

# **A Learning Review of DFID's Efforts to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls**

**Approach Paper**

**October 2015**

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## 1. Purpose and rationale

This review assesses how well the Department for International Development (DFID) has responded to the UK Government's commitment to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). It will review DFID's efforts to build a portfolio of relevant and coherent programmes and assess how it is being positioned in order to achieve impact. It will also examine DFID's efforts to build evidence on and assure value for money, particularly as the portfolio grows. DFID's ambition is to promote long-lasting transformative change. The review will look closely at what DFID is learning about the scale, intensity and duration of interventions needed to bring this about. ICAI recognises the nascent and evolving nature of the VAWG portfolio. Review findings will be designed accordingly to inform DFID's ongoing learning and evidence gathering process.

The review will build on ICAI's review of UK Security and Justice Assistance<sup>1</sup>. This assessed programming on access to justice and support services for victims of violence. The International Development Committee (IDC) published a report about DFID programming on VAWG in June 2013<sup>2</sup>. Although the report concluded that DFID had a strong policy framework and some impressive programmes, it raised concerns that country programmes gave too little attention to changing social norms. This review will follow up on DFID's response to the recommendations in the IDC report.

This review will not cover DFID's work on VAWG in humanitarian emergencies, which is currently being reviewed by a separate House of Lords inquiry.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Type of review

This is a **learning review**. ICAI learning reviews examine new or recent challenges for the UK aid programme, offering a snapshot of their effectiveness. They aim to inform their continuing development. Learning reviews focus on the generation and use of evidence by DFID and how well this translates into relevant and effective programming. They also provide scrutiny about how well programmes are performing and whether they are likely to deliver their intended impact.

In this review we aim to generate learning about how DFID is:

- Building an evidence base in a relatively new area and tackling evidence gaps.
- Creating a relevant portfolio of VAWG programmes designed to have significant impact.
- Adapting VAWG programmes to the national context.
- Identifying credible approaches to changing social norms.
- Taking successful pilots to scale.
- Integrating VAWG objectives across programmes in other areas, such as education, health and water and sanitation.
- Engaging with and influencing national stakeholders.
- Working internationally with others to influence global norms and processes.

As a learning review, we aim to identify how different approaches have emerged to a given aspect of VAWG in different contexts. We also examine how DFID has learnt from comparisons between them. The review is designed to capture the variation and diversity of approaches across the portfolio and compare and contrast across more and less successful programmes. We will review DFID's pilot-to-programming pathways and the decision-making process by which DFID scales up successful pilots and closes unsuccessful ones.

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<sup>1</sup> [UK Development Assistance for Security and Justice](#), ICAI, March 2015

<sup>2</sup> [Violence Against Women and Girls](#), IDC, June 2013

<sup>3</sup> House of Lords Sexual Violence in Conflict Committee, [Call for Evidence](#), July 2015.

We will explore DFID's emerging approach of value for money and how it makes use of recent research. We will focus on choices about the scale and intensity of DFID's programming and its approach to scaling up.

### 3. Scope

The review will cover DFID's VAWG-focused programmes, those with a substantial VAWG component, and the development of the VAWG portfolio as a whole between 2010 and 2015. It will also assess DFID's international advocacy in this area and its collaboration with partners in the UK and abroad.<sup>4</sup> This will allow us to examine links between DFID's international influencing work and VAWG programming.

The review will not directly examine programmes focused on security and justice as these have been covered by a previous ICAI review. Nor will it consider actions to address violence against women and girls in the UK more generally. It will however, consider DFID's efforts to build domestic and international momentum behind their agendas concerning female genital mutilation (FGM), and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) through the lens of the Girl Summit. The review will look at how DFID has promoted the inclusion of VAWG within the SDGs. It will also assess DFID's collaboration with other HMG Departments in order to address VAWG at international levels. However it will not review initiatives driven by other departments, such as the FCO's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI), which is being covered by the House of Lords inquiry.

DFID's VAWG work in humanitarian contexts and its programmes designed specifically to address VAWG in emergency situations will not be assessed as part of this review. This area is substantially different in aims, scope and type of programming and needs to be considered separately.

### 4. Background

Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic affecting an estimated one in three women worldwide.<sup>5</sup> The types of violence suffered by women are diverse and VAWG should not be approached as a single phenomenon. Although many of the underlying drivers are shared, different forms of violence require different responses. There is an important lifecycle dimension to VAWG, stretching from female infanticide to abuse of widows. There are also specific issues experienced by disabled women and girls in relation to VAWG. DFID's influential work on female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) may lead to a focus on younger women and girls. However, it is also important to address sexual and domestic violence affecting older women.

The review recognises that VAWG is a complex area, involving significant sensitivities and nuances. We will seek to understand some of the assumptions underlying DFID's Theory of Change, and how particular target groups and types of violence are defined and classified through the strategy and literature reviews.

Addressing violence against women and girls is recognised as a development goal in its own right, as well as an important precondition for achieving other development outcomes. It features as a sub-goal within the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015.<sup>6</sup> The UK Government has made major policy commitments to tackle VAWG internationally. DFID's Secretary of State Justine Greening, has often repeated the Government's commitment to addressing VAWG. Under her leadership, DFID has pursued a substantial advocacy programme to

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<sup>4</sup> This will consider DFID's efforts in influencing international legal and other frameworks as well as galvanising political buy-in and funding. It will also assess how well DFID's national and sub-national programming links to its international efforts. It will not consider the impact of DFID's work in the UK domestic policy arena.

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization, [Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women](#), 2013.

<sup>6</sup> [Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls including specific targets](#)

promote the inclusion of VAWG in the SDGs. It has also mobilised support for ending FGM/C and CEFM within a generation – most notably through the 2014 Girl Summit, co-hosted with UNICEF.

Following these policy commitments, DFID has significantly scaled up its VAWG programming, both in number and size, placing an increasing emphasis on prevention and long-term, multi-sectoral approaches. A 2014 mapping report<sup>7</sup> showed that the number of programmes with a VAWG component since 2012 had risen from 63 to 109. The financial commitment for VAWG-focused programmes has also risen from £19.8 million (2012) to £131 million (2014), an increase of 563%. This represents only a portion of DFID's total expenditure on VAWG.

VAWG is a relatively new area of programming for DFID and evidence to show what works is limited. DFID has made a substantial 5-year investment of £25 million in the global 'What Works to Prevent Violence' research and innovation programme in order to build the evidence base.

## 5. Theory of change

DFID has a theory of change for addressing VAWG,<sup>8</sup> which was developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and published in June 2012 (see Annex 3). It includes a problem statement, barriers to progress, and desired outputs, outcomes and impacts. DFID's goal is that "Women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence and from the threat of such violence." It proposes four main types of intervention to address VAWG:

- Building political will and legal and institutional capacity: predicated on the principle that the state holds primary responsibility for action on VAWG. Interventions include strengthening government policy and legislation.
- Changing social norms, including behaviours and practices: challenging discriminatory gender norms and unequal power relations between women and men which lie at the root of violence.
- Supporting women and girls empowerment: promoting women's political agency by supporting them to organise and mobilise against VAWG.
- Strengthening and expanding services including the availability and accessibility of health, education and social services for VAWG prevention and response.

The fourth area of service provision was partially covered under the 2015 ICAI Security and Justice review. This review will therefore focus more on the first three elements.<sup>9</sup>

The review will explore strengths and weaknesses in DFID's overall theory of change, drawing on the literature review and interaction with stakeholders. We will also assess whether the theory accurately reflects the reality of DFID programming across the portfolio, and whether it is a helpful tool for programme development.

"Work with men and boys" is included as an element under interventions to change social norms. The international emphasis on work with men and boys has increased significantly over the past five years. This is in part a recognition that most political, religious and community leaders whose attitudes and actions need to change, are men.

The "empowerment of women and girls" pillar within the theory of change includes women's rights, economic empowerment, education and political leadership. We will examine how this potential connection between VAWG and broader empowerment informs cross-programming working as part of our country case studies.

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<sup>7</sup> [Violence Against Women and Girls: Map of DFID programmes](#), Oxford Policy Management, October 2014.

<sup>8</sup> DFID How To Note, CHASE Guidance note 1, "[A theory of change for tackling VAWG](#)", June 2012.

<sup>9</sup> We note, however, that many of the programmes reviewed will include service provision in other sectors, including health and protection.

## 6. Existing evidence

What constitutes evidence in the area of violence against women and girls is still being debated. The DFID-funded programme “What works to prevent VAWG” has produced four evidence review papers<sup>10</sup> which conclude that the gaps in the existing evidence of what works include:

- Tackling sexual violence;
- Men’s perpetration of violence, including pathways to abuse;
- Incidence and types of VAWG in fragile contexts;
- Effective protection, including at the community level;
- Risk factors, including by age group;
- The nature of the links between child abuse and subsequent VAWG.

Our literature review will draw on existing syntheses to produce a concise summary of evidence about what works in VAWG programming. It will assess the extent to which the literature supports the key assumptions underpinning DFID’s Theory of Change, and identify areas where evidence for violence prevention interventions is strong, where it is most contested and where it is weakest.

The 2013 IDC report also provides a range of useful data on DFID’s portfolio. By agreement with IDC, this review will follow-up on DFID’s response to the IDC’s recommendations.

There is a detailed portfolio mapping of DFID programmes up to July 2014<sup>11</sup> on which we can build during the study. A range of programme documents are publically available, including business cases and annual reviews. DFID informs us that approximately 40 of the programmes have ongoing or planned independent reviews or evaluations, but only a small number have been completed. These have been requested and will be analysed as part of the literature review. DFID has recently commissioned Itad to undertake a macro evaluation of its Strategic Vision for Girls and Women.<sup>12</sup> As far as possible we will draw upon this to inform our own review. We would expect to find studies and analytical work that have been used to inform the design of individual programmes. We will use this to test the strength of evidence behind DFID’s programming choices and the extent to which programming models have been adapted to fit the country contexts.

## 7. Review criteria and questions

The review is built around the OECD DAC Evaluation criteria of relevance and effectiveness. It will consider the following overall questions and sub-questions.

1. **Relevance:** to what extent is DFID’s VAWG portfolio relevant, coherent and plausible?
  - How relevant is DFID’s VAWG programming to the needs and preferences of survivors and intended beneficiaries?
  - How plausible are DFID’s theories of change for their respective objectives and contexts?
  - To what extent is DFID’s programming designed at a scale and intensity likely to achieve sustainable impact and deliver value for money?
2. **Effectiveness (use of evidence and learning):** how effectively is DFID harnessing and applying learning in the development and scale up of VAWG interventions?
  - How effectively do VAWG programmes make use of available empirical evidence and contextual analysis?
  - How effectively is DFID identifying and addressing gaps in the evidence?

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<sup>10</sup> [A global programme to prevent violence against women and girls: A summary of the evidence](#), What Works to Prevent Violence, undated.

<sup>11</sup> [Violence Against Women and Girls: Map of DFID programmes, 2014](#), Oxford Policy Management, October 2014.

<sup>12</sup> [Strategic Vision Policy Review](#), 2015

- How effective is DFID’s approach to piloting, replication and scale up?
3. **Effectiveness (influence):** how effectively has DFID influenced wider efforts to tackle VAWG at international and national levels?
- How effective has DFID been at securing and following up on international commitments on VAWG?
  - How effectively has DFID coordinated with other UK government departments in tackling VAWG at an international level?
  - How effectively is DFID linking up and aligning its VAWG programmes with its international influencing activities?

A detailed review framework is attached as Annex 1, cross-referencing the evaluation criteria and review questions to the different components of the review methodology.

## 8. ICAI themes and core issues

ICAI’s reviews fall within a framework consisting of four strategic themes<sup>13</sup> that reflect UK aid’s challenges and priorities. This review relates primarily to ICAI’s ‘Transparency, Accountability, and Empowerment’ theme through its focus on women’s empowerment. The review also ties in to the ‘Leaving No One Behind’ theme through its focus on vulnerability, equity, youth and inclusion.

In terms of ICAI’s core issues<sup>14</sup>, the review addresses gender and equality, looking closely at a key aspect of DFID’s programming for women. It also looks at the quality of its processes for engaging with women and men in programme design and delivery. It links closely to coherence and partnerships, with components to address DFID’s collaboration with other UK Government departments, its international partnerships and its ability to wield influence on the international stage. There is a strong focus on research, evidence and learning, and exploring DFID’s processes for generating and using evidence in a new area of programming.

All ICAI reviews have an overarching interest in value for money. For the purposes of this learning review, we will examine how DFID is building its approach to value for money as its portfolio grows.

Evidence: in 2014 the *What Works* programme produced a summary of evidence based on the costs and cost-effectiveness of VAWG interventions, concluding that it was limited.<sup>15</sup> Recognising this, we will consider how DFID is investing in data to inform value for money analysis, both ex ante and ex post. We will review the value for money methodology proposed under *What Works* and assess the extent to which it is used by DFID.

Application: we will assess the extent to which DFID draws upon this evidence of value for money in its decision-making on programme design and delivery channels. In particular, we look closely at the processes by which value for money is taken into account in the replication and scale up of programming.

Strategic approach: as an emerging portfolio which covers a wide range of activities, we are not seeking to assess the cost effectiveness of each programme. Instead we will make a judgement about DFID’s overall strategic approach to value for money in its VAWG portfolio. Where the evidence permits, we will assess the extent to which DFID draws upon its learning of value for money to inform investment decisions made at portfolio level, probing the impacts DFID expects to achieve compared with the level of resourcing.

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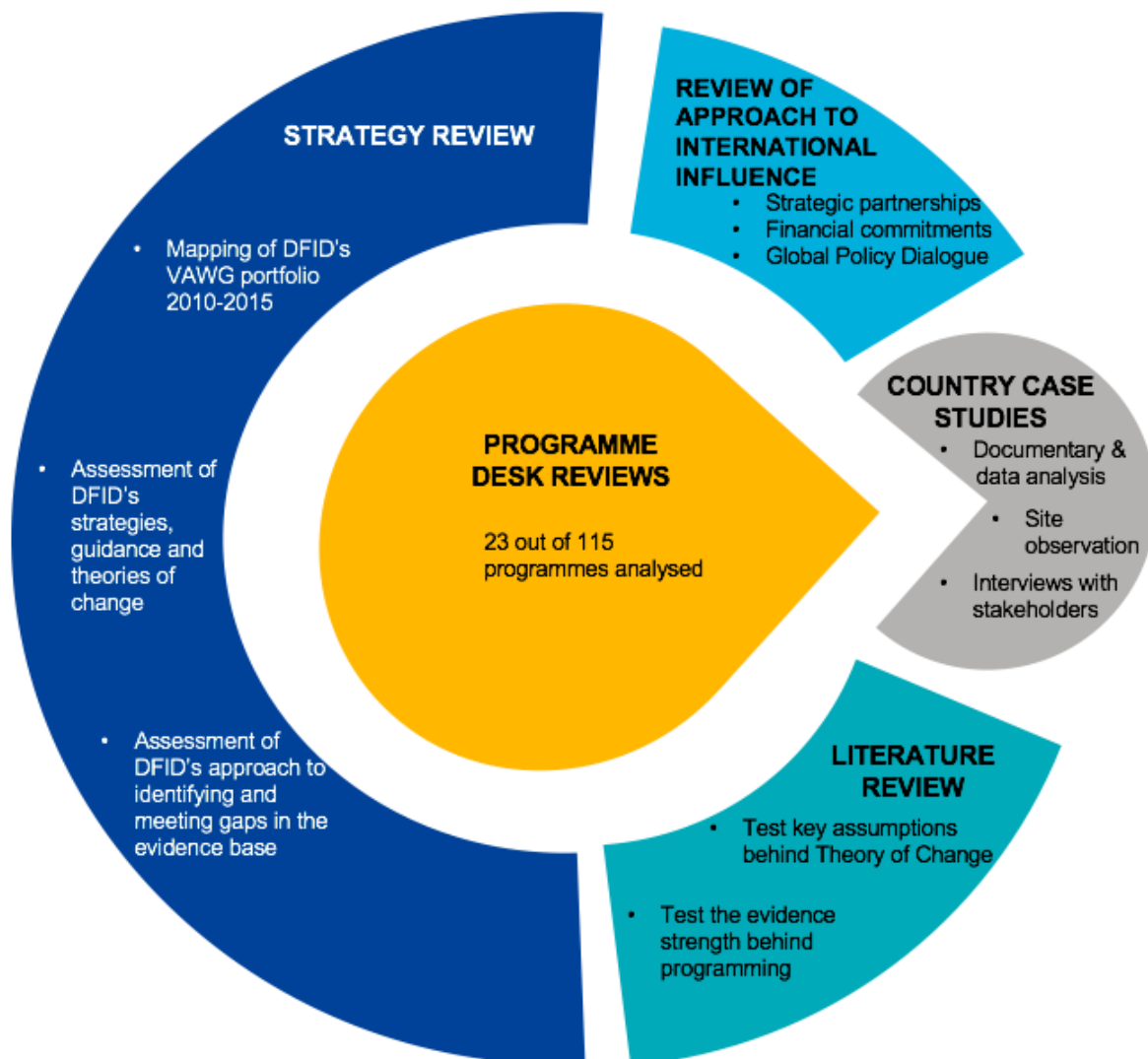
<sup>13</sup> ICAI’s [four themes](#) are: 1) Transparency, Accountability, and Empowerment, 2) Crises, Resilience and Stability, 3) Leaving No One Behind and, 4) Beyond Aid.

<sup>14</sup> <http://icai.independent.gov.uk/2015/07/23/consultation-on-icai-work-plan/>

<sup>15</sup> [A global programme to prevent violence against women and girls: A summary of the evidence](#), What Works to Prevent Violence, undated.

## 9. Methodology

Fig 1. Summary of methodology components



As a thematic review of a substantial portfolio of programmes, the methodology has components at three levels:

- i) A strategic review looking at DFID's efforts to build an evidence base on what works, translate it into strategies and guidance and build a credible portfolio of programmes.
- ii) A desk review of a sample of programmes, to identify patterns and variations in DFID's programming choices, to look at the generation and use of evidence and to assess the quality of programme designs.
- iii) Detailed case studies of programming in one or two countries, in order to explore how relevant they are to the national context, how well they interact with national stakeholders and beneficiary communities and how they link up with DFID programming in related areas, such health, education and livelihoods.

As a learning review, the methodology focuses on the early stages of the results chain, particularly the relevance and quality of programme designs. We will not look systematically at impact, although we will capture any evidence on emerging results from DFID's own reporting. The methodology will consider the scale and intensity of DFID programming, including how it makes choices and justifies moving from piloting new initiatives to programming at scale. The review of DFID's international influence is a discrete component, requiring a separate methodology.

The methodology will have five components.



**i) Literature review.** We will conduct a brief review of the literature on development programming on VAWG. The literature review will draw on existing syntheses, including DFID's *What Works* initiative.<sup>16</sup> It will provide a concise summary of key issues and conclusions emerging from both academic and grey literature, concluding where appropriate on the state of knowledge and the quality of evidence underlying the main conclusions (including the transferability of evidence from OECD countries to developing countries). The literature review will summarise available evidence from research on:

- The needs of women and girls, including survivors of violence;
- The assumptions and causal links in DFID's Theory of Change;
- Common entry points for VAWG programming;
- Common areas of success and common obstacles in VAWG programming;
- The relevance of the international policy and legal environment to ending VAWG.

The literature review will be limited to research undertaken since 2005, relating to developing country contexts, and published in English. More details on areas to be covered under the literature review are given in Annex 4.

**ii) Strategic review.** We will conduct a strategic review of DFID's spending decisions and programme approaches to VAWG. This will include:

- An updated mapping of the portfolio, to determine the patterns of expenditure and programming and how they have changed since 2010. This will enable us to assess (within certain limits<sup>17</sup>) the level of resources that have been mobilised to meet DFID's VAWG commitment.
- A quality assessment of DFID's VAWG strategies, guidance and overall theory of change. This will determine whether it is internally coherent and reflects the available evidence on what works and the opportunities and risks for VAWG programming identified in the literature review.
- An assessment of DFID's approach to identifying and meeting gaps in the evidence base. This will include reviewing the processes and programmes involved in:
  - i) Collecting and synthesising existing knowledge;
  - ii) DFID-funded research;
  - iii) DFID-funded innovation programmes;
  - iv) Knowledge management on VAWG across DFID country offices;
  - v) Monitoring and evaluation;
  - vi) Capturing lessons from programmes and using them to inform future programming choices;
  - vii) Sharing knowledge and evidence with external partners.
- We will conduct a desk review of DFID's 'What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Research And Innovation Programme', including looking at a sample of its innovation grants and impact evaluations.<sup>18</sup> We will also examine the Global Girls Research Initiative, which contains activities on VAWG.

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<sup>16</sup> [A global programme to prevent violence against women and girls: A summary of the evidence](#), What Works to Prevent Violence, undated.

<sup>17</sup> We will not carry out a detailed mapping of DFID expenditure on VAWG, which has already been done by DFID. While we can track the main trends in expenditure on VAWG programming since 2001, we cannot accurately identify the total expenditure on VAWG, as we have no way of identifying the level of expenditure on VAWG within wider programmes.

<sup>18</sup> DFID informs us that there are 17 innovation grants and impact evaluations in Component 1 of its What Works programme. We propose to conduct desk reviews of approximately three of the grants and two of the impact evaluations. We will make a final selection once we have more information about the programme.

- A review and update of DFID’s responses to the recommendations from the 2013 IDC report. We will assess the adequacy of DFID’s management response. We will interview DFID about what has happened subsequent to each IDC recommendation, collecting documentary evidence and making judgments as to whether the underlying issues have been properly addressed.

The evidence for the strategic review will come from (a) a review of documents and data provided by DFID or obtained from DFID’s systems; and (b) key informant interviews, primarily in the UK but including telephone interviews with people in other countries as required. The key informant interviews will include:

- DFID staff at headquarters and country level;<sup>19</sup>
- UK development NGOs active in the area;<sup>20</sup>
- Academic researchers and other independent experts.

The size and composition of this interview sample will be finalised after initial responses from DFID on their proposals for interviews, and drawing on outputs from the literature review on key informants and researchers.

- iii) Review of DFID’s approach to international influence.** We will assess DFID’s attempts to galvanise action on VAWG at the international level, and thereby influence its partner countries. DFID has not so far attempted to monitor or evaluate its international influence in this area. It recently commissioned a paper that mapped its influencing activities and proposed an overall theory of change and some results indicators.<sup>21</sup>

Without an existing record of influencing activities and results, it will be difficult to make a robust assessment of which international outcomes are attributable to DFID’s efforts.<sup>22</sup> We can, however, identify the causal pathways by which DFID hopes to galvanise international action and examine how far it has progressed in some or all of these pathways. This will enable us to assess whether DFID has a strategic approach to influencing VAWG and the suitability of its own metrics for monitoring and assessing impact.

Drawing on the mapping exercise and draft theory of change, we will assess whether DFID has a coherent influencing strategy. This will include how clearly it has identified its objectives, the parties and behaviours it seeks to change and its influencing pathways. It will also include reviewing the quality of DFID’s collaboration with other UK Government (HMG) departments, in accordance with HMG commitments,<sup>23</sup> looking particularly at the areas of FGM/C and CEFM, where the UK international and domestic policy agendas intersect. We will examine DFID’s effectiveness at achieving the following outputs/outcomes:

- Stronger strategic partnerships (focus: UN Women and/or UNICEF);
- International commitments by partner countries and multilateral organisations and follow-up actions (focus: Girl Summit, July 2014, and the follow-up National Action Plans and the Sustainable Development Goals),<sup>24</sup>

<sup>19</sup> We will explore the possibility of running a discussion session by video-conference with DFID VAWG advisers from country offices. Participation would be voluntary.

<sup>20</sup> We propose holding two consultation sessions with representatives of UK-based NGOs: one in September 2015, to invite their input into the review, and one after the field work phase to test emerging findings. We will identify NGOs active in the VAWG area by sending invitations through the Gender and Development Network.

<sup>21</sup> *Monitoring and Evaluation of DFID’s Violence Against Women and Girls Programmes – Task 2: a new framework and approach for monitoring and evaluating policy-influencing work on VAWG*, Oxford Policy Management, July 2015.

<sup>22</sup> [A guide to monitoring and evaluating policy influence](#), Harry Jones, ODI, February 2011.

<sup>23</sup> The commitments are set out in [A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls: Action Plan 2014](#), HM Government, March 2014.

<sup>24</sup> In the case study countries, we will further examine whether these international commitments have led to action at the national level, such as new laws and policies or commitment of additional budgetary resources.

- Financial commitments from other development partners (focus: financing commitments made at the Girl Summit);
- Increased voice and participation of women’s organisations in the global policy dialogue (focus: feedback from participants at the Girl Summit).

To answer these questions, we will rely on four types of evidence. First, we will trace the processes that led up to and followed the Girl Summit, and identify evidence of follow-up actions. Second, we will collect feedback from DFID’s peer organisations and other participants in the international processes (including HMG departments, development partners, representatives of partner countries, and international organisations) to include both the Girl Summit and SDGs. Third, we will include in our desk review sample a regional programme with explicit influencing goals: Toward Ending FGM/C in Africa and Beyond. We will also identify any VAWG links in the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. Both of these programmes have strong links to the Girl Summit. Fourth, in the case study countries, we will look for evidence from interviews and documentation of DFID’s international activities that have influence at the national level (such as National Action Plans from the Girl Summit).

**iv) Programme desk reviews.** We will carry out desk reviews of 23 DFID VAWG programmes, which represent one third of the programmes of interest to this review, including two global programmes, one regional programme and two Programme Partnership Arrangements (PPAs). The desk reviews will assess how well DFID’s guidance and theory of change have been translated into programme designs. They will examine whether business cases make proper use of the available evidence about the needs of those affected by VAWG and draw on adequate contextual analysis. We will assess their quality of engagement with survivors and other potential beneficiaries in programme design, implementation and monitoring. We will also assess how each programme deals with evidence gaps on beneficiary priorities and effective programme approaches in the country context. This will be achieved through research and piloting, and the strategy for moving from piloting to full-scale programming.

An analytical framework for the desk review will be developed. This will capture standardised information and allow comparable assessments to be made against common assessment criteria for each of the programmes.

The framework will capture the following data:

- i) Types of VAWG intervention;
- ii) The results that the programmes seek to deliver;
- iii) Any programme-specific theory of change;
- iv) Delivery channels;
- v) Monitoring and evaluation arrangements and expenditure;
- vi) Approach to maximising value for money;
- vii) Evidence of course corrections following Annual Reviews;
- viii) Any evidence on results and their sustainability;

The methods we will use while undertaking the desk reviews will include:

- Documentary analysis;
- Key informant interviews (using semi-structured interviews, including set questions where necessary in order to generate comparable data across the desk reviews);

The desk reviews will be based on documentation obtained from DFID<sup>25</sup> and telephone interviews with a small number of key stakeholders.<sup>26</sup> The findings of the desk reviews will then be analysed to map the different ways in which VAWG-related challenges have been addressed, and to identify recurrent patterns in programme design.

- iv) Case studies.** The case studies provide a means of reviewing DFID's approaches to ending VAWG across an entire country portfolio. We will test how DFID has drawn on its Theory of Change, research evidence and beneficiary feedback to design and scale up VAWG programmes. We will review the rationale and processes for decision making in programmes where it has been decided not to include a VAWG element. We will compare practice in each country with DFID's own policy guidance. The case studies are not intended to generate new or representative data, rather to provide insights, illustrations and explanations that complement the broader analysis.

We will carry out detailed case studies of DFID VAWG programming in two countries, Ethiopia and India, involving visits by the review team to both countries. Case studies will gather evidence against a case study analytical framework, a modified version of the overall review framework, covering the relevance and effectiveness of VAWG programming.

The case study framework will include:

- i) Types of intervention;
- ii) The objectives and types of impact that the programmes seek to deliver across the range of different types of VAWG;
- iii) Delivery channels;
- iv) The theory of change and how this is linked to the overall theory of change;
- v) Monitoring and evaluation arrangements and their link to learning and knowledge management at the portfolio level;
- vi) Approach to maximising value for money;
- vii) Evidence of feedback and course corrections following Annual Reviews;
- viii) The relationships between VAWG interventions and other programming, such as in health, education or WASH;
- ix) Whether DFID has collected inputs and feedback from survivors of violence and other beneficiaries;
- x) Whether programme designs are making progress on delivering the results expected at this stage of their implementation (activities, outputs and outcomes);
- xi) Whether any piloting components are well designed in terms of quality and intensity of monitoring and review mechanisms, and linked to processes for learning, replication and/or scale up;
- xii) Whether external counterparts (e.g. Government and key local stakeholders) view DFID's approach as relevant and plausible;
- xiii) Whether programmes link up with DFID's international influencing activities.

The final case study approach, including the analytical framework, will be completed 3 weeks prior to the country visits taking place.

The methods used will include:

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<sup>25</sup> Including Business Cases, studies commissioned to inform programme design, baseline data, monitoring and evaluation strategies, annual reviews and any external evaluations.

<sup>26</sup> Including, as appropriate, the responsible DFID adviser and/or programme manager, the leader of the design team, the responsible manager of the implementing agency and officials from counterpart agencies.

- a) **Documentary and data analysis**, including gathering information from DFID’s country programme and project management documents, from counterparts (e.g. government and other local actors) and third parties (e.g. local academics).
- b) **Semi structured interviews with key stakeholders**, including DFID, implementing partners, officials from counterpart institutions, other development partners and third parties such as civil society representatives. These will take place in DFID, counterpart HQs and to a limited extent at project implementation sites. We will interview implementing partners, local officials and community members, using semi-structured interviews. A local consultant will be engaged in each case study country to assist with providing access to local networks and knowledge.

We made a purposive choice of country case studies based primarily on the intensity and variety of VAWG programming. India and Ethiopia emerged as the top two candidates. India has some of the most substantial and mature of DFID’s VAWG programmes, including VAWG components with large multi-sectoral programmes in health, education and infrastructure<sup>27</sup>. Ethiopia has substantial interventions which seek to address social norms around child marriage and FGM/C alongside a major programme promoting traditional justice solutions and community dialogues on VAWG. While this programme is under suspension, the design and early experience is of particular interest to the review. In addition, Ethiopia has a significant follow up national plan linked to the Girl Summit and held a national Girl Summit in June 2015.

Annex 1 sets out the review framework, showing how these methodological elements relate to the review questions.

## 10. Sampling strategy

There are three levels of sampling required for this review:

(i) A sample of programmes for desk review; (ii) a selection of DFID country programmes for case studies, and (iii) the choice of project sites to visit in each case study country. The sampling process for the first two levels is briefly described here, with further details in Annex 2. The third level will be decided prior to the country visits, when more detail has been obtained on the programmes being reviewed.

In choosing our sample, we used DFID’s 2014 mapping study, which identified 109 programmes with a VAWG element. This was brought up to date based on new information from DFID, yielding 115 programmes. From this, we eliminated programmes that were purely humanitarian in nature (which fall outside the scope of this review), where the VAWG element was too minor or limited to warrant individual review<sup>28</sup> or where it had already been visited by ICAI. This yielded a sampling frame of 68 programmes, including five run by DFID centrally, seven Programme Partnership Arrangements (PPAs),<sup>29</sup> eight regional programmes and 48 bilateral country programmes.

We have chosen to conduct desk reviews of 23 of these programmes, representing one-third of the total. We have included five central and regional programmes, as follows:

- Two global programmes focused on research and innovation;
- One regional programme linked to DFID’s campaigning around Girl Summit;
- Two PPAs with strong but contrasting VAWG approaches.

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<sup>27</sup> Although India is no longer a DFID priority country it provides a good opportunity to capture learning from the India experience where significant investment in VAWG has taken place to inform DFID’s overall portfolio.

<sup>28</sup> This included programmes where financial expenditure on VAWG was very low or the VAWG activities were peripheral to the main elements of the programme (e.g. one training course or a one-off study).

<sup>29</sup> PPAs provide core funding to UK or international NGOs at the headquarters level: see [DFID’s Support for Civil Society Organisations through Programme Partnership Arrangements](#), ICAI, May 2013.

Of the 48 bilateral programmes, we used a form of intensity sampling<sup>30</sup> to identify those most likely to generate useful lessons for this learning review. We identified 27 ‘high interest’ programmes, representing those that involved sustained, intensive or innovative interventions in one or more of the three pillars of DFID’s theory of change that are of most interest to this review. From those 27 programmes, we chose one from each of the 11 countries in which they occur (where there was more than one, we made a random choice).

Finally, to balance any bias introduced by the purposive sample, we added a further seven programmes chosen at random from the 20 that were not identified as high-interest. The resulting sample of 23 (see Annex 2) represents a good spread of intervention types, countries and delivery channels, enabling us to assess the variety within DFID’s VAWG portfolio.

For the case studies, we have chosen to do two country visits, looking at the full range of VAWG programming in each country, including by central and regional programmes. In selecting countries, we focused on those that displayed the greatest variety and intensity of VAWG-related activities. We selected the following criterion:

- The countries should have at least one high-interest programme;

These 11 countries were then ranked through a scoring system, to generate a short-list of five countries (Ethiopia, India, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia).

## 11. Limitations to the methodology

As a learning review, this methodology is only designed to probe the early stages of the results chain. VAWG remains a relatively new area of programming for DFID. Few programmes have reached maturity or completion, or generated impact data. The methodology will not attempt to generate new data on impact and sustainability, although it will capture any evidence about emerging results from DFID’s own reporting, and how well these link with on-going learning to deliver on impact and sustainability upstream.

While we will carry out a mapping of the main patterns in DFID’s expenditure and programming on VAWG, we will not repeat the detailed mapping work that has already been carried out on behalf of DFID. While we can track the main trends in expenditure on VAWG programming since 2011, we cannot accurately identify the total expenditure on VAWG, as we have no way of quantifying VAWG expenditure within wider programmes.

The methodology is based upon a purposive sample, though this can generate some risk of bias through researcher preferences. In this case, the bias may be towards the positive – that is, the sample favours more substantial VAWG interventions and is likely to represent DFID’s VAWG programming at its best. In a learning review, this is not a significant problem, as we are capturing learning across the portfolio, rather than assessing its average performance. We are mindful that substantial learning can come from programme failures, as well as successes. However, we have verified that the sample includes programmes rated ‘B’ or below in the latest DFID annual review. Nonetheless, to balance the risk of bias in the sample, we elected to include a random component, to provide greater breadth.

We will conduct desk reviews of approximately a third of DFID’s most substantial VAWG programmes. This should be sufficient to identify recurrent patterns and most of the variation within DFID’s portfolio. However, it is not suitable for making definitive judgements about the performance of the portfolio as a whole.

The two cases studies will provide an opportunity to explore certain programmes in detail, capturing lessons from those contexts. It will also enable us to test areas of enquiry formulated during the desk reviews. The findings from the case studies will only be illustrative of the

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<sup>30</sup> Intensity sampling is a non-probabilistic sampling method that involves the purposive selection of information-rich cases that intensely manifest the phenomenon of interest to the study. See Patton, M., *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods* (Sage Publications, 1990), pp. 171-172.

programmes we include and cannot be directly generalised to the suite of programmes within the country or the VAWG portfolio as a whole.

## 12. Ethical considerations

ICAI reviews are undertaken with integrity and transparency. When commissioning and conducting reviews we are guided by ethical guidelines and code of conduct of professional bodies such as OECD DAC<sup>31</sup>. There are significant ethical and cultural issues concerning disclosure of violence and abuse during interviews with survivors and potential beneficiaries. We will ensure that cultural sensitivities will be respected throughout our review. We will engage an experienced national consultant from each of the two case study countries to advise us in this respect. We will undertake all interviews on the basis of informed consent and the results opinions and information will be anonymous, unless the explicit consent of the individual in question is obtained. We will focus our field level consultations on local civil society organisations and key informants who work directly with women and survivors.

The perspective of women and survivors will be collected indirectly, through key stakeholder interviews and by drawing on secondary sources (academic studies and reports by NGOs and other development partners). We expect that these will provide us with sufficient and appropriate evidence from the intended beneficiaries of the DFID programmes. They will also substantially inform our findings and enable their voice to come through the review.

## 13. Quality assurance and peer review

This review will be carried out under the guidance of ICAI Lead Commissioner, Tina Fahm. Francesca Del Mese is Peer Commissioner. The quality of the review will be assessed by the Review Oversight Unit of ICAI's Secretariat, using OECD DAC evaluation standards.

This review will be externally peer reviewed at three points: an initial assessment of this paper (the comments from which have been incorporated in this final version); emerging findings; and draft report. The peer reviewer is Professor Liz Kelly from London Metropolitan University. Professor Kelly is both a VAWG sector/thematic expert and a highly experienced researcher. She is Professor of Sexualised Violence and Director of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit. She has been active in the field of violence against women and children for almost 30 years. She is the author of *Surviving Sexual Violence* (Polity Press, 1988) and over 70 book chapters and journal articles.

## 14. Risk management

The main risks to the successful delivery of the review and how they will be mitigated and managed are summarised in the table below.

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<sup>31</sup> OECD DAC, Quality Standards for Development Evaluation 2010

Risk	Mitigation and management actions
The review fails to generate novel findings and insight, given the number of existing studies or lack of evidence in this area	The review methodology collects findings and research evidence from existing literature and applies them to DFID's VAWG portfolio in novel ways to generate fresh insights. We are not aware of any existing study that combines review of central and country-office processes in the development of a new portfolio. Various elements of the review, including assessments of DFID's international influence, its knowledge generation and its approach to piloting and scaling up, are not covered in the existing literature. It is expected that data gaps will limit our ability to draw conclusions in some areas, but will also provide recommendations for further work and research.
Compressed timescales and delayed processes	The report is scheduled to be delivered according to a timetable that allows for only short windows of time for key processes, such as country visits. Delays in any single component are likely to have knock-on effects throughout the review process. We will therefore introduce tight planning of the processes, with clear assignment of responsibilities within the review team, oversight by both the Service Provider and Review Oversight Unit, and clear and effective communications with the Lead Commissioner. In the event that any delay or slippage occurs, we will immediately consult with ICAI on the steps required to put it back on track.
Methodology is not considered robust by external stakeholders	In addition to being peer reviewed, the methodology should be clearly communicated to DFID and other stakeholders. The emphasis will be on the kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from this methodology, with its limitations clearly acknowledged. We will make sure that the methodology is fully transparent in the final report, so that readers can make their own assessments about the strength of evidence of all types behind the conclusions.
Risks to country visits due to war, terrorism or natural disaster	While we are not planning to visit any high-risk countries for this review, there is always a possibility that events will force a cancellation of a planned country visit at short notice. We suggest that a third country is identified as a back-up and that the DFID country office is notified. It may then prove possible to switch country visits at relatively short notice. In the event that this is not possible, the review methodology is still capable of generating robust and interesting findings with only a single case study.
Personal risks to team members, ICAI staff and Commissioners	The level of risk depends upon the countries selected. The short-listed countries are all low risk. Nonetheless, prior to the country visit, the Programme Director of the Security Provider will carry out a risk assessment and provide advice and guidance to the team about where to travel and by what means. If Commissioners or Secretariat staff are involved in the visits, logistical support and risk management for the visit will be shared between the Service Provider and DFID.

## 15. Timeline and deliverables

The timings of the main phase and deliverables is summarised as follows:

Phase	Timing and deliverables
<b>Inception</b>	August – September 2015 Approach Paper: September 2015
<b>Data collection and field work</b> Country visit 1 Country visit 2	September – November 2015 October 2015 November 2015 Evidence Pack: January 2016 Emerging Findings presentation: January 2016
<b>Reporting</b>	Final report: Spring 2016



## Annexes

### Annex 1: Review framework

Evaluation criteria, question/sub-question	Evidence required	Applicable component and activities	Analytical approach
<b>Relevance</b>			
<b>To what extent is DFID's VAWG portfolio relevant, coherent and plausible?</b>			
How relevant is DFID's VAWG programming to the needs and preferences of survivors and intended beneficiaries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An understanding of the needs and preferences of survivors and intended beneficiaries</li> <li>▪ Extent to which programmes are matched to these needs</li> <li>▪ Feedback from beneficiaries as to the appropriateness of the programmes</li> </ul>	<p><u>Literature review</u> to assess evidence of beneficiary needs and potential entry points for addressing them.</p> <p><u>Strategic review</u> to assess the quality of DFID's strategies and guidance, by reference to the findings of the literature review.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to assess and review the quality of beneficiary consultation and engagement and the coherence of programme designs.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> to triangulate evidence from stakeholders working with beneficiary groups in relation to specific programmes. Case studies will also determine how involved they were in identifying their own needs and objectives, how engaged they have been in programme design, delivery and oversight, and how appropriate the programmes are to their needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clean and update DFID/OPM data.</li> <li>▪ Categorise programmes by maturity, expenditure, intervention type, delivery channel, research component, innovation, relevance to review themes.</li> <li>▪ Synthesise evidence from literature.</li> <li>▪ Categorise entry points and intervention types and use to tabulate findings from desk reviews.</li> </ul>
How plausible are DFID's theories of change for their respective objectives and contexts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent to which ToCs reflect current research learning, and evidence of impact</li> <li>▪ How well DFID's overall ToC is translated into ToCs for individual programmes</li> <li>▪ Are programme ToCs based on good analysis in the national context (politics; institutions; stakeholders; cultural factors; nature and extent of VAWG)? Are they adapted to fit that</li> </ul>	<p><u>Literature review</u> of the wider research evidence underlying the various causal links in the DFID theory of change, and on the range of possible entry points for VAWG programming.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to identify patterns in programme ToCs and designs, to assess their use of empirical evidence and contextual analysis and map their relationship to the overall ToC.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> of programmes in particular countries to assess the quality of DFID's contextual analysis and the extent to which ToCs are adapted to reflect that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Synthesis of research evidence from literature against chief causal links.</li> <li>▪ Categorise desk review and case study programmes by ToC elements and design features.</li> <li>▪ Extract key features of contextual analysis.</li> </ul>

Evaluation criteria, question/sub-question	Evidence required	Applicable component and activities	Analytical approach
	context?	analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trace logic from analysis to programme design.</li> </ul>
To what extent is DFID's programming designed at the scale and intensity that is commensurate with its objectives? How likely is it to achieve projected sustainable impact and deliver value for money?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whether programme objectives aim for substantial, lasting social impact.</li> <li>▪ DFID's criteria for achieving sustainable impact in individual context.</li> <li>▪ How far DFID takes into account VfM in choosing programme designs and delivery channels.</li> <li>▪ For community-facing programmes, whether the programming at each locality is intensive and sustained enough to achieve lasting impact (focus vs. geographical spread in the funding strategy).</li> <li>▪ Any evidence of emerging impact (it will be too early for this for most programmes).</li> </ul>	<p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to map programme objectives and assess whether resources and programming strategies match those objectives. If possible, to identify rationale for focus/spread. Collection of any available results data suggesting prospects for sustainable impact.</p> <p><u>Strategic review</u> to map the evidence basis of decisions about scaling up and changing patterns in programming. Review of the scale and intensity of programming and the extent to which decisions have incorporated VfM concerns.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> to review contextual analysis and programme design to assess whether local barriers to sustainability have been addressed. Feedback from stakeholders and stakeholders working with beneficiaries on prospects for sustainable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Categorise and tabulate programme objectives.</li> <li>▪ Map objectives against expenditure, length of programming.</li> </ul>
<b>Effectiveness</b>			
<b>How effectively is DFID harnessing and applying learning in the development and scale up of VAWG interventions?</b>			
How effectively do VAWG programmes make use of available empirical evidence and contextual analysis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent to which guidance on VAWG programming reflects available research evidence including programme evaluations.</li> <li>▪ Quality, completeness and timeliness of country-level contextual analysis.</li> <li>▪ The adequacy of supporting empirical evidence in business cases.</li> <li>▪ The extent to which programme designs reflect the contextual analysis and research evidence.</li> <li>▪ Other information that was potentially</li> </ul>	<p><u>Strategic review</u> to assess the quality of DFID strategies and guidance against the evidence available from the literature.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to assess the use made of empirical evidence and contextual analysis in programme design.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> of programmes in particular countries to triangulate the extent to which programmes have drawn on evidence, including that of beneficiary priorities and contextual analysis. Stakeholder consultations used to triangulate the main findings of DFID's contextual analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Qualitative assessment of guidance against findings from literature review.</li> <li>▪ Qualitative assessment of use of evidence and contextual analysis in programme design.</li> </ul>

Evaluation criteria, question/sub-question	Evidence required	Applicable component and activities	Analytical approach
	available but not used.		
How effectively is DFID identifying and addressing gaps in the evidence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent to which existing research and beneficiary feedback evidence has been collected and synthesised and gaps identified.</li> <li>▪ Extent and quality of monitoring and evaluation approaches.</li> <li>▪ Quality of investment in new research.</li> <li>▪ Suitability of funding of innovative pilots with robust evaluation arrangements.</li> <li>▪ Mechanisms for capturing lessons from pilots and programmes and making them available across the portfolio.</li> <li>▪ Quality of knowledge management processes (e.g., communities of practice; technical support).</li> <li>▪ Sharing of knowledge with partners in the UK and abroad.</li> <li>▪ What evidence gaps of all types have not been identified or addressed?</li> </ul>	<p><u>Literature review</u> to check the quality of DFID's synthesis work and verifying conclusions about evidence gaps in research.</p> <p><u>Strategic review</u> to map DFID's processes to identify and fill evidence gaps, including the level and quality of investment in research, piloting and evaluation. It reviews knowledge management practices across the portfolio, to assess how well new knowledge is identified and shared.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to include two centrally managed programmes with a knowledge generation component: 'What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Research And Innovation Programme' and VAWG-related elements of the 'Global Girls Research Initiative'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collate feedback from stakeholders and participants.</li> <li>▪ Synthesise examples of piloting strategies emerging from the desk reviews and case studies.</li> <li>▪ Map research activities against knowledge gaps identified in DFID's syntheses.</li> <li>▪ Identify level of investment in knowledge generation.</li> <li>▪ Qualitative assessment of knowledge management practices.</li> </ul>
How effective is DFID's approach to piloting, replication and scale up?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How DFID proposes to scale up successful piloting, including using successful pilots to leverage funding from others.</li> <li>▪ DFID's choices and approach to scaling up community-facing programmes (intensity vs. geographical coverage).</li> <li>▪ Extent and quality of information generated on VfM and how this is taken into account.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Strategic review</u> to map programming and expenditure patterns and gauge extent to which DFID has explicit processes for scaling up. Review of VfM methodology proposed under the What Works programme and the extent to which it has been implemented.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to identify and review cases where scale up has taken place and the quality of the evidence of potential impact and cost effectiveness on which this was based.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> of programmes to examine plans for and experience with scale up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Categorisation and qualitative analysis of scaling up strategies.</li> <li>▪ Analysis of activities, expenditure and length of engagement per locality (for community-facing programmes).</li> </ul>

Evaluation criteria, question/sub-question	Evidence required	Applicable component and activities	Analytical approach
<b>How effectively has DFID influenced wider efforts to tackle VAWG at the international and national levels?</b>			
How effective has DFID been at securing and following up on international commitments on VAWG?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Processes leading up to Girl Summit, development of SDGs and other international influencing work.</li> <li>▪ Agreements reached and commitments made at Summit including quality and relevance of those commitments.</li> <li>▪ Existence of tracking mechanism for following up on commitments.</li> <li>▪ Extent to which partner countries and development partners have followed through on their commitments.</li> <li>▪ Extent to which DFID programmes align with and follow up on commitments.</li> <li>▪ Improvements in DFID's international partnerships (especially UN Women).</li> <li>▪ Whether women's organisations perceive that DFID has helped them to have increased voice and participation in the global policy dialogue.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Literature review</u> to consider influence of global normative environment on national action, and identify the pertinent international agreements and commitments.</p> <p><u>Review of international influence</u> to trace processes leading to and following Girl Summit, compile commitments made and find documentary evidence on extent of follow-up. Collect feedback from participants and partner organisations.</p> <p><u>Programme desk reviews</u> to examine two global programmes with influencing goals: Toward Ending FGM/C in Africa and Beyond; and Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. Review of documents and stakeholder consultations to assess the quality of influencing strategies and achievements to date.</p> <p><u>Case studies</u> to examine alignment between global processes (especially Girl Summit) and DFID programmes. Collect feedback from national stakeholders about whether international commitments galvanise national action or assist national advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare analytical narrative of key influencing processes.</li> <li>▪ Collate and synthesise feedback from participants and stakeholders.</li> <li>▪ Identify claimed influencing results from DFID and verify against supporting documentation and stakeholder accounts.</li> </ul>
How effectively has DFID coordinated with other UK government departments in tackling VAWG at the international level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nature and extent of other UK Government departments' involvement in tackling VAWG at the international level.</li> <li>▪ Extent of DFID participation in, leadership of and co-ordination with these efforts.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Review of international influence</u> to assess quality of DFID's interaction with other departments, including around the organisation of Girl Summit. Review cross-HMG processes for tackling FGM/C and ECFM internationally. Collection of feedback from other departments and external stakeholders, including UK NGOs active in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Obtain DFID self-assessment.</li> <li>▪ Synthesise feedback from other government departments and independent observers.</li> <li>▪ Analytical narrative of key processes around Girl Summit.</li> </ul>
How effectively is DFID linking up and aligning its VAWG programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent to which objectives in programmes are aligned to and supportive of international agreements</li> </ul>	<p><u>Strategic review</u> to assess DFID guidance on linking up the national and international levels. Review of guidance on mainstreaming VAWG objectives in sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analytical narratives from case studies.</li> </ul>

Evaluation criteria, question/sub-question	Evidence required	Applicable component and activities	Analytical approach
with its international influencing activities?	<p>and national commitments (such as Action Plans).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent to which VAWG objectives are mainstreamed across country programmes.</li> <li>▪ Extent to which VAWG objectives are reflected in and reinforced by other sector programmes, such as health, education or livelihoods.</li> <li>▪ Reasons for other programmes not including VAWG objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>programming and extent to which this has happened. <u>Programme desk reviews</u> to assess the links between higher level objectives of programmes, national priorities and international commitments. <u>Case studies</u> to review alignment between international processes, national commitments and DFID programmes. Collection of stakeholder feedback on the significance of international processes in shaping national action. Assessment of integration of VAWG within the country programme and points of coordination with sector programmes (including opportunities missed).</p>	

## Annex 2. Sampling strategy

DFID's VAWG programming encompasses programmes dedicated to VAWG, those covering other themes with a substantial VAWG component and those that have a minor VAWG element. We are interested in the first two categories, where there has been a substantial effort to design and implement one or more interventions to address VAWG.

We have the benefit of DFID's 2014 mapping report. This provides an initial list of 108 programmes with some VAWG element. DFID has provided us with a more up-to-date list of 115 programmes, which includes a number of new or additional programmes. There were some difficulties involved in reconciling the two lists, but they relate to humanitarian programmes in Syria that are outside the scope of the review.

Of the 115 programmes, we identified 68 as potentially useful for desk review or inclusion in a case study. The other 47 programmes were excluded for one or more of the following reasons:

- They were purely about VAWG in humanitarian emergencies, which is outside the scope of this review.
- The VAWG element was too minor or narrow in scope to warrant individual review (for example a one-off study).
- The programmes are still under design or have been terminated.
- The programmes have already been reviewed and visited by ICAI.

Of these 27 were identified as being of particular interest for the review, because they involved sustained, intensive or innovative efforts to implement one or more areas of DFID's theory of change. The identification was based on programme descriptions in the DFID mapping, supplemented as required by information from business cases and annual reviews found via DFID's [Development Tracker](#) web portal.

This yielded the following sampling frame:

Country/region	Total programmes	Of which, high-interest programmes
Global	5	2
PPAs	7	4
Africa regional	2	1
Asia regional	6	0
Afghanistan	2	2
Bangladesh	1	0
DRC	4	0
Ethiopia	3	3
Ghana	1	0
India	5	4
Jamaica	2	0
Kenya	3	1
Malawi	1	0
Nepal	2	0
Nigeria	2	1
Palestine (OPT)	1	0
Pakistan	2	1
Rwanda	2	2
Sierra Leone	1	0
Somalia	3	1
South Africa	1	1

South Sudan	1	0
Sudan	1	1
Tanzania	2	0
Uganda	2	0
Zambia	3	3
Zimbabwe	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>27</b>

The sample covers a wide range of programme sizes, intervention types and delivery channels (including multilateral partners, contractors and NGOs). Within the sample are 20 programmes that DFID has identified as involving a research element and 18 programmes with an element of innovation.

The 2014 mapping classified the interventions according to the four intervention types in DFID's theory of change: (i) empowering women and girls; (ii) changing social norms; (iii) service provision; and (iv) building political will and institutional capacity (research is classified under the fourth category).

All four intervention types appear frequently in the population, each appearing in more than half of all programmes. The majority of the programmes (36 out of 68) encompass three or four intervention types.

<b>Intervention type</b>	<b>No. of programmes</b>
<b><i>Frequency of occurrence</i></b>	
Empowerment	35
Social norms	38
Service provision	41
Political will and capacity	46
<b><i>Programmes with multiple intervention types</i></b>	
All four types	16
Three types	20
Two types	11
One type	14
Unclassified	5

We considered a number of alternative possible selection criteria, but rejected them for the following reasons:

- **Size of budget:** we have little information about the spending on VAWG within wider programmes, making this criterion difficult to apply. In any case, there is no reason to assume that better learning can be derived from larger programmes.
- **VAWG-focused vs. VAWG-related programmes:** as VAWG components within large sectoral programmes can often be much larger than the entire budgets of VAWG-focused programmes, this proved not to be a helpful criterion.
- **Delivery channel:** a significant number of programmes have mixed modalities (8), and others appear to involve on-granting from one type of organisation to another, making it infeasible to stratify by delivery channel.

- **Maturity of programming:** as we are looking primarily at programme designs and are interested in tracing changes in DFID's approach over time, we saw no reason to exclude recent programmes, provided that the design process was complete.

## Programme sampling frame

- Purposive sample ● Random sample ● Case studies

No.	Programme name	Country/region
1	Strengthening Civil Society in Afghanistan (Tawanmandi)	Afghanistan
2	Strengthening Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence	Afghanistan
3	Toward Ending FGM/C in Africa and Beyond	Africa regional
4	DFID Support for Red Nose Day	Africa regional
5	Study on Sex Selection in Asia	Asia regional
6	Regional Research on VAWG in South Asia	Asia regional
7	Evaluation of school based interventions on VAWG in Asia	Asia regional
8	Violence against women Research and Evaluation in Bihar (India)	Asia regional
9	Support to Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) in Nepal and Pakistan	Asia regional
10	Work in Freedom Programme (India, Bangladesh and Nepal)	Asia regional
11	Urban Health: Strengthening Care for Poor Mothers and New-Borns in Bangladesh	Bangladesh
12	Humanitarian assistance to DRC	DRC
13	Access to Health Care in DRC	DRC
14	Supporting peace and stability in eastern DRC	DRC
15	La Pepiniere 1: DFID DRC's Programme for Adolescent Girls	DRC
16	Community Security and Justice	Ethiopia
17	Girl Hub Ethiopia	Ethiopia
18	End Child Marriage Programme	Ethiopia
19	Girls – Participatory Approaches to Students Success (PASS) in Ghana	Ghana
20	What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Research and Innovation Fund	Global
21	Safe and Inclusive Cities	Global
22	Global Girl Research Initiative: What Works to Transform Girls' Lives	Global
23	Girl's Education Challenge Fund	Global
24	Prevention of VAWG through Football	Kenya
25	Support to UN Trust Fund to end VAWG	Global
26	Sector-Wide Approach to Strengthening Health (SWASTH) in Bihar	India
27	Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme II	India
28	Mahila Samakhya Education for Women's Equality Programme	India
29	Madhya Pradesh Urban Infrastructure Programme (Safe Cities Initiative)	India
30	Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP)	India
31	Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Accountability Programme	Jamaica
32	Citizen Security and Justice Programme 3	Jamaica
33	Kenya Adolescent Girls Initiative - Action Research Programme	Kenya
34	Improving Community Security	Kenya
35	Keeping Girls in School	Malawi
36	UNICEF Women's Paralegal Committees	Nepal
37	Integrated Programme for Strengthening S&J (2 VAWG components)	Nepal
38	Voices for Change: Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls Programme	Nigeria



39	Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme	Nigeria
40	Support to Accountable and Responsive Security and Justice in the OPT	OPT
41	Aawaz Voice and Accountability Programme	Pakistan
42	Peacebuilding Support to the Post-Crisis Needs Assessment	Pakistan
43	Plan International UK PPA	PPA
44	Womankind Worldwide PPA	PPA
45	Oxfam PPA	PPA
46	ActionAid PPA	PPA
47	Gender Links PPA	PPA
48	World Vision PPA	PPA
49	Penal Reform International PPA	PPA
50	Scaling up the 12+ Programme: empowerment of 12-year-old girls in Rwanda	Rwanda
51	Strengthening Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda	Rwanda
52	Access to Security and Justice Programme (ASJP)	Sierra Leone
53	Health Consortium for the Somali People	Somalia
54	Joint Health and Nutrition Programme	Somalia
55	Core State Functions Programme	Somalia
56	Addressing GBV in South Africa	South Africa
57	Girls Education in South Sudan	South Sudan
58	Sudan Free of FGC	Sudan
59	Family Planning Outreach Programme - Phase II	Tanzania
60	Human Rights Programme	Tanzania
61	Support to CSO Work on Gender and Sexual Based Violence Programme	Uganda
62	UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality	Uganda
63	Expansion of the stamping out and prevention of gender based violence programme	Zambia
64	Adolescent Girls Empowerment Programme	Zambia
65	Promotion and Protection of Women and Children's Rights	Zambia
66	Pro-Poor Growth Programme	Zimbabwe
67	Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV in Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
68	Child Protection Fund for National Action Plan	Zimbabwe

### Programmes excluded from the sampling frame

Name	Country	Reasons for exclusion			
		Minor VAWG element or unsuitable for review	Already visited by ICAI	Cancelled or pipeline	Purely humanitarian
Response to the humanitarian situation in CAR	CAR				x
Security Sector Accountability and Police Reform Programme (SSAPR)	DRC		x	x	
Provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable individuals and households affected by violence in Eastern DRC	DRC				x
Medium-term assistance to	Ethiopia				x

refugees in Ethiopia					
Peace and Development Programme	Ethiopia			x	
Strengthening Transparency Accountability and Responsiveness in Ghana (STAR)	Ghana	x	x		
National Survey on Domestic Violence in Ghana	Ghana	x			
Support for Refugees in Kenya	Kenya				x
Justice for Vulnerable Groups in Malawi	Malawi		x		
Justice For All programme	Nigeria		x		
Multi-year Humanitarian Programme	Somalia				x
Access to Justice Programme in South Sudan	South Sudan			x	
Support to Police Development	South Sudan	x			
Emergency Response to South Sudan Crisis	South Sudan				x
Africa Conflict Prevention Programme	Sudan	x			
Education Quality Improvement Programme in Tanzania	Tanzania	x			
Accountability In Tanzania Programme	Tanzania	x			
Gender Equality Programme	Uganda			x	
Humanitarian Assistance (in Afghanistan)	Afghanistan				x
Health Sector Development Programme (HSDP)	Bangladesh	x			
Safety and Justice Programme	Bangladesh		x		
Creating Opportunities for the Poor and Excluded (COPE)	Bangladesh		x		
Support for Conflict-Affected People and Peacebuilding	Burma				x
Integrated Programme for Strengthening Security and Justice ( IP-SSJ)	Nepal		x		
Support to Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP) II	Nepal	x			
NEW: in response to the earthquake this year, a £10m programme has been approved including VAWG component	Nepal			x	
UK Humanitarian Support for Response to Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines	Philippines				x
Additional Contributions to UN Consolidated and Flash Appeals	Philippines				x

UN Policy Influencing in Vietnam	Vietnam	x			
Support to UNRWA: Funding Basic Services and Protection for Palestinian Refugees in the Region	OPT	x	x		
UNFPA Strategy to Strengthen GBV Prevention and Response Services in Syria	Syria				x
UNICEF (multiple grants)	Syria				x
IRC	Syria				x
UNHCR	Syria				x
Unnamed Medical INGO	Syria				x
Doctors of the world	Syria				x
Child Safeguarding in the Overseas Territories Regional Project	Overseas Territories	x			
COMPASS: Creating Opportunities through Mentoring, Parental Involvement and Safe Spaces	Global				x
VAWG Country Support	Global	x			
UN Women - Women's Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual Violence (Phase 2)	Global	x			
Voluntary Core Funding to UN Women, 2011-2015	Global	x			
Core Support to IOM: Promoting Reduction of and Improved Operational Response to Violence Against Women	Global				x
Core funding to UNHCR	Global				x
Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict and other situations of violence.	Global				x
Article 19 PPA	PPA	x			
Avocats Sans Frontieres PPA	PPA				x
Marie Stopes International PPA	PPA	x			

In order to determine our case study countries, we followed the following sampling process:

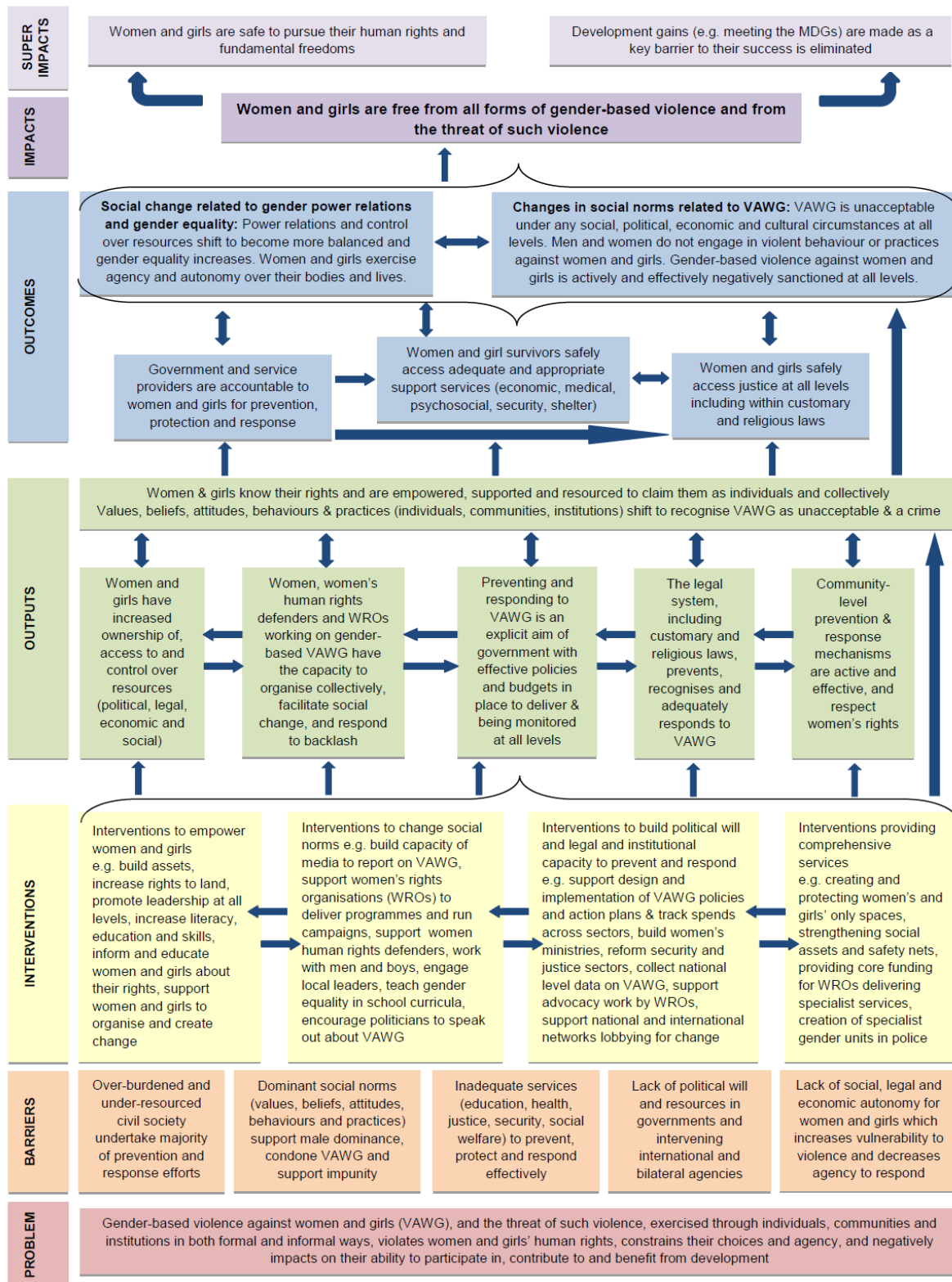
- We considered only countries with at least one high-interest programme.
- We ranked those 11 programmes by scoring them as follows: each high-interest programme scores 2 points and all other programmes score 1 point:

Country	Total programmes	Of which, high-interest programmes	Score
India	5	4	9
Ethiopia	3	3	6
Zambia	3	3	6
Afghanistan	2	2	4
Kenya	3	1	4
Rwanda	2	2	4
Somalia	3	1	4
Nigeria	2	1	3
Pakistan	2	1	3
South Africa	1	1	2
Sudan	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	

This yielded India as the first choice. Ethiopia was preferred to Zambia because of the strong links of programmes to DFID's global influencing priorities, the rich learning environment and the larger overall level of DFID programming across a range of sectors. Many of these programmes do not include VAWG components, and the country case study will allow us to review the choices that have been made in this regard.

### Annex 3. DFID's VAWG Theory of Change

**Theory of Change on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – Diagram**



## Annex 4. Issues to address in the literature review

The literature review should scan the literature for in the following areas:

### 1. Identifying the needs of women and girls

- 1.1 Within poor communities and disadvantaged groups, what are the needs of women and girls for both prevention of and response to VAWG?
- 1.2 What are the specific needs of survivors of violence and what evidence has been gathered as to their needs and priorities?
- 1.3 What are the most important forms of violence experienced by women and girls in developing countries?
- 1.4 What are the differential and specific challenges?
- 1.5 What are the rural and urban contexts?
- 1.6 What are the common practical barriers faced by women and girls in accessing services to address VAWG? How are they different from (or the same as) those facing men from the same communities?

### 2. Assessing DFID's theory of change

- 2.1 What evidence and research has been undertaken which relates to the hypotheses and causal relationships proposed within DFID's theory of change for ending VAWG? This should include:
  - Is the problem correctly specified?
  - Are the barriers appropriate and comprehensive?
  - Is there any evidence as to their relative priority?
  - Do the proposed interventions address the barriers and contribute to the outputs?
  - If met, are the outputs likely to achieve the outcomes and impacts identified?
- 2.2 What evidence is there as to the best indicators that can be used to measure positive changes for the most vulnerable women and girls, including those affected by violence?
- 2.3 What evidence is there about the scope and scale of interventions required to achieve sustainable change?
- 2.4 What is the most effective balance between VAWG specific and more mainstreamed programming?
- 2.5 Which are the key groups to be engaged and what are the relative priorities for engaging stakeholders including:
  - Women and girls
  - Survivors of violence
  - Politicians
  - Government officials
  - Professionals (judiciary, police, medical etc.)
  - Opinion formers
  - Business people
  - Local and community leaders
  - Faith leaders
  - Men

### 3. Entry points for VAWG programming

3.1 What are the common entry points for VAWG programming and how suitable are they for addressing the needs of women and girls including survivors of violence? To cover:

- Women's empowerment and property rights
- Changing social norms
- Provision of comprehensive services to address VAWG
- Building political will to address VAWG
- Legal reform (for example, criminalising all forms of VAWG, eliminating gender-based discrimination in areas such as property and inheritance)
- Judicial reform (supply side interventions such as training, capacity development, sensitisation, quotas for female judges)
- Police reform (as above)
- Criminal justice (including dedicated services for women in police or courts)
- Working with women's organisations

### 4. What works and common obstacles

4.1 What evidence is available in terms of what works to end VAWG? This should be linked to and include any emerging conclusions from DFID's own work in this area and include emerging evidence from value for money studies.

4.2 What are the key challenges facing donors in attempting to develop programmes to help end VAWG? Some of these challenges are associated with difficult operating environments, while others relate to the internal ways of working of donor organisations. They may include:

#### *Challenges relating to operating environments*

- Rapidly changing contexts with weak information flows and limited reliable data.
- Political, legal and institutional constraints, including issues of state reach and capacity.
- Cultural, political, geographical and financial barriers to access by the poor to services.
- Gender-related attitudes and power relations and their influence over VAWG service provision, including dominant social norms such as patriarchy and conflict legacies.
- Corruption, vested interests, power relations and weak ownership of reforms by national stakeholders.
- Challenging counterparts, including the fragmented and often politicised nature of VAWG support systems.
- Social and religious norms.

#### *Challenges relating to donor ways of working*

- Pressure to demonstrate measurable, short-term results.
- Staff skills and capabilities.
- Procurement processes.
- Choice of delivery channel and relationships with implementing agencies.
- Realism in programme design and theories of change.
- Overly technical or fragmented approaches to working within VAWG and lack of integration with programming in other sectors (for example, around safety for girls in getting to school).

- Understanding and adapting to rapidly changing contexts.
- Learning by doing.
- Gender issues and gender expertise being peripheral in mainstream programming.

## 5. International advocacy

- 5.1 What are the major changes that have occurred in the international legal and political environment relating to VAWG over the past five years? What have been their drivers? What evidence, if any, is there of the role that DFID has played?
- 5.2 What are the links between the UK's domestic and international work to end VAWG?
- 5.3 Is there any national level evidence of VAWG legal and policy change in developing countries related to the work of external agencies, including DFID? What have been the most effective approaches in this regard?