



اتحدوا  
 联合起来  
 UNETE  
 TOUS UNIS  
 СООБЩА  
 UNITE

لإنهاء العنف  
 ضد المرأة  
 制止侵害  
 妇女的  
 暴力行为

para poner **FIN A LA  
 VIOLENCIA  
 CONTRA LAS  
 MUJERES**

pour mettre **FIN À LA  
 VIOLENCE  
 À L'ÉGARD  
 DES FEMMES  
 ПОКОНЧИМ  
 С НАСИЛИЕМ  
 В ОТНОШЕНИИ  
 ЖЕНЩИН**

to **END  
 VIOLENCE  
 AGAINST  
 WOMEN**

United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign

Presentation by:  
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 UN Women  
 New Delhi, September 2011

# Pandemic of Violence Against Women



## The Global Pandemic

- Between 15 and 76 percent of women are targeted for physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the available country data.
- Most of this violence takes place within intimate relationships, with many women (ranging from 9 to 70 percent) reporting their husbands or partners as the perpetrator.

# Pandemic of Violence Against Women



- On average, at least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of her lifetime.
- Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.
- Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners.
- It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

# Pandemic of Violence Against Women



## Femicide

- In Guatemala, two women are murdered, on average, each day.
- In India, 8,093 cases of dowry-related death were reported in 2007; an unknown number of murders of women and young girls were falsely labeled 'suicides' or 'accidents'.
- In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, between 40 and 70 percent of female murder victims were killed by their intimate partners.
- In the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, 66 percent of murders of women were committed by husbands, boyfriends or other family members.

# Prevalence of VAW



## Violence and Young Women

- Worldwide, up to 50 percent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16.
- An estimated 150 million girls under the age of 18 suffered some form of sexual violence in 2002 alone.
- The first sexual experience of some 30 percent of women was forced. The percentage is even higher among those who were under 15 at the time of their sexual initiation, with up to 45 percent reporting that the experience was forced.

# Prevalence of VAW



## Harmful Practices

- Approximately 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting, with more than 3 million girls in Africa annually at risk of the practice.
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18, primarily in South Asia (31.3 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (14.1 million). Violence and abuse characterize married life for many of these girls. Women who marry early are more likely to be beaten or threatened, and more likely to believe that a husband might sometimes be justified in beating his wife.

# Prevalence of VAW



## Trafficking

- Women and girls are 80 percent of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across national borders annually, with the majority (79 percent) trafficked for sexual exploitation. Within countries, many more women and girls are trafficked, often for purposes of sexual exploitation or domestic servitude.
- One study in Europe found that 60 percent of trafficked women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence before being trafficked, pointing to gender-based violence as a push factor in the trafficking of women.

# Prevalence of VAW



## Rape in the context of Conflict

- Conservative estimates suggest that 20,000 to 50,000 women were raped during the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while approximately 250,000 to 500,000 women and girls were targeted in the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- Between 50,000 and 64,000 women in camps for internally displaced people in Sierra Leone were sexually assaulted by combatants between 1991 and 2001.
- In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, at least 200,000 cases of sexual violence, mostly involving women and girls, have been documented since 1996: the actual numbers are believed to be far higher.



# Prevalence of VAW



## Sexual Harassment

- Between 40 and 50 percent of women in European Union countries experience unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at work.
- Across Asia, studies in Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea show that 30 to 40 percent of women suffer workplace sexual harassment.
- In Nairobi, 20 percent of women have been sexually harassed at work or school.
- In the United States, 83 percent of girls aged 12 to 16 experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

# VAW as weapon of war



- Violence against women during or after armed conflicts has been reported in every international or non-international war-zone and conflict affected areas
- Between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the conflict in Bosnia in the early 1990s.

# Why VAW occurs?



- Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society.
- The roots of violence against women lie in historically unequal power relations between men and women, and persistent discrimination against women.

# Attitudes



- Attitudes still condone violence in many instances:
  - In Cambodia, more than 8/10 men and women reported doing nothing when they knew about domestic abuse.
  - In Lao PDR, 82% of women believed that a husband is justified beating his wife for reasons such as going out without telling him, neglecting the children, arguing with him, refusing sex or burning the food while cooking

# Definition of VAW per CEDAW



## **CEDAW General Recommendation 19 on VAW:**

- VAW is a form of discrimination that constitutes a serious obstacle in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women,
- It defines gender-based violence as “violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or which affects a woman disproportionately
- It includes physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.”
- State parties to address and report on VAW within the substantive framework of CEDAW.

# What is VAW?



- Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

**Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, Art 2**

*\*A/RES/48/104*

# What is VAW? (continued)



- (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;
  
- (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

**Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, Art**

*\*A/RES/48/104*

# Definition of VAW



- [V]iolence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and ... violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men

**Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, Preamble paragraph 6\***

*\*A/RES/48/104*



# Root causes of VAW



- Unequal power relations
  - In the dominant ideology
  - Social, economic and cultural structures
  - Systems
- Subordination of women is the dominant norm
  - regulates women's sexuality
  - notion of masculinity that sanctions violence and control over women
- The Family Institution
- The Community
- The Market
- The State

# Sexuality and VAW



Differential gender based norms

Dominant notions of women's sexuality and of masculinity

Dual moral standards for women and men

Control of female sexuality is central to norms at social, cultural and State levels – examples in law, the family, , the community, at time of peace and conflict

# Culture and VAW



Harmful practices that violate women's rights

Cultural relativism – to resist women's rights

Cultural essentialism – to see certain cultures

Culture is not static nor it monolithic – can be transformed through alternative interpretations of culture by women and negotiation

# Consequences of VAW



Reduction in productivity

Draining public budgets

Generational impact on children

Affects girls education

Impact Reproductive and maternal health

Affects child health

HIV/AIDS

# Responses to VAW



## Victimization vs Empowerment

- victims must be rescued
- reinforces stereotyping
  
- Need for holistic multi-sectoral responses
- Primary prevention – change attitudes and behavior of men and women
- Protection of rights

Ecological model – focus on individual, family, community , society

# Guiding Principles to EVAW



Human rights based approach

Operating under ethical guidelines

Ensuring gender responsiveness

Employing culturally appropriate measures

Addressing specific forms of violence

Responding to diversity

Operating within the Ecological model

Working in partnership

# Main Strategies to E<sup>V</sup>AW



- Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment
- Introducing or reforming legislation
- Holistic multi-sectoral policies and national action plans
- Ensuring resources / GRB
- Promoting primary prevention
- Coordinated community responses
- Engaging key groups
- Capacity development
- Research, data collection and analysis
- Monitoring and Accountability

# Due Diligence



- States should “refrain from engaging in violence against women”, directly or through their agents, and
- “exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons.”
- The concept of due as a key principle to hold States legally accountable for the prevention, investigation and punishment of violations by non-State actors.
- The Nature of State Obligation in the context of ERAW -  
to preventing VAW
- CED AW General Recommendation 19 and DE VAW



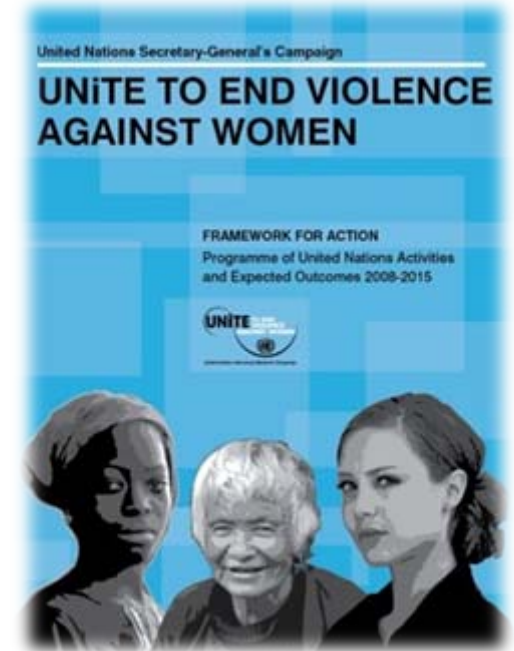
# Global Overview and Mandate



- Decision No.2007/31 of the SG's Policy Committee
- UNiTE's Framework for Action

## Overall objective:

**Raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls**



# Primary areas of focus



- Global advocacy
- UN Leadership by example
- Strengthened efforts & partnerships
  - At national and regional level
- **Mobilizing, catalytic and coordinating role** engaging diverse and strategic partners
- Focus on **transformative social and policy change**
  - Not only communications campaign!

# 5 outputs to achieve by 2015



## National legislation

- Legal reform, implementation and enforcement

## National Action Plans

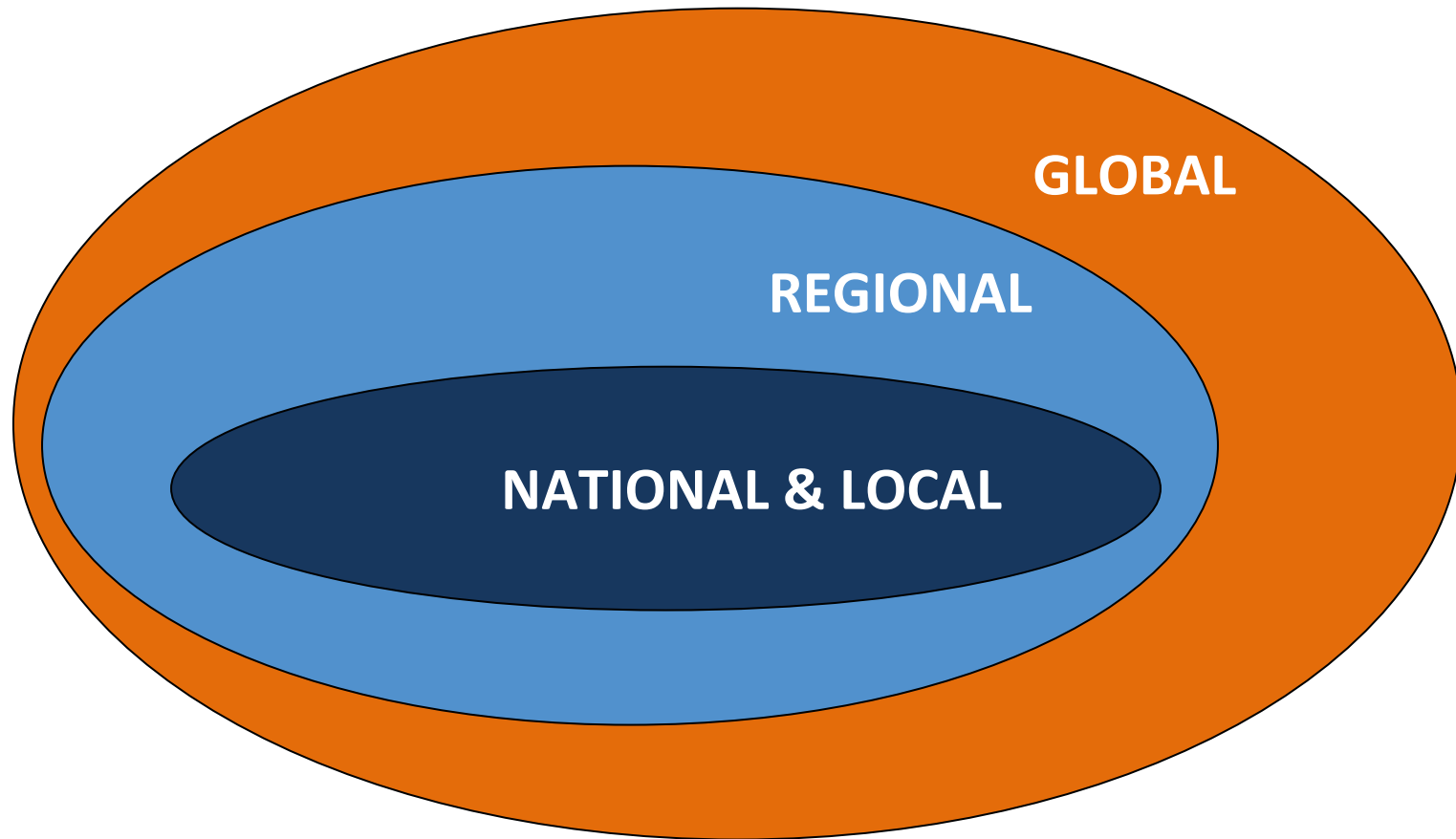
- Increased capacities and resource allocation

## Data collection and analysis

## Public awareness and social mobilization for prevention

## Systematically address sexual violence in conflict

# Strategic and interrelated perspective



# Initiatives in Support of UNiTE



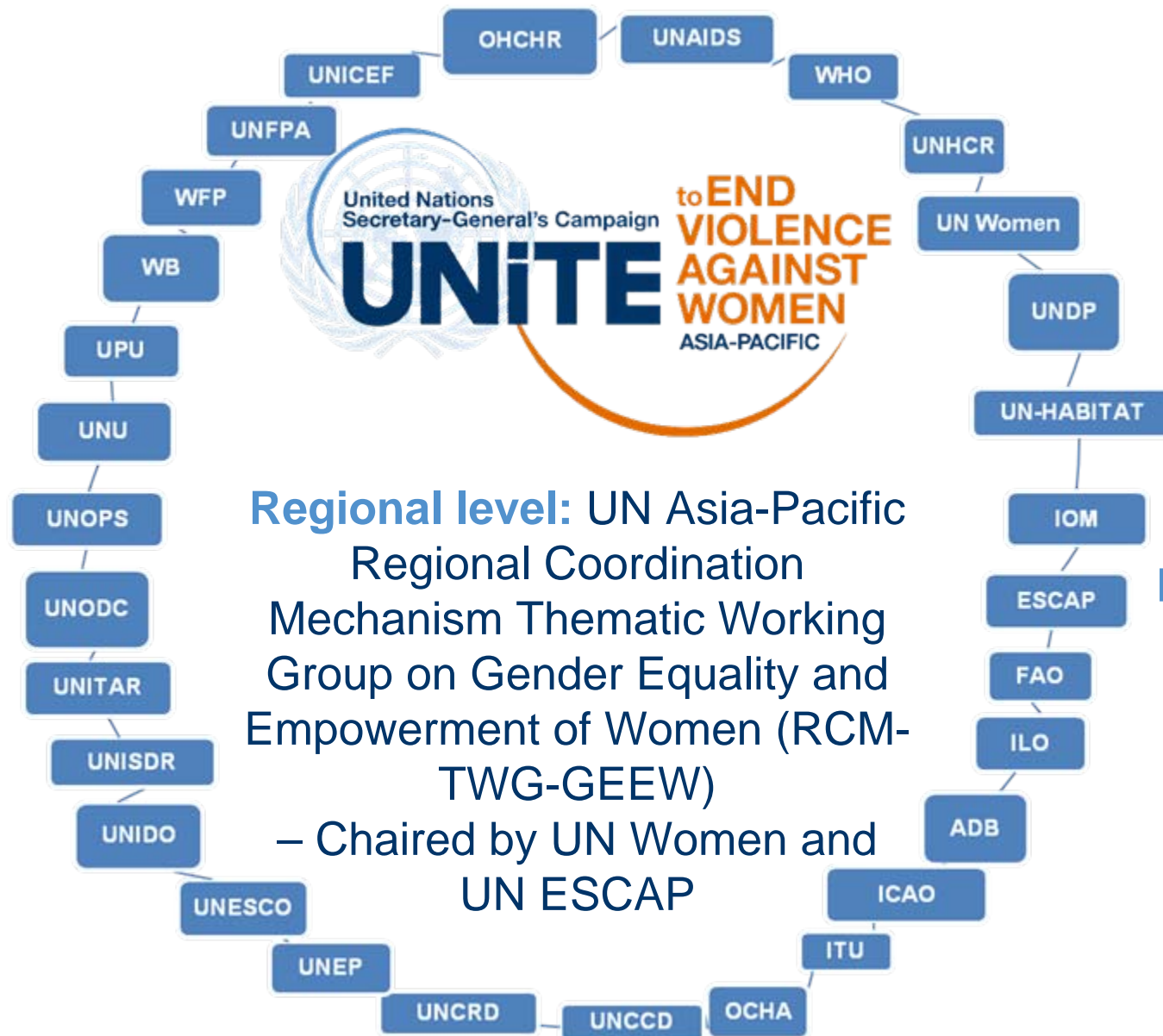
- Say NO-UNiTE platform
- Stop Rape Now - UN Action to address Sexual Violence in Conflict (Outcome 5)
- Network of Men Leaders
- Additional tools and resources:
  - SG's database on VAW
  - Global virtual knowledge center on VAW
  - Breakaway game, etc.

# Asia-Pacific UNiTE strategies



- Broad **ownership** and **partnerships** across sectors, with a focus on **primary prevention**:
  - Government, regional bodies, women's movement, religious groups, men and boys, media, private sector, etc.
- Strengthen accountability, capacities and resources to **end impunity** and **provide services to survivors**
  - State obligation to **respect, protect and fulfil** human rights

# AP Regional Coordination



**Regional level:** UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (RCM-TWG-GEEW)  
 – Chaired by UN Women and UN ESCAP

**National level:** UNCTs and their Gender Theme Groups taking the lead to support national partners in implementing UNiTE

# Recommendations



- We are ALL accountable: UNCTs need joint strategies & work plans to E<sup>VAW</sup>
- Stronger focus to end impunity and ensure justice for survivors
- Increase efforts to develop effective and holistic primary prevention strategies (P4P)
- Address VAW in humanitarian crises beyond conflict
- Ensure that data is collected, analyzed and USED
- Identify effective communications channels for social change
- Fundraising for E<sup>VAW</sup> –new donors, private sector.



**Thank You!**



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