



Examining the effectiveness of a gender transformative approach in economic empowerment programs to reduce intimate partner violence

Sylvia Atieno Owino
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The Global
Women's Institute
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

**RIPPLE
EFFECT**

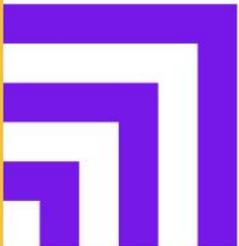
Ripple Effect

- 30 years experience working with farming communities in rural Africa (formerly Send a Cow).
- 6 countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Zambia.
- Areas of expertise: Sustainable Agriculture and Enterprise Development and Gender and Social Inclusion.



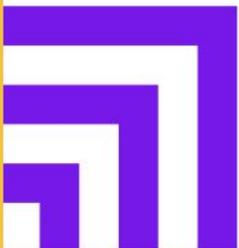
Economic and Social Empowerment (EASE) Approach

- Economic empowerment is farm based for food and income.
- Social Empowerment-increasing women involvement in decision making and leadership as well as challenging gender inequalities.
- Includes use of a gender Transformative Household Methodology developed by Ripple Effect.



Research objectives

- To develop approaches and tools for measuring changes in acceptance for, and rates of, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).
- To increase the capacity of Ripple Effect program staff to deliver quality violence prevention programs and ethically collect data.
- To identify best practices and lessons learned from Ripple Effect's Economic & Social Empowerment (EASE) programming.



Characteristics of research population.



- Farming is the main source of livelihood.
- Women spend the highest time in farming activities.
- Women have low income, little decision-making power and are more likely to conform to gender norms.
- Women living under poor conditions are more likely to experience violence.
- 60% of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 have experienced at least one form of IPV – emotional, physical or sexual (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2015).

Project context

- **Wealth Creation project:** 2013-2016
- **Goal:** To increase farm productivity and income.

- **Improving Nutrition project:** 2018-2021
- **Goal:** To improve child and mother nutrition food security.
- Integrated gender-mainstreaming component as part of the intervention.



Research methodology

Qualitative:

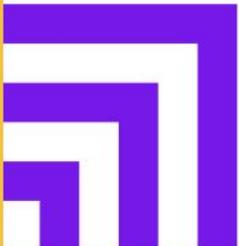
- Used in Wealth creation project for formative research to understand how the lives of women were impacted by EASE approach.
- **Data tools:** focus group discussions and key informant in-depth interviews.
- **Respondents:** 5 women-only groups, 4-men only groups and 16 key informants

Quantitative:

- Used in Improved Nutrition project to understand characteristics of IPV and effect of EASE on rates of violence.
- **Data tools:** Survey tools developed used at two points-Initial participation (just after the start) and one year into the program.
- **Respondents:** 274 women and 96 men

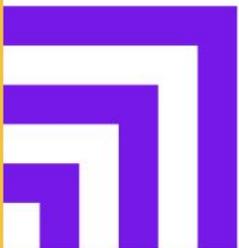
Formative research findings

- Reduced workloads for women.
- Economic empowerment– increased food and income security.
- Greater involvement of women in decision making.
- Improved household dynamics and relationships.
- Less conflict over sex and money – violence reduced.
- Gender attitudes – positive changes between spouses.
- Women’s influence in the wider community increased.



Quantitative research findings

- IPV prevalence.
- Changes in IPV level after EASE approach.
- Gender inequitable attitudes on violence.
- Justification of violence



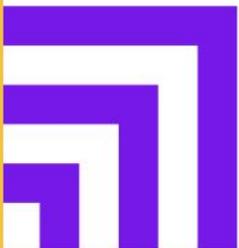
IPV prevalence

- **51% experienced physical violence**
- **48% experience emotional violence**
- **35% experience sexual violence**

**Before working with
Ripple Effect**

**59% of women reported
experiencing physical
and/or sexual violence.**

**71% of women had experienced
any form of violence during
their lifetime**



Changes in IPV levels

> 60%

IPV had decreased
or stopped entirely

68%

physical violence
decreased/
stopped

67%

sexual violence
decreased/
stopped

**A year after EASE APPROACH
participants said**

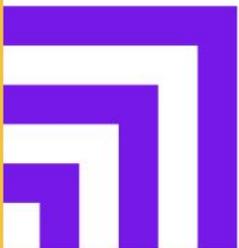
63%

emotional violence
decreased/
stopped

43%

Economic violence
decreased/stopped

A small proportion (8% on average) experienced an increase in IPV



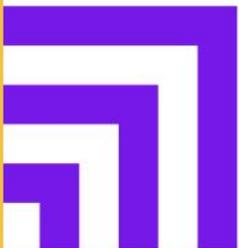
Gender inequality attitudes

- **85%** men should be head of the household.
- **82%** a woman should obey her husband.
- **53%** a woman's most important role is to take care of her home, cook for her family and take care of children.
- **47%** it's important for a woman to be a virgin when she gets married for the first time.
- **42%** it's the wife's obligation to have sex with the husband

22% agreed with all 5 gender inequitable attitudes assessed.

92% agreed with at least one gender inequitable attitude

4% did not agree with any inequitable attitudes at all



Acceptance of violence

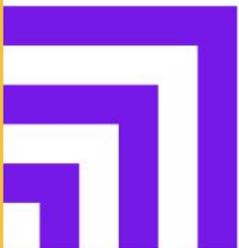
53% felt violence was acceptable in certain circumstances.

47% felt no reason that violence against a woman was acceptable.

1 in 2

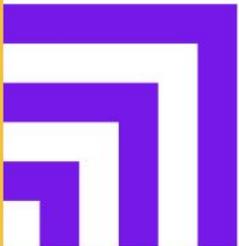
respondents thought there was no reason that IPV was acceptable

The most common reason for acceptance of violence was when a woman neglected her children - **42%**



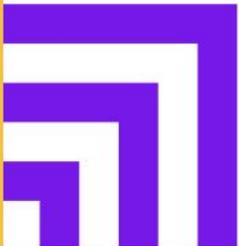
Additional interventions

- GBV awareness through mass media and community forums.
- Integrating GBV training into community farmer trainings.
- Developing and strengthening community safeguarding mechanisms.
- GBV referral systems.
- Training men GBV prevention champions.



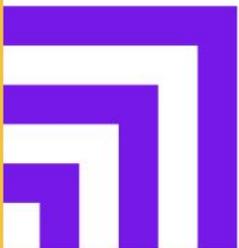
Gender attitudes- STUDY II

- **83%** It is natural for a man to be head of the household/family
- **82%** A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children.
- **68%** It is important for a woman to be a virgin when she first gets married.
- **57%** A wife should obey her husband.
- **53%** It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband whenever he wants it .



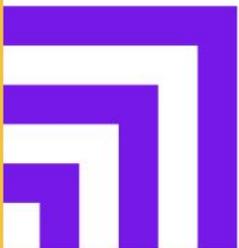
Change in acceptance of violence – STUDY II

- Only **15%** felt violence is justified when a woman neglects her children.
- Just **9%** agreed a women should keep violence private and **11%** that women should tolerate violence to keep family together.
- Acceptance of violence if a woman refused to have sex, argued with her husband or was suspected of having an affair dropped to **3-9%**



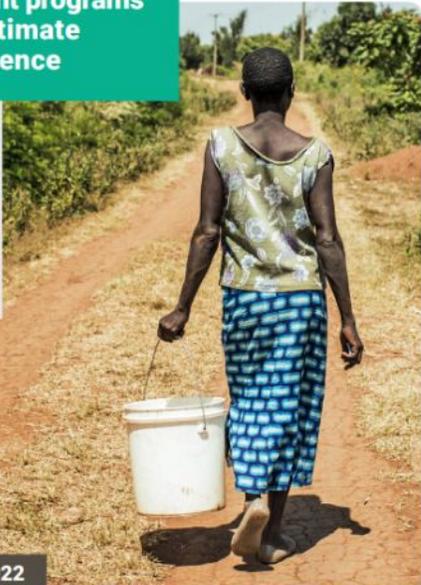
Future research

- Apply and assess EASE approach in different contexts and situations.
- Conduct longitudinal study on impact of EASE on IPV rates to see if reduction in violence is sustained.
- Further explore the dynamics of change around acceptance of violence, and the underlying beliefs that drive strongly-held patriarchal norms.



Further reading

Examining the effectiveness of a gender transformative approach in economic empowerment programs to reduce Intimate Partner Violence



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WORLD BANK GROUP

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Maureen Murphy Research Scientist, Global Women's Institute	Peg Bavin Director of Program Funding, Send a Cow	Amanda Crookes Gender and Social Inclusion Coordinator, Send a Cow
Elizabeth Rojas Research Associate, Global Women's Institute	Sylvia Owino Regional Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, Send a Cow	Manuel Contreras Urbina Senior Social Development Specialist, The World Bank

<https://assets.rippleeffect.org/SA-C-IPV-Research-Paper-Feb-2022.pdf>

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