# Snapshot 2

**Risk & protective factors** & principles for prevention

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# Identify risk and protective factors

**STOP**

What are the causes?

# Overview



- ❖ Present research on risk and protective factors for violence against women (intimate partner violence and sexual violence)

- ❖ Outline how risk and protective factors can be used to inform interventions to address violence against women

# Risk & protective factors?

❖ Aspects of a person (or group), personal experience and/or environment that make it more likely **(risk factors)** or less likely **(protective factors)** that women will experience violence.

❖ Not all risk factors are causal

❖ Many factors are related to multiple outcomes (IPV, SV, child maltreatment)

❖ The more risk factors a person has, the greater the likelihood they will experience violence

❖ The most effective prevention programmes work on **both:** reducing risks and enhancing protective factors

# The Ecological Model
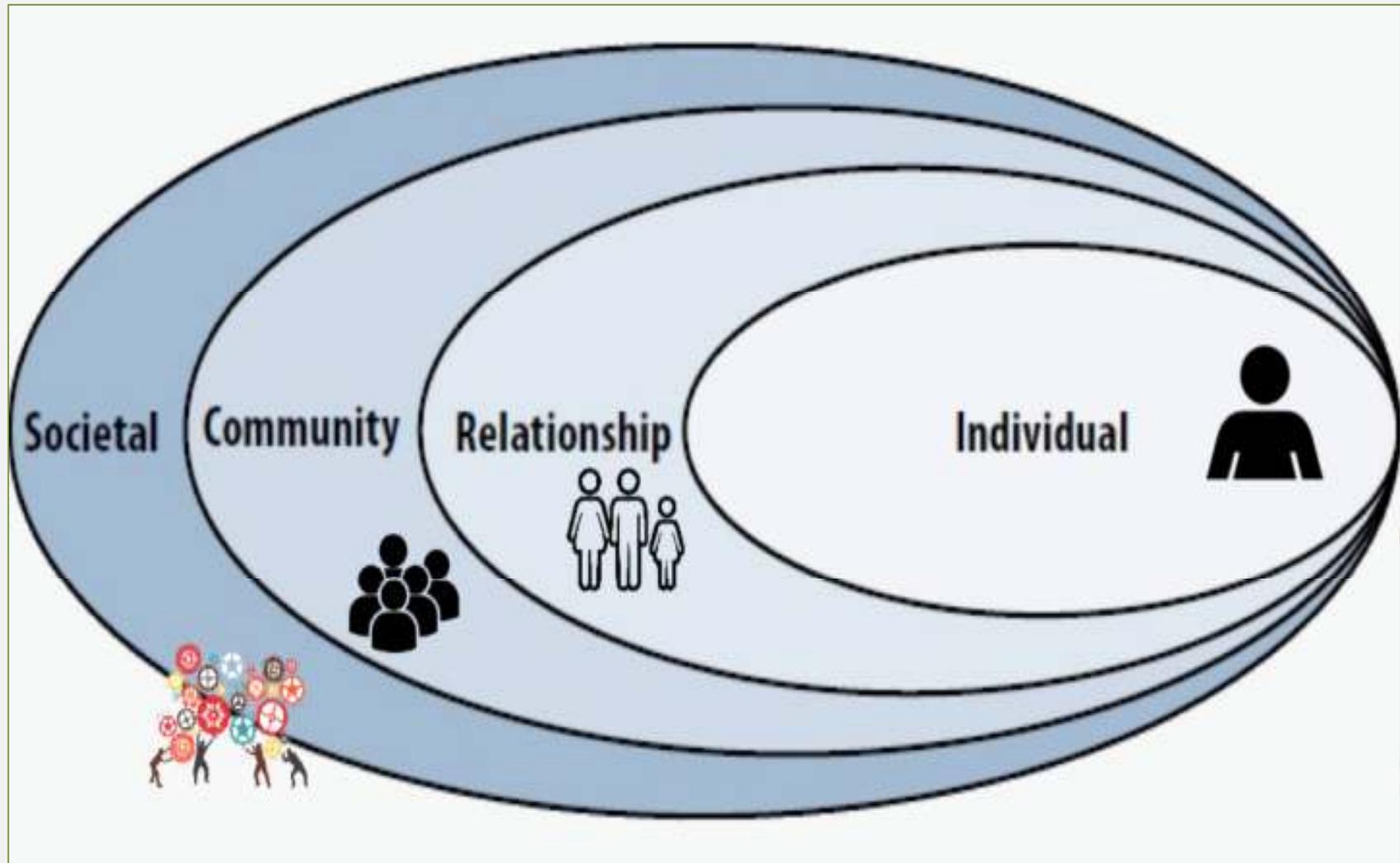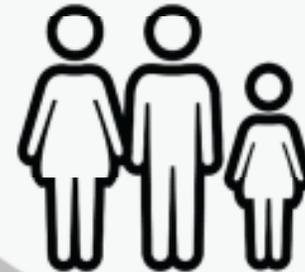
# Risk factors can occur at multiple levels

## Individual
Biological and personal history factors that increase the likelihood of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence

## Relationship
Close relationships that may increase the risk of experiencing violence as a victim or perpetrator

## Community
Characteristics of settings, such as neighborhoods, in which social relationships occur that are associated with becoming victims or perpetrators of violence

## Societal
Broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited

# Individual

Risk factor

Intervention

History of violence in childhood → Addressing childhood abuse

Low education → Improving access to education & social skills

Harmful use of alcohol → Reducing harmful drinking

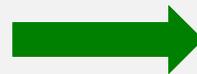Personality disorders → Early identification & treatment of conduct disorders

# Relationship

Risk factor

Interventions

Men's control over women → Working men & boys to promote gender equitable attitudes & behaviours

Marital dissatisfaction →

Multiple partners → Promoting gender equitable attitudes & behaviours / healthy relationship skills among women, men & couples

# Community level



Risk factor

Unequal gender norms that condone violence against women & weak community sanctions

→

Intervention

Promoting equitable gender norms through mass media, community mobilization, schools & religious institutions

# Societal level

**Risk factor**

Harmful use of alcohol

Women's lack of access to education & employment

Gender & social norms accepting violence/ideologies of male entitlement

Lack or poor enforcement of laws on VAW

**Intervention**

Policies to reduce harmful use of alcohol
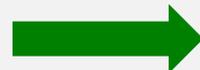
Laws, policies & programmes that promote women's access to employment & microcredit; girls' access to education; & that prohibit violence against women
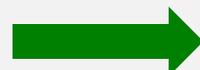
Interventions addressing social & gender norms

Strengthen & enforce legislation: prohibiting VAW; promoting equality in marriage & divorce, property & inheritance laws

# Risk factors: Women's experience of partner violence: 10 country, multivariate analysis
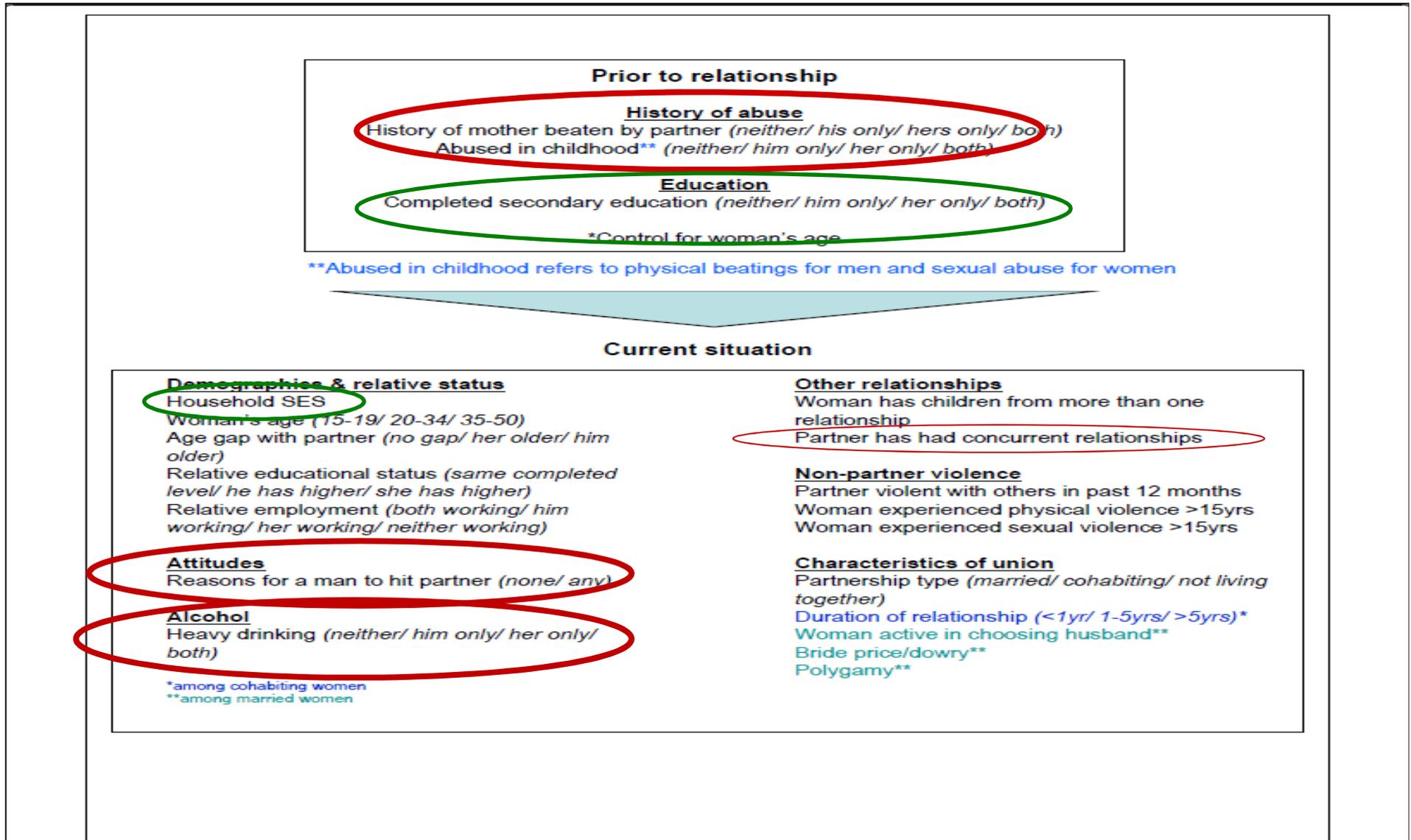
**Prior to relationship**

**History of abuse**
History of mother beaten by partner (neither/ his only/ hers only/ both)
Abused in childhood** (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)

**Education**
Completed secondary education (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)

*Control for woman's age

**Abused in childhood refers to physical beatings for men and sexual abuse for women

**Current situation**

**Demographics & relative status**
Household SES
Woman's age (15-19/ 20-34/ 35-50)
Age gap with partner (no gap/ her older/ him older)
Relative educational status (same completed level/ he has higher/ she has higher)
Relative employment (both working/ him working/ her working/ neither working)

**Attitudes**
Reasons for a man to hit partner (none/ any)

**Alcohol**
Heavy drinking (neither/ him only/ her only/ both)

**Other relationships**
Woman has children from more than one relationship
Partner has had concurrent relationships

**Non-partner violence**
Partner violent with others in past 12 months
Woman experienced physical violence >15yrs
Woman experienced sexual violence >15yrs

**Characteristics of union**
Partnership type (married/ cohabiting/ not living together)
Duration of relationship (<1yr/ 1-5yrs/ >5yrs)*
Woman active in choosing husband**
Bride price/dowry**
Polygamy**

*among cohabiting women
**among married women

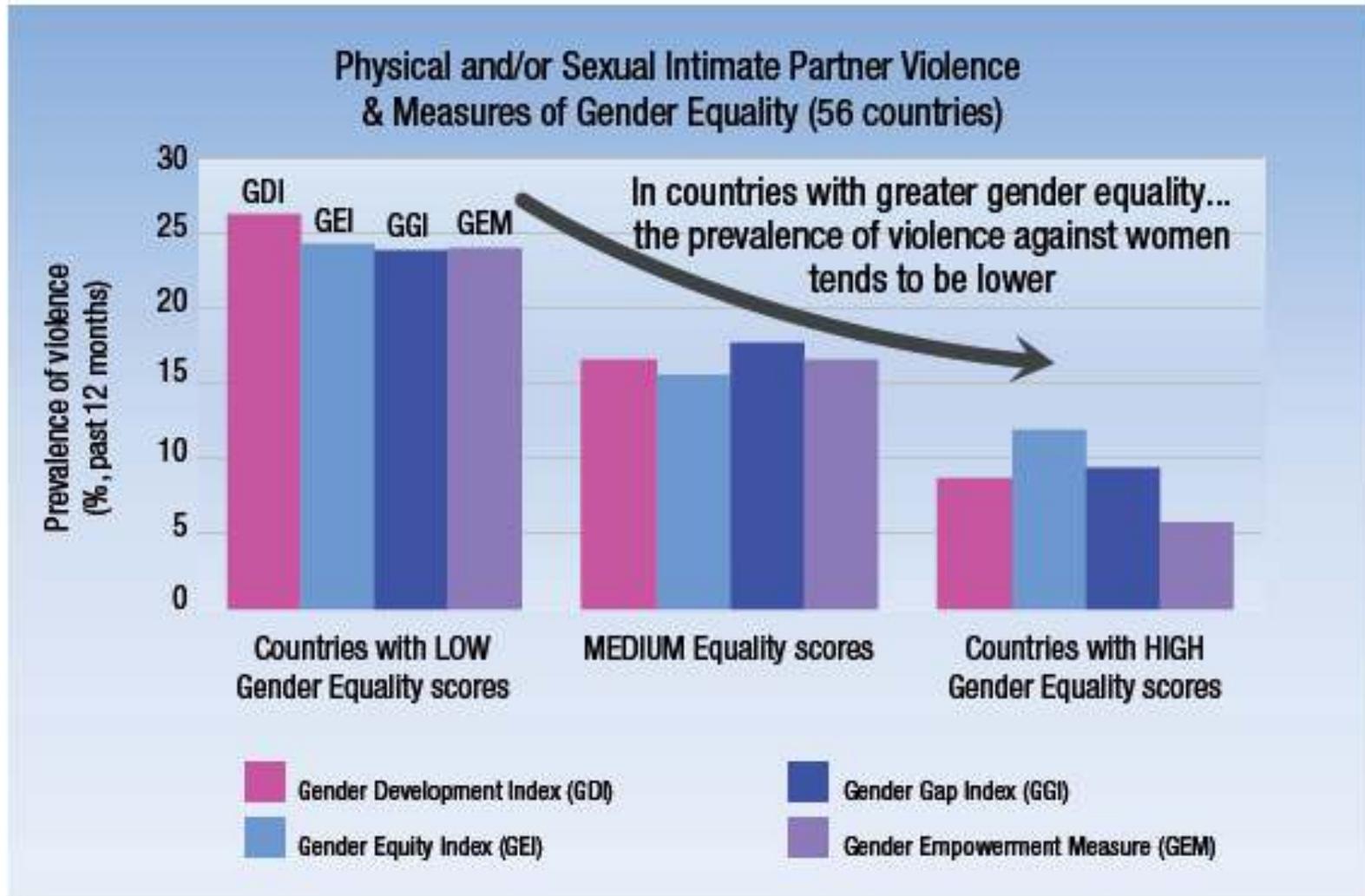Figure 1 Predictors of current IPV – the 'relationship approach'.

# Risk factors for men's perpetration of partner violence :

6 Asia-Pacific countries, multivariate analysis



SUMMARY OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF DIFFERENT CLUSTERS OF FACTORS IN EXPLAINING AND ADDRESSING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PERPETRATION
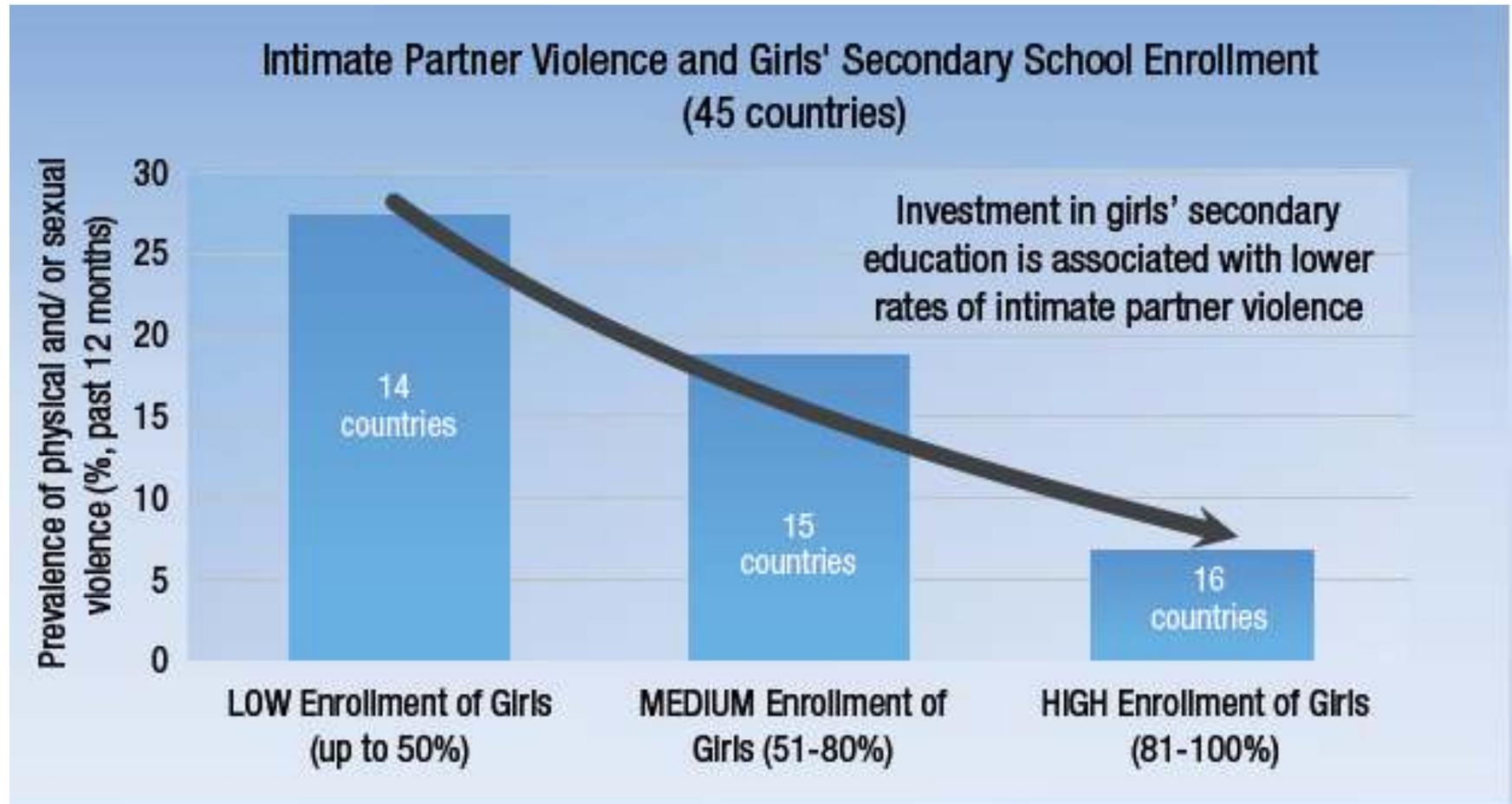
- GENDER NORMS AND PRACTICES
- VICTIMIZATION HISTORY
- PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENCE OUTSIDE THE HOME
- SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

# Gender equality & prevalence of recent IPV



Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence & Measures of Gender Equality (56 countries)

# Gender equality & prevalence of recent IPV



## Intimate Partner Violence and Girls' Secondary School Enrollment (45 countries)

Prevalence of physical and/ or sexual violence (%, past 12 months)

Investment in girls' secondary education is associated with lower rates of intimate partner violence

14 countries — LOW Enrollment of Girls (up to 50%)

15 countries — MEDIUM Enrollment of Girls (51-80%)

16 countries — HIGH Enrollment of Girls (81-100%)

ABOUT THE DATA: Prevalence data for all graphs is drawn from leading international surveys on violence against women: World Health Organization; International Violence Against Women Survey; MEASURE Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and the World Bank Domestic Violence Dataset and is based on physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Detailed Technical Notes on the methodology and sources are available on request at evaw.helpdesk@unifem.org.

NOTES ON GRAPH: Secondary school enrollment is measured as the percentage of eligible girls enrolled in secondary school, based on data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on Female Secondary Net Enrollment Rate (2000-2009), with countries categorized from low to high enrollment rates. Prevalence data shown is the average per cent for countries in each category.

Source: UNIFEM,  Investing in gender equality: Ending violence against women and girls.  2010.  UN Women, New York

# Evidence for women's status and IPV prevalence across countries

Cross-national analysis of data from 66 surveys /44 countries by Heise and Kostadam (Lancet Global Health, 2015) highlight the following

- Norms related to male authority over female behaviour (0·102, p<0·0001), norms justifying wife beating (0·263, p<0·0001), and the extent to which law and practice disadvantage women compared with men in access to land, property, and other productive resources (0·271, p<0·0001) are especially predictive of past 12 month physical and sexual violence
- Girl's education is more strongly associated with reduced risk of partner violence in countries where wife abuse is normative than where it is not.
- Likewise, partner violence is less prevalent in countries with a high proportion of women in the formal work force, but working for cash increases a woman's risk in countries where few women work.

## HOW to

Identify risk and protective factors and use them to select your intervention?
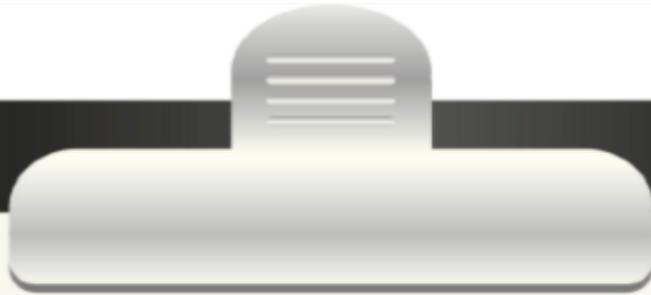
**Review** information about candidate factors from existing research
- Gather available data (eg: on alcohol use or behaviour surveys)

**Develop** your own information
- Conduct qualitative research (eg: focus groups)
- Implemented surveys

**Select** risk & protective factors to be addressed
- Does it strongly influence the issue?
- Can it be easily changed?
- What is the appropriate mix of risk and protective factors?

**Use** information about . . .
- who is affected by multiple risk factors to help select your target group.
- the types of risk & protective factors to select strategies

# Risk factors



# Key Messages

1. Two main set of modifiable factors: **Childhood abuse & gender inequality**

2. VAW rooted in gender inequality: unequal gender norms, women's lack of empowerment, men's control & entitlement over women

3. Good understanding of risk & protective factors & target group required to develop prevention measures

4. Reduce risk & enhance protective factors (assets) to effectively address VAW