



# kNOwVAWdata Phase I Report

Improving Quality and Availability of Ethical Data on Violence against Women Prevalence Across the Asia and the Pacific region

August 2016–March 2021

**UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office**  
March 2021



#### Understanding the acronym: kNOwVAWdata

The acronym and logo have been designed to convey a message of importance for ethically and respectfully measuring the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women. The acronym expresses that in order to implement policies, plans and programmes leading to no more violence against women (NO VAW), we need to KNOW the data. The logo includes the face of a woman with a tear in her eye. She has a hand covering her mouth symbolising the secrecy and silence often surrounding intimate partner violence. Another hand is in the shape of a dove symbolising empowerment and the release she may experience when she is able to tell her story and be believed. Measuring VAW, using safe, robust and ethical methods, will allow women to speak about their experience, often for the very first time.

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**kNOwVAWdata** is a flagship initiative of the United Nations Population Fund Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO) with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

**Cover photo:** Una Raileqe of Fiji, a participant in the 2019 kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women | © Dr Henriette Jansen

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Photo: Amanda Mustard/UNFPA Asia

In memory  
of Lanieta 'La'  
Vakadewabuka,  
2018 kNOwVAWdata  
course participant and  
champion for violence  
against women data  
in the Pacific.



Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

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## **kNOwVAWdata**

addresses the void in ethical, reliable and comparable violence against women prevalence data across Asia and the Pacific.

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# Foreword

An estimated one in three women around the world has experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, most often by their intimate partners. With indications that the severity and frequency of gender-based violence only increase amid the myriad humanitarian crises facing humanity today – not least the COVID-19 pandemic – it is easy to get discouraged.

Despite the challenges, however, there is good reason for hope.

Innovative and courageous work by tenacious actors, ranging from policymakers to service providers, can help to finally put an end to this violence and help survivors to access necessary support. While we are far from the finish line, the global commitment to ending gender-based violence is unprecedented.

These exceptional efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence contribute to a global knowledge base of evidence about what works. But without a baseline on key indicators like how many women experience violence in a country and who is most at risk, we can't say exactly how much progress has been made.

As we learn more about the magnitude and scale of this issue, we also learn how our world needs to change so the full rights of women – including their right to a life of dignity without violence – are upheld.

In the same vein, calls for data on women's experiences of violence are rapidly growing, ranging from the ICPD Programme of Action to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – both of which hundreds of countries have signed on to – among many other demands for these data.

Countries and their citizens need to be able to see and show that investments and commitments to ending violence against women are more than just rhetoric – that they actually make a difference.

Spearheading this part of the equation in the Asia-Pacific region is kNOwVAWdata, a flagship UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative whose first phase ran from August 2016 through March 2021. kNOwVAWdata has already equipped hundreds of women and men in Asia and the Pacific – a region with some of the world's fastest growing populations and highest rates of violence against women – to harness the power of data to end such violence in their countries.

As we reflect on the first phase of kNOwVAWdata, UNFPA is proud of the tremendous progress the Asia-Pacific region has made, and will continue to make, in measuring violence against women prevalence reliably, comparably and responsibly. Through kNOwVAWdata's technical support and capacity-building, the Asia-Pacific region has substantially expanded both the evidence base and the pool of experts who are invested in working on ethical and rigorous data collection with integrity to produce top quality data, and to ensure that each violence against women survey participant is safe and valued in the process. kNOwVAWdata has created a movement of people who now have a deeper understanding of women's experiences with violence and who are personally committed to furthering their work on women's issues.

UNFPA looks forward to expanding this work in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, so we can continue uncovering and quantifying inconvenient truths about the prevalence of violence against women. Only with these data can we change hearts and minds, inspire political and legislative action and, ultimately, bring about long-term, sustainable change.

With optimism and determination,



**Björn Andersson**

Regional Director  
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

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# Acknowledgements

The kNOwVAWdata team would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone involved in the Initiative's work, including kNOwVAWdata course participants, survey teams, partner organizations and UN agencies, national statistical offices and government representatives, community leaders, kNOwVAWdata consultants and interns, and others who helped make the Initiative a success. We extend our congratulations to the researchers, survey interviewers, policymakers and activists who dedicate so much time, energy and passion to carrying out violence against women prevalence studies in their countries.

Without the generous support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), many countries would be left in the dark about women's experiences of violence. DFAT's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of women and girls - in this case, through gender data - is shining a light on this human rights epidemic, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

The kNOwVAWdata Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided invaluable support throughout the Initiative's existence, with particularly helpful guidance on the development of the curriculum for the kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women. We thank the TAC members for their time, insights, wisdom and devotion to this critical effort. The TAC membership list is included in Annex II of this report.

We would also like to thank the participants of the 2018 kNOwVAWdata pilot course. This group tested concepts and approaches to delivering the course curriculum and provided thoughtful reflections and contributions which helped shape the course for subsequent cohorts, as it is today.

We hope that all individuals who have participated in the kNOwVAWdata course thus far will act as champions of ethical and safe violence against women data collection in their own contexts, advocating for the use of evidence-based, locally tailored policies and programmes so we can finally stamp out the scourge of violence against women that has persisted for far too long.

Ultimately, we would like to acknowledge the crucial role that Dr Henrica "Henriette" Jansen has played in both setting the foundation for kNOwVAWdata, from her pioneering work in the Pacific through some of the earliest violence against women prevalence surveys globally, to spearheading the kNOwVAWdata Initiative from inception to implementation. Dr Jansen's landmark contributions to how governments and civil society regard and respond to gender-based violence constitute a rich legacy, not only for UNFPA but for the wider network of stakeholders involved in this life-saving work. She is, as Devex labelled her, truly the "woman who put gender-based violence data on the map".



# kNOwVAWdata core team

## UNFPA APRO

### **Dr Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen**

Technical Advisor, Violence against Women, Research and Data  
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

Initiator, Technical Lead; Responsible for technical support to country violence against women prevalence studies; co-developer of kNOwVAWdata curriculum and co-facilitator in the course; developer of most of the Initiative's knowledge products; responsible for regional and global interagency engagement and representation in international conferences and events

### **Ingrid FitzGerald**

Technical Advisor (former), Gender and Human Rights  
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

kNOwVAWdata project management and strategic oversight  
*Ingrid left UNFPA APRO in mid-2020*

### **Sujata Tuladhar**

Technical Specialist, Gender Based Violence  
UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

kNOwVAWdata day-to-day project and contract management, partner relations and reporting

## UNFPA CONSULTANTS

### **Jessica Gardner**

Data Analysis and Gender Statistics Consultant

Technical support to countries, in particular for data analysis and report writing, capacity-building of country staff; support to knowledge products

### **Maia Barmish**

Communications Consultant

Support with UNFPA's kNOwVAWdata webpage management, social media platforms, news products and media relations; editorial and graphic support to kNOwVAWdata knowledge products and reports

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

### **Dr Kristin Diemer**

Senior Research Fellow & kNOwVAWdata Course  
Co-convener, University of Melbourne

Overall responsibility for co-developing and facilitating the kNOwVAWdata course curriculum; in charge of the kNOwVAWdata four-week face-to-face course and the online course; responsible for course website

### **Dr Cathy Vaughan**

Associate Professor & kNOwVAWdata Course  
Co-convener, University of Melbourne

Co-development and facilitation of the kNOwVAWdata four-week face-to-face course and the online course

### **Joanne Rowe**

kNOwVAWdata Course Programme Manager  
University of Melbourne

Management of kNOwVAWdata course operations

## ANROWS

### **Michele Robinson**

Director, Australia's National Research Organisation  
for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

kNOwVAWdata course contributor for evidence to action

## PERSONS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO kNOwVAWdata DURING PART OF PHASE I

### **Natsuda Suwatthanabunpot**

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**Pramaporn Mongkolthavorn**

**Anik Gevers**

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Programme Assistant Gender Team 2019

Programme Assistant Gender Team 2020

Implementing Partner Contract Management

Monitoring and Evaluation 2016-2018

Communications Consultant 2016

Communications Consultant 2016-2018

Intern 2018

Data Consultant 2020

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# Executive Summary

Violence against women is recognized as a global public policy priority. Yet, despite growing awareness of the causes and consequences of violence against women, limited high-quality, actionable data on its prevalence exist. This gap is largely due to countries' inadequate technical capacities to measure violence against women prevalence, meaning they rely on international experts, of whom there are not enough to meet the current and growing needs.

Collecting quality data on violence against women through special surveys is crucial if we want to understand and end this scourge. Doing so is challenging.

To address this void in ethical, reliable and comparable violence against women prevalence data across Asia and the Pacific, the kNOwVAWdata Initiative was launched by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. The first phase of kNOwVAWdata operated from mid-2016 to March 2021.

## The kNOwVAWdata Initiative's work is organized into four core pillars:

1. Technical support to national violence against women prevalence studies;
2. kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women;
3. Building a network of local and regional violence against women data experts; and
4. Knowledge capture and sharing.

The kNOwVAWdata Initiative offers a sustainable mechanism for countries to develop locally based skills and tools to collect, analyse and communicate their own violence against women data and monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 for gender equality.

## Phase I results have shown promise for the future of violence against women data capacities in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **kNOwVAWdata has provided direct technical guidance to 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific to conduct violence against women prevalence surveys, which resulted in nine published survey reports during Phase I of kNOwVAWdata.** The Initiative has also engaged with countries in the region through the provision of preliminary informational sessions and/or advisory support and guidance on violence against women data activities amid COVID-19.
- **In total, between the 2018 and 2019 kNOwVAWdata courses, 65 participants from 19 countries have participated (face-to-face)** – with an additional cohort participating in the third annual course, which began in December 2020 online. These participants are equipped with the skills to plan, conduct, analyse, report and advocate results from national violence against women prevalence surveys, and to provide support and share learning with peers undertaking such surveys through South-South collaboration.

- **kNOwVAWdata has created an extensive repository of resources** for violence against women survey planners and implementers; research organizations and academia; as well as data users, including violence against women prevention and response programmes and policymakers, government agencies and civil society. Among other communications products, the resource repository includes:
  - Guidance on best practice survey methodologies;
  - Overview of violence against women measurement indicators;
  - Analysis of sources of violence against women data and the difference between administrative and prevalence data;
  - Explanation of key terminology related to violence against women prevalence data;
  - Principles for interviewing women who may have experienced violence;
  - Guidance on measuring prevalence of violence against women with disabilities;
  - Violence against women prevalence survey reports supported by UNFPA in the Asia-Pacific region;
  - Lessons learnt from previous violence against women prevalence surveys;
  - Regional comparative data visualizations; and
  - Guidance on violence against women data collection activities during COVID-19.
- **kNOwVAWdata has told the stories behind the data** through the lens of violence against women survey planners and enumerators (interviewers), course participants and others in the form of multimedia products,<sup>1</sup> news pieces and other content, as well as 70 public speaking engagements.
- **In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, kNOwVAWdata has provided thought leadership on collecting and interpreting violence against women data** when mobility restrictions and other measures make it nearly impossible to survey women safely, and thus compromise the generation of ethical and reliable data. As a consequence of the pandemic, surveys that were planned for 2020 had to be delayed to ensure women's safety as a top priority.

## Key recommendations and lessons learnt

- It is important to underscore that the *quality* of violence against women prevalence surveys is imperative, not the *quantity* of surveys conducted.
- Identifying the right implementing partners to work on capacity-building in violence against women data – the University of Melbourne and ANROWS – has been key to the success of the kNOwVAWdata course and its sustainability.
- It is extremely valuable when individuals from the same country but different sectors – representing both violence against women data producers (e.g., statisticians and researchers) and users (e.g., policymakers and programme implementers) – participate in the kNOwVAWdata course together.
- It is critical to identify sustainable funding models for kNOwVAWdata course participation so as not to deter participants with limited resources from accessing the course; often, these participants need and benefit most from the course learning.

<sup>1</sup> kNOwVAWdata, and UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2018). "The Journey: Collecting data on violence against women in Mongolia", available at [stories.knowvawdata.com/mongolia](https://stories.knowvawdata.com/mongolia).  
kNOwVAWdata, and UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2019). "Put violence against women data on the map", available at [stories.knowvawdata.com/Data](https://stories.knowvawdata.com/Data).

- The COVID-19 pandemic has presented substantial obstacles; however, kNOwVAWdata leveraged opportunities that emerged by stepping in as a thought leader on violence against women data collection during the pandemic. This included offering alternative data collection approaches that are more relevant to helping improve services for women during the pandemic rather than collecting new data on prevalence.
- Conscious investment and attention to knowledge management and communications is a significant component of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative. This has led to a wider understanding of the ethical and safety considerations of violence against women data collection, not just among technical audiences but also among those who may not be directly involved in the collection of data but who are key data utilizers for policymaking efforts. The documentation of lessons learnt and multimedia stories convey both the nuance and critical nature of violence against women prevalence surveys to inform more effective policies and programmes that prevent and respond to gender-based violence. They also illustrate the transformative effect that participation in violence against women surveys has on researchers, interviewers, as well as respondents.
- Future work will need to build on and expand partnerships for the measurement and use of violence against women prevalence data, including to support Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and reporting, within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region.



Photo: Amanda Mustard/UNFPA Asia



Photo: Dr Kristin Diemer

# Background

## Violence against women: A public health crisis and violation of women's human rights

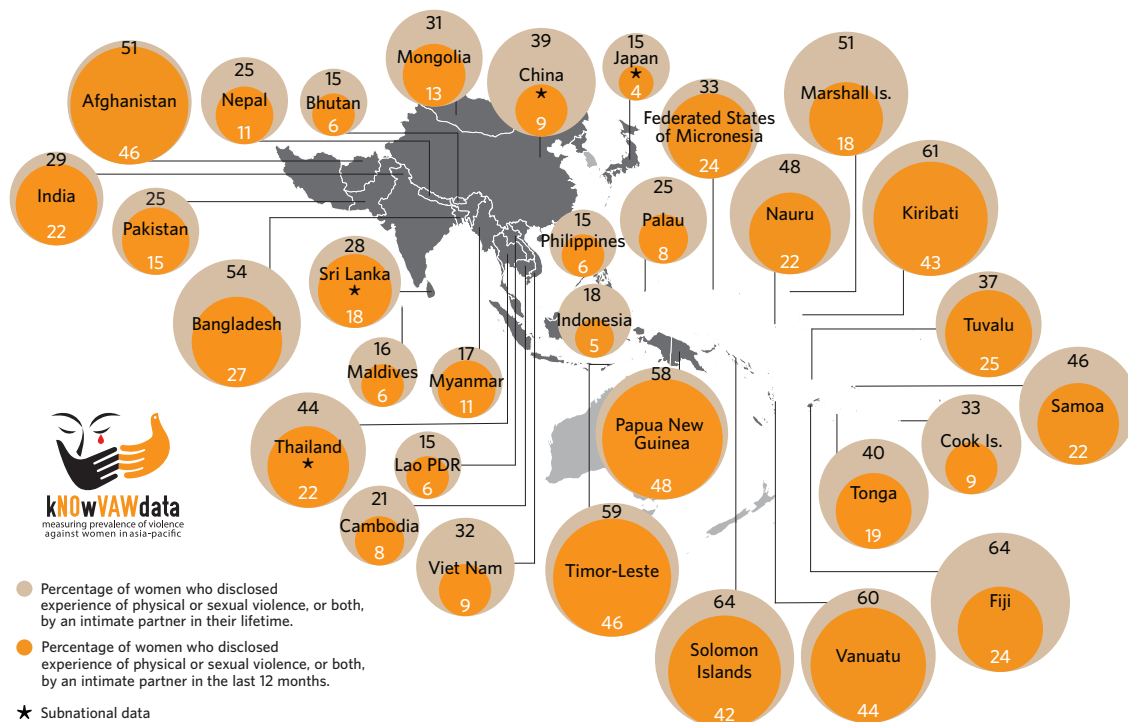
Violence against women is an expression of persistent, deep-rooted gender inequalities and discrimination, and is a violation of their human rights.

As defined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, violence against women is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on an equal basis with men. It both grows out of, and perpetuates, women's subordinate status and the unequal power relations between women and men.

Sadly, one in three women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence in her lifetime, most often at the hands of an intimate partner, in particular her husband. Data from surveys conducted in countries across Asia and the Pacific show that 15–64 per cent of women disclosed experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime.

Figure 1 compares the prevalence of violence committed by an intimate partner in Asia-Pacific countries, illustrating the diversity of the experiences of women in the various subregions, in terms of prevalence and severity. The figure shows the dynamics of violence that can only be appreciated by comparing the relative difference between prevalence over the course of women's lifetime and in the 12 months prior to when violence against women prevalence surveys are conducted. This comparison indicates that women who live with violent partners in countries with a greater differential between the outer and inner circles may have more options that allow them to experience violence less frequently or non-continuously throughout their lives.

**Figure 1: Women who experience physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, 2000–2020 UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Region**



Source: Country reports from the most recent surveys conducted with the methodology of the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence or the Domestic Violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey, between 2000–2020

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The impacts of violence permeate beyond emotional and physical trauma to survivors. It can affect their long-term health and well-being, including survivors' educational and earning potential. Further, the burden is experienced across the societal ecosphere, from a family's financial stability through to an economic toll on the health, social services and justice sectors. It can also impact women's capacity to care for their family, including children, as well as children's learning abilities. It also increases the likelihood of ongoing cycles of violence. Taken together, violence against women is a strain on the whole of society.

## The need for violence against women prevalence data

Violence against women has been recognized as a global public policy priority. In 2011, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted nine standard indicators for measuring violence against women. This, with the adoption by Member States of Target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals – see below, has given rise to a growing call for reliable and comparable violence against women prevalence data.

Now, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has made monitoring of violence against women a must, not a choice. Likewise, without responding to the evidence provided by violence against women prevalence data, countries cannot achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



### SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

#### Target 5.2:

*“Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”*

#### Indicator 5.2.1:

*“Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.”*

#### Indicator 5.2.2:

*“Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.”*



Yet, despite growing awareness of the causes and consequences of violence against women, limited high-quality, actionable data on its prevalence exist. This gap is due to countries' inadequate technical capacities to measure violence against women prevalence, meaning they rely on international experts, of whom there are not enough to meet the current and growing needs. The gap also has to do with lack of resources – both funding and personnel – to undertake robust national prevalence surveys.

Ethical, reliable and comparable data on violence against women prevalence are critical to inform and monitor effective prevention and response efforts tailored to each country and subnational regions within them. These data are also integral to a comprehensive approach to ending all forms of violence against women and girls.



Women are interviewed as part of Mongolia's 2017 survey on the national prevalence of violence against women

Photo: UNFPA Mongolia

## What makes violence against women data ethical, reliable and comparable?

Intimate partner violence is a phenomenon that is often hidden and stigmatized in societies, so its measurement is sensitive to the technical and soft skills of the interviewers and the context of the interview. Undertaking research on violence against women can make women more vulnerable if not conducted properly. For example, respondents can be retraumatized or put at risk of more violence as a result of their participation in a survey. Protecting survey respondents' safety and confidentiality, as well as providing support where needed, is fundamental to ethical data collection – as is making use of the data to create change. Given the risk involved, violence against women prevalence data and reports must not sit on a shelf but instead should be effectively used to inform programming that stops women from experiencing violence.

Reliability means that the study findings can be reproduced, meaning that the study methodology is able to produce consistent results. This requires the use of well-designed tools that are comparable, tested and validated in different contexts. It also involves adequate and appropriate sampling methods, as well as rigorous and comparable analysis. Above all, quality data depends on research teams who have received specialized training on best practice methods to ensure that respondents disclose sensitive information, feel valued and are kept safe.

Countries equipped with ethical, reliable, national-level data have actionable evidence to end violence against women and can also compare their rates of violence against women to other countries regionally and globally. Reliable and comparable violence against women survey data establish baselines from which countries can monitor change over time, including their progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 and ending violence against women.

## Why population-based prevalence data?

The “prevalence” of violence against women refers to the proportion of women who have experienced violence as part of the total population of women at risk. Prevalence estimates of intimate partner violence are usually presented as the percentage of women who have ever been in an intimate partnership and have experienced violence, among all women in the same age group who have ever been in an intimate partnership, *regardless* of whether they have experienced violence.

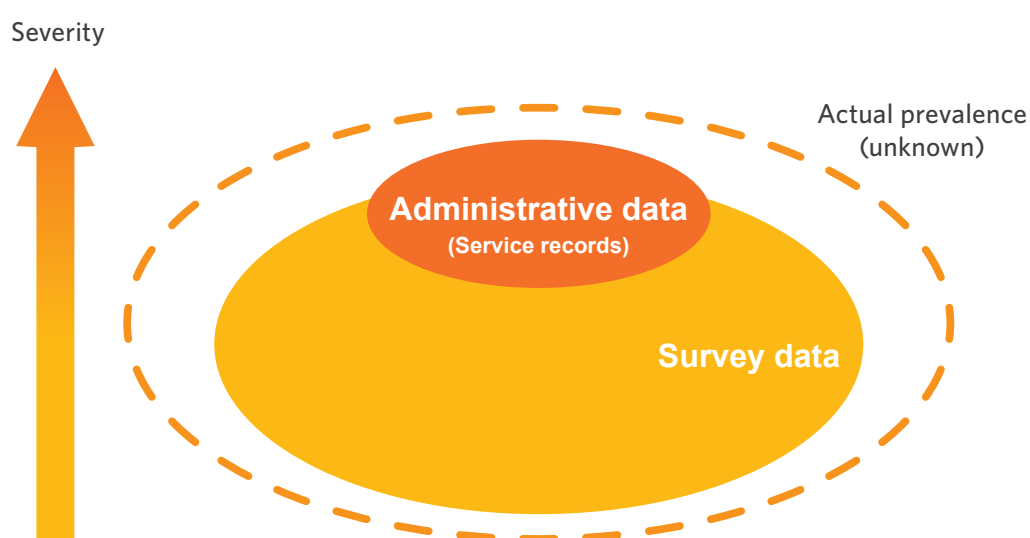
**Figure 2: How is violence against women prevalence measured?**



Information and statistics on violence against women are available from a variety of sources. Two of the most common categories are administrative data – such as records kept by health and social services, legal aid services and police – and population-based surveys. The latter collect data through rigorous methods, sampling from a representative subset of the population to find out what is happening in the entire population. The only way to measure prevalence is through population-based surveys.

Administrative data cannot provide an estimate of the prevalence of violence against women taking place within a population. For many reasons – such as stigma, shame, economic and emotional dependence, fear and social barriers – the majority of women who experience violence do not seek help at all or only seek it when their situation becomes unbearable. Therefore, the data from these administrative sources – even when properly collected, presented and interpreted – only represent the very tip of the iceberg. This is illustrated in figure 3.

**Figure 3: Administrative data (service records) vs. population-based survey data on experience of violence against women: How well do they represent prevalence in a population?**



**Source:** Dr Henriette Jansen, Technical Advisor Violence against Women Data and Research, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

### Violence against women prevalence surveys yield important insights about issues such as:

- What proportion of all women have ever or recently experienced violence;
- Where violence occurs in a country;
- Who the perpetrators of violence are;
- What forms of violence women are subjected to;
- How frequently women experience violence;
- How many women experience violence during pregnancy;
- How women's health is impacted by violence;
- How children are affected by violence against their mother;
- How women respond to this violence, including whether they seek help from services;
- What women know about their rights, as well as their attitudes towards violence;
- What are the risk and protective factors associated with violence;
- Whether violence prevalence is changing over time; and
- The costs associated with violence.

Making violence against women elimination a priority for policymakers and violence against women service providers depends on evidence like this.



“The [violence against women] prevalence studies conducted in the Pacific have resulted primarily in legislative changes. Following the surveys, there has been the development of family protection acts, which have changed the definition of violence in those countries.”

*- Heather Brown, consultant, violence against women programming, Pacific region;  
2018 kNOwVAWdata course participant*

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# kNOwVAWdata Initiative

## Addressing a void in violence against women prevalence data

Collecting quality data on violence against women through dedicated surveys is crucial if we want to understand and end the violence. Doing so is challenging. Regardless of how well the methods and tools are designed, violence against women surveys do not measure the actual number of women who have been abused. Instead, they measure the number of women who are willing and able to disclose abuse. And surveys always miss the most severe cases, including women who are institutionalized, incapacitated, too scared to talk or murdered.

Due to the sensitivity and stigma of the topic and the safety risks for participants, special approaches and skill sets are required to measure, analyse and use violence against women data, but these capacities are still scarce.



“One of the main risks of the growing interest in data on violence against women is that a lot of people want to measure it, but many of them are new to this field and they don’t know how to do so responsibly, properly and safely. That is why we need initiatives that train people on collecting violence against women data, enabling them to do it well.”

– Dr Henriette Jansen, Technical Advisor, kNOwVAWdata & UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

Unfortunately, a lack of quality data – largely stemming from the limited capacity to properly conduct, analyse and use violence against women surveys and their data – presents major obstacles to developing appropriate and context-specific violence against women policies, programming, monitoring and evaluation.

To address this void in ethical, reliable and comparable violence against women prevalence data across Asia and the Pacific, the kNOwVAWdata Initiative was launched by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia and the Pacific Regional Office with financial support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The first phase of kNOwVAWdata operated from mid-2016 to March 2021.

## kNOwVAWdata core partners

kNOwVAWdata builds on a long history of support from DFAT and UNFPA to countries conducting violence against women prevalence studies throughout Asia and the Pacific. The Initiative works to improve the technical ability of countries in the region to measure national and subnational violence against women prevalence via large-scale surveys, safely and scientifically.

A hallmark of this flagship DFAT-UNFPA initiative is a partnership with the University of Melbourne and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). Under this partnership, UNFPA and the University of Melbourne developed and piloted a standard four-week curriculum for capacity-building to measure the prevalence of violence against women and improve data literacy, called the kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women. See Annex I for more information about these partners.

## Collaborating with additional partners

Besides the above-mentioned strong partnerships and working relationships, kNOwVAWdata also partnered with New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), and with the agencies and experts represented in the Technical Advisory Committee.

In addition, kNOwVAWdata's Technical Lead has engaged in global and regional discussions on violence against women measurement in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as on gender data more broadly.

Strong working relationships are in place within as well as beyond the Asia-Pacific region. For example, the kNOwVAWdata team works closely with key international organizations such as the World Health Organization and UN Women. Also, kNOwVAWdata considers as key partners the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Global Women's Institute (GWI), Our Watch, the Pacific Community (SPC), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), and the University of Auckland, among others. See Annex III.

Further, as a result of the accomplishments of kNOwVAWdata's first phase, which focused on the Asia-Pacific region, UNFPA Headquarters will utilize lessons learnt to roll out certain components of the Initiative in other UNFPA regions and globally.



Violence against women survey interviewer training in Palau

Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

## kNOwVAWdata Initiative's approach

kNOwVAWdata primarily draws upon two gold-standard violence against women survey methodologies. These are the methodology and standards developed for the *World Health Organization (WHO) Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women*<sup>2</sup> ('WHO methodology'), and the *Domestic Violence Module of the Demographic and Health Survey*.<sup>3</sup>

Importantly, the Initiative's primary aim is quality over quantity of violence against women prevalence surveys. In other words, rather than advocating for a large volume or frequent repetition of surveys, kNOwVAWdata aims to ensure that the growing number of countries and entities collecting violence against women data do so in a way that:

- Avoids putting survey respondents at risk of further harm, including offering them information about local services for survivors of gender-based violence and making referrals to such services when needed and desired;
- Preserves the safety of both survey interviewers and respondents;
- Produces statistically sound data that can be compared to other countries, and data that represent women's experiences of violence as accurately as possible, knowing that even the best surveys underestimate violence against women prevalence;
- Engages relevant stakeholders, especially data end users, from the very beginning of the planning process, to ensure survey findings are trusted and useful to those in positions to respond to and end violence against women;
- Ensures surveys are conducted with the intent to use the evidence for action, rather than conducting surveys as a box-checking exercise, which is unethical; and
- Follows the World Health Organization's Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women.<sup>4</sup>

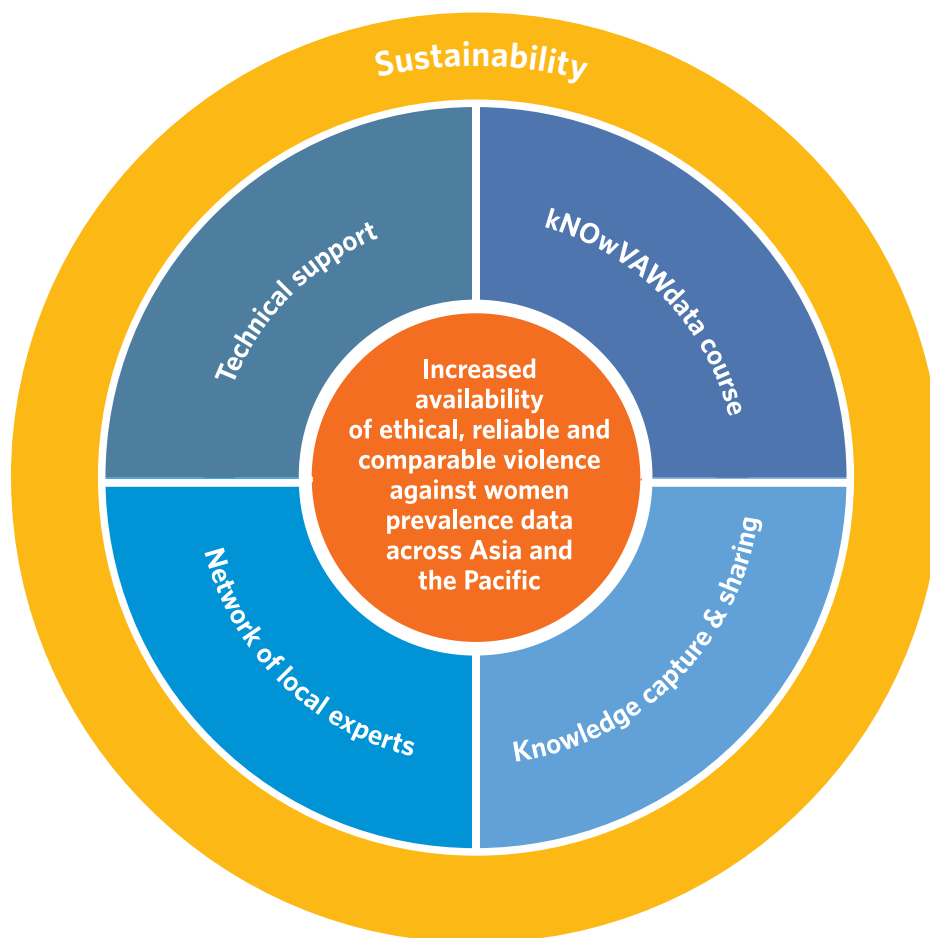
kNOwVAWdata's work is organized into four core pillars, as illustrated and described in figure 4.

<sup>2</sup> Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Henrica A.F.M. Jansen, Mary Ellsberg, Lori Heise and Charlotte H. Watts (2005). *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses*. Geneva: World Health Organization. Available at [www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/24159358X/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/24159358X/en/).

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://dhsprogram.com/topics/gender-corner/>.

<sup>4</sup> World Health Organization, Department of Gender, Women and Health (2001). *Putting women first: Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women*. Available at [https://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/who\\_fch\\_gwh\\_01.1/en/](https://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/who_fch_gwh_01.1/en/)

**Figure 4: kNOwVAWdata approach**



### **Technical support to national violence against women prevalence studies**

The kNOwVAWdata team at UNFPA and the University of Melbourne, together with a growing network of trained professionals who participated in the kNOwVAWdata course, supports countries undertaking national violence against women surveys in Asia and the Pacific. This helps ensure that data are collected in a scientifically sound and ethical way – including keeping participants and interviewers safe and their personal information confidential – and that data are analysed, interpreted and used effectively for change.

### **kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women**

The landmark kNOwVAWdata course, run by the University of Melbourne, builds the skills needed to safely and ethically gather robust and reliable data in difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions. The four-week course is the only one of its kind that leaves participants with the technical and practical ability to undertake national-scale violence against women prevalence surveys in their countries. Participants also learn how to analyse all forms of violence against women data and use it to influence policies, programmes and raise awareness among the public. The length and intensity of the kNOwVAWdata course reflects the complexity and sensitivity of measuring violence against women and stresses the importance of a thorough grounding in the content.

kNOwVAWdata course participants are professionals involved in carrying out violence against women prevalence surveys – or those who plan to in the future – such as representatives from national statistical offices and other state institutions or relevant line ministries, researchers, academics, students and civil society practitioners.



2019 kNowVAWdata course participants. Left to right: Fiona Fandim (Papua New Guinea), Dr Henriette Jansen (kNowVAWdata), Roshani Karki (Nepal) and Barbera Kepa (Papua New Guinea)

Photo: Jessica Gardner

The course curriculum was informed by the experience of Dr Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen, who has provided training and technical assistance in measuring the prevalence of violence against women for two decades and across more than 40 countries worldwide. The curriculum draws from decades of existing materials and resources developed by global experts, including the experience of the course co-conveners, Dr Kristin Diemer and Dr Cathy Vaughan, who have each brought two decades of specialist experience of measuring violence against women through mixed methods, especially among hard-to-reach communities. The course curriculum also uses international best practice standards to support the acquisition of complex and complete research, analysis and knowledge translation skills related to measuring the prevalence of violence against women. The curriculum especially makes use of the two survey methodologies described earlier.

This comprehensive training is the most valuable investment to ensure ethical, robust and reliable measurement of violence against women. These are skills that require exposure to expert knowledge, time and practice. Specifically the course consists of four modules that support learners to:

**Module 1:** Understand key concepts and forms of data for researching violence against women;

**Module 2:** Plan and implement a survey to measure the prevalence of violence against women;

**Module 3:** Understand other sources of data on violence against women and increase data literacy; and

**Module 4:** Interpret and report on violence against women for policy and practice.

The course was designed to be delivered face-to-face over four weeks, divided into two blocks, with one week dedicated to each learning module. A break between the two blocks enables participants to work on individual or country research manuals – also called “protocols”. This work starts on the first day and culminates in the presentation of participants’ research manuals/protocols at the end of the course.

Assessment is a central component of evaluating the learning process. Participants are assessed throughout the course to ensure learning objectives are effectively being met. Upon successful completion of the course, participants who achieve a 60 per cent pass rate receive a Professional Development certificate from the University of Melbourne. Accreditation of the course to count as credits from the University of Melbourne for application towards a degree is currently underway.

The University of Melbourne offers the course using a short-course modality, but also plans to incorporate it into degree programmes in the future. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the face-to-face course could not take place and the course was redesigned for online delivery – the online course was released in December 2020.

More information about the kNOwVAWdata course, including a sample curriculum, can be found at <https://knowvawdata.com>.

### Network of local violence against women data experts

An essential intended outcome of kNOwVAWdata is to build a network of violence against women data collection experts at the country-level who provide South-South peer support to one another through partnering, training and mentoring.

During the kNOwVAWdata course, cohorts of participants form connections through extensive group work and peer-to-peer shared learning exercises. A Facebook group and additional networking platforms for course participants and others involved in violence against women data have been established to maintain and forge new relationships between practitioners. These are meant to foster a growing community of practice, comprising local experts who offer guidance, insights, collaborations and professional opportunities.



2019 kNOwVAWdata course participants from Myanmar, Hnin Shwe Zin Hlaing, Nyo Mar Aung, Daniel Msoda, Hien Phan Thi Thu, Khin Sett Yi, Swe Swe Linn

Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

## Knowledge capture and sharing

A key component of kNOwVAWdata's work is documenting best practices, technical guidance and lessons learnt, and presenting violence against women survey data and stories behind the data in compelling and interactive formats.

kNOwVAWdata's repository of resources provides reference materials from national violence against women prevalence studies, training tools and methodological guidance, as well as powerful multimedia stories of individuals and research teams involved in conducting violence against women surveys in Asia and the Pacific.

kNOwVAWdata's knowledge products and other resources are intended for violence against women survey planners and implementers as well as data users, including violence against women prevention and response programmes and policymakers. The resources also support advocacy efforts to help governments and research organizations to understand the value of violence against women prevalence data, the required investment, the risks involved, and the necessary precautions to ensure reliable and ethical data.

kNOwVAWdata regularly updates and produces new knowledge products and stories, and communicates the importance of correctly measuring violence prevalence through social media, speaking engagements and media outreach.



Dikot Pramdoni Harahapi from Indonesia, a participant in the 2018 pilot kNOwVAWdata Course on the Measurement of Violence against Women

Photo: Amanda Mustard/UNFPA Asia



2019 kNOwVAWdata course participants from Papua New Guinea. Left to right: Barbera Kepa, Nana Kume Yapea, Donald Kanini, Fiona Marat, Emelyn Valaun, Lucia Komatep

Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

## Sustainability

The kNOwVAWdata course and curriculum, together with the technical support provided, the community of practice, the knowledge products and other communications activities, offer mechanisms for countries and researchers to develop locally based skills and tools to collect and analyse their own violence against women data and monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 for gender equality, reducing reliance on international consultants.

The kNOwVAWdata curriculum was developed using a participatory process, and it is an open-source resource. The course is institutionalized as a professional course and as part of a degree programme of the University of Melbourne which will be delivered annually. To enhance its reach and impact, UNFPA and the University of Melbourne are currently exploring twinning opportunities for additional academic institutions and organizations to replicate and/or co-deliver the kNOwVAWdata course.

While it is encouraged that course participation is funded through countries' national survey budgets, the University of Melbourne kNOwVAWdata team is also developing a sustainable bursary programme to offset costs, in an attempt to boost participation of participants in lower income countries.



## Monitoring and evaluation

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was developed for the kNOwVAWdata Initiative Phase I. This includes a theory of change and results framework. The Phase I theory of change is included as Annex IV.

The results framework sets out the overall objectives and indicators for the Initiative. In addition, detailed monitoring tools were developed for the Initiative. To date, monitoring of the Initiative's implementation has included:

- Development of baselines for the M&E framework (UNFPA and University of Melbourne);
- Annual M&E reporting;
- Evaluation of the kNOwVAWdata pilot course, covering both blocks of the pilot conducted in 2018, and a follow-up review with participants (2019); and
- Case studies of technical support provided to national violence against women surveys in Mongolia, Bhutan and Indonesia (2019).

A final independent evaluation of Phase I was completed in early 2021.

The evaluation:

- Assessed the relevance and effectiveness of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative in strengthening national capacities to conduct ethical and rigorous national violence against women prevalence studies in Asia and the Pacific while ensuring high levels of national ownership of the process and the resulting data;
- Assessed the impact and sustainability of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative with regard to violence against women survey data influencing policy and advocacy work on violence against women prevention and response; and
- Drew lessons from the kNOwVAWdata Initiative and proposed recommendations for UNFPA's future investments in the area of violence against women prevalence measurement.

## Governance and management

Phase I of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative had the following governance and management structures:

**A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** was established with representation from UNFPA Headquarters, other United Nations agencies, governments, technical experts and civil society organizations. The TAC met face-to-face once and online several times, including at the end of Phase I in 2020. The TAC was remotely involved in giving feedback on the kNOwVAWdata course content during at least three different stages of the development of the pilot course, and TAC members gave extensive valuable feedback on the draft curriculum as it was developed. A full list of the TAC members can be found in Annex II.

**kNOwVAWdata Phase I** was managed by UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office's Gender Team, consisting of:

- Dr Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen: Technical Advisor, Violence against Women, Research and Data, kNOwVAWdata Lead (full-time programme execution)
- Ingrid FitzGerald: Technical Advisor (former), Gender and Human Rights (strategic oversight)
- Sujata Tuladhar: Technical Specialist, Gender Based Violence (programme management, partner relations and reporting)

Additional continuous support to the Initiative was provided by a violence against women data specialist, a monitoring and evaluation specialist, and a communications specialist, on a part-time consultancy basis. See 'kNOwVAWdata core team' section for details.

# Case study: Viet Nam

## Measuring change over time: What do the data reveal?

In 2007, when the Viet Nam Domestic Violence Law was adopted, few people in government or the general public believed violence against women was an issue in the country. To understand the prevalence of violence against women, a specialized household survey was conducted in 2009–10. Specially trained enumerators interviewed 5,000 women across the country using best practices to ensure safety and confidentiality.


In November 2010, the shocking results were revealed: one in three women disclosed having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their husband in their lifetime. The survey also showed that 50 per cent of survivors had never spoken about the violence before the interview, and 87 per cent had not sought help.

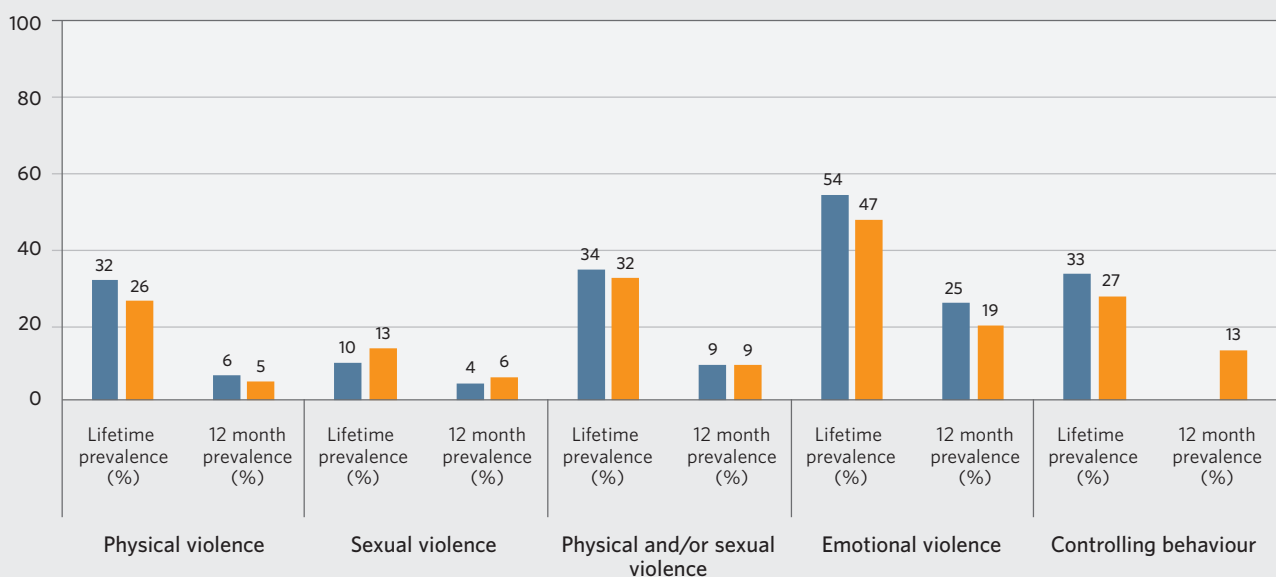
In 2019, almost ten years after the first survey, Viet Nam finished their second national violence against women survey, with technical support from kNOWVAWdata throughout the process. Viet Nam is the only country in the Asia-Pacific region to have conducted a follow-up prevalence survey, both with the methodology of the *WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women*. The eagerly awaited results were launched in 2020, which showed the impact that ten years of action has had on women's experiences of violence (figure 5). At first glance, the prevalence of intimate partner violence appears to have shifted since Viet Nam's 2010 survey, but only slightly. The prevalence of all forms of violence except sexual violence committed by a husband are slightly lower in 2019 than in 2010.

**Figure 5: Prevalence of intimate partner violence in Viet Nam, 2010 and 2019**

Prevalence among ever-married or partnered women in Viet Nam

■ 2010 survey (n = 4,561, aged 18–60). ■ 2019 survey (n = 5,553, aged 15–64).

 How have things changed?



**Note:** Information on controlling behaviours “in the last 12 months” was not collected in the 2010 survey.

Averages only tell a small part of the story, however. Disaggregation by age, location, disability status and other characteristics is essential to see patterns and to adjust policy and programmes in response. Important differences emerge between Viet Nam's 2010 and 2019 survey results when analysed in this way. The differences suggest that younger women in particular are now experiencing less physical violence by their intimate partners compared to women in the same age group a decade earlier. Younger women also exhibit more desirable attitudes towards gender norms and less agreement that violence by an intimate partner is acceptable. This indicates that the gap between the experiences and views of older women and younger women is widening.

Illustrating change and impact through data is complex. Paradoxically, when awareness is raised about violence against women, stigma can reduce and, consequently, women may become more willing to disclose their experiences of violence. This makes explaining the changes over time difficult; it also may shed light on why reporting of sexual violence by an intimate partner increased slightly in Viet Nam's 2019 survey compared to 2010. However, further research is needed to determine whether the data reflect a true increase in sexual violence or if respondents today are more aware, and better equipped, to speak about what has happened to them.



Violence against women survey interviewer training in Viet Nam

Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

The 2019 data provide new and timely evidence to review, revise and supplement current policies and laws to reach the most vulnerable groups. Specific patterns of violence, such as women experiencing violence in relationships before marriage and in early marriages, were also highlighted as issues in Viet Nam's recent survey recommendations for further exploration.

The consistency and quality of results from Viet Nam's two nationally representative violence against women prevalence studies make them extremely valuable for the evidence base on violence against women in Viet Nam. Despite the passing of only ten years, the results show consistent and statistically significant improvements across almost every measure, suggesting that Viet Nam is on a trajectory towards reducing and eventually eliminating violence against women. However, to be able to truly establish a trend over time, there needs to be a time series with at least three points, which would require future surveys.

#### Sources:

Viet Nam, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, and United Nations Population Fund in Viet Nam (2020). *National Study on Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2019*.

Loan Bich Tran et al. (2020). *From Data to Action to Impact: How Viet Nam Has Changed in the Decade Since the First Violence Against Women Prevalence Survey*, paper presented at Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2020, available at [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APS2020/53\\_From\\_data\\_to\\_action\\_to\\_impact\\_How\\_Viet\\_Nam\\_has\\_changed\\_since\\_1st\\_violence\\_against\\_women\\_prevalence\\_survey.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APS2020/53_From_data_to_action_to_impact_How_Viet_Nam_has_changed_since_1st_violence_against_women_prevalence_survey.pdf)

# Key achievements

## Technical support to national violence against women prevalence studies: Achievements

Figure 6 shows countries that have received technical support from kNOwVAWdata in planning, implementing and/or reporting violence against women prevalence studies, countries that published reports on prevalence studies, countries that received advice on violence against women data collection amid COVID-19, and countries that have had representation in the kNOwVAWdata course.

**Figure 6: Countries that received technical support and/or participated in the kNOwVAWdata course**

Recipients of kNOwVAWdata technical support and participants in kNOwVAWdata course, by country				
	Technical support to countries in survey planning, enumerator training, implementation, data analysis and/or reporting	Published a report with findings of a violence against women prevalence survey, with support from kNOwVAWdata	Provision of preliminary information sessions and/or advisory counsel, guidance on data collection amid COVID-19, knowledge capture, etc.	Support to kNOwVAWdata course participants, through strengthening data collection and data literacy skills in 2018 and 2019
Country	15 countries	9 countries	16 countries	65 participants, 19 countries
Australia				●
Bangladesh			●	
Bhutan	●	●		
Cambodia	●		●	●
China	●		●	
Cook Islands				●
Fiji			●	●
Democratic People's Republic of Korea			●	
Indonesia	●			●
Islamic Republic of Iran			●	
Kiribati	●	●		●
Lao PDR				●
Malaysia			●	
Maldives	●		●	
Mongolia	●	●	●	
Myanmar	●		●	●
Nepal	●		●	●
Pakistan	●	●		●
Palau			●	
Papua New Guinea	●	●		●
Philippines			●	●
Republic of Timor-Leste			●	
Samoa	●	●		
Solomon Islands				●
Sri Lanka	●	●	●	●
Thailand			●	●
Tonga	●	●		●
Tuvalu				●
Vanuatu				●
Viet Nam	●	●		●

## kNOwVAWdata course and network of violence against women data experts: Achievements

The kNOwVAWdata course was piloted in 2018 in Bangkok and Melbourne with 21 participants from ten countries. It was run as a full-fee course for the first time in 2019 in Fiji and Melbourne, with a stronger focus on the Pacific. While 85 applications and expressions of interest were submitted for the 2019 course, 43 participants from 11 countries were able to secure self-funding, including 26 Pacific participants who were sponsored by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In total, across the 2018 and 2019 kNOwVAWdata courses, 65 participants from 19 countries participated, and an additional 50 participants started the online course in December 2020.

Pre- and post-knowledge assessments conducted with participants of the 2018 and 2019 kNOwVAWdata courses showed a significant overall improvement in knowledge of how to measure the prevalence of violence against women in ethical and rigorous ways. During the first two years that the course was implemented, not a single participant dropped out before the end of the course.

In the evaluation of the 2018 pilot course, participants' feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the most effective aspects of the course reported include:

- The expertise and experiences of the instructors and guest speakers;
- Weekly, anonymous feedback from participants was addressed as the course progressed;
- The South-South networking and knowledge sharing of lessons learnt from multisectoral participants who had been involved in previous violence against women surveys;
- The ongoing mentorship, from both instructors and between participants;
- The participatory and varied learning methods that made complex concepts more approachable and memorable (some participants planned to use these techniques in their own trainings for survey enumerators);
- The assignment for each country to develop their own violence against women survey manual/protocol was a useful, productive way to simultaneously learn and achieve tangible outputs that also supported their professional commitments;
- Knowledge growth in statistical, qualitative and internal and external advocacy methods, depending on the backgrounds of individual participants; and
- An appreciation for the methodologies, technical nuance and complexities of violence against women surveys, which differs from other national surveys.

Overall, participants reported a profound increase in confidence to engage with and advise others professionally and personally on violence against women measurement and data use as a result of the kNOwVAWdata course. This increased confidence appears to stem from a combination of the high-quality curriculum; support from course facilitators and mentors; the burgeoning community of practice among participants, especially in courses with multiple participants from the same country; and the ability to share their expertise in their home countries during the course break. Another outcome was a strengthened personal commitment to working on violence against women issues.



“We feel privileged to be at the kNOwVAWdata course. Now we can convince decision makers to use better evidence to end violence against women in Nepal.”

– Roshani Devi Karki and Urmila Shahi, 2019 kNOwVAWdata course participants from Nepal

While most participants will increasingly apply skills from the kNOwVAWdata course over the next few years, initial reports of skill use include:

- Sharing learning with colleagues at their organizations;
- Providing technical inputs to planning and implementing a survey using the Demographic and Health Survey Domestic Violence module or stand-alone violence against women surveys with the WHO methodology; and
- Plans to develop technical reports of violence against women survey findings, knowledge products and advocacy campaigns.

Facebook, LinkedIn and WhatsApp groups have been established to maintain contact within and between the course participant cohorts as a way to facilitate peer-to-peer and South-South support going forward. kNOwVAWdata course alumni also remain members of the University of Melbourne’s online community of practice, where they can continue to access course resources and network with other course participants and alumni.

## Knowledge capture and sharing: Achievements

Communications is an essential pillar of kNOwVAWdata’s work because it documents processes and technical information to help those involved in surveys conduct scientifically rigorous studies and understand best practices and lessons learnt from other countries. Communicating stories behind the data – and showing the impact of data – is another important focus of kNOwVAWdata’s communications efforts. Such stories convey both the nuance and critical nature of violence against women prevalence surveys to inform more effective policies and programmes that prevent and respond to gender-based violence, as well as the transformative effect that participation in violence against women surveys has on researchers, interviewers and respondents.

## Communications products, collaborations and news coverage

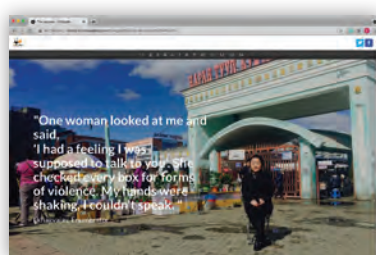
kNOwVAWdata's communications products are detailed in Annex V. At a high level, the Initiative's communications materials and engagements include:



Above: Knowledge products



Above: Data visualization and website



Above: Multimedia product



Above: Social media content



Above: Regional and global workshops

- Two websites:
  - Broader kNOwVAWdata Initiative with an interactive data visualization, hosted and operated by UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office: [asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata](http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata)
  - kNOwVAWdata course, hosted and operated by the University of Melbourne: [knowvawdata.com](http://knowvawdata.com)
- Knowledge products, including technical and methodological guidance, lessons learnt, case studies, etc.;
- Data visualizations;
- Multimedia products telling the human stories behind the data;
- Social media content, via Facebook ([facebook.com/kNOwVAWdata](https://facebook.com/kNOwVAWdata)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/kNOwVAWdata](https://twitter.com/kNOwVAWdata)) platforms, including social media cards, videos, infographics, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaigns, etc.;
- Speaking engagements and outreach at global fora, such as the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum, the UN World Data Forum, the ESCAP Asia-Pacific Statistics Week, and many more, as well as interagency dialogues to advance the field of violence against women measurement and Sustainable Development Goal reporting;
- Regional and global workshops on violence against women data with partner institutions, including a 2016 workshop for 12 journalists representing media outlets from across the region – China, Lao PDR, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam – in reporting violence against women data; and
- Representation in advisory boards and committees via kNOwVAWdata's Technical Lead, Dr Henriette Jansen, including:
  - Abstract Reviewer, Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum;
  - Expert Group on Methodological and Measurement Issues for Violence against Women Statistics (convened by WHO);
  - Expert Group on the Measurement of Violence against Older Women (convened by WHO);
  - Expert Group on the Measurement of Emotional/Psychological Violence (convened by WHO);
  - Interagency Working Group on Violence against Women Estimation and Data;
  - Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS);
  - IAEG-GS Advisory Group on Strengthening Administrative Systems to Close Gender Data Gaps;
  - Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;
  - Technical Advisory Board for the Development of Guidelines for Violence against Women Administrative Data (UN Women);
  - Global Expert Group for the Global Shared Research Agenda (SVRI/EQI);
  - Advisory Committee for Evidence for Violence Prevention in the Extreme (EVE);
  - Regional Steering Committee for research on violence among migrant workers (EQI, UN Women, ILO / EU-UN's Spotlight Safe and Fair programme); and
  - Scientific Committee, European Conference on Domestic Violence.

As part of countries' plans to disseminate their violence against women survey results, the survey teams usually conduct media outreach to publicize the findings. Beyond the survey report itself, kNOwVAWdata often supports country teams' efforts to launch the results through press conferences, media interviews, inputs to communications products such as infographics and press releases, etc. For example, alongside national colleagues involved in Mongolia's first national violence against women prevalence survey in 2017, kNOwVAWdata's technical lead, Dr Henriette Jansen, spoke with the Guardian for a news story on the survey's findings and implications.<sup>5</sup> And in Viet Nam, kNOwVAWdata supported the launch of the 2019 national violence against women prevalence survey, including participation in a press conference and technical input to a press release and a series of infographics and advocacy slideshows.<sup>6</sup>



kNOwVAWdata collaborates with partner organizations to share knowledge through various platforms and networks, including making contributions to other United Nations agency reports and publications, as detailed in Annex V. For instance, kNOwVAWdata has guest-authored content on third-party blogs, such as a piece published by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative about ethical and effective techniques for interviewing women who may have experienced violence.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, kNOwVAWdata and UNFPA Viet Nam entered a contest held by Data2X and Open Data Watch to showcase gender data impact stories. kNOwVAWdata's submission about the process and impact of Viet Nam's first national violence against women survey in 2010 was selected as a winner. As a result, a promising practice case study was created, news coverage was generated, and kNOwVAWdata participated in a panel discussion at the 2018 UN World Data Forum in Dubai.<sup>8</sup> These engagements illustrated the importance of involving stakeholders throughout the survey design, implementation and analysis process, and how the results have been used to inform programmes and policies in Viet Nam. The kNOwVAWdata team also contributed sessions at the 2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week and the 2020 UN World Data Forum, both held virtually.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Lily Qu (2018). "How the #MeToo movement came to Mongolia", Guardian, 14 June 2018, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/14/how-the-metoo-movement-came-to-mongolia>

<sup>6</sup> UNFPA Viet Nam (2020). Press conference: "Presentation on results and recommendations of the study by international consultants", 15 July 2020, available at <https://youtu.be/xd3goRiHm8w>; UNFPA Viet Nam (2020). Press release: "Journey for change: Second national study on violence against women in Viet Nam 2019 released", 14 July 2020, available at <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/journey-change-second-national-study-violence-against-women-viet-nam-2019-released>; UNFPA Viet Nam, Infographics: "Results of the national study on violence against women in Viet Nam 2019", available at <https://youtu.be/qWmx17S9LYA>; UNFPA Viet Nam, Advocacy slideshow: "Economic violence", available at [www.facebook.com/249030355238721/videos/285076399381402](http://www.facebook.com/249030355238721/videos/285076399381402).

<sup>7</sup> Henriette Jansen (UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office). "Six golden principles for interviewing women who may have experienced violence", The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), 6 September 2017, available at <https://svri.org/blog/six-golden-principles-interviewing-women-who-may-have-experienced-violence>

<sup>8</sup> Data2X (2019). Case study: "Data breaks the silence on violence against women: A case study of Viet Nam", November 2019, available at <https://data2x.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Impact-Case-Studies-Vietnam-4P.pdf>; Devex Editor (2018). News coverage: "Fighting violence against women: From data to action", Devex, 26 November 2018, available at [www.devex.com/news/sponsored/fighting-violence-against-women-from-data-to-action-91807](http://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/fighting-violence-against-women-from-data-to-action-91807); Lisa Cornish, "Data literacy and storytelling at the UN World Data Forum", Devex, 25 October 2018, available at [www.devex.com/news/data-literacy-and-storytelling-at-the-un-world-data-forum-93731](http://www.devex.com/news/data-literacy-and-storytelling-at-the-un-world-data-forum-93731).

<sup>9</sup> See [www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-statistics-week-2020](http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-statistics-week-2020) and <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/undataforum/>.



kNOwVAWdata has had periodic engagement with media, particularly with Devex, serving as a thought leader and key source on violence against women data. For example, Dr Henriette Jansen was featured in a story about how kNOwVAWdata is a legacy of her career – an effort to transfer her niche skill set, which is disappointingly scarce globally, to build a pool of qualified violence against women researchers in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>10</sup> When it became clear that COVID-19 was having an impact on violence against women, Devex turned to kNOwVAWdata to highlight the implications of the pandemic for data collection activities.<sup>11</sup>

For a complete listing of kNOwVAWdata’s communications products, see Annex V.

## Digital engagement

kNOwVAWdata’s digital presence and engagement grew moderately over the course of the Initiative’s first phase, given the niche focus and modest potential audience of violence against women data producers and users. While the number of Facebook followers (about 11,800) was much larger than Twitter followers (1,190), the latter platform yielded more engagement with individuals on the platforms themselves (likes, shares and comments). However, Facebook accounted for almost six times the referral traffic to kNOwVAWdata content on the UNFPA Asia-Pacific website compared to Twitter.

The kNOwVAWdata Initiative’s webpage – [asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata](http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/knowvawdata) – was launched in June 2018, midway through Phase I. As of October 2020, kNOwVAWdata content on the UNFPA Asia-Pacific website received around 15,000 views from 48 countries. The majority of page visits are from Thailand, Australia, India, and the United States; followed by Fiji, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Africa, Singapore, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, Canada, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, China, France and Bangladesh.



Saliha Ramay and Syeda Rabia Zafar, 2018 kNOwVAWdata course participants from Pakistan

Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

<sup>10</sup> Kelli Rogers (2018). “The woman who put gender-based violence data on the map”, Devex, 15 August 2018, available at <http://www.devex.com/news/the%20woman-who-put-gender-based-violence-data-on-the-map-93266>

<sup>11</sup> Kelli Rogers (2020). “Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women?”, Devex, 6 May 2020, available at <http://www.devex.com/news/%20has-it-become-too-dangerous-to-measure-violence-against-women-97112>

## kNOwVAWdata key achievements



**15** violence against women surveys supported



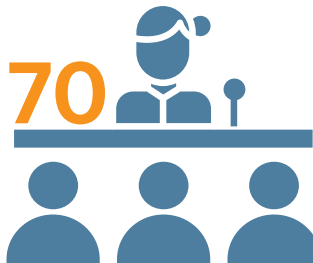
**24** countries received technical support on violence against women data activities



**65** kNOwVAWdata course participants trained



**19** countries represented in kNOwVAWdata courses



**70** external speaking engagements



**50** documents, publications and news articles developed or contributed to (besides national study reports)



**13,000** social media followers



**15,000** webpage views

## COVID-19

The global impact of COVID-19 is immense and unprecedented, including that on gender-based violence. Initial evidence and predictions suggest that COVID-19 impacts could include, among others:

- Increased risk of domestic violence;
- Increased risk of workplace violence in the health sector; and
- Increased risk of racial and sexual harassment (online and offline).

In turn, a considerable demand for robust evidence of these impacts has emerged. UNFPA country offices, partners, governments, donors and other entities have inquired about whether questions on gender-based violence can be included in socioeconomic impact surveys and rapid assessments on the impact of COVID-19.

In the COVID-19 context, measuring prevalence of violence against women is unsafe. Involuntary “stay at home” restrictions may prevent survivors of violence from accessing social support networks and services, and critically, women who are stuck at home with their abusers have reduced privacy to partake in confidential interviews, and doing so increases the risk of more violence and underreporting of violence.

Therefore, kNOwVAWdata has provided thought leadership on how to measure and interpret violence against women data during COVID-19, when ethical and reliable prevalence data cannot be obtained. Specifically, kNOwVAWdata has urged those planning research to prioritize women’s safety over data collection, offering viable alternative options.

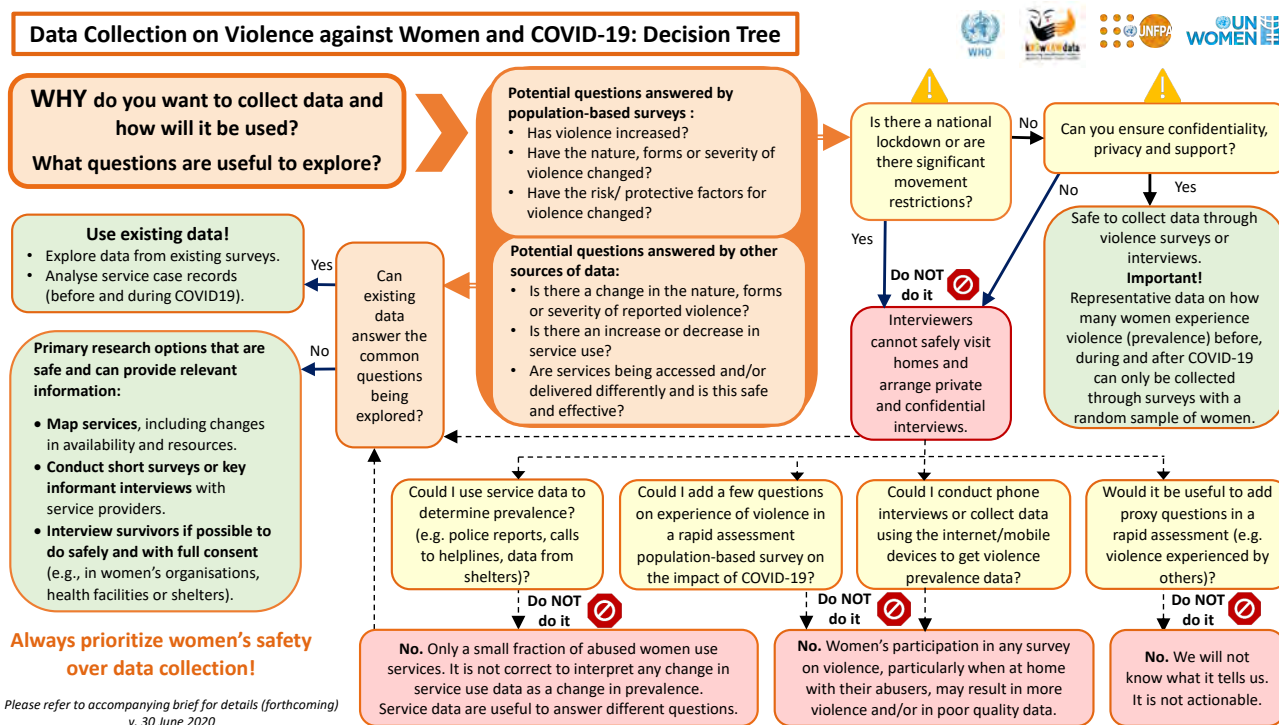
kNOwVAWdata produced and contributed to many knowledge products related to COVID-19 and data collection, which are detailed in Annex V. At a high level, they include:

- A decision tree on violence against women data collection amid COVID-19 (figure 7), developed in partnership with World Health Organization and UN Women; this has been translated by UN Women from English into 13 languages (Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Burmese, French, Hindi, Khmer, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese) and by UNFPA into Chinese; the decision tree was also adapted with UNICEF for the context of violence against children<sup>12</sup> and with ILO and UN Women for the context of violence against women migrant workers;<sup>13</sup>
- Guidance notes;
- Blogs;
- News articles;
- Social media engagements;
- Technical guidance for governments, donors and UNFPA country offices; and
- Webinars.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (2020). *Research on Violence against Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Guidance to inform ethical data collection and evidence generation*. New York: UNICEF. Available at [data.unicef.org/resources/research-on-violence-against-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-guidance/](https://data.unicef.org/resources/research-on-violence-against-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-guidance/).

<sup>13</sup> ILO, UNFPA, UN Women (2021). *Data collection on violence against women migrant workers: Decision Tree*. Available at <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/02/decision-tree-data-collection-on-violence-against-women-migrant-workers>

**Figure 7: Data collection on violence against women and COVID-19: Decision tree**



## Monitoring and evaluation

The kNOwVAWdata Initiative is proving to be a success, as made evident by three independent evaluations.<sup>14</sup> One evaluation of DFAT’s development assistance for ending violence against women and girls found that the kNOwVAWdata Initiative has contributed to building capacity for conducting prevalence studies, including the capacity of national statistical offices and research organizations. It also found that kNOwVAWdata has enhanced the ability of countries to report on Sustainable Development Goal indicators.<sup>15</sup>

A separate independent evaluation of UNFPA’s work on gender-based violence and harmful practices found that: “kNOwVAWdata is addressing one of the most important tools for effective planning, services and advocacy to end violence against women – representative, reliable, comparable, and independent data on prevalence of interpersonal and intimate partner violence.” This evaluation also found that the kNOwVAWdata Initiative is a “concrete example of bridging across statistical offices, ministries of health, and the national gender mechanism”, and that it is generating a strong evidence base to reinvigorate gender-based violence prevention programming.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Piotr Pawlak (2021). *Report of the Evaluation of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative Phase I (2016–2020)*. Bangkok, Thailand: UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.

<sup>15</sup> Mary Ellsberg et al. (2019). *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Evaluating a Decade of Australia’s Development Assistance*. Canberra, Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Commonwealth of Australia. Available at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/performance-assessment/aid-evaluation/strategic-evaluations/evawg>

<sup>16</sup> UNFPA (2018). *Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention of, Response to and Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices (2012–2017)*. UNFPA Evaluation Office. Available at [www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/GBV\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_29\\_Nov.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/GBV_Report_FINAL_29_Nov.pdf)

“After the kNOwVAWdata course, I started to campaign again at work for a national violence against women survey, especially linking it to Sustainable Development Goal reporting requirements. I’m doing a lot of advocacy at the office and with government officials.”

- 2018 kNOwVAWdata course participant



# Case study: Mongolia

## The life-changing impact of undertaking research on violence against women

Until recently, very little was known about violence against women in Mongolia, including domestic violence. There was a real need for evidence to learn more about its prevalence, causes and consequences to inform policies and programmes that would work to end gender-based violence and support survivors in Mongolia.

With the support of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative, the Mongolia National Statistics Office undertook their first national study on the prevalence of violence against women in 2017. A cadre of female “enumerators”, who interviewed the survey respondents, were intensively trained over three weeks before they undertook data collection in the community. They were equipped with the skills and sensitivity to conduct the complex and emotional interviews, with privacy and safety being the number one priority.

Teams of enumerators were pitted against the beautiful but harsh Mongolian landscape, in one of the world’s largest and most sparsely populated countries. The weather and terrain challenges forced them to take gruelling detours and deviations to reach the women they were planning to interview.

“Our car got stuck one evening, so I asked someone to take me on a motorcycle”, one survey enumerator named Badmaa explained. “When I got to my destination, there was no road. I had to climb up a hill. By the time I got to the address, it was quite late at night and everyone was asleep. I had to wake the woman up to interview her.”

Aside from the logistical challenges, this was a very personal journey for several of the interviewers. Conducting a household survey on violence against women can be life-changing. Survey enumerators are exposed to some of the most difficult stories they will ever hear, forcing some to confront their own personal experiences of violence, or of violence experienced by close friends or family.

The enumerator training helps survey interviewers to develop strategies to manage their own personal well-being during long days in the field listening to women’s painful stories. Sharing and listening to stories about violence takes a toll on both enumerator and respondent, but, when asked at the end of the survey, almost all respondents say they feel valued and better after the interview. Violence against women surveys offer an opportunity for many women to speak aloud about their experiences of violence for the first time. Women often feel assured knowing their participation in the survey will contribute to evidence about violence against women and, hopefully, action to enforce change. The interview process can also be cathartic and transformative for enumerators. Many go on to work on women’s issues.



Photo: UNFPA Mongolia

For example, reflecting on the experience of being an enumerator in the 2017 survey, Badmaa courageously chose to share her own personal story as a survivor of violence, an inspiring account for both survivors and future survey enumerators. “I wanted to be a voice for women like me.”

## Field logistics



7,300

Women interviewed



100

Female enumerators



21

Provinces

350,000



Kilometres travelled



Days in the field

## Survey results



31%

Women in Mongolia who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives

13%



Women in Mongolia who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the 2017 survey



43%

Women who were injured as a result of violence (of women who experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence)

27%



Women who never told anyone about the violence before Mongolia's 2017 survey (of women who experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence)

### Sources:

Doljinsuren et al. (2020). *Through sleet and snow: overcoming challenges in the field during the first national study on violence against women in Mongolia*. Paper presented at Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2020. Available at [www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APS2020/52\\_Through\\_sleet\\_and\\_snow-National\\_study\\_on\\_Violence\\_against\\_women\\_in\\_Mongolia.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/APS2020/52_Through_sleet_and_snow-National_study_on_Violence_against_women_in_Mongolia.pdf)

Mongolia, National Statistics Office (2018). *Breaking the Silence for Equality: 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia*. Ulaanbaatar. Available at <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/2017-national-study-gender-based-violence-mongolia>.

kNOwVAWdata, and UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (2018). "The Journey: Collecting data on violence against women in Mongolia", available at [stories.knowvawdata.com/mongolia](http://stories.knowvawdata.com/mongolia).

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# Challenges, recommendations and lessons learnt

## Challenges and recommendations

### Funding kNOwVAWdata course tuition

**Challenge:** While the kNOwVAWdata Initiative advocates for kNOwVAWdata course participation to be funded by countries' survey budgets – as was the case for participants from Nepal and Myanmar in 2019 – this is not always possible. Therefore, funding for the majority of participants in the kNOwVAWdata course has come from donor sponsorships. For example, in 2019, 26 participants from the Pacific were sponsored by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Securing this funding required significant investment of time and relationships. Therefore, while kNOwVAWdata has explored strategies for more sustainable funding – such as in the form of a long-term fellowship – securing the resources to fund tuition for kNOwVAWdata course participants remains a challenge.

**Recommendation:** Identify sustainable funding models for kNOwVAWdata course participation as to not deter participants with limited resources from attending; often, these individuals need and benefit most from the course learning.

“Sometimes you feel alone in-country doing this work and you don't know who to ask for help and support. But at the kNOwVAWdata course, I saw there are many working on this issue.”

– 2018 kNOwVAWdata course participant

## COVID-19

**Challenge:** Like all industries and sectors, COVID-19 drastically changed kNOwVAWdata's work in 2020. As reports of increasing violence against women emerged, many entities took great interest in using data to understand how women's experiences of violence changed as a result of the pandemic. kNOwVAWdata had to be flexible and pivot from some of the planned outputs to address this surge in requests for guidance on how to conduct data collection activities when privacy and confidentiality concerns (among others) make it unsafe and unreliable to interview women about their experiences of violence.

**Recommendation:** The COVID-19 pandemic has presented substantial obstacles; however, organizations can leverage opportunities that emerge from disruptions, such as stepping in as a bold thought leader, even if it goes against the grain. Sometimes this means pushing back against donors, governments and partners that mean well but may not be aware of all the considerations. While many entities were rapidly putting in place plans to conduct socioeconomic impact assessments and other survey modalities with questions aimed at assessing changes in women's experience of violence, kNOwVAWdata urged against this approach. In times of crisis, it is especially important to remember what is most important – women's safety, followed by data integrity – and that data collection should never put women at further risk of violence. Instead, kNOwVAWdata developed tools and guidance to offer alternative approaches until it is safe to return to surveying, when women could be interviewed in private. These alternative approaches are even more relevant, as they aim to result in immediately actionable data to help improve services for women during the pandemic.



**Challenge:** The kNOwVAWdata curriculum is meant to be delivered as a face-to-face course, with all participants convening in the same location. However, the travel restrictions and health considerations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that this was not possible. The University of Melbourne has responded immediately by adapting the delivery modality for online participation. This is not the ideal arrangement given the nuance, complexity, volume and intensity of the subject matter, and because peer-to-peer learning is an essential component of the teaching method. Given the circumstances, however, kNOwVAWdata will use this opportunity to assess whether the course can be successfully delivered online, either in part or in whole, for future courses.

**Recommendation:** Consider and test feasibility of online course delivery options, not only to overcome COVID-19 travel restrictions, but also as a potential mechanism for scaling up participation to new regions and to reduce costs, while at the same time restarting the face-to-face course – the best practice modality – when mobility restrictions have been lifted, perhaps alternating with the online course.

## Lessons learnt

- It is important to underscore that the quality of violence against women prevalence surveys is imperative, not the quantity of surveys conducted. The Initiative's purpose is to support countries without recent data to measure the prevalence of violence against women:
  - Ethically and reliably;
  - For global comparisons;
  - To track progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5 for gender equality; and
  - Very importantly, to inform evidence-based policies and programmes that work to prevent and end gender-based violence.
- Identifying the right implementing partners – i.e., the University of Melbourne and ANROWS – to work on capacity-building for the collection and analysis of violence against women data has been key to the success of the kNOwVAWdata course and its sustainability.
- Full participation in the entire four-week kNOwVAWdata course ensures shared understandings of the concepts, issues and application. It also ensures that survey leaders and implementers are fully informed of risks and risk management at all points of survey planning, implementation and reporting. Cross-culturally, there are variations in how violence against women is understood and defined, which often affects measurement. Participating in the full course ensures consistency of understanding for optimal comparability.
- It is extremely valuable when individuals from the same country but different sectors – representing both producers and users of violence against women data – participate in the kNOwVAWdata course together to strengthen understanding of each other's needs and challenges, to establish buy in and ownership of the survey and its results and to ensure use of the survey data for action.
- Facilitators of courses using the kNOwVAWdata materials must be highly skilled in active participant learning and have experience in research on violence against women.

- In the Asia-Pacific region, there remain large capacity gaps in measuring violence against women prevalence, as well as data literacy. In view of the current high and growing demands for data for evidence-based policy and programming, additional strategies are needed to scale up closing the gap until sufficient numbers of local experts have the necessary skills. One strategy is to train and mentor more independent researchers and consultants through the kNOwVAWdata course, who can then serve multiple countries. A training of trainers module is being developed to address this.
- The kNOwVAWdata Initiative is unique in the region and globally. Therefore, it is important to share experiences and lessons learnt with other regions beyond Asia and the Pacific, and other groups, agencies and institutions that already work in this area and/or are interested in leveraging kNOwVAWdata's outstanding experiences, especially in the area of capacity building in measurement of violence against women.
- Collaboration and partnerships provide opportunities to reach new audiences and develop uniform messaging on shared areas of interest. For example, kNOwVAWdata has partnered with numerous agencies to align and inform guidance on violence against women data measurement during COVID-19, such as the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UN Women and others.
- Conscious investment and attention to knowledge management and communications was a significant component of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative. This has led to a wider understanding of the ethical and safety considerations of violence against women data collection, not just among technical audiences but also those who may not be directly involved in the collection of data but are key utilizers of such data for policymaking. The resources, lessons learnt and multimedia stories convey both the nuance and critical nature of violence against women prevalence surveys to inform more effective policies and programmes that prevent and respond to gender-based violence, as well as the transformative effect that participation in violence against women surveys has on researchers and interviewers, as well as respondents.
- New types of violence related to technology, such as cyberbullying, and also other contexts of violence, such as humanitarian settings, are becoming increasingly relevant. Future work in violence against women data collection will need to evolve to consider these contexts. Additionally, increased emphasis on building and leveraging administrative data sources is needed.
- Twitter has been a more fruitful social media platform for engaging with those working in the field of violence against women data compared to Facebook, despite the lower number of followers on Twitter. However, Facebook has been a key referral source to UNFPA's kNOwVAWdata webpage. Therefore use of both platforms is recommended for complementary outcomes and reach. The English language predominance of kNOwVAWdata communications may hinder engagement from individuals in non-English speaking countries.
- Substantial data disaggregation, and thus time and resources, is required to expand national and subnational data in kNOwVAWdata's one-of-a-kind, interactive data visualization.

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# Looking ahead

It is our greatest hope that the first phase of kNOwVAWdata is just the beginning of a long-enduring capacity-building effort. While it started out as a project for countries in Asia and the Pacific, awareness of and interest in the Initiative's value grew to a far greater magnitude than expected, making it a global model of best practice for other regions beyond Asia and the Pacific, as documented in three independent evaluations.<sup>17</sup> This outcome was unforeseen at the Initiative's outset, and demonstrates the need for kNOwVAWdata and the gap its model fills, as well as kNOwVAWdata's quality, relevance and effectiveness. This turn of events brings opportunities for expansion and adaptation to other contexts, and it demands explorations of new partnerships and modalities, without compromising kNOwVAWdata's first principles to ensure that the data we collect add value and do not jeopardize women's safety.

As the first phase of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative concluded in early 2021, UNFPA's Asia and the Pacific Regional Office is planning for a second phase of the Initiative, pending funding.



Photo: Dr. Kristin Diemer

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<sup>17</sup> Mary Ellsberg et al. (2019). *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Evaluating a Decade of Australia's Development Assistance*. Canberra, Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Commonwealth of Australia. Available at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/performance-assessment/aid-evaluation/strategic-evaluations/evawg>;

UNFPA (2018). *Evaluation of UNFPA Support to the Prevention of, Response to and Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices (2012–2017)*. UNFPA Evaluation Office. Available at [www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/GBV\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_29\\_Nov.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/GBV_Report_FINAL_29_Nov.pdf);

Piotr Pawlak (2021). *Report of the Evaluation of the kNOwVAWdata Initiative Phase I (2016–2020)*. Bangkok, Thailand: UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.

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# Conclusions

Addressing violence against women is among the most pressing needs of our time. One of the first steps to ensure that women live free of violence is to understand the patterns and trends of this persistent human rights violation – where it occurs, how it manifests, risk factors and other crucial insights. Violence against women prevalence surveys reveal such information – while also giving voice to, and validating the experiences of, women who have faced abuse. Therefore, violence against women prevalence surveys enable women who have experienced violence to be heard – and counted.

If conducted correctly, the return on investment can be priceless: lives saved, survivors afforded the opportunity to share their trauma and possibly begin healing, survivors connected with available services, and policies influenced by evidence to strengthen and advance gender equality and women's empowerment. kNOwVAWdata works to this end.

Indeed, kNOwVAWdata has built a lasting mechanism for myriad sectors within countries to learn how to work together to measure the prevalence of violence against women ethically, comparably and reliably. Critically, countries have also built skills in data literacy, analysis and use, so the survey findings do not sit on a shelf. In fact, two of kNOwVAWdata's most important messages are that women's security is paramount, and that surveys should not be conducted for the sake of collecting data – instead, the findings must be used to help end violence against women.

The kNOwVAWdata Initiative stands out both regionally and globally for its combination of solid methodologies and strategic communications, as well as its focus on measuring the prevalence of violence against women in a way that is ethical, compassionate, and driven by values and standards. Additionally, in a context where the demand for data is increasing, kNOwVAWdata emphasises the pursuit of better data over more data, and encourages the use of existing data and research whenever possible, always underscoring the need for data collection to be conducted for the right reasons.

“After [Fiji's violence against women] survey was done, there was awareness: The high level of violence in Fiji was on the radio and news nearly every day. The survey report was an empowerment tool for women who were in violent situations.”

– Lanieta Vakadewabuka, field researcher, survey methodology, Fiji; 2018 kNOwVAWdata course participant



Photo: Amanda Mustard/UNFPA Asia



Photo: Dr Kristin Diemer

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# Annex I: kNOwVAWdata core partners

## Australia's support to violence against women prevalence studies

As of 2020, Australia had supported dozens of violence against women prevalence studies in the region – Timor-Leste, Cambodia and Viet Nam in South-East Asia; and Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau in the Pacific – partnering with UNFPA for many of these studies. Australia also supported the United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific. This study collected data on men's perpetration of VAW at nine sites in six countries in the region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

## UNFPA's proven leadership in collecting data on violence against women prevalence

UNFPA is at the global forefront in measuring, responding to and preventing violence against women, and has provided violence against women data collection technical support to more than 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Specifically, UNFPA helped ensure ethical and sound violence against women data collection, analysis and interpretation, in line with international standards. These studies provide an evidence base for policy advocacy, legal reform and programme development.

For the past decade, UNFPA's Asia and the Pacific Regional Office has been investing in initiatives to build skills among government staff and researchers in the region; the lessons learnt have been incorporated in kNOwVAWdata's training materials and capacity-building efforts. UNFPA also has long-standing and trusted relationships with government statistical bodies and other UN agencies worldwide working on population data initiatives – including on national censuses – as well as a network of partners engaged in UNFPA's work to end violence against women. As of 2020, at least 32 countries in the Asia-Pacific region had undertaken national or subnational prevalence studies on violence against women.

## University of Melbourne's commitment to building capacity to measure violence against women and children

The University of Melbourne has a clear commitment to population health and equity, which aligns with UNFPA's mandate to attend to the gender and human rights dimensions of population problems. In addition, the University has demonstrated research expertise and strong commitment to ending violence against women through provision of support to the Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence against women and their children (MAEVe), and a long history of engagement and capacity-building on ending violence against women in Asia and the Pacific.

## ANROWS's expertise in research and policy to reduce violence against women and children

ANROWS is an independent, not-for-profit research organization established by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments of Australia. Its primary role is to produce, disseminate and assist in applying evidence in policy and practice to achieve a significant and sustained reduction of violence against women and their children.

# Annex II: kNOwVAWdata Technical Advisory Committee members

	NAME	DESIGNATION
1.	<b>Dr. Sunita Kishor</b>	Director, The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program, ICF International
2.	<b>Mr. Sami Nevala</b>	Head of Sector Statistics and Surveys, Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna, Austria
3.	<b>Dr. Lara Fergus</b> (2016-17)	Director, Policy and Evaluation, Our Watch, Australia
4.	<b>Ms. Kim Henderson</b> (as of June 2018)	Director, Policy and Evaluation, Our Watch, Australia
5.	<b>Ms. Francesca Grum</b>	Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Statistics Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
6.	<b>Ms. Cai Cai</b>	Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section, Social Development Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
7.	<b>Ms. Juncal Plazaola</b>	Violence against Women Data Specialist, Ending Violence against Women Section, UN Women
8.	<b>Ms. Melissa Alvarado</b>	EVAW Manager, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
9.	<b>Mr. Papa Seck</b>	Statistics Specialist, Research and Data Section, UN Women
10.	<b>Ms. Nguyen Thi Viet Nga</b>	Senior Statistician, Department of Social and Environment Statistics, General Statistics Office (GSO), Viet Nam
11.	<b>Ms. Edwina Kotoisuva</b>	Representative, Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women
12.	<b>Dr. Claudia Garcia-Moreno</b>	Team Leader, Violence against Women, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (WHO)
13.	<b>Associate Prof. Janet Fanslow</b>	Associate Professor, Social and Community Health, Population Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland, New Zealand
14.	<b>Professor Deborah Loxton</b> (2017-19)	Co-director, Research Centre for Generational Health and Ageing; Deputy Director, Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, The University of Newcastle, Australia
15.	<b>Ms. Helen McDermott</b> (2016-17)	Assistant Director, Gender Equality Section, Human Rights and Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
16.	<b>Ms. Sharon McIvor</b> (2018-19)	Policy Officer, Gender, Violence and Security Section, Gender Equality Branch, Multilateral Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
17.	<b>Ms. Jayne Harries</b> (2019-present)	Assistant Director, Gender Equality Branch, Multilateral Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
18.	<b>Ms. Riet Groenen</b> (2016-17)	Technical Advisor, UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office
19.	<b>Ms. Upala Devi</b> (2020-present)	Gender-based Violence Advisor, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
20.	<b>Ms. Rachel Snow</b>	Chief, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA Headquarters
21.	<b>Ms. Mia Rimon</b>	Regional Director, Melanesia, The Pacific Community

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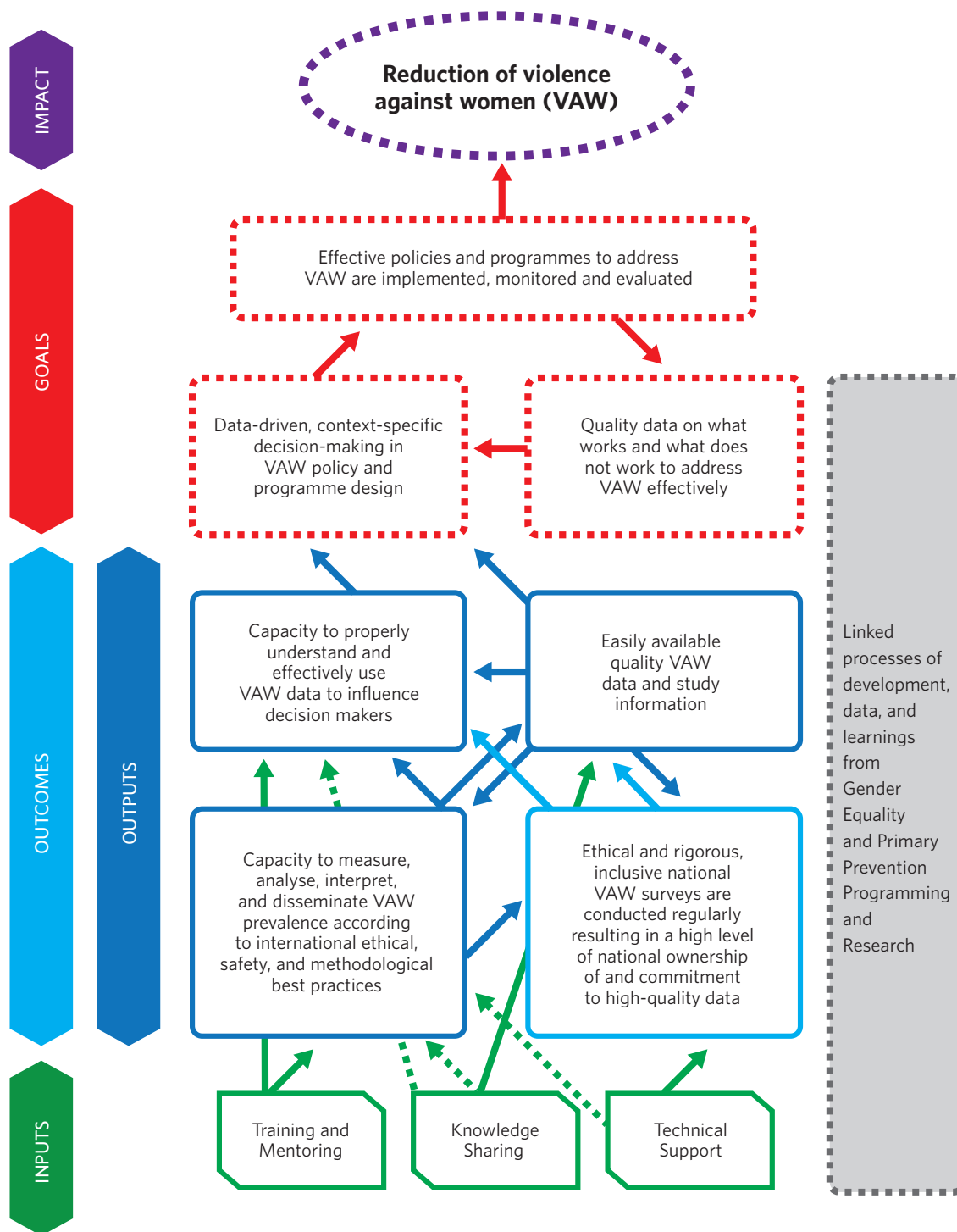
# Annex III: kNOwVAWdata course partners, collaborators and sponsors

This page contains the logos of partners and collaborators who have consented to their use in the kNOwVAWdata course materials, to date. These represent organizations that have given input to the kNOwVAWdata course and/or whose materials have been used in the course, guest contributors and formal partners.





# Annex IV: kNOwVAWdata Initiative theory of change



# Annex V: kNOwVAWdata communications products

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

<b>kNOwVAWdata project overview</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/project-overview-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/project-overview-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Regional violence against women snapshot 2016</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2016-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2016-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Regional violence against women snapshot 2017</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2017-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2017-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Regional violence against women snapshot 2018</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2018-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2018-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Regional violence against women snapshot 2019</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2019-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2019-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Regional violence against women snapshot 2020</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2020-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/violence-against-women-regional-snapshot-2020-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Sources of violence against women data</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sources-violence-against-women-data-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sources-violence-against-women-data-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Indicators on violence against women</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/indicators-violence-against-women-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/indicators-violence-against-women-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Measuring prevalence of violence against women: key terminology</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-key-terminology-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/violence-against-women-key-terminology-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Measuring prevalence of violence against women: survey methodologies</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/measuring-prevalence-violence-against-women-survey-methodologies-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/measuring-prevalence-violence-against-women-survey-methodologies-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Six golden principles for interviewing women who may have experienced violence</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/six-golden-principles-interviewing-women-who-may-have-experienced-violence-knowvawdata">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/six-golden-principles-interviewing-women-who-may-have-experienced-violence-knowvawdata</a>
<b>Lessons learned from the implementation of a violence against women survey in Palau</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/lessons-learned-implementation-violence-against-women-survey-palau">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/lessons-learned-implementation-violence-against-women-survey-palau</a>
<b>Measuring prevalence of violence against women with disabilities</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/measuring-prevalence-violence-against-women-disabilities">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/measuring-prevalence-violence-against-women-disabilities</a>
<b>Decision tree: Data collection on violence against women and COVID-19</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/decision-tree-data-collection-violence-against-women-and-covid-19">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/decision-tree-data-collection-violence-against-women-and-covid-19</a>
<b>Guidance note for country offices measuring violence against women data during COVID-19</b>	Internal resource

## NEWS STORIES, THIRD-PARTY BLOGS AND OTHER EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

<b>Twitter chat with Indian Women blog about how pandemics such as COVID-19 trigger an increase in gender-based violence, and how data can guide a more coordinated response from governments and civil society groups</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/indian-women-blog-twitter-chat">asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/indian-women-blog-twitter-chat</a>
<b>UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti think piece: Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement and research priorities (Part 1)</b>	<a href="https://unicef-irc.org/article/1997-remote-data-collection-on-violence-against-women-during-covid-19-a-conversation-with.html">unicef-irc.org/article/1997-remote-data-collection-on-violence-against-women-during-covid-19-a-conversation-with.html</a>
<b>Devex and Facebook Live webinar: How unconventional data can inform gender-based violence responses to COVID-19</b>	<a href="https://youtu.be/OWTxQUY44u4">https://youtu.be/OWTxQUY44u4</a>
<b>Sexual Violence Research Initiative blog: Opportunities for SGBV Data Collection in the Time of COVID-19: The Value of Implementation Science</b>	<a href="http://svri.org/blog/opportunities-sgbv-data-collection-time-covid-19-value-implementation-science">http://svri.org/blog/opportunities-sgbv-data-collection-time-covid-19-value-implementation-science</a>
<b>Sexual Violence Research Initiative Knowledge Exchange: Pivoting to remote research on violence against women during COVID-19</b>	<a href="https://www.svri.org/svrinterest/svri-knowledge-exchange-pivoting-remote-research-violence-against-women-during-covid-19">https://www.svri.org/svrinterest/svri-knowledge-exchange-pivoting-remote-research-violence-against-women-during-covid-19</a>
<b>News article by De Standaard (Dutch language): The other pandemic: lockdown violence at home (COVID-19)</b>	<a href="http://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20200515_04961536">www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20200515_04961536</a>
<b>News article by Devex: COVID-19: Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women?</b>	<a href="http://www.devex.com/news/has-it-become-too-dangerous-to-measure-violence-against-women-97112">www.devex.com/news/has-it-become-too-dangerous-to-measure-violence-against-women-97112</a>
<b>News article by El País: The law protects them, the data hides them and they remain silent</b>	<a href="https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/05/12/planeta_futuro/1589299240_150276.html">https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/05/12/planeta_futuro/1589299240_150276.html</a>
<b>Podcast by University of Melbourne's Ear to Asia series, produced by Asia Institute: Episode 63: The push to end violence against women in the Asia Pacific</b>	<a href="https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/asia-institute/ear-to-asia/episodes/episode-63">https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/asia-institute/ear-to-asia/episodes/episode-63</a>
<b>Sexual Violence Research Initiative blog: Six golden principles for interviewing women who may have experienced violence</b>	<a href="http://www.svri.org/blog/six-golden-principles-interviewing-women-who-may-have-experienced-violence">www.svri.org/blog/six-golden-principles-interviewing-women-who-may-have-experienced-violence</a>
<b>Data Breaks the Silence on Violence Against Women: A Case Study of Viet Nam, Data2X</b>	<a href="https://data2x.org/resource-center/data-breaks-the-silence-on-violence-against-women-a-case-study-of-vietnam/">https://data2x.org/resource-center/data-breaks-the-silence-on-violence-against-women-a-case-study-of-vietnam/</a>
<b>News article by Devex on the process of conducting Viet Nam's first national violence against women prevalence survey: Fighting violence against women: From data to action</b>	<a href="http://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/fighting-violence-against-women-from-data-to-action-91807">www.devex.com/news/sponsored/fighting-violence-against-women-from-data-to-action-91807</a>

## NEWS STORIES, THIRD-PARTY BLOGS AND OTHER EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

<b>Opinion editorial in Devex by Data2X Executive Director: How partnering with policymakers turns data into action</b>	<a href="http://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-how-partnering-with-policymakers-turns-data-into-action-91809">www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-how-partnering-with-policymakers-turns-data-into-action-91809</a>
<b>News article by Devex: Data literacy and storytelling at the UN World Data Forum</b>	<a href="http://www.devex.com/news/data-literacy-and-storytelling-at-the-un-world-data-forum-93731">www.devex.com/news/data-literacy-and-storytelling-at-the-un-world-data-forum-93731</a>
<b>News article by Devex: The woman who put gender-based violence data on the map</b>	<a href="http://www.devex.com/news/the-woman-who-put-gender-based-violence-data-on-the-map-93266#">www.devex.com/news/the-woman-who-put-gender-based-violence-data-on-the-map-93266#</a>
<b>News article in the Guardian about Mongolia's first national violence against women survey: How the #MeToo movement came to Mongolia</b>	<a href="http://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/14/how-the-metoo-movement-came-to-mongolia">www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/14/how-the-metoo-movement-came-to-mongolia</a>
<b>Opinion editorial in the South China Morning Post: How data can strengthen the fight to end violence against women</b>	<a href="http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1884169/how-data-can-strengthen-fight-end-violence-against-women">www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1884169/how-data-can-strengthen-fight-end-violence-against-women</a>
<b>News article in The Diplomat: Thailand Has a Gender Violence Problem</b>	<a href="https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/thailand-has-a-gender-violence-problem/">https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/thailand-has-a-gender-violence-problem/</a>
<b>News article by Descrier: Why Asia still can't talk about its problem with women</b>	<a href="https://descrier.co.uk/news/world/asia/why-asia-still-cant-talk-about-its-problem-with-women">https://descrier.co.uk/news/world/asia/why-asia-still-cant-talk-about-its-problem-with-women</a>
<b>News article by Thomson Reuters Foundation: U.N. aims to get women to divulge "most painful secrets" to fight domestic violence</b>	<a href="https://news.trust.org/item/20160824141816-43xh3/">https://news.trust.org/item/20160824141816-43xh3/</a>

## OTHER PRODUCTS

<b>Chapter in a volume on marital rape: Prevalence and patterns of sexual violence in marriage in the Pacific Region: Quantitative data in cross-cultural comparisons</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sexual-violence-intimacy-preview">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sexual-violence-intimacy-preview</a>
<b>kNOwVAWdata course sample curriculum</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sample-curriculum-knowvawdata-course-measurement-violence-against-women">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/sample-curriculum-knowvawdata-course-measurement-violence-against-women</a>
<b>Use and Adaptation of kNOwVAWdata Course Curriculum and Facilitator Guidebook</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/use-and-adaptation-knowvawdata-course-curriculum-facilitator-guidebook">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/use-and-adaptation-knowvawdata-course-curriculum-facilitator-guidebook</a>
<b>kNOwVAWdata course promotional flyer</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/knowvawdata-course-measurement-violence-against-women-flyer">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/knowvawdata-course-measurement-violence-against-women-flyer</a>
<b>kNOwVAWdata course call for sponsors flyer</b>	<a href="https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/knowvawdata-course-call-sponsors">https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/knowvawdata-course-call-sponsors</a>

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER AGENCIES' PUBLICATIONS

**ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls Data Collection and Use, by UN Women et al.**

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/04/asean-regional-guidelines-on-violence-against-women-and-girls>

**Background paper: A synthesis of evidence on the collection and use of administrative data on violence against women, by UN Women**

<https://data.unwomen.org/publications/background-paper-synthesis-evidence-collection-and-use-administrative-data-violence>

**Gender Counts: East and Southeast Asia: A quantitative assessment of gender inequality and its impact on girls and boys, by UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific**

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/gender-counts-east-and-southeast-asia>

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/gender-counts-pacific>

**Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020, by UNESCAP**

<https://www.unescap.org/publications/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2020#>

**Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021, by UNESCAP**

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2021>

**The World's Women 2020 Trends and Statistics, by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics**

<https://worlds-women-2020-data-undesa.hub.arcgis.com>

**Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018, by World Health Organization**

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/violence-against-women-prevalence-estimates>





Photo: Dr Henriette Jansen

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ANROWS

