

# kNOWVAWdata: Project Overview



**One in three women** worldwide has reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in her lifetime, most often at the hands of an intimate partner, in particular her husband. In the Asia-Pacific region, survey data show that the proportion of women who report ever having experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence ranges from 15 to 68 percent among countries.



## BACKGROUND: Violence against women is a violation of their human rights

Violence against women (VAW) is an expression of persistent, deep-rooted gender inequalities and discrimination against women, and it is a violation of the human rights of women and girls. As defined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, VAW 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 helps perpetuate, women's subordinate status and unequal power relations between women and men. VAW has very serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of VAW survivors, their children and their families. This violence is finally being recognized as a public policy priority.

Yet despite growing awareness of the causes and consequences of VAW, there remains a persistent lack of data on the prevalence of VAW. Reliable, comparable data on VAW prevalence are essential to inform and monitor effective prevention and response efforts and are also a critical part of a comprehensive approach to ending all forms of violence against women and girls. However, there remains a lack of technical capacity to collect VAW data. Taken together, this lack of data and capacity are major obstacles to developing appropriate and context-specific VAW policies, and it hampers sound programming, monitoring and evaluation.

Against this backdrop, there is a growing call for reliable and comparable prevalence data on VAW. In 2011, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted nine standard indicators for measuring VAW. And with the adoption by Member States of Target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demand for VAW prevalence data is only growing.



Goal 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."



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*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

## Why kN0wVAWdata?

In light of this growing demand for more accurate and reliable measurement of VAW prevalence, the kN0wVAWdata initiative launched in 2016. kN0wVAWdata is a partnership currently composed of UNFPA, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the University of Melbourne and Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). Building on the partners' track records in supporting VAW data collection and use in the region, kN0wVAWdata's main objective is to strengthen regional and national capacity to measure VAW.

By developing the skillsets of national institutions and professionals to conduct VAW surveys and data analysis in Asia and the Pacific, kN0wVAWdata is helping to ensure sustainable availability of reliable, high quality VAW data. kN0wVAWdata uses internationally recognized, best practice survey methodologies, such as the methodology developed for the World Health Organization (WHO) Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence, and the Domestic Violence module of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)<sup>1</sup>. The current Australia funded phase of kN0wVAWdata runs from mid-2016 through the end of 2019.

## Key features of kN0wVAWdata

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### Capacity building for conducting national VAW prevalence studies

kN0wVAWdata has developed a training course for staff of national statistical offices, government partners, researchers and academics seeking to build their skills in measuring the prevalence of VAW. Offered by the University of Melbourne, the pilot course launched in 2018 and will be offered annually. The kN0wVAWdata curriculum builds on existing materials and resources, and leverages the latest methodological approaches and experiences from the field. The trainings will be extended to other institutions through twinning or partnership arrangements.

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### Knowledge capture and sharing

kN0wVAWdata's website provides a repository of resources for practitioners and researchers working to collect VAW data and to end VAW. It offers regional data visualizations and key reference materials from national VAW prevalence studies, training tools and methodological guidance. The website also shares powerful multimedia stories of individuals and research teams involved in conducting VAW surveys in the Asia-Pacific region.

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### Technical assistance on national VAW data collection

The kN0wVAWdata course is establishing a network of trained professionals to support country-level work on VAW surveys. In addition to mentoring course participants, UNFPA and the University of Melbourne partner with governments and national institutions to support Asia-Pacific countries' VAW data collection and analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> For more details on these methodologies, please refer to the kN0wVAWdata Survey Methodologies leaflet.

## kNOwVAWdata training course highlights

- Focuses on developing the skills of government statisticians, practitioners and researchers to measure international indicators for VAW, including those under SDG Target 5.2.
- Curriculum integrates course work and hands-on, practical learning experiences, including opportunities for participants to provide technical support to data collection and analysis efforts at the country level.
- Is embedded in ongoing course work at the University of Melbourne (and potential future partner institutions).
- Learn more at:  
<https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/knowvawdata>

## Technical advisory committee

kNOwVAWdata's technical advisory committee (TAC) comprises experts on the collection, analysis and use of VAW data at the country, regional and global levels. The TAC helps guide the development and rollout of the kNOwVAWdata curriculum, provides advice on monitoring and evaluation, and ensures that experience and learning from this project are shared with other regional and global VAW data initiatives.

## kNOwVAWdata key achievements

2016 - 2017

- Provided technical support and capacity building for collection, analysis, dissemination and communication of VAW data survey results to Asia-Pacific countries undertaking VAW surveys, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.
- Selected an implementing partner – the University of Melbourne, with ANROWS – to establish a knowledge centre and develop a pilot curriculum for the measurement of VAW prevalence.
- Developed a monitoring and evaluation framework for the kNOwVAWdata initiative.
- Built a new website with data visualizations from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as resources on VAW data collection, analysis and use.
- Created and updated a set of knowledge products, including *Key Terminology*, *Survey Methodologies* and a *Regional Snapshot*; additional products are forthcoming.
- Represented kNOwVAWdata in regional and global fora, including the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the SVRI Forum and other events.

## kNOwVAWdata partners

### Australia's support to VAW prevalence studies

As of 2018, DFAT has supported more than 12 violence prevalence studies in the region, partnering with UNFPA for many of these studies. DFAT has supported studies in Timor-Leste and Cambodia in Southeast Asia, and studies in Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau in the Pacific. Australia also supported the United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific, which collected data on men's perpetration of VAW at nine sites in six countries in the region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea).

## kNOWVAWdata partners, continued

### **UNFPA's proven leadership in collecting data on VAW**

UNFPA is at the global forefront in measuring, responding to and preventing VAW, and has provided technical support on collection of data to some 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, to date. For the past decade, UNFPA's Asia Pacific Regional Office has been investing in initiatives to build skills among government staff and researchers in the region; the lessons learned have been incorporated in training materials and capacity building efforts. UNFPA also has a long-standing and trusted relationship working on population data initiatives with government statistical bodies worldwide – including on national censuses – as well as a network of partners engaged in UNFPA's work to end VAW.

By 2017, at least 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region had undertaken national or subnational prevalence studies on VAW. The methodology for the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence has been used by 26 countries, and 10 have used the DHS Domestic Violence module at least once, while a few other countries have used different methods. In 20 of these countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands – UNFPA served as a technical partner to governments and national statistical offices. UNFPA helped to ensure ethical and sound data collection, analysis and interpretation of VAW data, in line with international standards. These studies have provided an evidence base for policy advocacy, legal reform and programme development.

### **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 in the Asia and Pacific regions.

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

ANROWS is an independent, not-for-profit research organisation 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.

### **Stay connected**



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#### **ANROWS**

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