



HEALTHCARE RESPONDING
TO VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

HERA 2

Sri Lanka

DV - Data from Sri Lanka:

- 17% of ever-married women exposed to violence

Demographic and Health Survey, SL, 2016

- Other studies:
 - 20-72%
 - 25-35%

Of women who faced violence, only 28% asked for help.

Where did they go to, for help?

- 75% - from parents/ brothers/sisters/ relatives
- 27% - friends and neighbours
- 18% - police
- 7.4% - PHM/ Public Health officer
- 1.4% - other government institutions

Demographic and Health Survey, SL, 2016

Health Care
Services



Women facing
domestic
violence

Insufficient
services?

Not providing
the support
that women
want?

Poor
responses
from care
providers?

Stigma?

Safety?

Lack of
knowledge?

Research questions

Women:

Their experiences re seeking help?

What support do they want (from HCS)?

Health care professionals:

Their experiences, & awareness on VAW/ services

PhD
- Public Health
Midwives

Questionnaire (including MH),
Qualitative interviews

Questionnaire,
Qualitative interviews
observation

Develop intervention
– to improve support and help seeking behaviour from HCS

PhD
Attitudes and perceived reasons for DV – among men

PhD
Re school children exposed to DV

Evaluation
impact, feasibility, acceptability



Intervention -
Outcomes -
Evaluation -

Intervention?		Outcomes?
Training for health care professionals of different categories	Increased awareness Change of attitudes Increased skills Clearer referral pathway	Increased detection of women facing DV
Provision of information to women - Provided at primary health care/ community level	Sense of support, Increased awareness of services	Increased support of women facing DV: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sense of support• Increased awareness of choices/ services available• Better MH

Next steps

- Work out further details of the project
- Ethics approval
- Build research team and capacity building/ training

THANK YOU