

# Monitoring violence against women in the 2030 Development Agenda: Adjusting methods to align with the SDG monitoring.

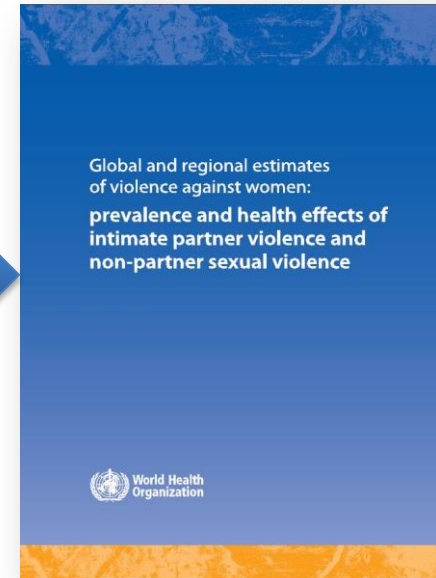
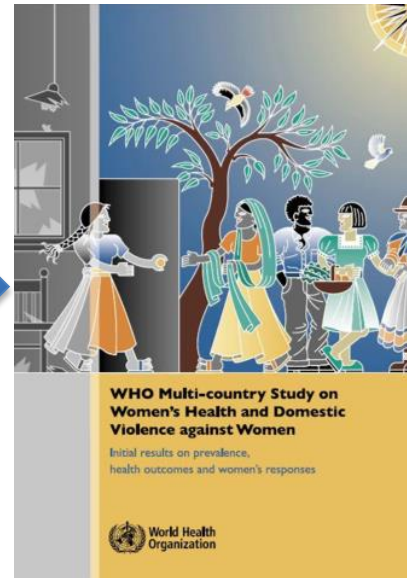
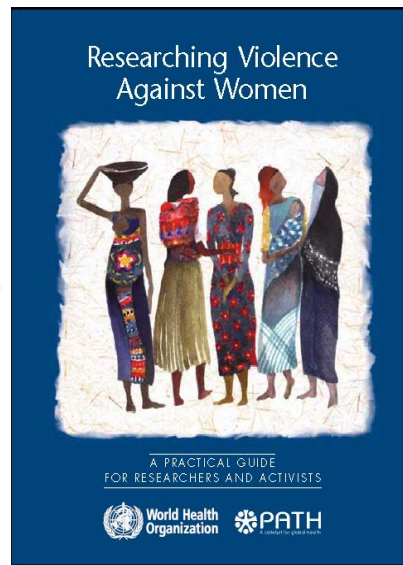
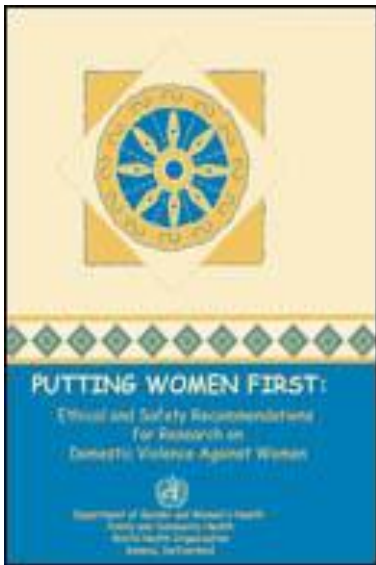
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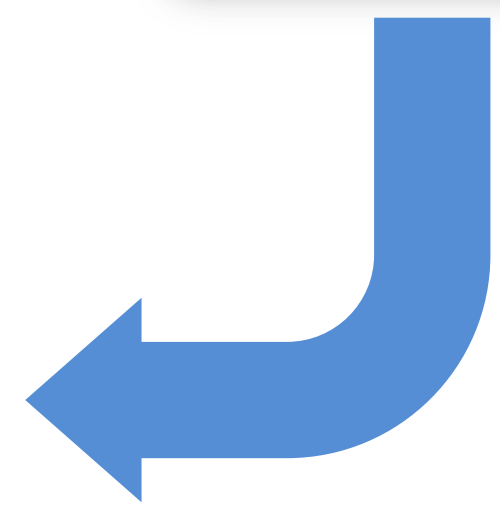
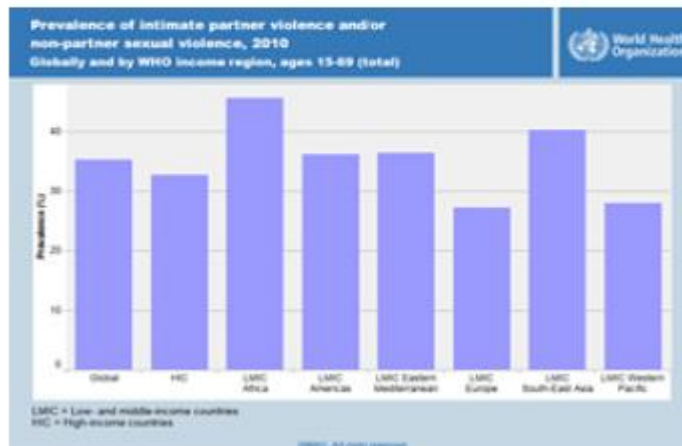


# History: building epidemiological evidence on VAW



## Global Health Observatory (GHO) data

### Violence against women

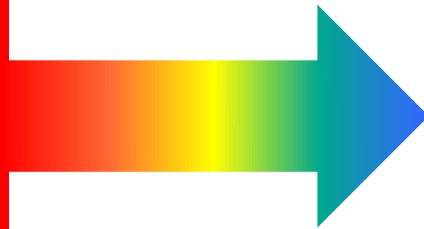


# Violence against women on the development agenda

- 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 169 Targets, 230 indicators
- Around 1/3 of indicators are gender equality relevant

MDGs

**No  
Millennium  
Development  
Goals  
targets or  
indicators  
related to  
violence**



## **SDG Target 5.2**

Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

## **SDG Target 5.3**

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation

## **SDG Target 16.1**

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

## **SDG Target 16.2**

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children

**7 indicators specifically on magnitude of different forms of VAW & G...**

# VAW on the global public health agenda

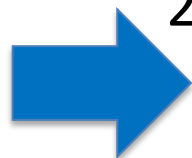
## 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, May 2016

The Ministries of Health of the 193 Member States of WHO, endorse the global plan of action on strengthening the health system's response to violence against women and girls and against children



## Global plan of action: 4 strategic directions

1. Strengthen health system leadership and governance in addressing violence
2. Strengthen health service delivery and health workers' capacity to respond to violence
3. Strengthen programming to prevent violence
4. Improve data and evidence on violence



# Strategic Direction 4: Strengthening evidence and data collection

- ✓ Strengthening routine reporting on VAW across all ages by integrating indicators in health information and surveillance systems
- ✓ Monitoring SDG 5.2 indicators on prevalence of VAW by establishing baselines and investing in population-based surveys
  - ✓ **Indicator:** Number of countries that have **carried out a population-based, nationally representative study/survey on VAW** or that have included a module on VAW in other population-based demographic or health surveys within the past five years, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, other
- ✓ Investing in research to develop, pilot, evaluate and scale up prevention and response interventions

# SDGs that address VAW



## Target 5.2: Eliminate VAWG

- Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age
- Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

## Target 5.3 Eliminate Harmful Practices against women and girls

- Indicator 5.3.1. Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18
- Indicator 5.3.2. Prevalence of female genital mutilation

## Target 16.1: Reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

- Indicators on homicide; conflict-related deaths; physical, psychological and sexual violence; feelings of safety walking alone in living area

## Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children

- Indicators on human trafficking and sexual violence by age 18

# Rationale for Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2

- ❑ Gender-based violence is a manifestation of and perpetuates gender inequality. It seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms.
- ❑ It a critical public health issue, particularly affecting the health including sexual and reproductive and mental health of women.
- ❑ Preventing and responding to violence against women is an important element of improving the health of women, children and adolescents including high quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health services.
- ❑ Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women worldwide

## **Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence & by age**

### Definitions:

1. **Physical violence** consists of acts aimed at physically hurting the victim and include, but are not limited to, pushing, grabbing, twisting the arm, pulling the hair, slapping, kicking, biting or hitting with the fist or object, trying to strangle or suffocate, burning or scalding on purpose, or threatening or attacking with some sort of weapon, gun or knife.
1. **Sexual violence** is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc. In intimate partner relationships, experiencing sexual violence is commonly defined as being forced to have sexual intercourse, having sexual intercourse out of fear for what the partner might do, and/or being forced to do something sexual that the woman considers humiliating or degrading.
2. **Psychological violence** includes a range of behaviors that encompass acts of emotional abuse and controlling behavior. These often coexist with acts of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and are acts of violence in themselves.



# **Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence & by age**

## Method of Computation

### 1) Sub-indicator 1 (physical violence):<sup>1</sup>

$$\frac{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience physical violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months}}{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above)}} \times 100$$

### 2) Sub-indicator 2 (sexual violence):<sup>2</sup>

$$\frac{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months}}{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above)}} \times 100$$

### 3) Sub-indicator 3 (physical and/or sexual violence):<sup>3</sup>

$$\frac{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience physical and/or sexual<sup>4</sup> violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months}}{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above)}} \times 100$$

### 4) Sub-indicator 4 (psychological violence):<sup>5</sup>

$$\frac{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months}}{\text{Number of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15 years and above)}} \times 100$$

**Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age**

**Disaggregations**

| Age          | Any partner (current or former intimate partner) |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
|--------------|--|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
|              | Total ever-partnered women and girls<br>N        | Physical violence |   | Sexual violence |   | Physical and/or sexual violence |   | Psychological violence |   |
|              |  | N                 | % | N               | % | N                               | % | N                      | % |
| 15-19        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 20-24        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 25-29        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 30-34        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 35-39        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 40-44        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 45-49        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 50-54        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 55-59        |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| 60+          |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |  |                   |   |                 |   |                                 |   |                        |   |

## **Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence**

Definition: Sexual violence is defined as harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts without consent, incest, sexual harassment, etc.

Method of computation:

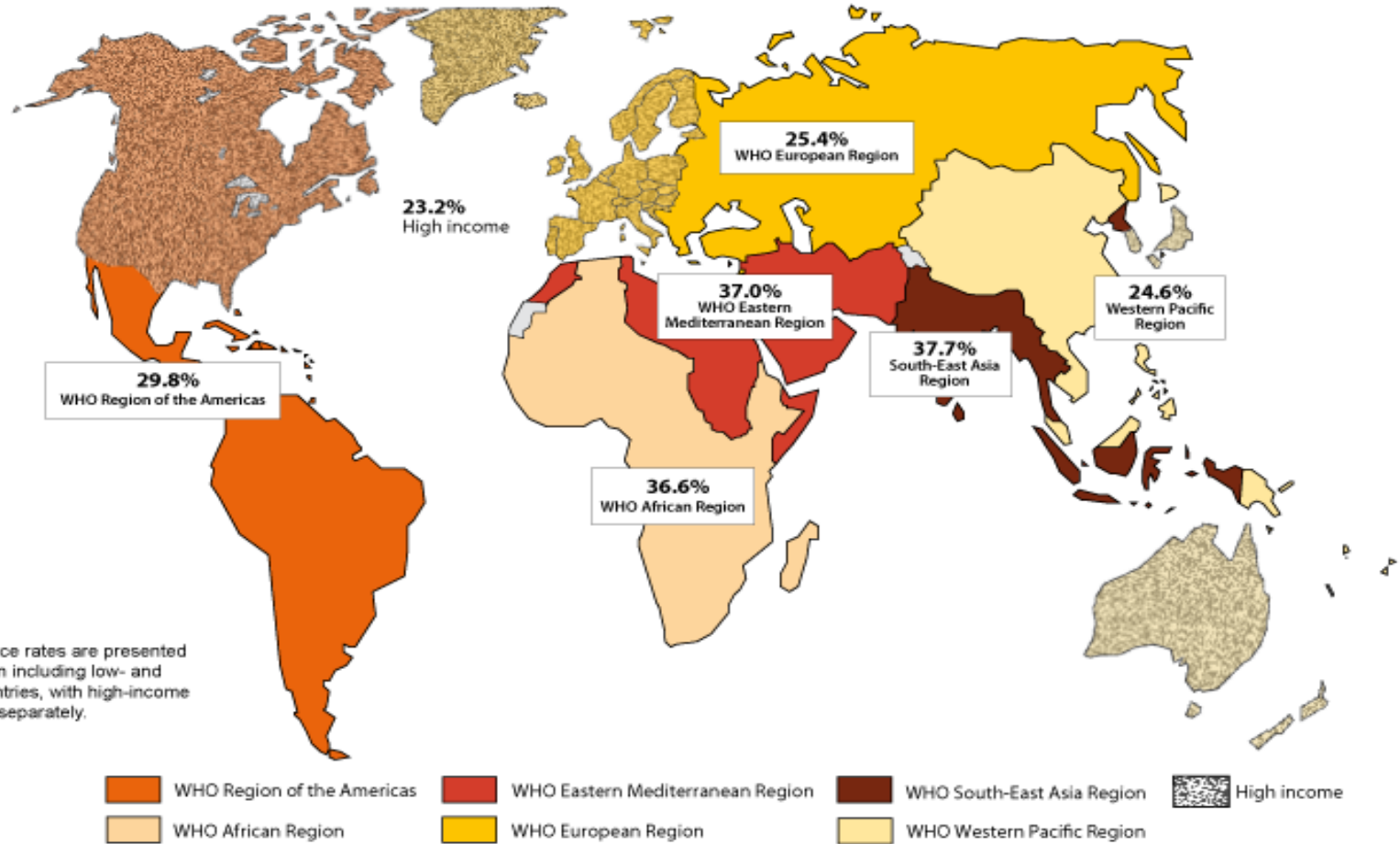
$$\frac{\text{Number of women and girls (aged 15 years and above) who experience sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months} \times 100}{\text{Number of women and girls (aged 15 years and above)}}$$

# Source for Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2

- ❑ Dedicated national surveys to measuring VAW (e.g. WHO multi-country study survey methods, international violence against women surveys);
- ❑ Broader population based surveys that include a module of questions on VAW (e.g. mainly DHS and to lesser extent other surveys, such as RHS and Crime Victimization Surveys)

# BACKGROUND: 30% ♀ globally: have experienced physical &/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their LIFETIME

Prevalence rates of intimate partner violence by WHO region\*, 2010



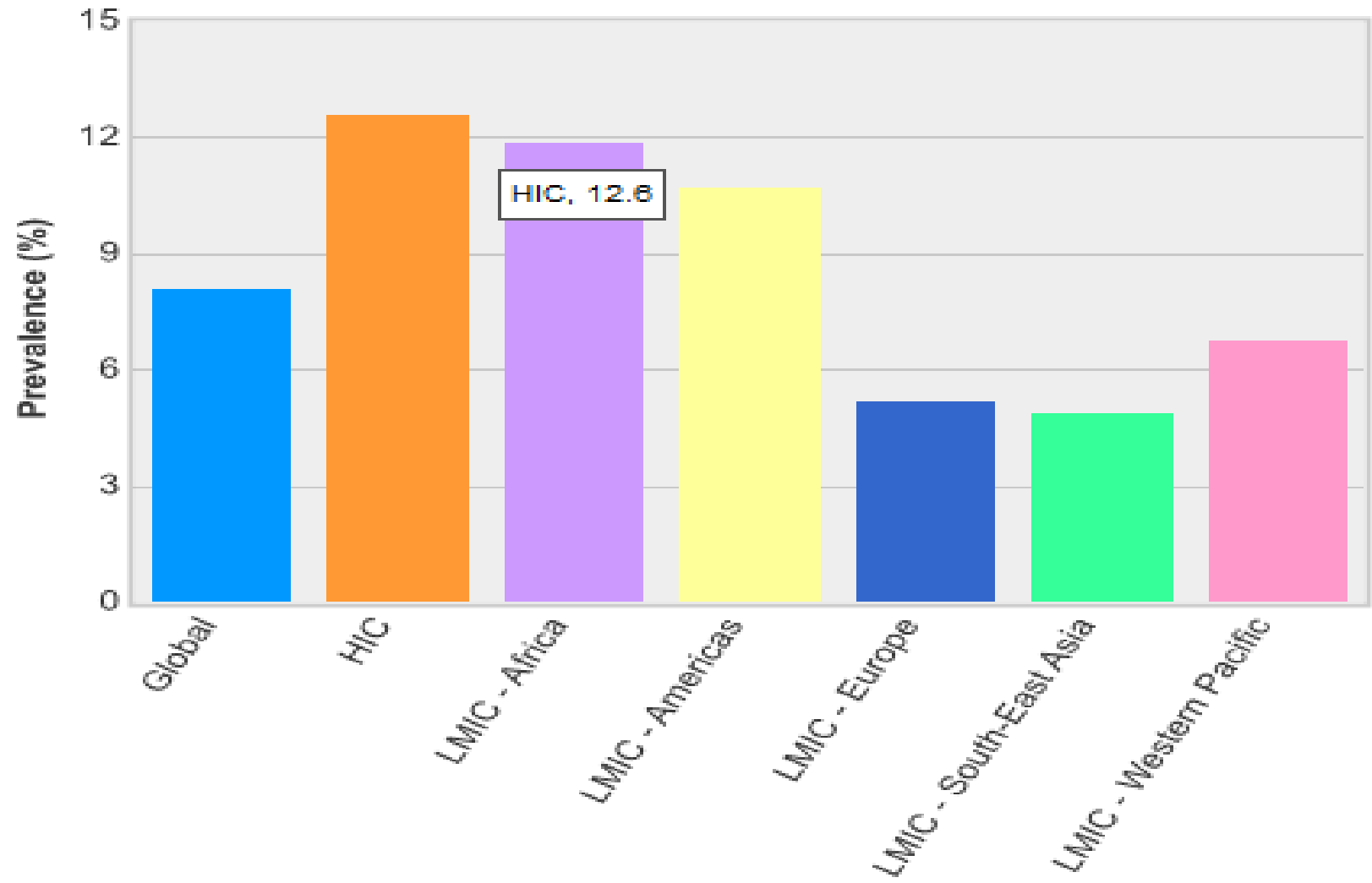
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. © WHO 2013. All rights reserved.

Data Source: *Global and regional estimates of violence against women*. WHO, 2013.



# Non-partner sexual violence, 2010

Globally and by WHO income region, ages 15-69 (total)



**7% Global prevalence of lifetime non-partner sexual violence**

# Lifetime prevalence of physical &/or sexual IPV and non-partner SV by GBD regions

Table A.2.1. Prevalence of intimate partner violence by GBD region

| Region                       | Prevalence (95% confidence interval), % |
|------------------------------|---|
| Asia Pacific, High Income    | 28.45 (20.6 to 36.3)                    |
| Asia, Central                | 22.89 (15.8 to 30.0)                    |
| Asia, East                   | 16.30 (8.9 to 23.7)                     |
| Asia, South                  | 41.73 (36.3 to 47.2)                    |
| Asia, South-East             | 27.99 (23.7 to 32.2)                    |
| Australasia                  | 28.29 (22.7 to 33.9)                    |
| Caribbean                    | 27.99 (20.8 to 33.3)                    |
| Europe, Central              | 27.85 (22.7 to 33.0)                    |
| Europe, Eastern              | 26.13 (20.6 to 31.6)                    |
| Europe, Western              | 19.30 (15.9 to 22.7)                    |
| Latin America, Andean        | 40.63 (34.8 to 46.5)                    |
| Latin America, Central       | 29.51 (24.6 to 34.4)                    |
| Latin America, Southern      | 23.68 (12.8 to 34.5)                    |
| Latin America, Tropical      | 27.43 (20.7 to 34.2)                    |
| North Africa/Middle East     | 35.38 (30.4 to 40.3)                    |
| North America, High Income   | 21.32 (16.2 to 26.4)                    |
| Oceania                      | 35.27 (23.8 to 46.7)                    |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, Central  | 65.64 (53.6 to 77.7)                    |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, East     | 38.83 (34.6 to 43.1)                    |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern | 29.67 (24.3 to 35.1)                    |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, West     | 41.75 (32.9 to 50.6)                    |

Table A.2.2. Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence by GBD region

| Region                       | Prevalence (95% confidence interval), % |
|------------------------------|---|
| Asia Pacific, High Income    | 12.20 (4.21 to 20.19)                   |
| Asia, Central                | 6.45 (0 to 13.0)                        |
| Asia, East                   | 5.87 (0.15 to 11.59)                    |
| Asia, South                  | 3.35 (0 to 8.37)                        |
| Asia, South-East             | 5.28 (0.94 to 9.61)                     |
| Australasia                  | 16.46 (11.52 to 21.41)                  |
| Caribbean                    | 10.32 (3.71 to 16.92)                   |
| Europe, Central              | 10.76 (6.14 to 15.38)                   |
| Europe, Eastern              | 6.97 (0 to 14.13)                       |
| Europe, Western              | 11.50 (7.24 to 15.76)                   |
| Latin America, Andean        | 15.33 (10.12 to 20.54)                  |
| Latin America, Central       | 11.88 (7.31 to 16.45)                   |
| Latin America, Southern      | 5.86 (0.31 to 11.42)                    |
| Latin America, Tropical      | 7.68 (2.68 to 12.69)                    |
| North Africa/Middle East     | 4.53 (0 to 12.74)                       |
| North America, High Income   | 13.01 (9.02 to 16.99)                   |
| Oceania                      | 14.86 (7.48 to 22.24)                   |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, Central  | 21.05 (4.59 to 37.51)                   |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, East     | 11.46 (7.31 to 15.60)                   |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern | 17.41 (11.48 to 23.33)                  |
| Sub-Saharan Africa, West     | 9.15 (4.90 to 13.41)                    |

# Availability of Data for SDG 5.2 Indicators

Number of countries conducting surveys on violence against women 1995–2014

| Type of survey  | 1995–2014           |                      | 1995–2004           | 2005–2014           |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | At least one survey | At least two surveys | At least one survey | At least one survey |
| Dedicated survey to measure violence against women            | 51                  | 7                    | 17                  | 35                  |
| Module of questions on violence against women                 | 64                  | 31                   | 25                  | 60                  |
| Either a dedicated survey or module on violence against women | 102                 | <b>43</b>            | 44                  | <b>89</b>           |
| Survey with questions on attitudes towards violence           | 100                 | 62                   | 37                  | 97                  |
| Survey with questions on Female genital mutilation            | 29                  | 25                   | 20                  | 27                  |

| Proxy to ind. | In the last 12 months           | # of countries with data since 2005 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5.2.1         | Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) | ~ 90                                |
| 5.2.2         | Non-IPV sexual only             | ~ 50                                |



# Main challenges for regional and global monitoring

## **Gaps in availability and ability to track trends: regional gaps, changes over time**

- Many countries still lack data on these indicators (e.g. countries in middle east, w. africa)
- Data are not collected in a regular basis so assessment of trends is difficult (e.g. some countries only have data from old surveys)
- Limited capacity and resources in countries to collect these data (on a regular basis)

## **Data disaggregations**

- Lack of disaggregation between forms (physical, sexual, psychological)
- Lack of disaggregation by the characteristics of the women

## **Gaps in availability of some forms of violence**

- Violence against specific populations (e.g. older women, women with disabilities)
- Violence against women in certain settings (e.g. humanitarian, conflicts)
- Some forms of VAW (e.g. trafficking, harassment).

# Challenges of comparability

1. Dedicated surveys vs modules or questions in surveys,
2. Surveys vary in the reference age-group: 15-49 DHS, 18-74 EU FRA
3. Operational definitions of physical or sexual or psychological violence vary across surveys
4. How to measure and classify violence against girls 10-19 years old (child abuse? Partner violence?)
5. Different definitions of partnership (married, cohabitating or long-term sexual relationships)
6. Exclusion or inclusion of never partnered women in the denominator
7. Current/most recent vs. any previous partner
8. Data needs to be collected carefully, with attention to safety and ethics
9. Data needs to be interpreted carefully. There will always be some women who will not disclose information on intimate partner violence.

# What is WHO doing to address some of the challenges? 4 main methodological updates

1. Updating the WHO Multi-country study questionnaire
2. Developing consensus on measures of psychological intimate partner violence
3. Developing measures of violence in older women
4. Strengthening methodologies and processes for producing estimates

# 1. Updating the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence

- More questions on non-partner sexual violence, including sexual coercion and harassment
- Improved measurement of social norms
- Improved measures of mental health
- Adding questions on reproductive coercion

## 2. Measuring psychological abuse

- ❑ Different domains and questions to measure emotional abuse and controlling behaviours and different thresholds used to measure psychological abuse
  
- ❑ First expert meeting in June 2016 to develop consensus on measurement, analysis and reporting of psychological violence:
  - develop consensus on key domains and core vs context-specific measures of emotional/psychological IPV, and
  - a common approach to analysing and reporting psychological abuse data and for defining prevalence of emotional/psychological IPV.
  
- ❑ Meeting made some progress:
  - Proposed a limited number of domains and recommended some revisions to improve existing instruments for prevalence surveys (i.e., WHO MC Study questionnaire and DHS module)
  - Identified issues for further consideration on reporting the prevalence of psychological IPV in context of SDGs

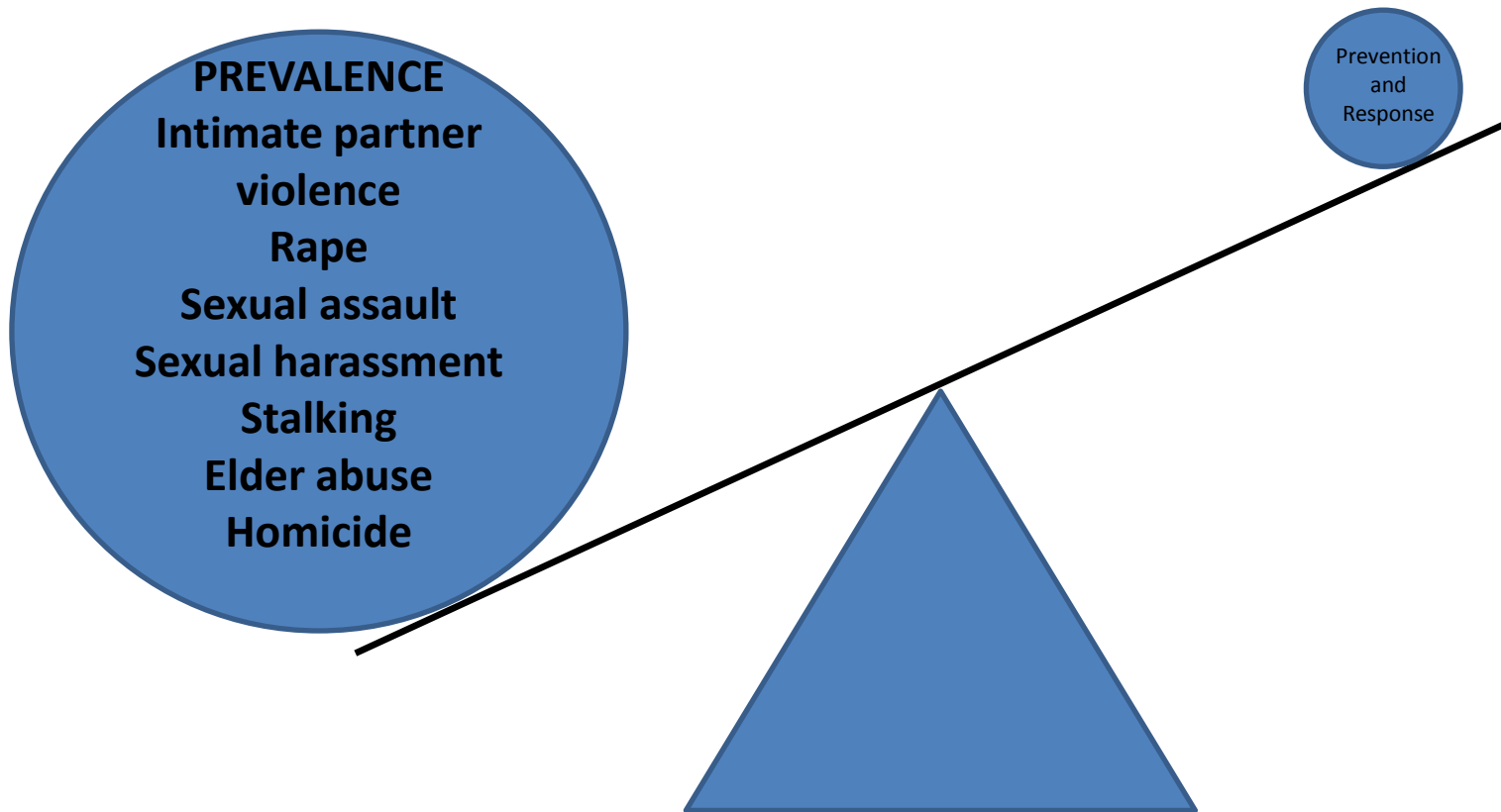
### 3. Improving measurement of violence in older women

- ❑ Systematic review and meta analysis of published prevalence data
- ❑ Review of qualitative data to identify forms and nature of violence against older women
- ❑ Convene an expert group to develop a module on violence against older women
- ❑ Pilot in a few countries

## 4. Strengthening methods for producing estimates: Violence against women Inter-Agency Working Group on Estimation and Data (VAWIAGED) & its Technical Advisory Group

- The main objective of the VAW-IAGED is to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of data and to produce and disseminate global, regional and country level UN estimates of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.
- The main objective of the TAG is to provide expert guidance to VAW-IAGED on technical matters related to measuring and estimating two main forms of violence against women (intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence)

# Measuring problems and solutions: getting the balance right





# Measuring problems and solutions: getting the balance right

