How is data on the costs of violence against women being used?

### Budget allocations

Costing violence against women can strengthen the case for prioritizing assistance and services to address violence against women in government budget allocations. Countries that have done costing studies have seen increases in budget allocations for both governments and civil society.

### Greater coordination between sectors

Understanding the cost of violence against women can facilitate greater coordination between health services, policing, social services, justice, to deliver services to survivors because doing the research opens dialogue on which institutions are providing which services and on what is being missed.

### Implementing laws and policies

Studying the cost of violence against women supports efforts to implement laws and policies on violence against women. The research starts with understanding the laws and policies in place and then analyses how they are being implemented. 80% of countries in the Asia and Pacific region now have laws on domestic violence.

### Violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide and has enormous costs for women's health, safety and well-being.

Ultimately, violence against women has tremendous costs for societies, including costs that impact:

- Health care systems
- Legal and justice system
- Economic development
- Human development

Implementing effective essential support services to respond against violence against women is feasible. The costs of delivering a minimum package of essential services for women and girls who experienced violence accounts for:

- 0.25% of GDP
- 0.29% of GDP

These numbers pale in comparison with the impact of violence: A study in Viet Nam found that total productivity loss and potential opportunity costs associated with such violence represent as much as:

- 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.

Implementing essential support services is affordable and the benefits of stopping violence early are magnified for women, their family and society in general.
What are the costs of violence against women? And who bears those costs?

Survivors face barriers when they seek help. A few examples of these barriers include: service providers who minimize the abuse or do not believe their story, blame them for the violence, ask for bribes to file a case, discourage them from pursuing justice and restrict them to mediation.

The majority of women who experienced violence do not receive the full range of services needed for justice, protection and prevention, and many do not receive any services at all.

Where services are available, they are often underfunded, understaffed, and mostly available in capitals or larger cities.

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