

How is data on the costs of violence against women being used?



Budget allocations

Costing violence against women can strengthen the case for prioritizing assistance and services to address violence against women in government budget allocations. Countries that have done costing studies have seen increases in budget allocations for both governments and civil society.



Greater coordination between sectors

Understanding the cost of violence against women can facilitate greater coordination between health services, policing, social services, justice, to deliver services to survivors because doing the research opens dialogue on which institutions are providing which services and on what is being missed.



Implementing laws and policies

Studying the cost of violence against women supports efforts to implement laws and policies on violence against women. The research starts with understanding the laws and policies in place and then analyses how they are being implemented. 80% of countries in the Asia and Pacific region now have laws on domestic violence.¹⁸

For more information

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UN Women. The Costs of Violence, Understanding the costs of violence against women and girls and its response: selected findings and lessons learned from Asia and the Pacific. (2013).

UN Women. Estimating resource requirements for responding to violence against women in South-East Asia: synthesis of findings and lessons. (2016).

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Understanding the Costs of Violence against Women

Violence against women is one of the most pervasive **human rights violations** worldwide and has enormous costs for women's health, safety and well-being.



of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.¹



Worldwide almost one-third of all women who have been in a relationship reported they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner.^{2,3}

Ultimately, violence against women has **tremendous costs for societies**, including costs that impact:



Health care systems



Legal and justice system



Economic development



Human development

Implementing effective essential support services to respond violence against women is feasible

Women and girls who experience violence should be able to easily find essential support services which are:



Health care systems



Police services



Social support services

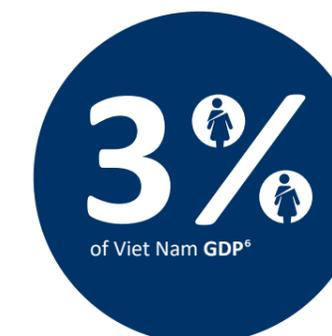


Justice services

The costs of delivering a **minimum package of essential services** for women and girls who experienced violence accounts for:

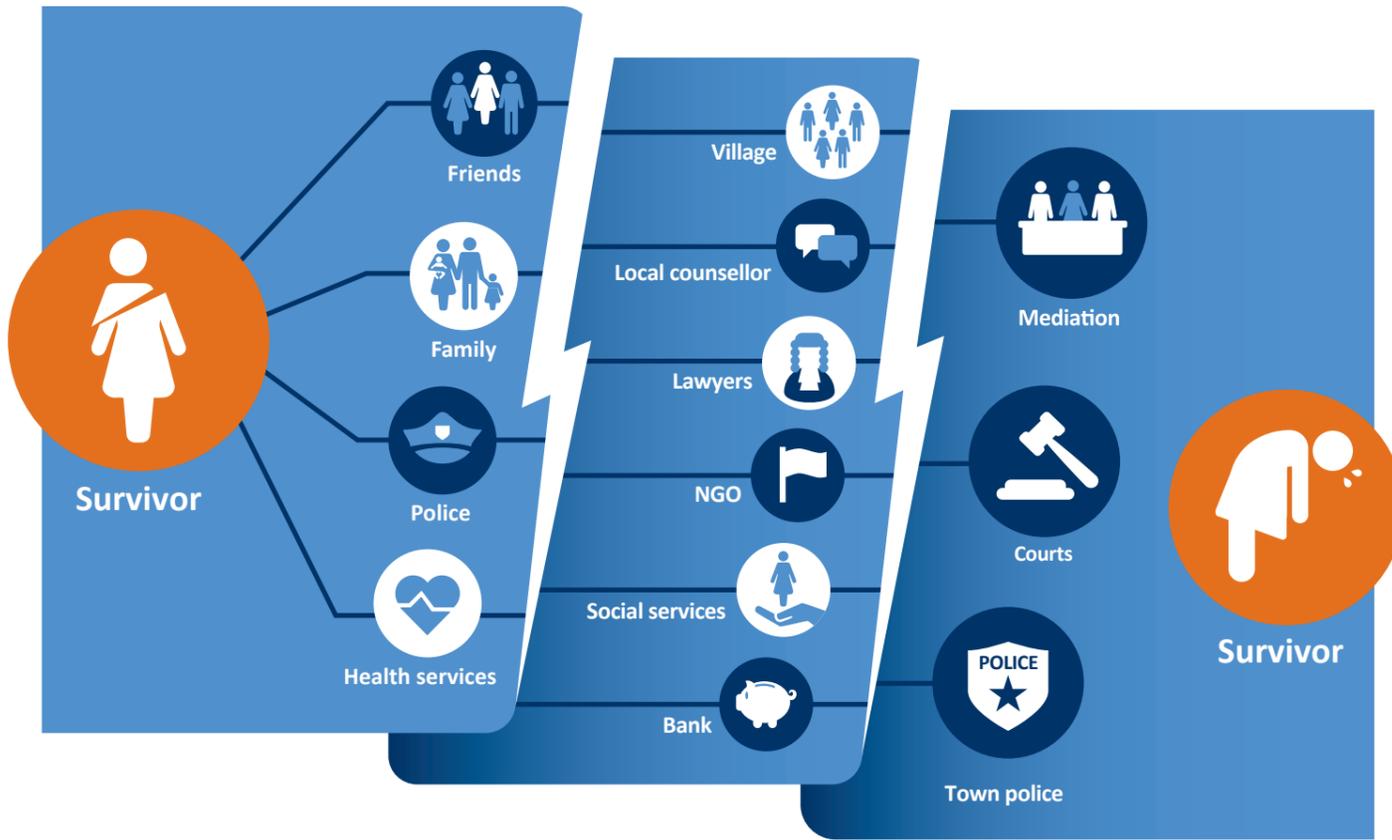


These numbers pale in comparison with the **impact of violence**: A study in Viet Nam found that total productivity loss and potential opportunity costs associated with such violence represent as much as:



Implementing essential support services is affordable and the benefits of stopping violence early are magnified for women, their family and society in general.

Survivor seeking safety, assistance and justice in her community



Survivors face barriers when they seek help. A few examples of these barriers include: service providers who minimize the abuse or do not believe their story, blame them for the violence, ask for bribes to file a case, discourage them from pursuing justice and restrict them to mediation.

The majority of women who experienced violence do not receive the full range of services needed for justice, protection and prevention, and many do not receive any services at all.

Where services are available, they are often underfunded, understaffed, and mostly available in capitals or larger cities.

"It has been a complex process. I could not understand most of the legal documents that were sent to me, such as the letter from the prosecutor's office and the court. Worse still, I was called promiscuous by my employer despite being a rape victim." ¹⁷



However, quality services for survivors are increasingly available and improving thanks to growing commitments, skills and budgets dedicated to ending violence against women.

What are the costs of violence against women? And who bears those costs?



Household



"My husband came home and he was drunk. He was angry at me and he picked up the coconut scraper and hit me hard on my mouth. I lost 3 teeth that day and luckily I did not lose the baby I was carrying." (Tonga)⁸



Survivor



"The experience did change me. I had to struggle with fear, anger, depression, insomnia, and even nausea" (United States)¹⁰

"When we got home, I didn't have time to say anything, didn't even turn off the motorcycle yet he came and used the helmet to hit me on the head. That time my face was all bruised and I couldn't go to sell the clothes the next day. I was embarrassed. My face was bruised, my neck was bruised and swollen, he choked me." (Lao PDR)⁹



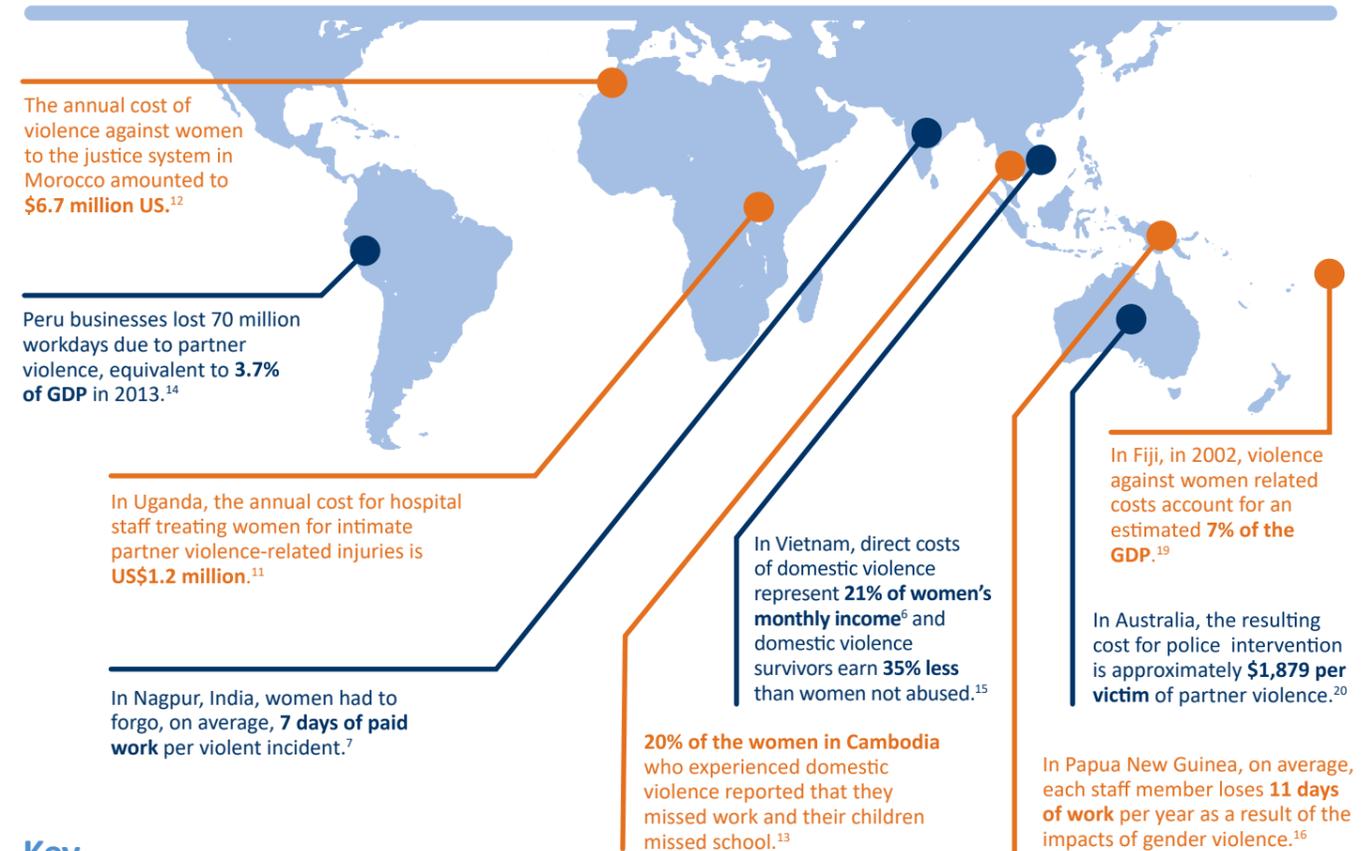
Governments & Society



Businesses



"The other police officer asked me 'Why didn't you simply accept compensation from him (the offender)? You already have children, why you were asking for so many things?' I thought that was an insult. It was me who was raped and I had to be the one who understands and compromises?" (Thailand)¹⁷



Key



Family



Health care systems



Physical and mental health damages



Social services



Police



Justice costs



Work & productivity



Children's education