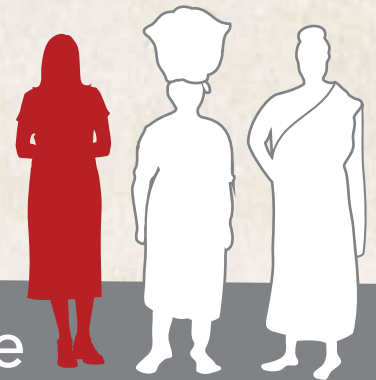


Violence against Women

The Health Sector Responds



1 in **3**

women will experience
physical and/or sexual violence
by an intimate partner at some point in her life.



World Health
Organization

Violence against women takes many forms, including:



The most common type of violence experienced by women is **intimate partner violence**.



Violence against women **is widespread.**

It occurs in all countries of the world
...but prevalence varies from country to country.

Prevalence also varies **within** countries.

Studies from **different countries** show that the percentage of women 15 to 49 years old who've **experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner** in their lifetime ranges from

15% to **71%**

This variation shows that violence against women **is preventable.**

Violence against women has **serious health consequences.**

Death



Physical injuries



Unintended pregnancies, induced abortions



Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV



Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder



Harmful use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol



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Economic Impact

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Costs of intimate partner and sexual violence for countries are very high. They include the provision of **health, social, and legal services** and **costs of lost earnings.**

Violence against women affects the whole family.

Children exposed to intimate partner violence in the home are more likely to:

- Be abused themselves
- Not receive healthcare
- Have behavioural, emotional, and schooling problems



As adolescents, they are more likely to:

- Use alcohol and drugs in harmful ways
- Smoke
- Have unsafe sex



Adults who grew up with violence in the home are more likely to **perpetrate or experience intimate partner violence.**



Violence against women is preventable.

Violence against women is **rooted in gender inequality**.

Programs to reduce intimate partner violence
need to **address risk factors at multiple levels**.

Level

Risk Factor

Intervention

Individual



! **History of violence**
in childhood

Parenting programmes to
prevent child maltreatment



Relationship



! **Male control**
over women

Programmes targeting men
and boys to **promote**
gender equitable attitudes
and behaviours



Community



! **Unequal gender**
norms that
condone violence
against women

Programmes promoting
equitable gender norms through
media, community mobilization,
schools, and religious institutions



Societal



! **Male partner's**
harmful use of
alcohol

Reducing availability and
access to alcohol



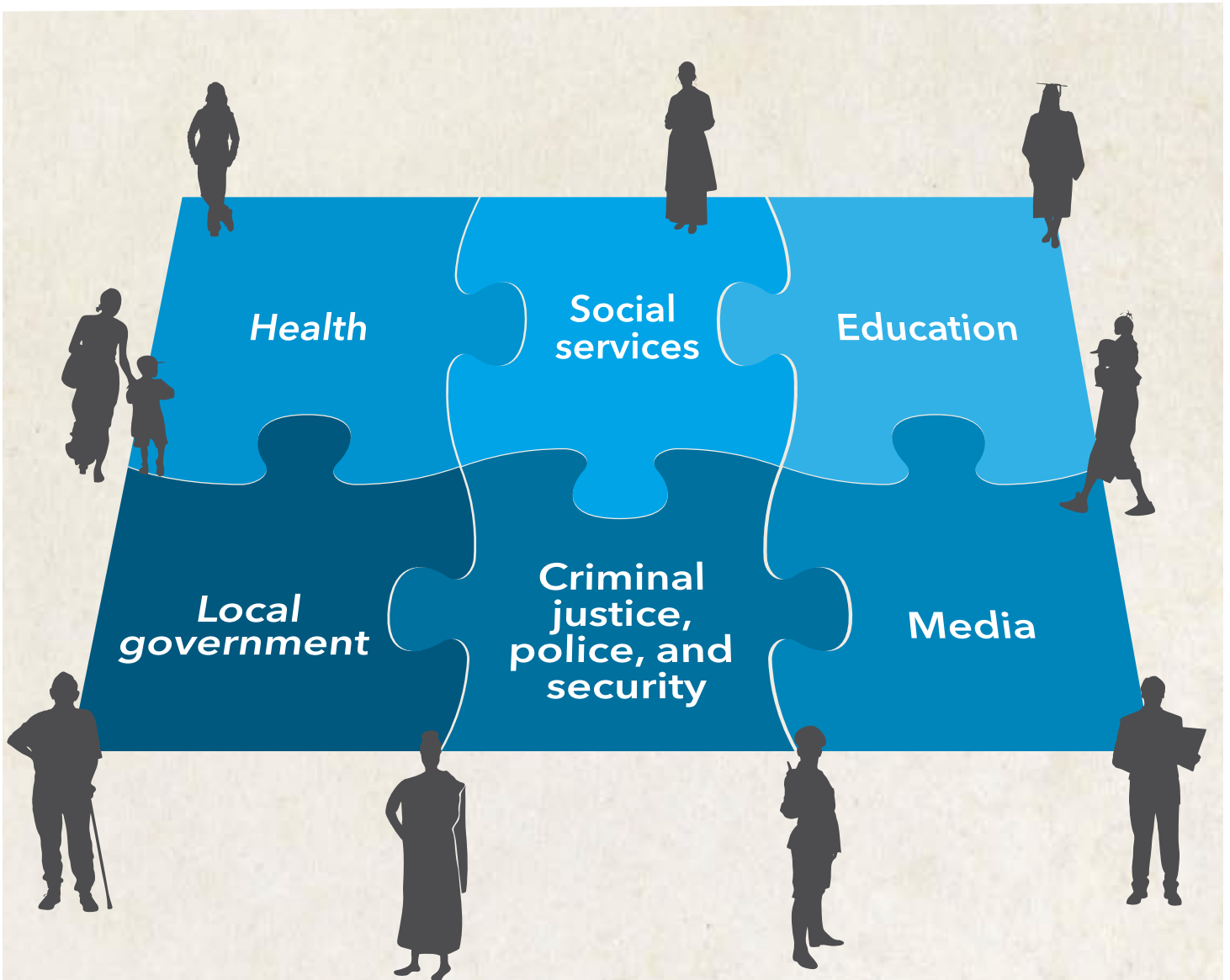
! **Women's lack of**
access to
education and
employment

Laws, policies, and
programmes that promote
women's access to
employment and microcredit,
girls' access to education, and
that ban or prohibit violence
against women



Everyone has a role to play in addressing violence against women.

To prevent and respond to violence against women, multiple sectors of society must work together.



The health sector plays a key role in preventing and responding to **violence against women**.



Stop violence against women.

A **role** for the health sector:

-  **Provide**
comprehensive health services
for survivors 
-  **Collect data**
about prevalence, risk factors,
and health consequences 
-  **Inform policies**
to address violence against women 
-  **Prevent violence**
by fostering and informing
prevention programmes 
-  **Advocate**
for the recognition of violence against
women as a public health problem 

Web Resources

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/
<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/violence/en/>

WHO Resources

WHO (2005). Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women.
http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/

WHO (2010). Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence.
http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/activities/intimate/en/

WHO (2013). Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women. WHO clinical and policy guidelines.

