Leaving No One Behind During Times of Crisis

Impact of SASA! Adaptations for Adolescent Girls, and Women and Girls with Disabilities in Haiti

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What do we already know about SASA!/SASA! Together?

- Who created it and where?
- What is it?
- What is its effectiveness at preventing intimate partner violence?
- Where has it been used?
- When did Beyond Borders adapt it in Haiti?

Raising Voices
raisingvoices.org
What is *Power to Girls*?

- Adapted by Beyond Borders in Haiti from *SASA! Together*, as well as a new creation!

- Seeks to decrease the risk of sexual and intimate partner violence against girls ages 10-19 and to increase girls’ power.

- It combines girl-centered programming with a community-wide and school-wide social norms change process that highlights the role of parents and caregivers.
What is *Safe and Capable*?

- Resource pack designed to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities by mobilizing the entire community to protect their rights and well-being

- Designed specifically for organizations using *SASA!, SASA! Together* by Raising Voices and/or *Power to Girls* by Beyond Borders – *as a complement, not a stand-alone*

- Developed through a collaboration between [Beyond Borders](https://www.beyondBorders.org), [Pazapa Center](https://www.pazapacentre.org), and [Productions Théâtre Toupatou](https://www.toupatou.org), and inputs by many disability rights and VAWG prevention experts. The evaluation components were developed in partnership with the [Global Women’s Institute](https://www.gwi.org). Funded by [UN Trust Fund](https://trust基金.org).
The Rethinking Power program in Beyond Borders

• SASA! and Power to Girls used from 2017-2021 in Lavale, in the Southeast of Haiti. Safe and Capable was added in 2019.

• 575 community members were key to creating change, participating in training and mentoring with staff and then conducting activities within the everyday activities of their lives with others in the community.

• When things fall apart . . .
Shifting Power and Reducing Violence in Haiti: Initial Results of an Impact Study of SASA!, Power to Girls and Safe and Capable in Southeast Haiti
The Study

• Quasi-Experimental Evaluation

• Study Populations:
  • Women and girls (15-64)
  • Adolescent girls (10-19)
  • Women and girls with disabilities

• Mixed methods approach

• 3 rounds of data (2017, 2019, 2021)
The Context

• Sampling within two purposefully selected communes (La Vallée - Intervention and Marigot - Comparison)

• Contextual challenges (social and political unrest, insecurity, COVID-19) affected the study

In La Vallée, **six-in-ten** women and girls said their community had been affected by insecurity.

**One-third** of women and girls in La Vallée reported a serious problem with food and **two-thirds** of these people said that problem had worsened in the past year.

**About half** of women in reported their mobility being restricted due to insecurity.
Key Initial Main Results

Rates of IPV in La Vallée **halved between baseline and endline**—reducing from 23% to 12%. Reductions in both physical and sexual violence were documented. These were significantly different than reductions observed in Marigot.

*The study also documented improvements on gender attitudes, norms, and reduced acceptance of violence.*
Violence against Adolescent Girls

• Reductions in violence experienced
  • For girls age 15-23, there were also positive results, with an almost **40% decrease** in partner physical and/or sexual violence for the past 12 months (from 26% to 16%).

• Improvements on Voice and Agency
  • Girls increased their ability to make decisions in their lives, have the freedom to choose how to spend their free time and who to be friends with as well as are speaking openly about VAWG.
  • Female mentorship/role models remains a gap.

• No Change in Safety Measures

• Improvement on community level attitudes around gender roles for girls and boys
Violence against women and girls with disabilities

• Overall (using the overall general baseline prevalence) a 35% decrease in violence (from 23% to 15%) against women and girls living with disabilities across the four years the Rethinking Power program was implemented.

• Most of this reduction occurred in the first phase of the project as worsening contextual conditions affected program implementation in the latter half.

• Despite this, quantitative and qualitative data revealed improving attitudes and decreased stigma towards women with disabilities, a shift to more equitable gender roles within households, and increases in women with disabilities’ perceived support and help-seeking behavior
Key Conclusions and Recommendations

• Sustained commitment is needed for effective programming that leaves no one behind, including long-term, flexible, core funding to women’s rights and disability rights organizations.

• Full engagement of women and girls with disabilities at all phases of design, programming and research is essential to creating reductions of VAWG within this group.

• More research is needed in low and middle income settings on what works to prevent non-partner sexual violence and dating violence. Disaggregate data by age, disability status, etc.

• Seek out, listen to, collaborate with and support existing activists, organizations and networks of girls, women and girls with disabilities, and others.

• Prevention of VAWG IS POSSIBLE, while leaving no one behind, even in incredibly challenging conditions.
Questions?