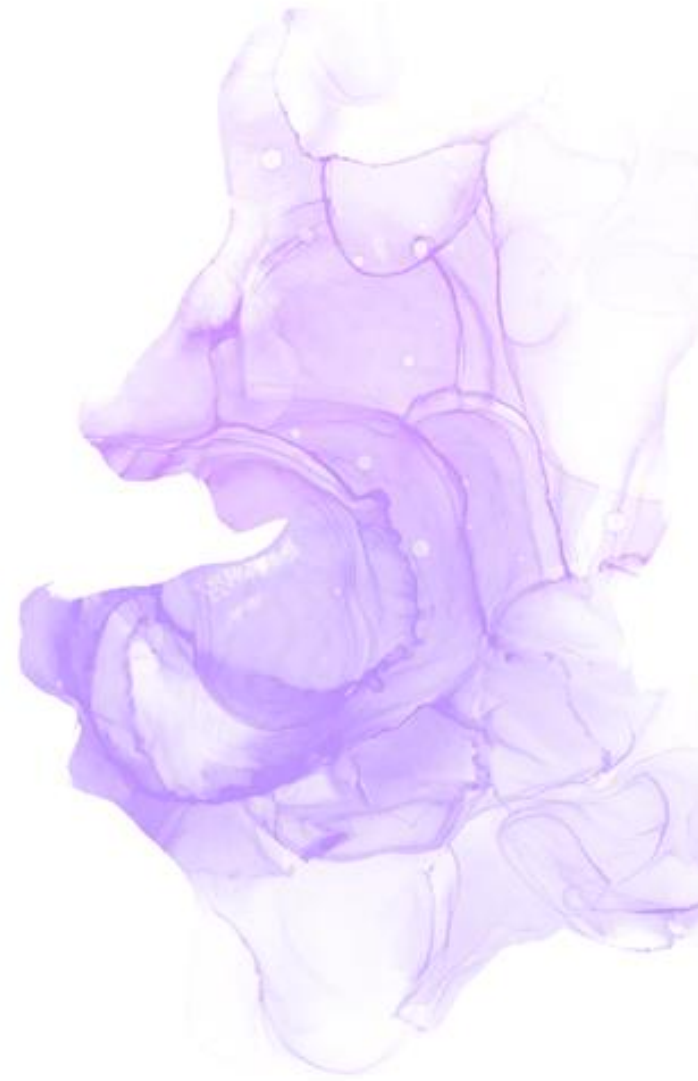


From collective to interpersonal violence *Bridging the macro-micro divide in prevention research & practice*

The “macro-micro” violence divide

1. What is “the divide” & does it matter?
2. How can we conceptualize it?
3. Where have programs addressed it?
4. What are priority research strategies to tackling knowledge gaps?



Part 1: What is it, why does it matter?

“Micro” Family violence

- ▶ Intimate partner violence (IPV)
- ▶ Domestic violence from in-laws, family members
- ▶ Child discipline (psychological or physical)
- ▶ Child sexual abuse

Blame & responsibility at the individual level

“Macro” Collective violence

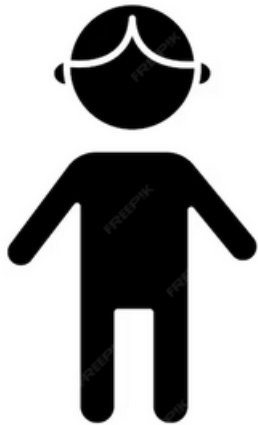
- ▶ Political violence
- ▶ War, conflict by armed groups or forces
- ▶ Gang violence
- ▶ Online or tech-facilitated violence

Blame & responsibility on structural factors



Sarah

Samuel



Stable, supportive environment with access to services

Child
sexual
abuse

27%

College
sexual
assault

18%

Violence
free intimate
partnership

Violence
free home

Childhood

Adolescence

Adulthood

Child
sexual
abuse

8%

Exposed to
& witnesses
IPV

37%

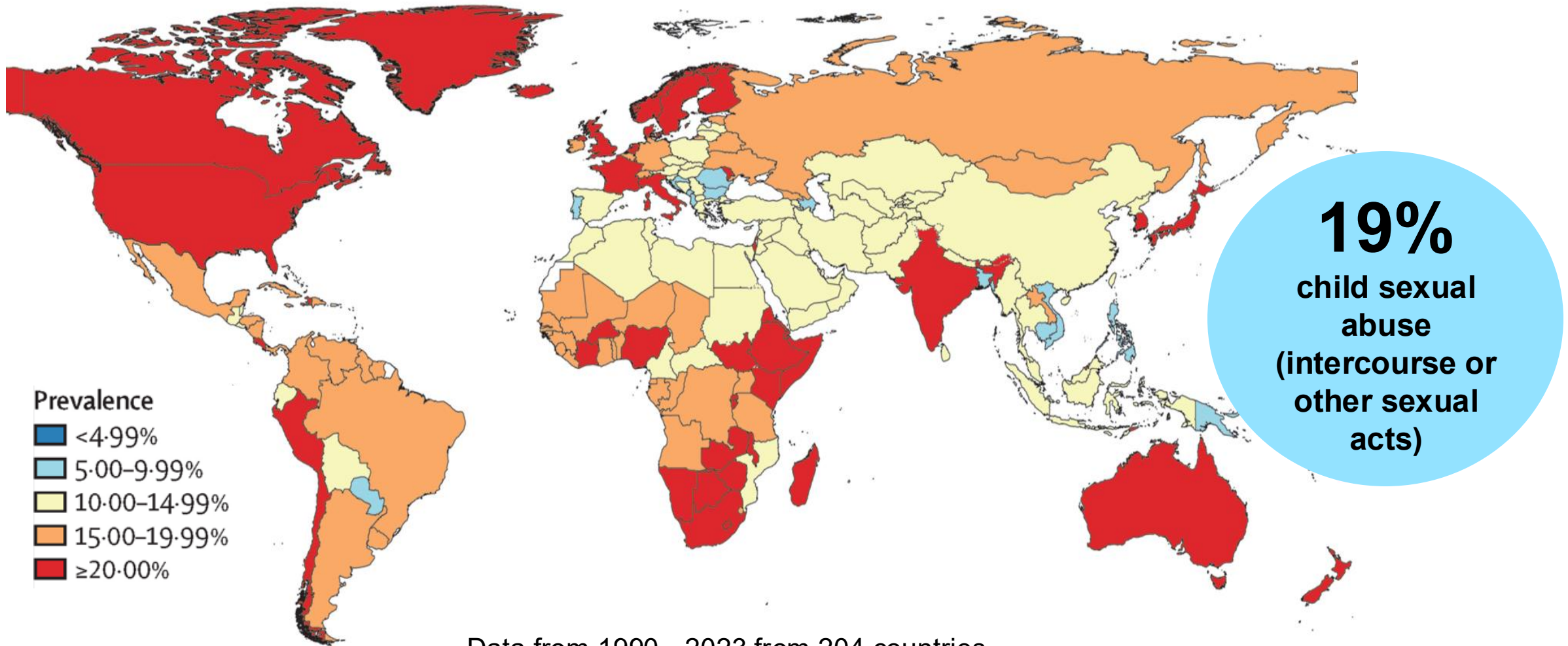
Engagement
with armed
forces

Violent
discipline
against
children

85%

Fragile & conflict-prone environment with poor access to services

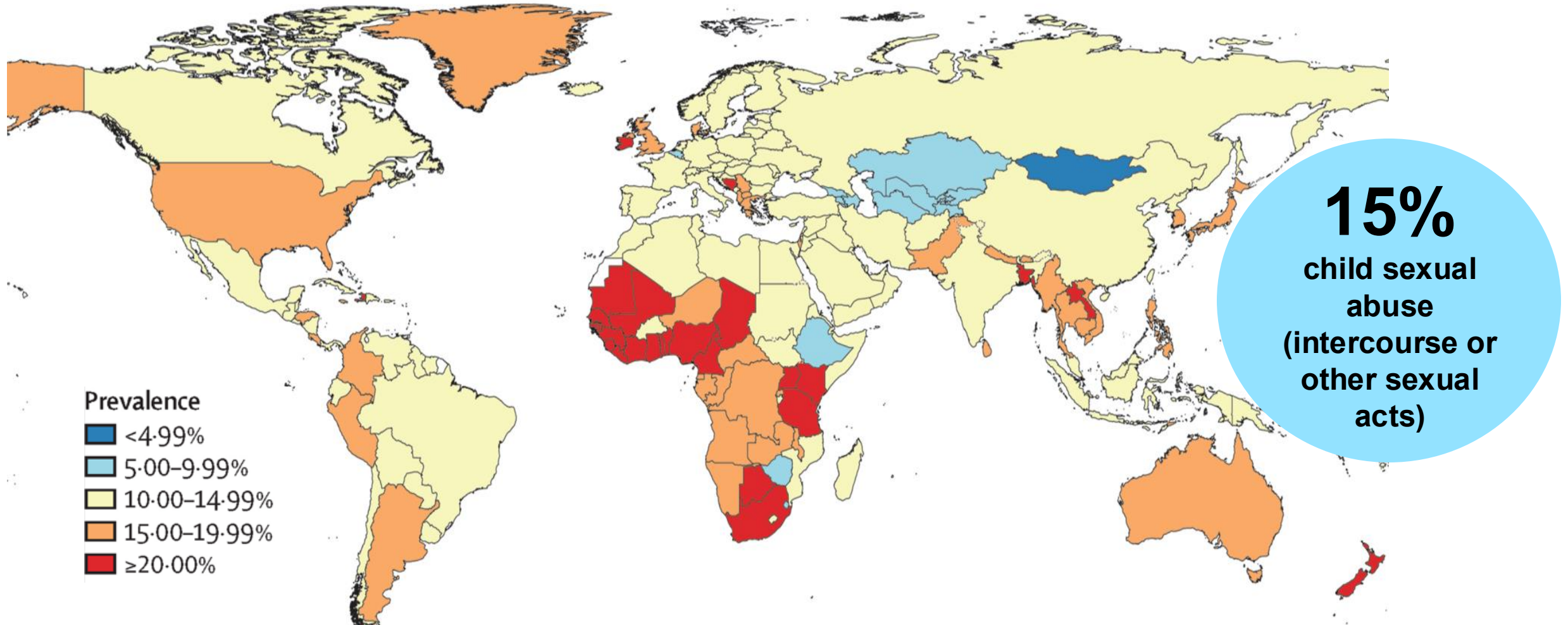
Child sexual abuse against girls is *widespread*



Data from 1990 - 2023 from 204 countries

Source: [Cagney et al. 2025](#)

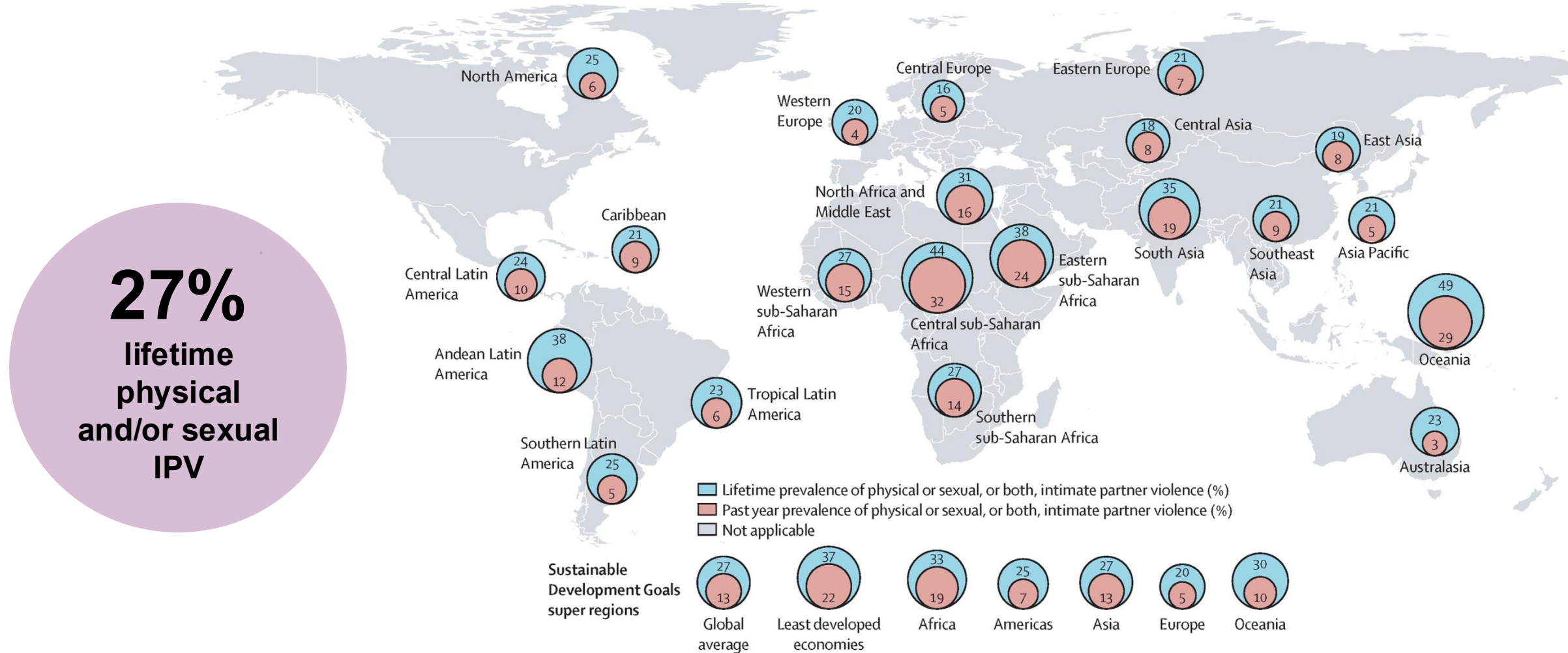
... and against boys



Data from 1990 - 2023 from 204 countries

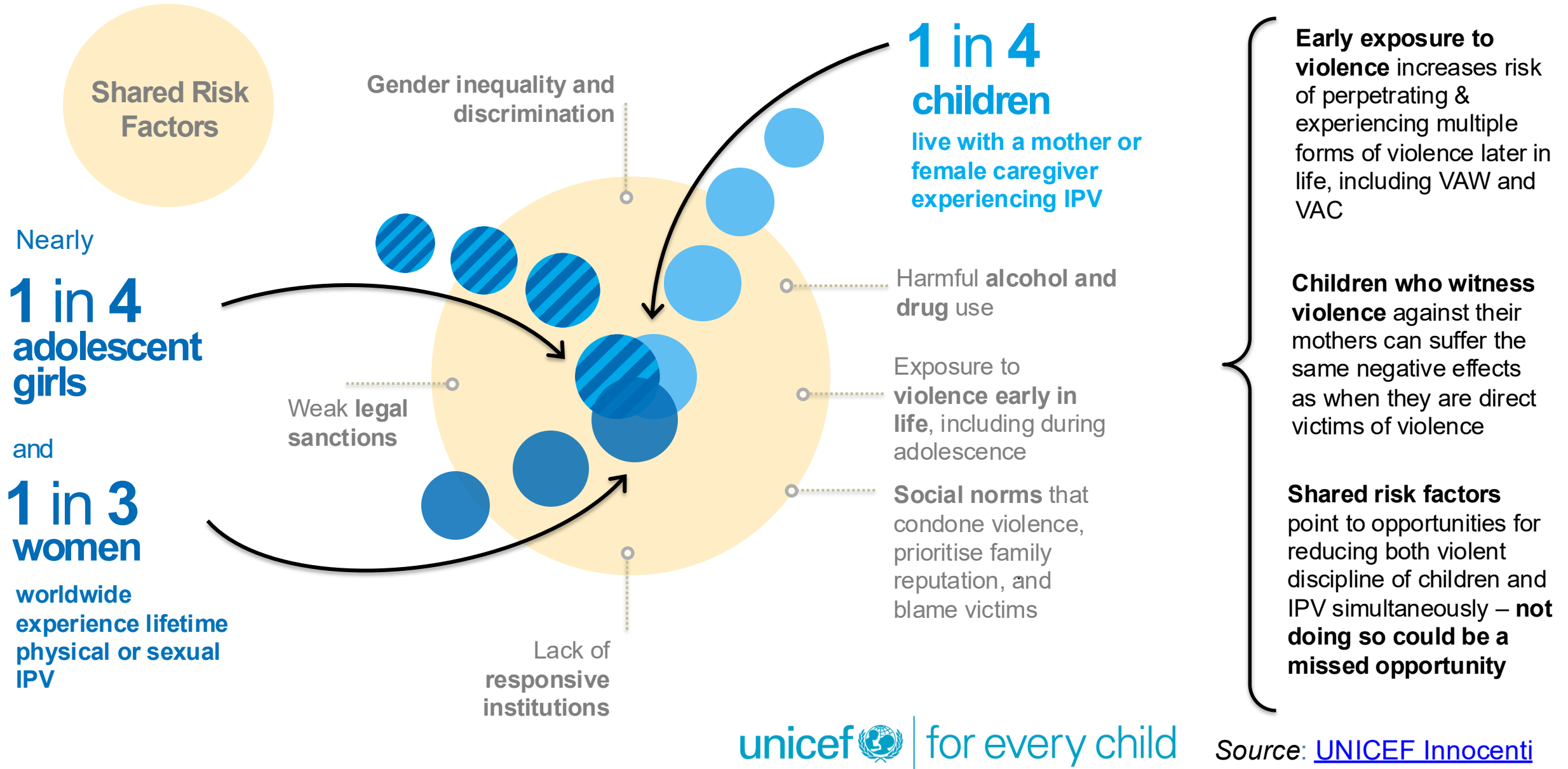
Source: [Cagney et al. 2025](#)

Intimate partner violence is *pervasive*



Data from 2000 - 2018 from 161 countries covering 90% of the population, Source: [Sardinha et al. 2022](#)

Shared risk factors between VAC & VAW



R Relationship skills strengthened

E Empowerment of women

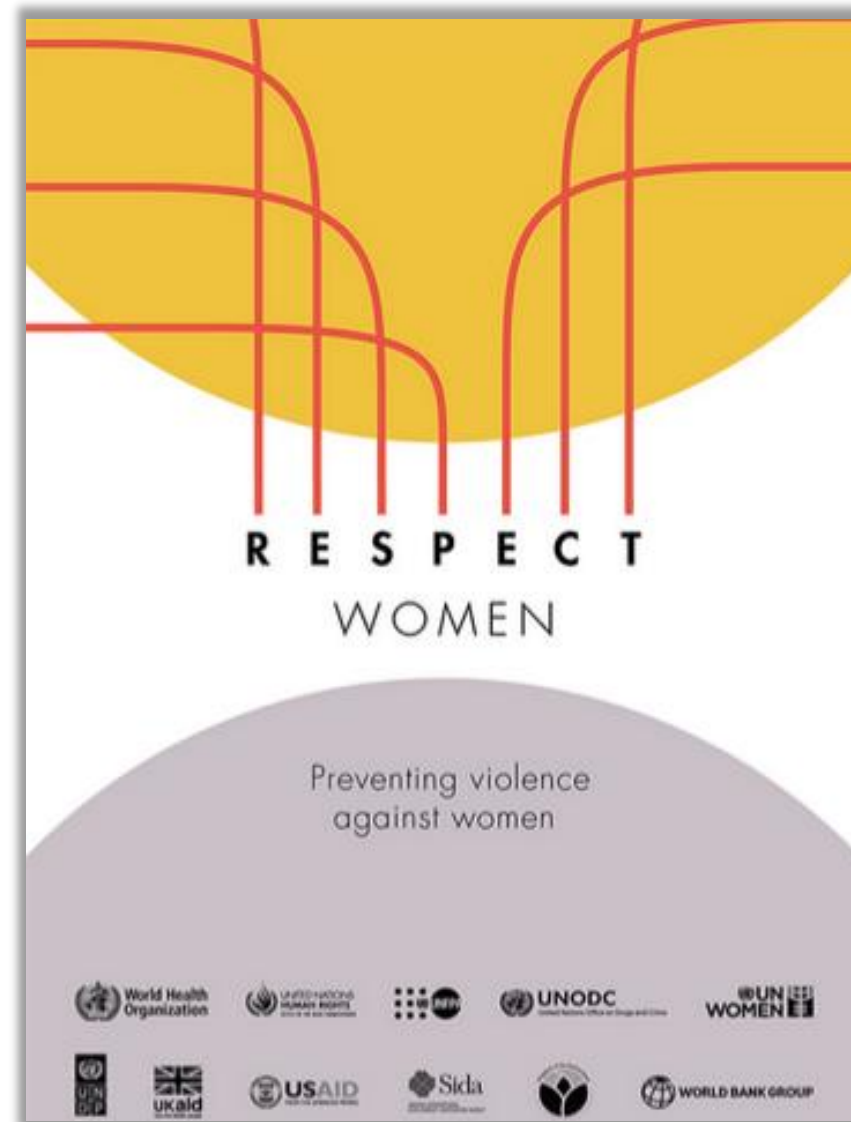
S Services ensured

P Poverty reduced

E Environments made safe

C Child and adolescent abuse prevented

T Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms



Source (2019): <https://respect-prevent-vaw.org/>

R Relationship skills strengthened

E Empowerment of women

S Services ensured

P Poverty reduced

E Environments made safe

C Child and adolescent abuse prevented

T Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms

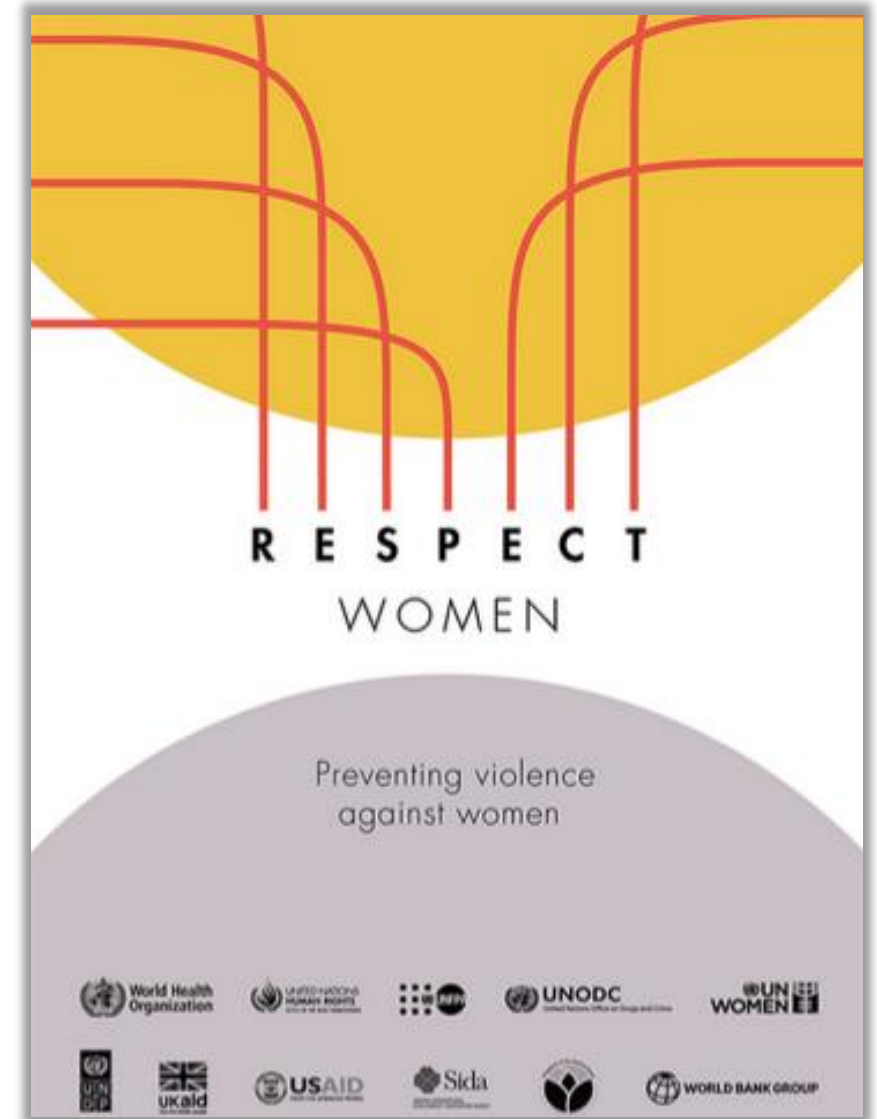
- **Infrastructure & transport**



- **Bystander interventions**



- **Whole school approaches**



Source (2019): <https://respect-prevent-vaw.org/>

Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills



INSPIRE

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



Source: [WHO et al. 2016](#)

Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening



Response and support services



Education and life skills



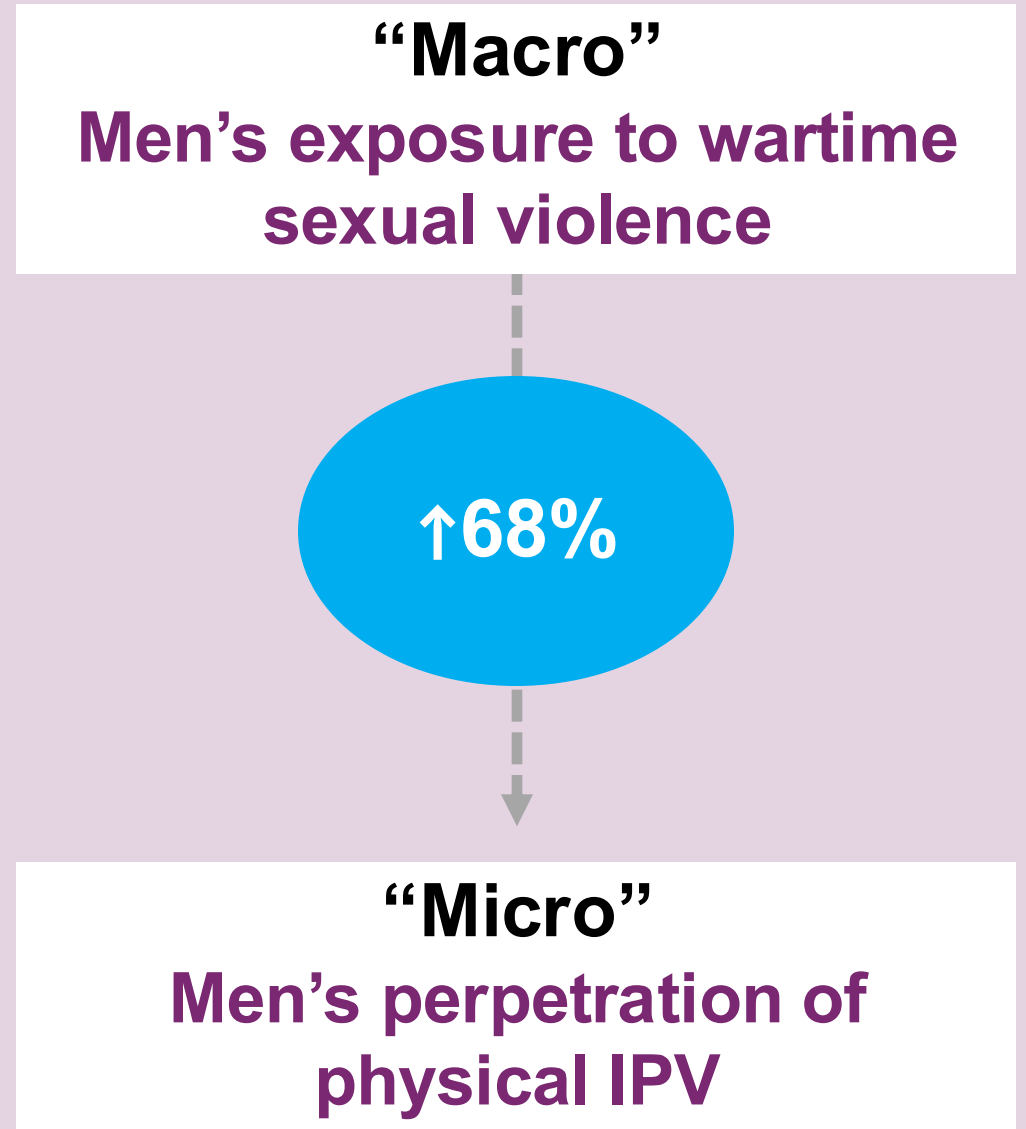
- **Reducing violence by addressing “hotspots”**
- **Interrupting the spread of violence**
- **Improving the built environment**

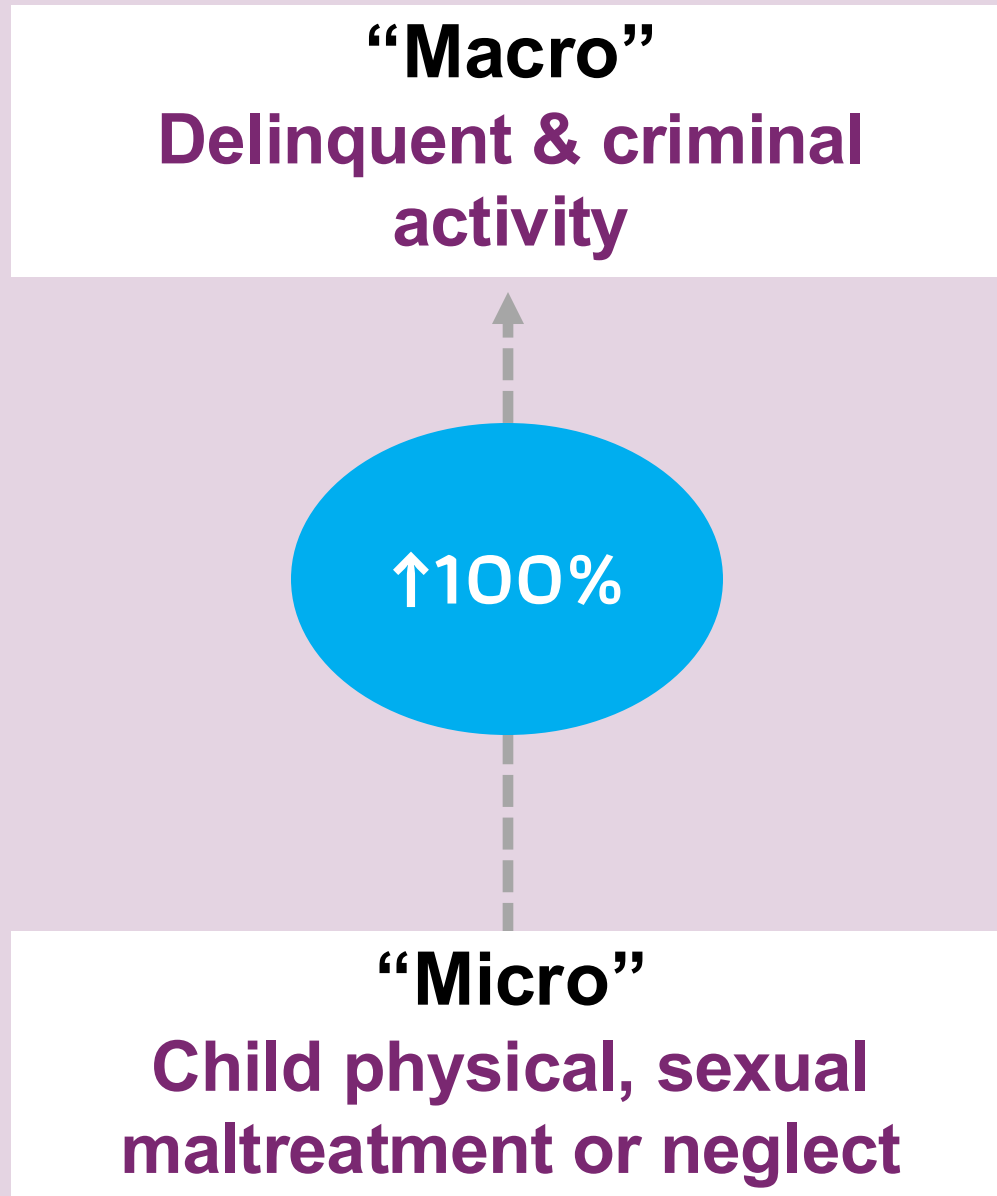
Source: [WHO et al. 2016](#)

Ex 1: Angolan War

- ▶ 27-year-long post-independence civil war → effects are post-war (on average 18 years later)
- ▶ Natural experiment leveraging variation in birthdates (compulsory military service) & shifts in territorial control (thus armed groups)
- ▶ Potential mechanism: Reduction in self control

Source: [Stojetz & Brück](#), 2023





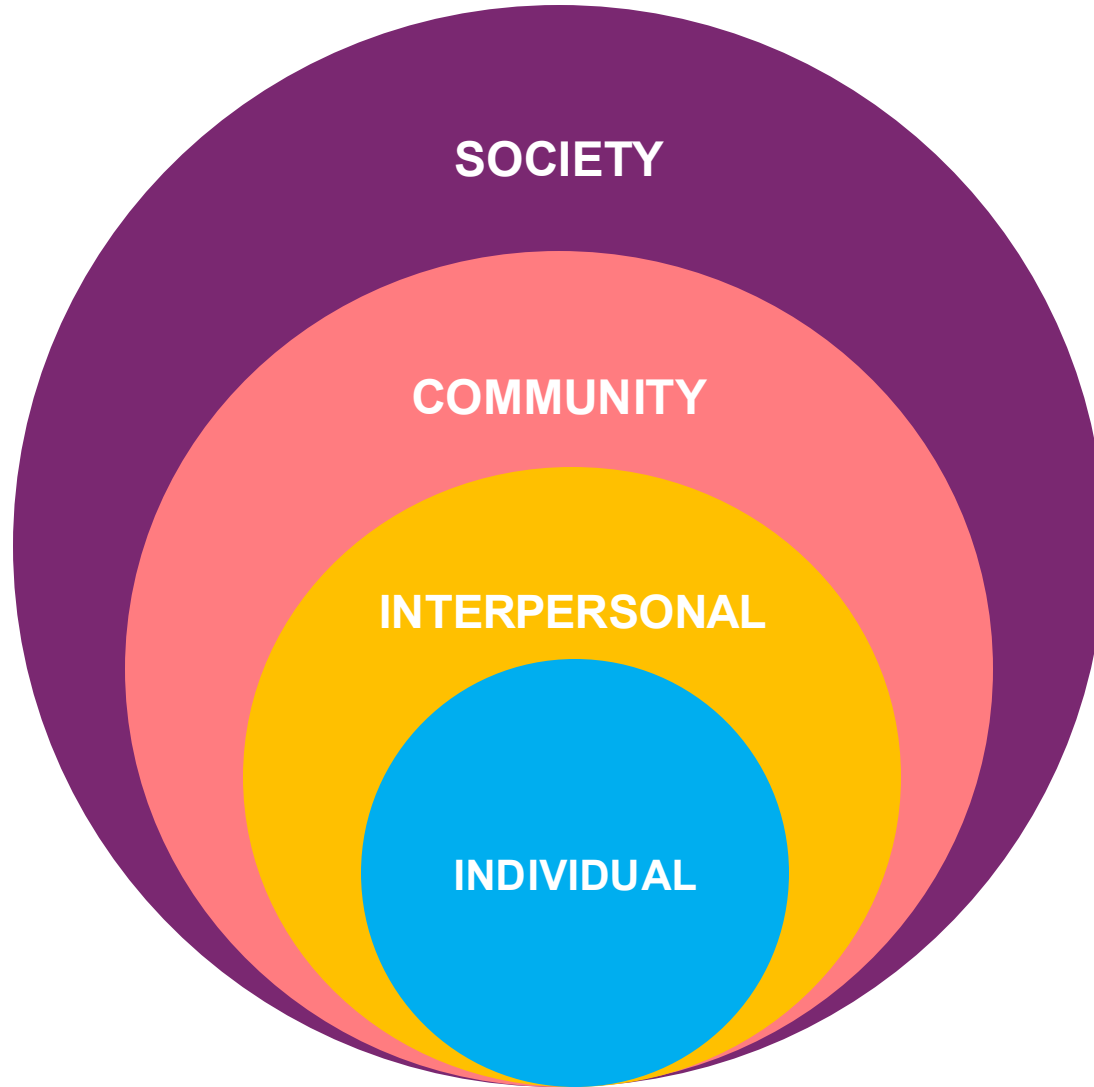
Ex 2: Child maltreatment in the US

- ▶ Analyses Add Health longitudinal data (80 high schools, 20,000+ students)
- ▶ Uses sibling and twin fixed effects & a variety of different modeling techniques
- ▶ “Larger effect” relative to other commonly studied factors (e.g., education, unemployment, etc.)

Source: [Currie & Tekin, 2012](#)

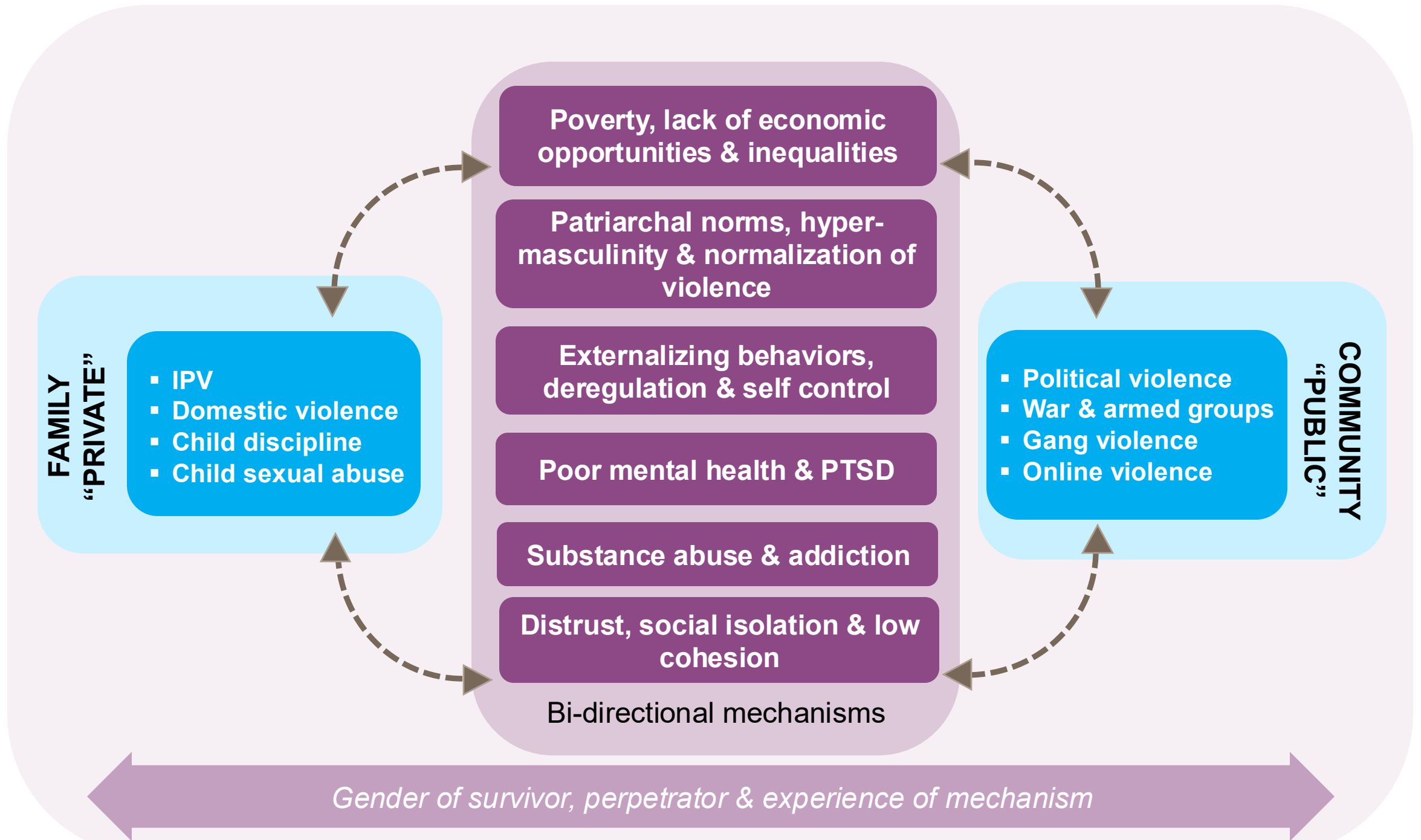
Part 2: How do we conceptualize it?

Socio-Ecological Model



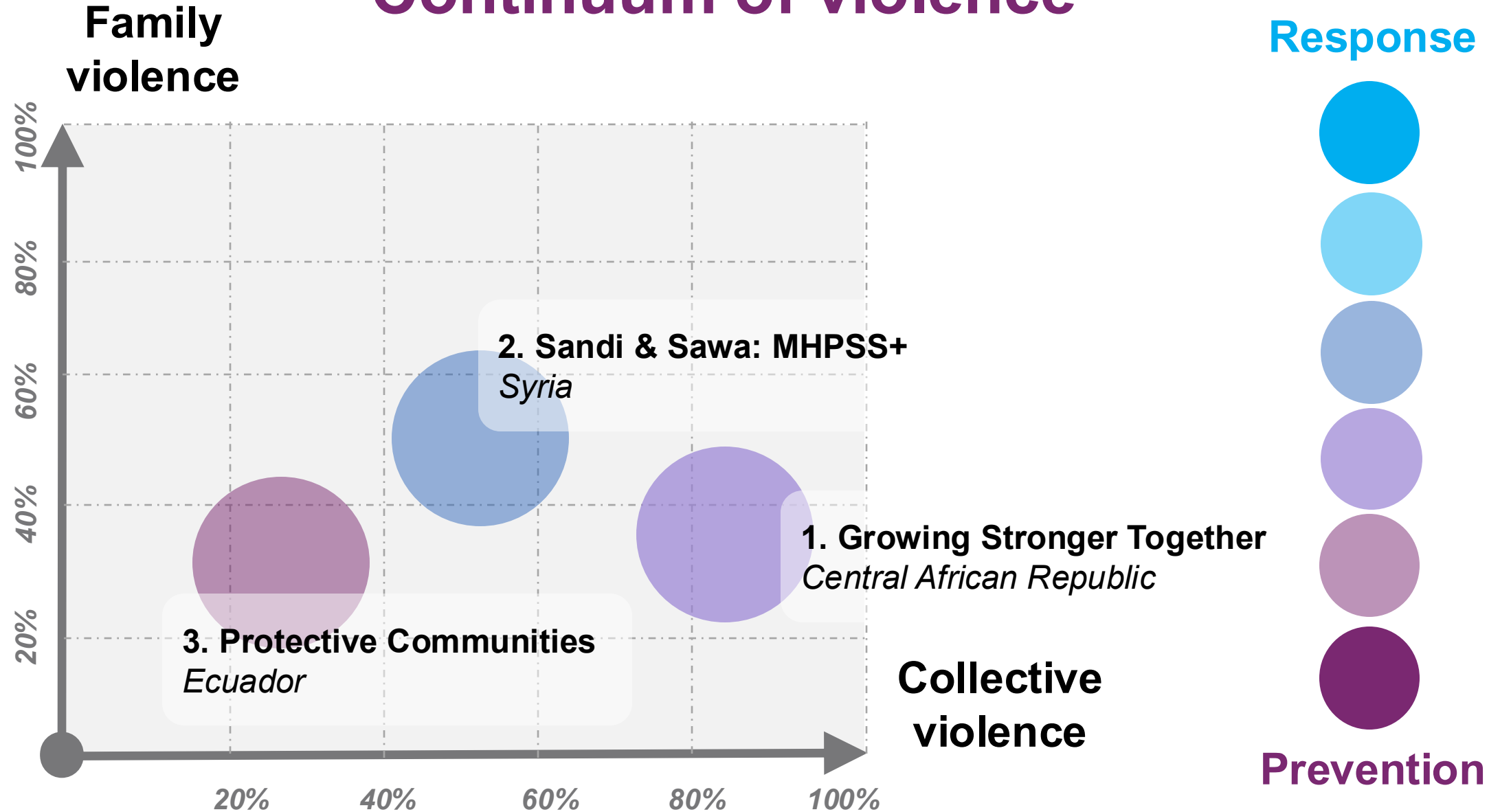
- ▶ First proposed by Lori Heise (1998) to “organize” multi-faceted factors that contribute to gender-based violence risk
- ▶ Adapted over the years for different types of family violence
- ▶ “Armed conflict” & “political instability” sit at the societal level as risk factors

Source: [Ranganathan et al. 2023](#)

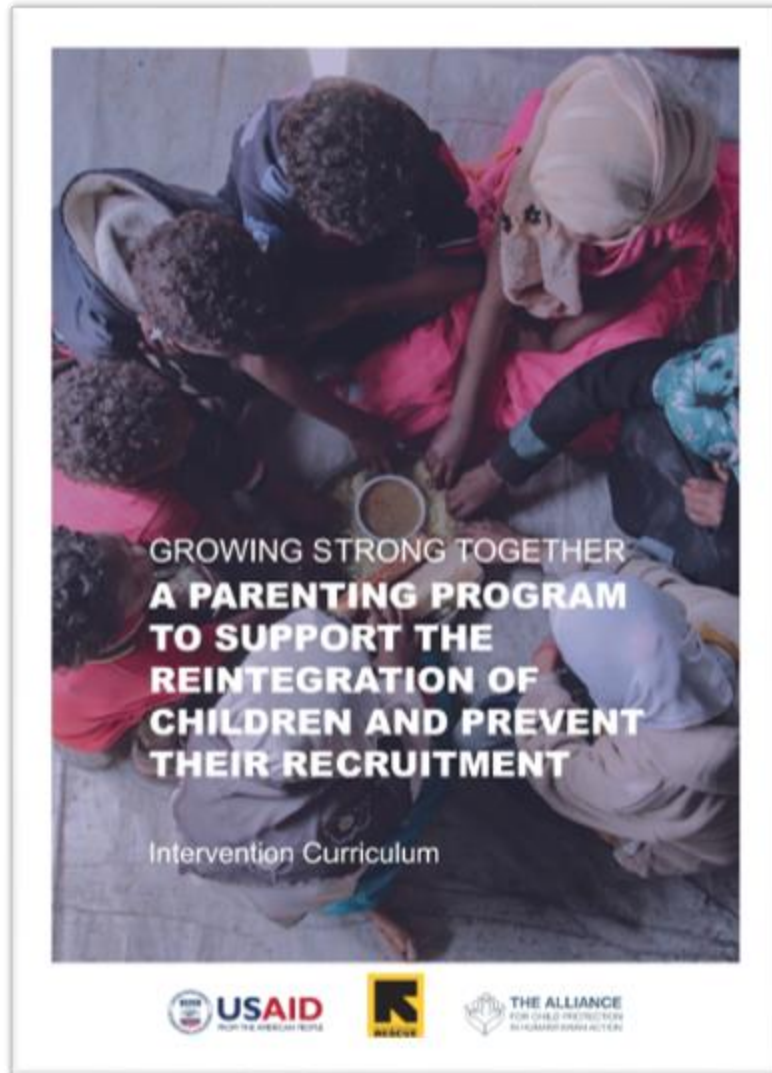


Part 3: Where have programs tried to address it?

Continuum of violence



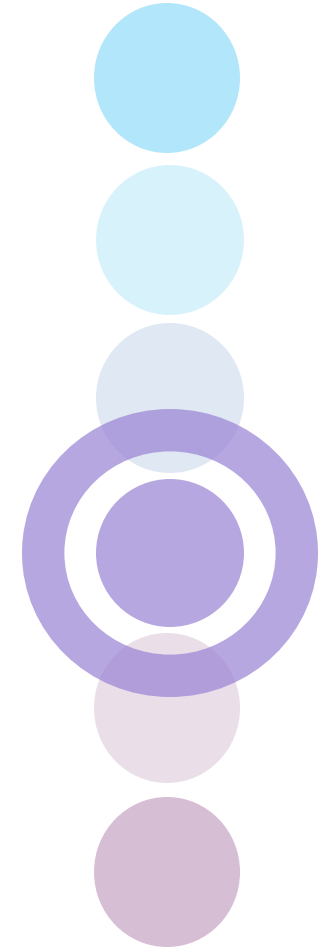
1. Growing Stronger Together (GST)



[GST program materials](#)

- ▶ IRC's family strengthening program focused on families with CAAFAG
- ▶ 20-session curriculum for caregivers with additional home visits and adolescent activities
- ▶ Aims at preventing & reintegration of CAAGAF, as well as family violence
- ▶ CAR, DRC, Yemen, Nigeria & Iraq

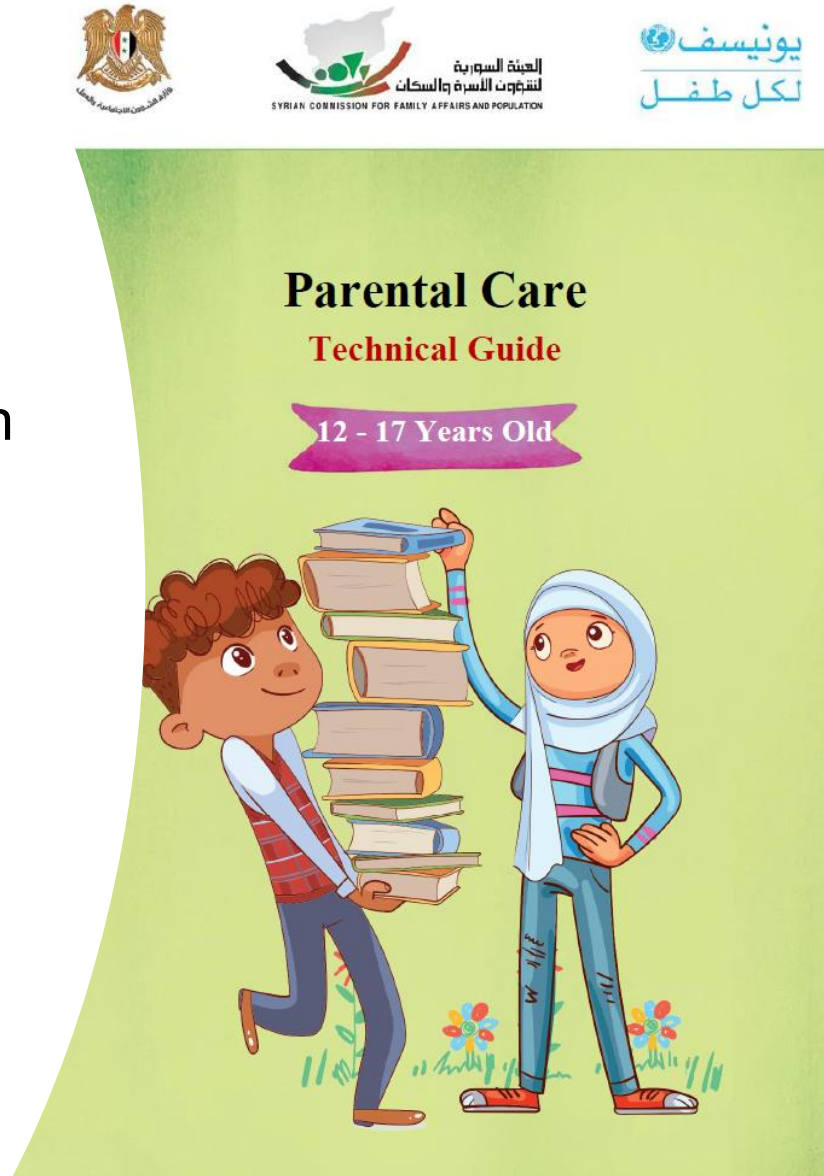
Response



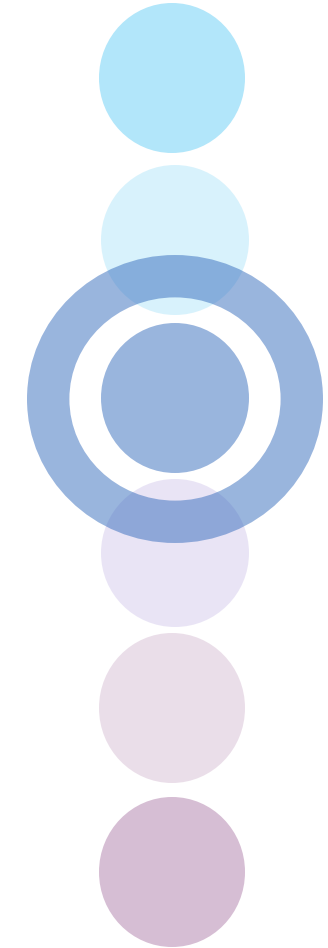
Prevention

2. Sanadi & Sawa MHPSS+

- ▶ UNICEF's group-based MHPSS for children 6 – 18 years + parenting, focused on addressing trauma and parenting in times of crisis
- ▶ Implemented in group-based sessions over 6 – 8 weeks
- ▶ Endorsed by MoSA & being implemented nationwide (10,000+ families)



Response

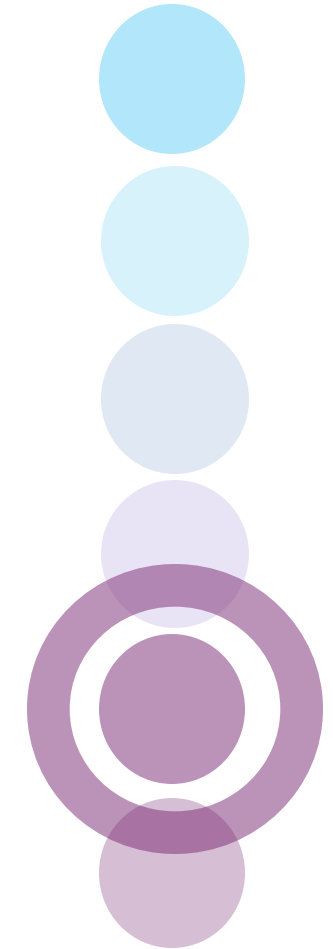


Prevention

3. Protective communities in Ecuador

- ▶ Responds to Ecuador's surge in armed violence & youth involvement in gangs & criminal networks
- ▶ In operation since 2021 in high-risk areas in the north targeting displaced populations
- ▶ Dual approach targeting child protection in the home & in the community:
 - ▶ Engage children & adolescents in life skills, self-protection, resilience building in safe spaces
 - ▶ Engage parents & community members in parenting & psychosocial support to build cohesion

Response



Prevention

Part 4: Priority research strategies?

1. Leverage disciplinary strengths

- ▶ Disciplines tend to use “macro” & “micro” specific **data** which need to be brought together to tackle linkages and explore solutions
- ▶ **Measurement** would benefit from transdisciplinary perspectives to fill gaps: sexual harassment, technology facilitated GBV, involvement or exposure to gangs or armed forces

Source: [Falb et al. 2025](#)

PERSPECTIVE | ECONOMIC SCIENCES |

Violence against women and girls research: Leveraging gains across disciplines

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January 23, 2025 | 122 (4) e2404557122 | <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2404557122>

608 | 1

Abstract

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a leading cause of mortality and morbidity worldwide, linked to numerous health, economic, and human rights outcomes. Target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for elimination of all forms of VAWG; however, progress toward achieving this goal has been inadequate. A lack of sufficient data and evidence has hindered global efforts to meet this target and hold governments accountable for action. While there have been substantial advancements in VAWG research methodology over the past three decades, researchers from diverse disciplines tend to work in silos, inhibiting progress in VAWG research. To address this challenge, we offer four key recommendations to support researchers in expanding transdisciplinary approaches: 1) leverage insights from a variety of VAWG data sources, 2) **improve precision of VAWG definitions and outcomes**, 3) create strategies to address underreporting, and 4) advance research ethics and equity. We conclude with a call to action for researchers, institutions, and donors to advance transdisciplinary research and foster collaboration, learning, and cross-fertilization across scientific fields to accelerate VAWG prevention efforts now and for future generations.

2. Tackle & expand understanding of [gendered] shared risk factors

- ▶ Greater understanding of shared risk factors & directionality of linkages across violence types with a gendered lens is needed
- ▶ Causal mapping should include both quantitative & qualitative insight
- ▶ Established & emerging shared risk factors offer entry points for programming



3. Innovate & evaluate with scale in mind

- ▶ The majority of evidence on ‘what works’ for VAC & VAW is from interventions run at relatively small scale;
- ▶ The next decade of research: Re-focusing of the sector with an emphasis on scale
- ▶ Sector programming has been acknowledged as key for sustainability & scale-up of violence programming (education, environment, livelihoods etc.)
- ▶ Innovate with implementers who are already tackling both family & collective violence (need-based innovation)

Pathways to scale: Wilton Park definitions

- ▶ **Vertical:** Embedding approaches within institutional frameworks
- ▶ **Horizontal:** Expanding an intervention into new contexts, often through adaptation;
- ▶ **Functional:** Adding to existing programs and/or services;
- ▶ **Organizational:** Forging new partnership and improving capacity of organizations;

Source: [Wilton Park Report – What will it take to end GBV? Rethinking pathways to preventing violence at scale](#)

4. Make the social investment case

- ▶ Both collective and family violence are human rights violations, **and** experiences that have ‘long shadows’ of impacts over lifetimes and generations
- ▶ Social investment case for tackling multiple types of violence is likely very high – but rarely quantified
- ▶ Investment in violence prevention has been historically low – and shrinking. How do we value freedom from violence? What is the social investment case?

Source: [What counts? 2023](#)

GBV prevention is 0.2% of ODA

If donors consistently ear-marked an additional 0.1% of health and education budgets for GBV prevention work, it could radically transform the funding landscape, meeting the target of \$USD500 million of new money by 2026.

SPENDING (\$USD MILLION)
ON ODA PRIORITY AREAS
IN 2021

● Health ● Education ● Social Protection ● Environment Protection ● GBV Prevention



14,380



10,120



1,840



4,140



410

Thank you!