Reducing VAW risk in Guatemala through gender transformative WEE programming

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SVRI Forum 2022
About Equimundo: Center for Masculinities and Social Justice

Equimundo works to achieve gender equality and social justice by transforming intergenerational patterns of harm and promoting patterns of care, empathy and accountability among boys and men throughout their lives.

Equity of Care
Gender Socialization
Violence Prevention
Thought Lab
Global Communities brings together local ingenuity and global insights to save lives, advance equity and secure strong futures.

We achieve this mission in collaboration with public and private sector partners, including communities affected by poverty, disasters and conflict.
From Rwanda to Guatemala: Program Adaptation

- **Collaborative and iterative partnership**: EQMO, GC, communities in Huehuetenango from formative research to adaptation, implementation and learning.

- **Revisions and adjustments**: content, methodology, recruitment strategies; engagement with local authorities, and mapping of GBV referral services guided by culturally relevant approaches.

- **Core elements for positive shifts** in attitudes and behaviors towards equitable, caring and non-violent relationships were maintained.

- **Training and regular support** to facilitators/team during implementation.
**PROGRAM**

Journeys of Transformation (Caminos a la Transformación)

**GOALS**

- Promoting more equitable and non-violent relationships
- Supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment and family wellbeing

**APPROACH**

- 13 session group education curriculum – 7 sessions for men and women in separate groups and 6 sessions bring couples together-
- Trained facilitator led experiential and participatory activities, critical reflection, practice of relationship skills in safe group space
- Reproductive health and GBV services representatives lead informational sessions

**CONTENT**

Program aims to shift restrictive gender attitudes, norms and behaviors around:

- Household decision-making
- Couple communication
- Women’s engagement in income generation activities
- Division of domestic and childcare labor
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Violence against Women (VAW) – intimate partner violence (IPV)
JoT Participants

- 98 couples- 196 women engaged in savings groups and their male partners from 9 communities in Huehuetenango with children (96%)
- Mean age: 44 (men) and 39 (women)
- Ethnicity: 23% (men) and 11% (women) identify as Mam
Methodology: Mixed-methods evaluation

**QUANTITATIVE:**
1. **Baseline Survey:**
   - n = 187 (88 men & 99 women)
   - First session
   - Administered by facilitators using Mobenzi (tablets)
2. **Endline Survey:**
   - n = 125 (62 men & 63 women)
   - Two weeks post-intervention

**QUALITATIVE:**
1. **Focus Group Discussions** – 15 men & 18 women >75% sessions
2. **In-depth Interviews** – 6 men & 6 women & 3 drop-outs
3. **Key Informant Interviews** – 3 people
4. **GC Program team & facilitators**
EVALUATION RESULTS
At a glance

- Acceptance of IPV
- Joint decision-making
- Couple communication
Acceptance of IPV

Justification for the use of VAW in different situations:

- Reductions in both men and women – greater among men

Recognition of women’s right to a life free from violence:
  - Qualitative accounts from women

Awareness of the intergenerational cycle of violence:
  - Men want to avoid being a violent model for children
Acceptance of IPV (cont.)

**Justification for men’s use of violence against an intimate partner**

- Justifies men’s use of VAW when women are disobedient:
  - Baseline (Men): 14.1%
  - Endline (Men): 3.2%
  - Baseline (Women): 6.35%
  - Endline (Women): 18.2%

- Justifies men’s use of VAW when women neglect the care of children:
  - Baseline (Men): 13.1%
  - Endline (Men): 1.6%
  - Baseline (Women): 11.1%
  - Endline (Women): 35.2%

- Justifies men’s use of VAW in at least one situation:
  - Baseline (Men): 31.3%
  - Endline (Men): 9.7%
  - Baseline (Women): 48.9%
  - Endline (Women): 31.8%

Significance levels:
- * Significant Difference (chi2 = 5.07, p = 0.024)
- ** Significant Difference (chi2 = 4.47, p = 0.034)
- & Significant Difference (chi2 = 6.37, p = 0.012)
- && Significant Difference (chi2 = 11.34, p = 0.001)
- + Significant Difference (chi2 = 10.08, p = 0.001)
- ++ Significant Difference (chi2 = 4.43, p = 0.035)
Acceptance of IPV (cont.)

- “He has changed, because now we know that women shouldn’t be beaten, and that they (men) should not raise their voices, before we thought everything was ok, because we didn’t have workshops, before the man had more worth and the man ordered everything, but now it’s not like that, women have rights” (Woman, FGD)

- “We have reflected about our children, if we are violent, then they will also be like that; we don’t want them to inherit violence” (Man, FGD)
“It is good that men also took the workshops, because before they didn’t know what we (women) were doing (in the WE group), and my partner used to say that it couldn’t have been anything good, that we were wasting our time, but now he supports me in my skills building.” (Woman, IDI)
Couple’s Communication (cont.)

“Feels comfortable or very comfortable discussing with their partner whether or not to have sex”

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<tr>
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<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Endline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>98.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>71.6</td>
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* Significant Difference (chi² = 17.32, p = 0.001)

** Significant Difference (chi² = 13.81, p = 0.003)
Joint decision-making

“The man should make the final decision about how family funds are spent”

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<td>Baseline</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endline</td>
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* Significant Difference (chi2=23.41, p < 0.001)
** Significant Difference (chi2=8.86, p = 0.003)
Lessons

• Practice-based knowledge and iterative learning is at center of successful adaptations of GT programming
• JoT promising approach to reduce risk factors for IPV
• Promoting WEE should consider including GT approaches that engage men as allies of WEE and in support of women’s agency
• Shift in attitudes can be achieved through GT approaches, but behavioral and normative change may require additional components and approaches
Gracias
Thank you.