A health promotion approach identifies that to make real changes and improvements to people's health we must address the underlying causes of a person's or population's health. The same is true of prevention of violence against women. Expert literature reviewed by VicHealth illuminates the following elements as having a strong correlation with the perpetration of violence against women:

- How gender roles, identities and relationships are constructed and defined within societies, communities and organisations and by individual men and women
- How power and material resources are distributed between men and women
- The general and specific social norms about violence and violence against women, as well as experiences of interpersonal and collective violence
- ‘Access to resources and systems of support – the social and material resources available to individuals, communities, organisations and societies’

The ecological model used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies the interacting relationships between society, community and individuals. The societal level involves the cultural values and beliefs that influence communities, organisations and individuals. The community and organisational level involves the social structures that affect a person, both formal and informal. The individual level comprises ‘the developmental experiences and personality factors that shape a person’s responses to stressors in their environment’. This is closely linked with the relationships a person has with others.
QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU PLAN

We found it useful to think through the determinants broadly, and then ask what they actually mean in the context we’re working in. We followed that by asking how we will address these determinants in our project planning. For each process, we used the following questions:

Gender roles and relations
What are the:
• broader societal factors
• community and organisational factors
• individual and relationship factors

that contribute to gender inequity?

Social norms and practices
What are the social norms and practices that contribute to violence against women at:
• a societal level?
• a community and organisational level?
• an individual and relationship level?

Access to resources and systems of support
How do access to resources and systems of support contribute to violence against women at:
• a societal level?
• a community and organisational level?
• an individual and relationship level?

What are the belief systems that exist among individuals and communities that say it is okay to cope with stresses, such as resettlement, by being violent towards women?

What would have to change for you to know that you have made a difference?

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES


REFERENCES