

SAFE AND EQUAL FUTURES FOR ALL

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS IN SOUTH TARAWA, KIRIBATI

The information presented in this brief is based on an impact evaluation baseline study of the Ministry for Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs' (MWYSSA) Strengthening Peaceful Villages (SPV) programme. This study was conducted by The Equality Institute, in partnership with the MWYSSA, the Kiribati National Statistics Office, and the Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre. It was commissioned by UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (Pacific Partnership), funded primarily by the European Union with targeted support from the governments of Australia and New Zealand and UN Women.

STRENGTHENING PEACEFUL VILLAGES (SPV) PROGRAMME

The SPV programme is a community-based intervention adapted to Kiribati culture and context from SASA!,¹ to prevent violence against women and girls and promote safe and healthy families, homes and villages. It engages approximately 56,400 people, including women, men, youth, community and cultural leaders, and religious leaders in 18 villages in South Tarawa, Kiribati.

SPV IMPACT EVALUATION BASELINE STUDY

The SPV Impact Evaluation Baseline Study was conducted in 2019 and surveyed 629 randomly selected women and 556 men, aged 15 to 49 years in South Tarawa. The findings from the Study are being used to guide and improve the SPV programme overall.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS IN SOUTH TARAWA?

2 OUT OF 5

women have experienced intimate partner violence

IN THE LAST YEAR



3 OUT OF 5

men have perpetrated intimate partner violence

IN THE LAST YEAR



The 2019 SPV Baseline Study found that, in the past year, **38 percent of women** in South Tarawa had **experienced physical and/or sexual violence** from an intimate partner, and **57 percent of men** had **perpetrated this violence** against a wife or female partner.

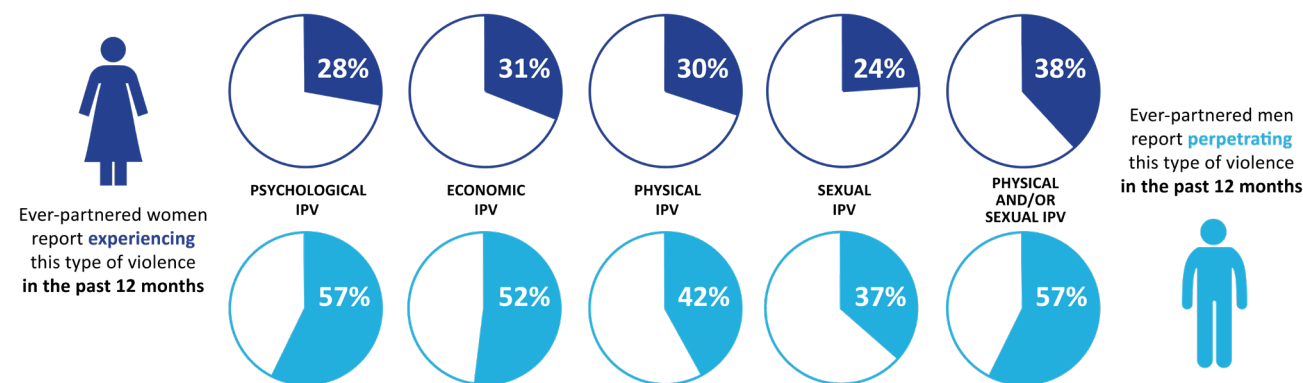
¹ SASA! is a violence prevention intervention originally developed by Raising Voices and implemented by the Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention in Kampala, Uganda. SASA! is now being used by 20 organisations in 60 countries worldwide. For further information on the intervention, please see <http://raisingvoices.org/sasa/>

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)?

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is any damaging behaviour within an intimate relationship – between husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend, or any two people who are an intimate couple - which causes physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm and abuse. Intimate partner violence also includes controlling behaviours and using power over another person.

There are 4 main forms of intimate partner violence:

- 1 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE** – This can include acts such as: slapping, choking, burning, kicking, dragging, beating, and hitting their partner with fists, weapons or objects. It can also include threatening to use violence on their partner.
- 2 SEXUAL VIOLENCE** - This can include acts such as: unwanted sexual touching and forcing their partner to have sex when their partner does not want to or threatening them. It can also include forcing their partner to engage in anything sexual – including watching pornography or sexual acts other than sexual intercourse – when their partner does not want to.
- 3 PSYCHOLOGICAL (EMOTIONAL) VIOLENCE** - This can include acts such as: deliberately humiliating their partner in front of other people or saying or doing something to make their partner feel scared, intimidated and belittled. For example: a husband shouting abuse at his wife: “You are ugly and worthless!” with all the neighbours hearing the abuse; or, a boyfriend making crude jokes about his girlfriend in front his colleagues, while his girlfriend is present and she feels humiliated.
- 4 ECONOMIC VIOLENCE** – This can include acts such as: not allowing their partner to earn an income (get a job, go to work, or participate in income generation activities) or not allowing their partner to open a bank account. It can also include deliberately withholding money for necessary household expenses and instead spending the money on other things (such as alcohol or cigarettes) and not allowing their partner to give money to their parents or relatives or to contribute to family functions.



The 2019 SPV Baseline Study found that men’s reports of perpetration of IPV are higher than women’s reports of experiences of IPV, for all types of violence. This is a common pattern found in other studies on intimate partner violence around the world and is not unique to Kiribati. Despite IPV being a crime in Kiribati according to the *Family Peace Act 2014*, men’s use of violence against women is still normalised and there is widespread impunity and acceptance around men’s use of violence against their partners. At the same time, even though it is not their fault, many women still feel shame around experiencing IPV and this often means some women are discouraged from telling anyone about what they are experiencing and seeking help from service providers. This explains why men’s reported perpetration of IPV is higher than women’ reports of experiencing violence.

Only 35% of women experiencing violence reported that someone from their community stepped in to help during an incident of abuse.

However, most people (68% of women and 76% of men) believed that their community can prevent violence against women.

WHY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS HAPPENS IN SOUTH TARAWA



WHAT IS THE SPV PROGRAMME DOING TO ADDRESS THE VIOLENCE?

The Strengthening Peaceful Villages (SPV) programme is nurturing, building and supporting community-led activism to prevent VAWG through the following strategies:

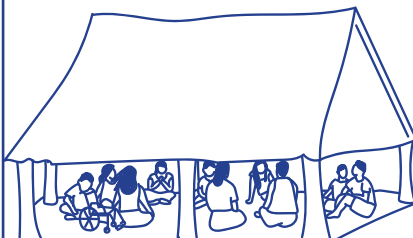
LOCAL ACTIVISM

Led by 90 women, men and youth village activists who are engaging their communities in activities that spark self-reflection and positive change for peaceful and healthy relationships.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Led by 60 women and men community leaders, who are engaging fellow leaders and their communities to speak out against VAWG, provide support to women experiencing violence, and create safe homes and villages.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Led by 11 Institutional Allies within the MWYSSA who are engaging their employees and leaders to strengthen how the MWYSSA can prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.



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The brand imagery is inspired by empowering female-specific tattoo motifs used in the Pacific region. Artwork by Karawa Areieta and Scarlett Thorby-Lister, adapted from SASA! original materials by Raising Voices.

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