Social and cultural norm-change strategies are the most common approach used by countries to address violence against women

About half of surveyed countries reported implementing social and cultural norm-change strategies to address sexual violence and intimate partner violence against women (see Figure 11). This is in contrast to microfinance combined with gender equity training programmes and school-based dating violence prevention programmes, where 21% and 22% of countries (respectively) reported implementing these types of approaches. Social and cultural norm-change strategies were also one of the few types of strategies reportedly implemented by more than 40% of countries in all regions (except in the South-East Asia Region) (see Table 5). Based on other evidence, many countries use these types of strategies to raise awareness about violence against women. Although rigorous evaluations of social and cultural norm-change strategies are still needed to assess their impact, they can be an important strategy to inform and create cultural shifts in what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and in promoting norms supportive of healthy, non-violent and gender equitable relationships.

It is not surprising that fewer countries reported implementing school-based dating violence prevention programmes. Although the practice of dating may not take place or be recognized as acceptable by governments in some countries, only a handful of school-based dating violence prevention programmes have been developed to help young people address relationship violence and learn...