

## Welcome to the *What Works 2: Impact at Scale* Newsletter



### News

**Grantee Selection** This quarter witnessed an increase in global interest in the What Works 2 programme as it received an impressive number of proposals from 66 countries for Innovation and Scale grants.

The shortlisted Innovation Grant applicants were invited to submit full proposals, while the selection of the Scale Grants will be completed in the upcoming months. The What Works Programme was inspired by the applicants' creativity and dedication, with each idea having the potential to create real change in communities worldwide.

### What Works 2 Independent Advisory Board

FCDO has constituted a ten-member Independent Advisory Board (IAB) in consultation with the What Works consortia.

The role of the IAB is to provide high-level strategic advice and review, as well as an independent challenge on all aspects of the programme. As leaders in the VAWG and gender justice fields, IAB members will champion the programme externally and help identify opportunities for

using evidence to influence policy, practice, and investments. The board has already met three times online and once in person to inform the selection of the grants.

### Championing Mutual Care through Accountability

The programme remains committed to being accountable to feminist principles, which involves regular reflection by individuals and organisations in the Consortium.

The programme hosted its second workshop in February to discuss feedback from the Reflection Card – a self-administered set of indicators to assess accountable practices.

The workshop created a space to recognise and celebrate aspects of feminist practice demonstrated by the partnership, highlight areas that need improvement, and develop action plans to improve accountability.

Looking into the future, when grantees are onboarded, the workshop provided a platform for envisioning how accountability will be implemented, and the processes that will be used.

## 60 Second meet



### Raising Voices Members of the What Works 2 Accountability Pillar

**Who is Raising Voices?** We are a small but mighty activist organisation, based in Uganda that, works to prevent violence against women and children.

**What are your hopes for What Works 2?** We recognise the potential within the What Works 2 programme in taking the Violence Against Women and Girls prevention field to the next level; aspiring to put the feminist principles into practice, figuring out safe and ethical scaling; generating new knowledge while making visible the role of WROs in VAWG prevention efforts.

**What does Raising Voices bring to the programme?** We have two decades of grounded experience in VAWG prevention programming. We have innovated and developed methodologies and worked with diverse organisations to implement effective prevention programmes. We are invested in various forms of learning and actively contribute to influence policy, funding and programming on violence prevention. We intend to tap into this and enrich the programme and continue to learn from the inspiring What Works 2 Partners.

**What is your favourite inspirational quote?**

**“We are the ones we’ve been waiting for”** June Joran. This quote is in a mural, gifted by our Co-Founders during a recent leadership transition. It enables us to embrace the leader in each of us.

**Decolonising Violence Against Women and Girls prevention practices** In February, our Learning Partnership Team invited Sarah Homan from Equality Institute to facilitate our monthly internal Journal Club focused on decolonising practices. The discussion built on previous internal sessions on Unconscious Bias and Equitable partnerships, among others. The session provided great insights into Confronting Uncomfortable truths around decolonising research, which also applies to VAWG programming and will be taken forward by our Consortia.

## VAWG prevention pilots in Syria

Since September 2022, the What Works Learning Partnerships Team (LPT) has been providing support to two VAWG prevention pilots in Syria. These are part of the FCDO’s flagship Building Local Resilience in Syria (BLRS) programme, providing an opportunity to integrate VAWG prevention into a large-scale livelihood and food security programme. Two senior technical advisers from the LPT are providing regular mentoring and technical support to the teams implementing the pilots.

In the inception phase, this has included supporting the design of formative research for the pilots, and developing process mappings in close collaboration with the partners, outlining essential steps for VAWG prevention programming and tailoring these to the contexts.

## Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

What Works is pleased to have launched two flagship reports:

### [Evidence for Action: What works to prevent conflict-related sexual violence](#)



This report presents a high-level synthesis of existing evidence and practices on preventing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and other forms of VAWG in conflict-affected settings. It identifies entry points that can be used to inform effective efforts by the humanitarian and women, peace and security (WPS) communities to prevent CRSV. It highlights that CRSV is not an inevitable consequence of armed conflict and can be prevented.

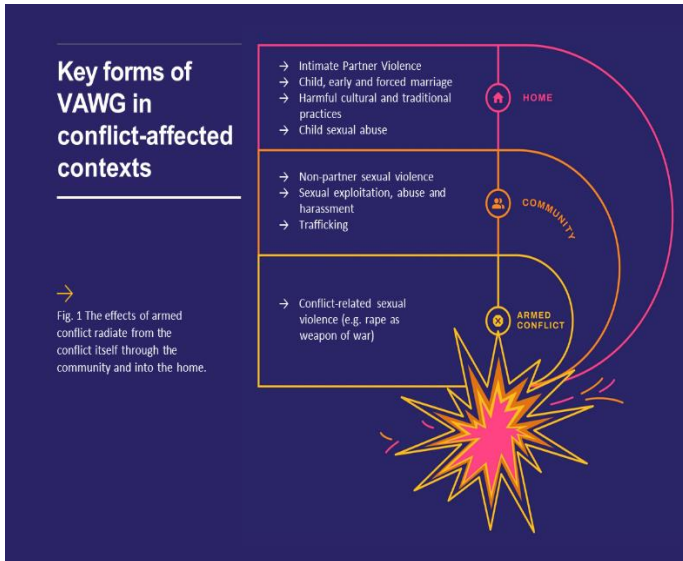
The report was translated into Arabic, Spanish and French, and launched by the team at a webinar with 196 attendees from over 23 countries.

This report was also presented by Professor Mary Ellsberg, from the What Works 2 Research consortium, at the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative International Conference in November 2022 in London.

[Ending Violence Against LGBTQI+ People: Global evidence and emerging insights into what works](#)



This report provides a synthesis of global evidence of the prevalence of violence against LGBTQI+ people and emerging evidence about what works to end this violence. It provides recommendations to policy-makers and donors, practitioners, and researchers.



It highlights key messages, including the need for:

- Additional funding in evidence-informed and evidence-generating prevention programmes.
- Integrating support for survivors within violence prevention programming.
- Supporting the sustainability of LGBTQI+ movements and organisations.
- Building on emerging and innovative practices and adapting to different contexts.
- Supporting local and national LGBTQI+ organisations' research priorities and agendas.
- Following ethical research and data collection approaches.

During this conference, survivors and women's rights activists were loud and clear:

- CRSV is preventable, as evidenced by our report.
- Flexible, multi-year, core funding for local WROs is essential.
- Action must be taken to reduce the bureaucracy and barriers for WROs accessing humanitarian or development funding.
- A survivor-centred approach should be employed across all programmes and services.
- Programmes and services must be inclusive of and accessible to the most marginalised groups including women with disabilities and LGBTQI+ people.
- Funding research into what works to prevent CRSV is vital to ensure programmes and services are informed by evidence.

**Over half of sexual and gender minorities in Southern and Eastern Africa (56%) and Canada (59%) have experienced violence**

**In Indonesia, 17% of LGBT individuals who had been bullied in school reported having attempted suicide**

Follow the programme's twitter account [\*\*@WW2PreventVAWG\*\*](#)

# Latest Evidence and Practice-Based Lessons

## In Focus: VAWC Helpdesk Report

### Analysis of the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview (SEARO) (December 2022)

The [SEARO](#) is a Composite Index that brings together data on a range of factors that are known to influence the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) perpetrated by aid workers in humanitarian contexts. The Index was developed by UNICEF and UNOCHA in collaboration with the FCDO, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat to support analysis, decision-making and resource allocation for addressing SEA at global and country levels. This report provides an analysis of the SEARO and its results from September 2022.

The SEARO focuses on SEA risk factors in four dimensions: the **enabling environment** (such as the prevalence of violence against women and children), the **humanitarian context** (such as the scope and intensity of crisis, and complexity of needs), the **operational context** (including types of humanitarian assistance) and the **protective environment** (structures and resources in place to prevent SEA). The SEARO generates an overall risk score for a country based on the average of values in the four dimensions, which is in turn the average of values for all measured risk factors in that dimension. A high value on SEARO indicates high SEA risk.

The September 2022 SEARO results suggest that SEA risk levels are highest in severe and complex humanitarian settings. The top ten countries on the SEARO (as of September 2022) are affected by conflict and/ or armed violence, and are characterised by protracted crises with complex needs. High average values in the protective environment also indicate that many contexts have insufficient structures and capacities in place to prevent and respond to SEA.

By analysing the values in the different dimensions, the SEARO can help us identify countries which are likely to have a high risk of SEA based on the co-existence of risk factors and the relative lack of protective factors. The SEARO was designed as a tool for global and regional-level actors to compare risks across countries and over time, but can also be useful at country level. The report uses case studies of Ethiopia and Nigeria to unpack what the Index can tell us at the country level. Drawing on analysis of the September 2022 SEARO results as well as a deeper dive into the case studies, the report discusses the possibilities, strengths and limitations of the SEARO, including recommendations of how to complement the use of the SEARO with more in-depth analysis of SEA risks at the country level.

### Risk of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse



## Helpdesk

The Ending Violence Against Women and Children Helpdesk has produced short reports\* and expert advice to FCDO on the following topics over the last three months, which are publicly available:

[Analysis of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview](#) (December 2022)

[Societal-Level Impacts of Online Violence Against Women and Girls](#) (November 2022)

[VAWG in Burundi: Evidence Review](#) (December 2022)

\*Previous VAWG Helpdesk Reports are available [here](#)

Are you HMG staff and want to know more about how we can help with research and advice?

Please see our [leaflet](#).

Our offer to Country offices is outlined [here](#)

**For more information, contact**

[enquiry@VAWCHelpdesk.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@VAWCHelpdesk.org.uk)

The Ending VAWC Helpdesk is delivered by



# Events

What Works consortia members and grantee-partners participated in the following events:

- The [European Humanitarian Forum](#) on 20-21 March in Brussels, Belgium. The team will use this opportunity to profile the recently published What Works 2 Report [Evidence for Action: What works to prevent Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#).
- The **UNFPA's Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility** Meeting in March in Geneva, Switzerland, where we plan to continue disseminating What Works products and reach out to key humanitarian audiences with messages on VAWG prevention.

## What Works 2 Online



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