

Preventing Intimate Partner Violence in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania: A Joint Workshop of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences and the U.S Institute of Medicine

August 11-12, 2014

Sheraton Kampala Hotel, Rwenzori Ballroom
Ternan Avenue
Kampala, Uganda

AGENDA

Workshop Approach: Using an ecological framework that focuses on points of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention, this 2-day workshop will focus on intimate partner violence (IPV) in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania and the far-reaching consequences of IPV as both a public health and human rights problem. Within this context, the workshop will address IPV and the intersection with HIV, the unique needs of individuals experiencing IPV across the lifespan, responding to IPV from screening to care, the role of social norms and community engagement in prevention, societal level policies and implications, and overall how to improve intervention and decrease IPV prevalence. The workshop will be an opportunity to explore promising and potential prevention models.

Workshop Objective: The objective of this workshop is to inform and create synergies within a diverse community of researchers, implementers, and decision makers committed to promoting intimate partner violence prevention efforts that are evidence-informed, innovative, and cross-sectoral.

Context for the Workshop: As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), intimate partner violence refers to behavior by a current or former intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors. IPV is recognized as a global human rights and public health issue. In the 2005 WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, between 15% and 71% of women at 15 different sites in 10 developing countries reported physical or sexual or both. Of the 10 countries in the WHO multi-country study, Tanzania had one of the highest prevalence rates (Uganda and Kenya were not included in this multi-country study but, in other prevalence studies, Uganda and Kenya also have shown to have significantly high rates of IPV). A more recent analysis from WHO with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Medical Research Council, analyzed existing data from over 80 countries and found that globally almost one third of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. Globally, more than one-third of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners. Evidence shows that women subject to intimate partner violence experience a wide range of serious negative physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health outcomes, and may have increased vulnerability to HIV. Additionally, the social and economic costs of IPV are high and affect all levels of society.

While there is growing understanding of intimate partner violence as an important public health and safety issue, making greater strides in prevention has been challenging for many reasons, including a lack of good data on the nature and magnitude of violence and its costs, limited understanding of

regional and context-specific factors, fragmented effort and resources to address it, and assumptions that violence is both inevitable and cannot be prevented. However, preventing intimate partner violence is possible and can be achieved through a greater understanding of the problem, its risk and protective factors, and effective evidence-informed primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies.¹

This workshop is being convened by the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) and the U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) Forum on Global Violence Prevention. UNAS and IOM are both independent, unbiased scientific organizations. The mission of UNAS is to contribute towards improving the prosperity and welfare of the people of Uganda by promoting, generating, sharing and utilizing scientific knowledge and information, and to give independent, merit-based advice to government and society, among others. Similarly, IOM has equivalent aims to the U.S. government and other domestic and international stakeholders who seek its advice.

As a convening activity of the IOM established in 2010, the Forum on Global Violence Prevention works to reduce violence worldwide by promoting research on both risk and protective factors and encouraging evidence-based prevention efforts. Given the unbiased reputations of UNAS and IOM and the established body of work of the IOM Forum on Global Violence Prevention, these entities are in a unique position to facilitate dialogue and exchange among a wide range of global experts and diverse stakeholders on preventing intimate partner violence.

This workshop was organized by an appointed planning committee who, with the assistance of IOM and UNAS staff, developed the workshop agenda and sessions, and selected speakers and discussants. Following the conclusion of the workshop, an individually-authored summary of the event will be prepared by a designated rapporteur.

¹ Primary prevention aims to reduce risk of experiencing or exposure to violence by addressing risk factors and social norms that promote IPV. Secondary prevention focuses on improving the detection of IPV and providing appropriate services, and tertiary prevention focuses on strengthening institutions to respond thereby mitigating the adverse consequences of IPV.