

A New Approach to Measure the Cost of Response Services for Women and Girls Subjected to Violence

RDMA REGIONAL EVALUATION SUMMIT, SESSION 5

SEPTEMBER 2013



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<https://ac.usaid.gov/p96706650/>

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Siriporn Laosang: [Begins mid-sentence] officer at UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and my co-presenter.

Inthira Tirangkura: Good morning everyone, my name is Inthira. I'm a Program Officer from UN Women, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Siriporn Laosang: Thank you for the opportunity today to be here and share with you some of our work at UN Women in trying to reduce gender inequalities. Our piece of work I would like to share with you is focused mainly on the implementations of ending violence against women, and by advocating these methods. We are trying to capture the cost of violence, the costs to in women in the family and society and also in the economics.

Just to give you some background of Asia and Pacific, as mentioned by the prior presenters, we made some advancement in many countries in Asia and Pacific as ratified through CEDO convention. However, in terms of the realities many aspects and many work needs to be done. First of all, there is still a large gap of implementation, remaining inadequate and insufficient. For example, in the CEDO -- countries that ratified the CEDO conventions if you will see the report, which has come out and there are not many of them that have action plans in place or have moved

on to implementation. And that's no measure for the international community to _____.

Also the impunity for perpetrators and lack of assets which are still in some of the countries, perpetrators go free of charges in those aspects. And the lack of support services also to the women survivors is one of our goals is one of these. Women take courage trying to seeking for these services, however, the service is not that well provided, and in some cases which their condition, they cannot make it to that service that is provided. And also insufficient or lack of proper budget by the government.

Why is UN Women taking these studies? Our agency we're mandated with focusing on gender inequalities and empowerment of women, and the violence against women is a large part of many inequalities against women and can deepen the cost of inequality in gender, politically, legally or economically.

By advocating that violence against women is an important issue and it should be taken seriously and budget should be allocated, some evidence-based research needs to be conducted which hold that this is a need and it's a large gap that needs to be filled in. UN Women, using the methodologies in costing violence against women. So the results of the study clearly shows that not only the human rights issues but also the costs of women that are affected by violence also reflected in their family, communities, society and the economy as whole.

By doing that the cost of violence would be classified into three parts. First is the direct cost, which includes medical, criminal justice, legal, social services and counseling. The second one is

the indirect cost to where the violence the effect for that particular woman also creates the multiplier effect into their family and reduced their productivity and also lowered the education achievement of their children.

The last one is the pain and suffering, the social multiplier that could also be reflected in the reproductive health problem in that family. Also the importance of costings can clearly document the economic cost that would affect the society and economic effect in particular countries.

Current methodology in costing that is being used in assessing violence against women is _____ approach that is being used by donor communities and development communities. The first one is costing which measures the socio-economic impact of violence against women. The second one is the unit costing with particular services -- woman survivor access to services and the third one is the gender-responsive budgeting which estimates the government budget, expenditures and the funding source that is available for each of the services.

However, those three methodologies that are being used have some limitations in terms of third-party impacts. The costing captures only the focus services. So you can only measure certain services that are available to the survivor but not _____ countries.

The methodology that's being used and introduced here is the multidisciplinary way, where you are basically taking into account the administration and policy in place and also the referral system that's in place regardless of funding usually is from the government or is from the donors. And last

you're mapping of those studies together and create what looks like a type of flow. If one woman needs or is seeking service, what that is like and what is that needs to be taken, how much cost involved. So with that you can map the gap in between what has been written in your policy in these situations, and what actually happened in the field.

Inthira Tirangkura:

For this methodology maybe I would like to begin with limitations of this methodology, like most studies we face the problem with lack of data and the accuracy of data, especially in terms of data of the budget. We can see from the last line that we will look at the legislation, the services, the methods, and holistically a lot of costs. But especially for the budget part we face the problem with a lack of data in terms of the type of budgeting the country is proposing and the availability of the data down to the activity level, and also the lack of information among the governmental institutions in charge of the services about the actual cost of the services and also the challenges on the accuracy of the budget, what form the public and the private service provide us.

Another big limitation is the customization of the methodology at the country level. Especially because of the lack of data we may need to supplement the methodology with other maybe qualitative methodology to get to the costing findings.

And for the findings the methodology -- what the methodology can identify is mainly gaps in these three levels. The first level is legislative and policy level; the second level is the budget level and the third level is the implementation level. The gaps that are not only found in the legislative level is

inconsistencies and overlaps among laws within the country which could have conflicting directives about violence against women programs and services, including conflicting and unclear laws and responsibilities among actors. And also financial inefficiency, because there can be redundant spending of foreign services.

There are also gaps in laws, for example there are no laws or the existing laws are ineffective or the laws are not translated into the national action plans or into the NGO strategy plans to address violence against women and there is always the _____ enforcement of the law.

And to the budget level, it can start with the insufficient institutional capacity to budget the implementation of the violence against women program in the first place and then there is the program with identifying funds, especially taking the funds that are specifically allocated for the violence against women program. And even if we have the funds we still lack the tracking system for the allocated budget. And also we lack the budget indicators and the M&E system. We also have a problem with the decentralized budgeting processes for the services for survivors at the local level.

And other gaps are also about the source of funding. In many cases it is the violence against women services rely on the out of pocket funds from survivors themselves or the NGOs or from the law enforcement officials to supplement the access to services, and there is also the dependence of government and NGOs on the foreign aid.

And to the last level, implementation, the gaps are the lack of official directives to set up systems for survivors. And it's normally the NGO who addresses the violence against women at the community, and not the national government. There are also the problems of the corruption and also the lack of data collection processes, and of course the of violence against women at the service delivery level.

And what can costing achieve and inform policy-makers? Because you can see that this is the holistic way of addressing the laws and the services and the budget of the violence against women issues in the country. So this can inform the funding gaps and the overlaps -- and also they learn how to allocate the resources, both the human and financial resources to address violence against women. It can identify which services to prioritize, highlight the need for budgeting capacity building at the government level to get the law in place in the first place and identify how -- where to find funding sources and how to use the revenues.

And what all these findings and achievements have informed policy makers better. All this can of course be the evidence to help with the advocacy for the better policies and laws to address the violence against women issues and it can also press the issue of violence against women and go to the level of importance because it normally includes the numbers and when the policy makers and especially economic policy makers see the numbers, they sort of pay attention to the issue.

You may wonder what this costing study _____ looks more like the assessment for _____ population can be related with the evaluation. This sort of methodology can also be used for the

existing services and programs that address violence against women to see where the gaps are. Whether we've actually achieved the results and whether we can save the budget to be used in other programs or other initiatives. That's it. Thank you.

Moderator:

It's an interesting presentation looking at the issue of what are the costs of gender-based violence. It sounds to me like you presented a lot of constraints to being able to connect this -- so you connected the study, you tried to achieve a baseline and you were able to then document what are the issues that need to be address better. Could you quickly go over what you've come up with in terms of what's the best ways to address those constraints you were facing in getting the baseline?

Female Speaker:

UN Women in Asia and the Pacific conducted this study in three countries: in Vietnam, in Cambodia and in Indonesia. In Indonesia and Cambodia we're facing the difficulty of obtaining current data. So we couldn't come up with a conclusion but we came up with elements and services _____ to be able to do mappings, higher workflow once women facing violence and how it will flow going to when, some path we can identify the gap _____ services.

But in Vietnam we conduct a study in 2010 and it came out that direct and indirect costs represented almost 1.41 percent of Vietnam's GDP and the domestic violence also resulted in a loss of all our productivity. The same women who are victims of domestic violence earn up to 35 percent less than other women. And in overall productivity loss amounts to about 1.78 percent of the country's GDP in 2010. So that's where we

captured numbers and be able to refer to the cause of the violence.

Moderator: So in some cases you weren't able to get reliable data. In the countries you were able to get reliable data you were able to document what the cost was. Sir?

Dennis Bowles: Yes, Dennis Bowles, from the _____ [laughter]. Now I'm wondering, you give the data to policy makers and they see, "Oh, 2.78 percent? That's 3 times less than the last national disaster we had." Aren't you afraid that they're going to prioritize negatively because they see the figures?

Female Speaker: The number not only tells that so and so percentage, but it also identifies priority areas in the case that we successfully conduct this research, in a way that will tell policy maker in a way to prioritize by gender allocation.

Steven Mills: Steve Mills with FHI 360, formerly known as Family Health International. I'd like to follow up on what -- that's what we have to say so people know where we come from -- following up from what Dennis said because I think it's partially the same kind of point -- I'm going to say something a little provocative, maybe I'm the only one in this room who feels this, but I feel that -- unless I perhaps misunderstood something -- that this type of approach could actually lead to negative impacts.

Why? Let me phrase it in a different way. If I were in the U.S. and said, "I'd like to speak to you about a cost impact study on reducing violence among African Americans, and that there are major costs to that, that they can actually -- they contribute to the economy, and you need to invest in that from a cost standpoint." Is it a cost -- are the impediments to change for gender-based

violence majorly a cost issue? Or are they majorly a male issue? Now I think that's a big question and people like Patty Allemande probably think about that a lot and many of you also think about it. And I don't mean to simplify everything because I think one of the things we all deal with in these issues is that it's all multidisciplinary, there's not a magic bullet for any of these problems and we do need cost A to B economic data, we need psychological data, we need social data, but I did have a little bit of that reaction, despite the multidisciplinary nature and I as a non-economist, I did have a little bit of that feeling of -- and I think that's what Dennis was trying to say, you present this cost data and people might actually say, "Well that's not that big of a cost compared to what I typically have to deal with as a policy maker. See you tomorrow."

Whereas should we refrain that cost question -- I'm sorry, I know my time's running out -- but are the cost issues on gender-based violence, rather, what is the recipe to reduce gender-based violence and how do we allocate those expenses? Do we allocate it to positive male models who then affect change among other males? Do we allocate it to women's groups who have effects on non-greater society? Do we do more of a labor market at the policy level to get more women into the labor markets and that will have an effect then to somehow lower violence? I'll leave people with those questions.

Moderator:

I always like, "slightly provocative". I mean if it's provocative it's provocative, right? Go ahead.

Female Speaker: I think you already answered your questions. [Laughter]. So rehashing what you were saying. Costing is only one tool that's being used and of course works _____ together with other additive, others working with the government, and this is to bring the evidence from the ground and if issue needs attention in evidence-based way is what I'm saying.

Female Speaker 2: I think related to that is that they can be measured, that if it's relatively easy, it can be measured.

Moderator: Well let's move into that. I think that that's a good --

[End of Audio]