psychological violence, experienced at home and the workplace). (Vara-Horna, 2013 and 2015)
- A nationally representative survey of garment workers in Cambodia found that nearly one in three female workers had been sexually harassed in the workplace in the past 12 months, at a cost of **US\$89 million per year**. (CARE Australia, 2017)

- The cost of violence against women varies from country to country but is **universally high** (reaching the billions in some countries) and large enough to equal a significant proportion of each country's gross domestic product (GDP). (CARE, 2018)
- Governments bear the majority of the costs associated with providing services to survivors, including medical and legal services. In Uganda, for example, provision of public violence costs \$US22.2 million, which represents **0.75% of the country's national 2010/2011 budget**. (CARE, 2018; Kasirye, 2012)

- The global cost of violence against women has been **estimated conservatively to be 2% of the global GDP**, or US\$1.5 trillion. (UN Women, 2016)



Given the scale of the problem and magnitude of its impact, violence against women requires urgent and robust action by governments, the private sector, and funders worldwide.

Governments, the private sector, and funders should increase financial commitments and strengthen public-private partnerships to prevent and respond to violence against women. The required investments are far less than the costs of violence and are needed to:



#### ENSURE THAT NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS ARE IN PLACE

that end gender inequality; promote gender equality; and support a coordinated, multisectoral, and comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to violence against women.



#### IMPLEMENT POLICIES

to prevent all forms of sexual harassment in the workplace.



#### GATHER DATA

on the size and nature of violence against women in different settings and use the data to inform ongoing investments to address the problem.



#### IMPLEMENT PROVEN SOLUTIONS AT SCALE

, including equitable gender norms and behaviors.



#### FORGE COLLABORATIONS

with local women-led organizations and organizations working to advance gender equality and support their advocacy against women.



#### STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY

of health, legal, and social systems to holistically and empathetically respond to the needs of survivors.

\* The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (UNDEVAW) defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." (United Nations, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. New York: UN, 1993.) While evidence of the prevalence and consequences of all forms of gender-based violence is growing, this infographic focuses specifically on violence against women given the availability of economic and global impact data for this type of violence.