

INEQUALITIES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

IN A NUTSHELL



Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a pervasive violation of human rights and a global pandemic. Statistics in Asia-Pacific are staggering, with VAWG rates more than double the global average in some countries.

VAWG does not only cause physical and mental harm. Women exposed to intimate partner violence earn 60 percent less than other women and the cost for societies are also high: up to 3.7 percent of GDP in some countries – more than double what most governments spend on education.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?



Implement adequate institutional and legislative reforms

Laws, legislation and enforcement to end VAWG are often weak in the region. Gender biases and harmful social norms must be addressed as they may also affect the legal system.



Guarantee women's political participation, land and property ownership, and control over resources

Studies from India shows linkages with these policies and reduction in VAWG.



Involve men in the VAWG agenda

Domestic violence is most likely to occur in contexts where gender roles are rigid. Promotion of healthy masculinities and inclusion of men in VAWG programs have shown encouraging results.

UNDP works with national partners to develop and implement legal and policy frameworks and to build capacities to combat violence against women and girls. This includes improving access to justice, ending impunity for perpetrators and providing survivors with support and services.

[More about our work here](#)



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Information derived from the regional SDG report "Accelerating progress: An empowered, inclusive and equal Asia and the Pacific" produced by UNDP, UNESCAP and ADB: bit.ly/SDGPartnership

