

Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women

Taking action and generating evidence



World Health Organization



prevention

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Executive summary

Intimate partner and sexual violence affect a large proportion of the population – with the majority of those directly experiencing such violence being women and the majority perpetrating it being men. The harm they cause can last a lifetime and span generations, with serious adverse affects on health, education and employment. The primary prevention of these types of violence will therefore save lives and money – investments made now to stop intimate partner and sexual violence before they occur will protect the physical, mental and economic well-being and development of individuals, families, communities and whole societies.

This document aims to provide sufficient information for policy-makers and planners to develop data-driven and evidence-based programmes for preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women and is divided into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1** outlines the nature, magnitude and consequences of intimate partner and sexual violence within the broader typology of violence.
- **Chapter 2** identifies the risk and protective factors for such violence and the importance of addressing both risk and protective factors in prevention efforts.
- **Chapter 3** summarizes the scientific evidence base for primary prevention strategies, and describes programmes of known effectiveness, those supported by emerging evidence and those that could potentially be effective but have yet to be sufficiently evaluated for their impact.
- **Chapter 4** presents a six-step framework for taking action, generating evidence and sharing results.

In the closing section, several **future research priorities** are outlined and a number

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