

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR RELATION TO ACHIEVEING MDGS

Global UNDP Meeting on Action to Address
Gender-Based Violence

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SECRETARY GENERAL STUDY

- Reduces the capacity of victims/survivors to contribute productively to the family, the economy and public life
- Drains resources from social services, the justice system, health –care agencies and employers
- Lowers the overall educational attainment, mobility and innovative potential of the victims/survivors, their children and even the perpetrators of such violence

COSTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Very large according to all studies made in different countries and with different methodologies
- Direct and indirect costs
- Highest cost for the victims (pain, suffering, death)
- Health systems
- Largest indirect costs for employers

RELEVANCE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

- Infant mortality
- Maternal Mortality
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender equality:
 - Employment
 - Access to health
 - Access to education

RELEVANCE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs

- Intergenerational impacts
- In the case of using rape as a weapon of war, the devastating and long term effects on the economic and social fabric of society are also present and should be taken into account when interpreting the indicators of MDG achievement

FINDINGS OF STUDIES

- In the first place, the policies specifically aimed to prevention and assistance of victims are a very small part of the costs of violence.
- Secondly, policies to combat the prevalence of this phenomenon and contribute to diminish its effects, the resources assigned should be increased substantially
- Finally, increased knowledge about the impact of domestic violence in economic and social terms. The sheer magnitude of the costs point to possible new policy measures in the combat against domestic violence that can increase efficacy

FINDINGS OF STUDIES

- Extension of the actual scope of policies
 - Specific measure for hidden victims
 - Special role of public administration and CSOs
- Diversification of measures
 - Labour market
 - Education
 - Children

CONCLUSIONS

- UNDP applying gender mainstreaming strategy.
- Good entry point to introduce the specificities of VAW as they relate to the achievement of MDGs
- Best placed to influence policy using efficiency arguments as well as a human rights approach

SOME EXAMPLES

- Spain (region of Andalusia, 2002) 2% of regional GDP (distribution of costs by agents supporting the costs) 2.4 billion euros
 - Victims: 43% of total costs (includes intangibles costs of death, pain and suffering)
 - Public services: 40% of total costs (includes forgone taxing and social security contributions as well as use of health services and other services)
 - Employers: 16% of total costs

SOME EXAMPLES

- Spain (region of Andalusia, 2002) 2% of regional GDP (distribution of costs by effects) 2.4 billion euros
 - 30% of total costs related to employment effects
 - 27% Social effects
 - 25% effects on children
 - 16% physical and mental health

SOME EXAMPLES

- Canada, 2003 1.5 billion Canadian dollars
 - Direct medical costs alone represent around 1% of GDP for 2003!
- Australia, 1.5 billion Australian dollars 2000
 - Only includes business sector costs and tax share of relevant government services, forgone profits and changes in expenditure patterns of victims, perpetrators and others
 - This represents around 4.5% of GDP in 2000!

SOME EXAMPLES

- In Ecuador the government increased the fight against gender based violence by 1 million dollars in 2007 to a total of 2 million, representing 0.001% of GDP
- The study that accompanied the 1995 law on GBV in Ecuador was based on a national survey showing that 12 percent of women between ages 15 and 49 had suffered violence at the hands of their intimate partner in the previous year
- At least 31 percent of the women in that age bracket had suffered some type of violence before turning 15. The study also found that 31 percent of married or cohabiting women have experienced physical violence by their partner, 41 percent have experienced psychological violence, and 12 percent have experienced sexual violence

THANK YOU

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