

# Ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Latin America

## Outcome report

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Context

British Embassy in Mexico City appointed the Centre for High Impact Social Innovation from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente, ITESO, to implement FY 21-22 activity entitled "Ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Latin America."

The project focused on identifying common challenges and priorities for regional work to prevent VAWG, as well as sharing evidence-based approaches from the UK's What Works to Prevent Violence in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Bolivia.

The Project's expected outcome was to provide knowledge, skills and space to the community and religious leaders in community groups, including indigenous groups, to prevent VAWG. The Project's intended impact was to contribute to reducing violence against women and girls in the region through sharing evidence-based approaches with community-level and religious leaders, and women's rights movements.

### 1.2. Objectives

As established in the document of terms of reference, the British Embassy requested a series of roundtables with experts to establish common priorities for regional activity and a series of capacity-building workshops with communities, locally and regionally, to share best practices and define the next steps.

ITESO and the British Embassy agreed to focus the roundtables and meetings on the dissemination of evidence-based interventions amongst potential implementation partners, and the identification of the most promising interventions in Latin America. Therefore, the project had the following objectives:

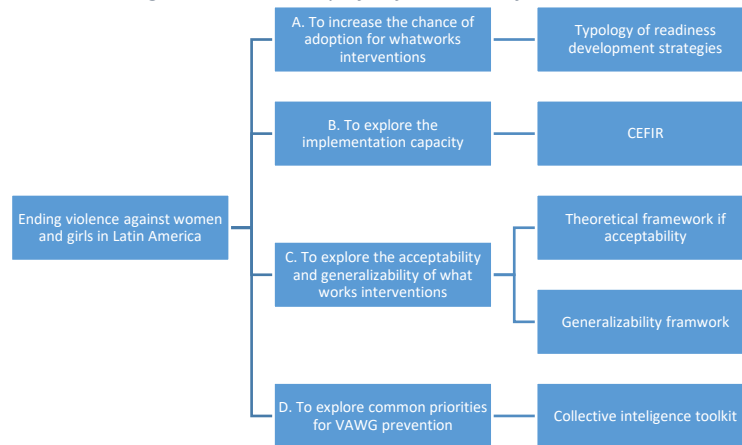
- A. To increase the chance of the adoption of evidence-based interventions to prevent VAWG in Latin America.
- B. To explore the implementation capacity for evidence-based interventions on VAWG for potential implementers in Latin America.
- C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability of evidence-based interventions for the prevention of VAWG in Latin America.
- D. To explore common priorities for VAWG prevention in Latin America.

### 1.3. Activities and Theoretical background

To achieve the objectives, the team adopted four frameworks to inform the methodology and design of the activities. For the project as a whole and objective A, the team chose the work from Vax, Farkas, Russinova, Mueser, & Drainoni (2021) who proposed a typology of readiness-development strategies. Similarly, for objective B the team used the consolidated framework for advancing

implementation research (CFIR. Damschroder, Aron, Keith, Kirsh, Alexander, and Lowery, 2009). Activities for objective C were informed by the work of Sekhon, Cartwright, and Francis (2017) who proposed a framework to synthesize key factors influencing the acceptability of interventions, known as the theoretical framework of acceptability, and the work of Bates, and Glennerster (2017) who developed a framework to identify key elements to generalise results from RCT evaluations, called the generalizability framework. Finally, activities for objective D were informed by the collective intelligence toolkit developed by Núñez-Aguilar, Trujillo-Barrios, y Hackett (2020). See figure 1).

Figure 1. Relationship of objectives and frameworks



The project aimed to increase the chance of the adoption of evidence-based interventions to prevent VAWG. Because the adoption of innovations within an organization is highly influenced by the willingness and perceived capacity amongst its members, the team selected a framework to improve the organizational readiness. The work from Vax, Farkas, Russinova, Mueser, & Drainoni (2021) was considered suitable given it was thought to inform strategy design. These authors consider organizational readiness for implementation (ORI) as a combination of the willingness and the perceived capacity of stakeholders across an organization to engage in adopting a new practice. Their work offers light on how to improve ORI before implementation or when planning to adopt an innovation.

Vax, Farkas, Russinova, Mueser, & Drainoni (2021) used the transtheoretical model (TTM) as a framework for classifying a well-established compilation of implementation strategies into three readiness stages: pre-contemplation, contemplation, and preparation, and created a typology of readiness-development strategies to enhance implementation readiness on organizations. According to this, our project should focus on the pre-contemplation phase because organizations in Latin America are not using evidence-based interventions as a general trend.

The typology of readiness-development strategies suggests developing educational materials, conducting local consensus discussions, a local needs assessment, informing opinion leaders, and conducting educational meetings to improve adoption chances when starting in the pre-contemplation phase (Vax, Farkas, Russinova, Mueser, & Drainoni, 2021). Therefore, the team designed a set of activities for each of the framework suggestions. First, the team developed a social media campaign and translated key *what works* reports. Second, an observational checklist based on

CFIR was applied to the local organizations. Finally, three kinds of meetings were designed to inform opinion leaders, assess local needs, and create consensus. The needs assessment focused on implementation readiness and local drivers for VAWG. Similarly, the consensus meeting was centred on the acceptability and generalizability of *what works* interventions. Finally, the two meetings for opinion leaders were channelled to build capacity and motivation to use evidence-based interventions to prevent VAWG (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Typology of readiness-development and project activities

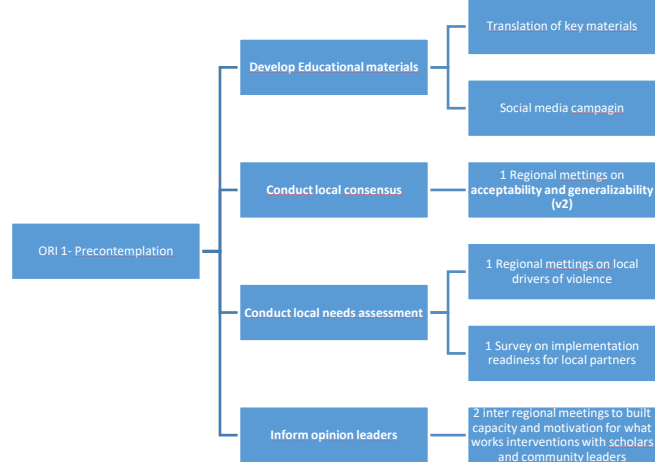
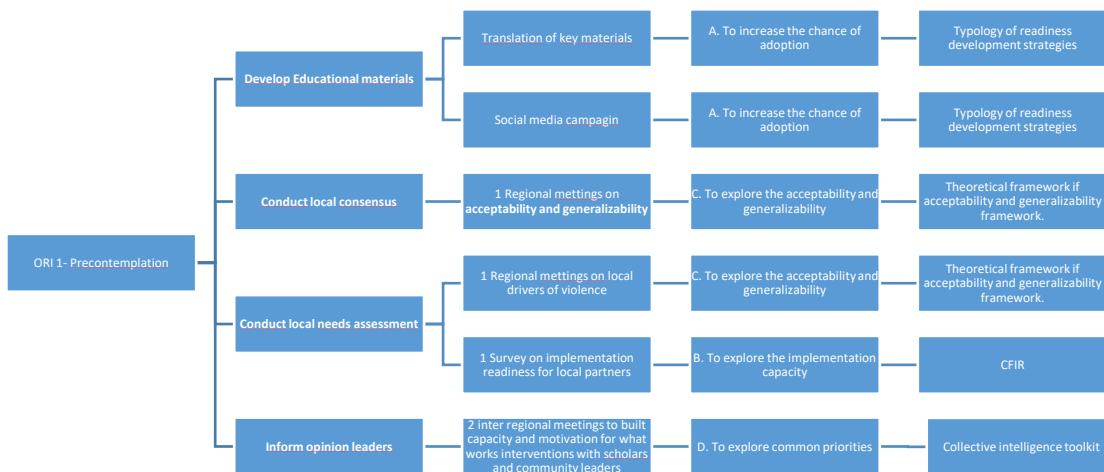


Figure 3 explains how the typology of readiness-development strategies relates to the project objectives. As it can be seen, each objective is matched to an activity of the project, and each objective to a framework.

Figure 3. Typology of readiness-development, project activities, objectives, and frameworks



### 1.3.1. Social media campaign

The typology of readiness-development strategies (Vax, Farkas, Russinova, Mueser, & Drainoni, 2021) suggests employing social media campaigns to create awareness about the interventions and materials developed. Therefore, the team focused its design efforts on publication centred on the

dissemination of key findings from whatworks publications as well as dissemination of two flagship reports translated to Spanish for this project.

The target audience for the campaign was professionals working on VAWG prevention in the eight countries participants in the project. The team selected Twitter and LinkedIn as the main channels to distribute the information and designed 32 publications to be posted by all parties of the project across these social networks. The rationale is the audience selected is more active and participative on these platforms. See annexe 1 for more detail on the composition and detail of all the publications.

### 1.3.2. Capacity building

As mentioned previously, the team selected the CFIR (Damschroder, Aron, Keith, Kirsh, Alexander, and Lowery, 2009) to explore the implementation capacity for evidence-based interventions on VAWG in potential implementation partners in Latin America. This tool informs and guides on the variables to prospect the capacity to implement the intervention, which in turn is an important predictor of fidelity during deployment.

The CFIR includes five major domains (the intervention, inner and outer setting, the individuals involved, and the process by which implementation is accomplished) and subdomains for each one of them. For this project, the team decided to explore two domains (inner and outer setting) and six subdomains: Patient needs and resources, cosmopolitanism, structural characteristics, networks and communications, culture, and readiness for Implementation. Table 1 offers a brief definition of each of the subdomains.

Table 1. Definitions for selected CFIR subdomains

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>OUTER SETTING</b>         |   |
| Patient Needs & Resources    | The extent to which patient needs, as well as barriers and facilitators to meet those needs are accurately known and prioritized by the organization. |
| Cosmopolitanism              | The degree to which an organization is networked with other external organizations.   |
| <b>INNER SETTING</b>         |   |
| Structural Characteristics   | The social architecture, age, maturity, and size of an organization   |
| Networks & Communications    | The nature and quality of webs of social networks and the nature and quality of formal and informal communications within an organization.            |
| Culture                      | Norms, values, and basic assumptions of a given organization  |
| Readiness for Implementation | Tangible and immediate indicators of organizational commitment to its decision to implement an intervention   |

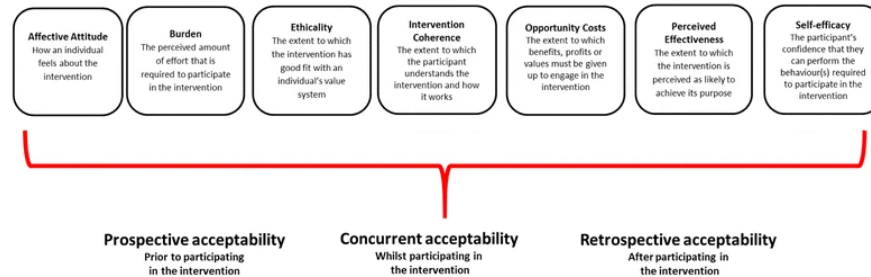
Note: Definitions taken as literal from Damschroder, Aron, Keith, Kirsh, Alexander, and Lowery, 2009.

The acceptability of an intervention is an important predictor of the use of the intervention. Therefore, an important variable to consider when promoting the adoption amongst potential implementers. The theoretical framework of acceptability proposed by Sekhon, Cartwright, and Francis (2017) informs and guides the variables to explore to determine how pertinent the interventions are at a cognitive and emotional level for local organizations in Latin America.

Sekhon, Cartwright, and Francis (2017) define acceptability as a multi-faceted construct that reflects the extent to which people delivering or receiving a healthcare intervention consider it to be appropriate, based on anticipated or experiential cognitive and emotional responses to the intervention. The same authors mentioned that acceptability could be understood by the domains of affective attitude, burden, ethicality, intervention coherence, opportunity costs, perceived

effectiveness and self-efficacy. For the project, the inquiry over this topic focused on the prospective acceptability of the interventions as seen by potential implementers and researchers. Figure 4 presents a summary of the framework as the result of a systematic review of the literature.

Figure 4. The theoretical framework of acceptability by Sekhon, Cartwright, and Francis (2017)

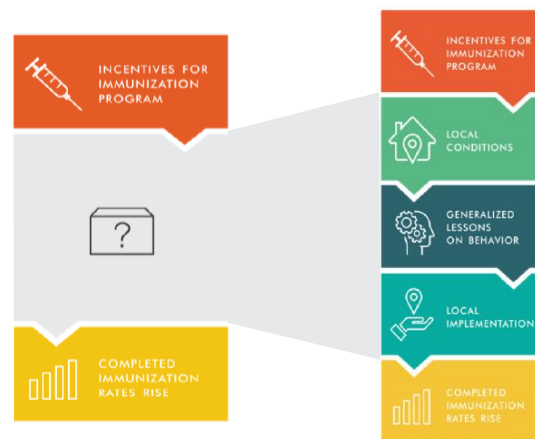


Note: Figure taken from original paper by Sekhon, Cartwright, and Francis (2017).

To complement the theoretical framework of acceptability, the team selected the generalizability framework developed by Bates, and Glennerster (2017) to understand to what extent the assumptions and drivers for the intervention to work are present in the new context. This tool provides systematic orientation on how to review and assess if an intervention could generate the expected outcomes of the intervention in the region of interest.

The generalizability framework proposes to first disaggregate the theory of change supporting an intervention. Once that is done, the next step is to assess the local conditions to check if the intervention theory of change applies to the context. After that is completed, it is necessary to review if the behaviours required to participate in the intervention could be carried out by the potential participants. Finally, the last step involves a review of the organization's capacity for the local implementer to check to what extent the intervention could be implemented as planned (See figure 5).

Figure 5. Generalizability framework by Bates, and Glennerster (2017)



Note: Figure taken from original publication on Bates, and Glennerster (2017)

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Recruitment process

The recruitment process for this project required and specific strategy to assure the most effective process of selection, for which we developed a personal framework and followed some steps. First, we did an extended search for all of the organizations that work with preventing and attending to violence against women and girls.

For the first step we had three strategies, one was doing the research online, with the help of experts from ITESO and other external experts who told us where to look for this kind of information. The other involved having online meetings and digital communication with university representants from AUSJAL (Asociación de Universidades Confiadas a la Compañía de Jesús en América Latina from its name in Spanish), which is part of the IHS (International Association of Jesuit Universities); these representants suggested us which local Organizations could participate, based on their experience and recommendations. Lastly, we did the same with representatives from the UK Embassies around the region, and they suggested some valuable partners for the project.

From this part of the process, we ended up with a list of 83 organizations and representatives from Jesuit universities and British embassies. For some countries the research of this information was easy, and others implied looking for external help since we do not find a lot of options in the beginning. With help from experts, it became easier to know where to look.

Once we had that pool of organizations, we knew that not all of those organizations met the criteria needed to implement an evidence-based intervention. To do the analysis and decide which organizations to invite, we used the consolidated framework for advancing implementation research (CFIR. Damschroder, Aron, Keith, Kirsh, Alexander, and Lowery, 2009). We also based our decision on the similarity of these organizations to the ones that implemented the initiative in other countries, as enlisted in What Works report.

We were sure that the organizations needed to do some kind of community-based work and approach. In that sense, we did not select the organizations that only do research, communication strategies, activism and sensibilization activities. Also, we left out the ones that had less than 5 years of experience. The result of organizations that passed our screening process was 55. In February we sent emails inviting them to participate and had online reunions with the organization that could give us the time to talk about the project and how their organization works. In the end, we invited a few more organizations based on late recommendations of experts.

One of the important values we wanted to assure was diversity since the team is aware that the experience of every woman varies around every country and thus violence can have different drivers and the organizations have different perspectives on what works to prevent it, and different approaches to work with their local communities.

Of those 55 organizations total of 43 participated in all or some of the activities we invited them to. In order to assure the participation of all or most of the invited representatives, we maintained constant communication thru emails, phone calls and direct messages. Nonetheless, the participation ratio varied in every workshop due to the fact that march is a very busy month for this organization.

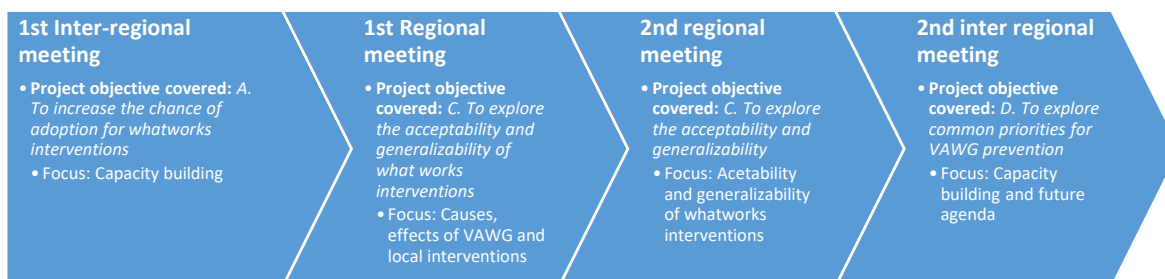
Even though a lot of them assured their participation via email or phone call, in the end, they did not attend the meetings without giving previous notice. Although the numbers were low in some workshops, the methodology permitted to have a good dialogue and results.

## 2.2. Meeting procedure

The team designed a process of four meetings to achieve the outcomes of the project. Two meetings designed to gather representatives from the eight countries, named inter-regional meetings, and two meetings clustering countries by cultural/geographic similarities, called regional meetings: Mexico, Argentina, Central America, and the Andine region. In total, the team implemented ten meetings; two inter-regional meetings and eight regional meetings.

The strategy for the process is as follows. The first meeting was an inter-regional meeting, the second and third meetings were regional, and the last meeting was inter-regional. The first inter-regional meeting focused on building knowledge and skills to prevent VAWG and the second on exploring common priorities and building capacity as well. In regards to the regional meetings, the first and the second focused on exploring the acceptability and generalizability of whatworks intervention (see figure 6).

Figure 6. The sequence of meetings, objectives of the project and main content for the meeting



The methodology used for the facilitation was based on Núñez-Aguilar, Trujillo-Barrios, y Hackett's (2020) toolkit for collective intelligence. Because the team aimed to know the extent of agreement for acceptability and generalizability, the Regnier's Abacus was considered a suitable option. Similarly, it was needed qualitative information about the reasons backing up the opinions given by the experts, therefore a focus group was also added to the meeting procedure. The combination of both techniques allowed for a flexible approach to elicit the information as well as to get concrete opinions from all the participants in the meetings. First, participants were asked to provide their opinion about a certain domain in a written form through the chat. Then, a member of the team summarised the ideas on a virtual board and a moderator guided a conversation to deepen the understanding of the opinions. The result was information contextualized for each region about acceptability and generalizability of whatworks interventions and context for potential implementation. To see the methodology used in the meetings and pictures of implementation see annexe 2.



## 2.3. Instruments

### 2.3.1. Qualitative instruments

Objectives C and D of the project were of an exploratory design and focused on understanding how better transfer learnings and interventions from whatworks in Latin America. Therefore, the theoretical framework of acceptability and the generalizability framework was employed to design the collection methods. As mentioned in the section above, the toolkit of collective intelligence (Núñez-Aguilar, Trujillo-Barríos, y Hackett, 2020) was selected to inform the design of data collection techniques. From that toolkit, the team chose to mix the Regnier abacus with a focus group to better probe for information.

Table 1 shows the different domains treated during the meetings and specifies the technique deployed for probing and elicitation with the participants. For a more detailed explanation of the meeting, see Annex 2.

*Table 1. List of activities used for qualitative data collection and the domains per framework included*

| Objectives   | Framework                                  | Domain   | Collection technique                        | Collection time                        |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | The affective attitude of whatworks interventions  | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | The burden of whatworks interventions              | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Ethicality of whatworks interventions              | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Intervention Coherence of whatworks interventions  | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Opportunity costs of whatworks interventions       | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness of whatworks interventions | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Self-efficacy of whatworks interventions           | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | Generalizability framework                 | Causes for VAWG                                    | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | Generalizability framework                 | Effects of VAWG                                    | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | Generalizability framework                 | Local interventions for VAWG                       | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | Generalizability framework                 | Transferability of whatworks interventions         | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| C. To explore the acceptability and generalizability | Generalizability framework                 | The adaptability of whatworks interventions        | Regnier Abacus mixed with Focus group mixed | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting       |
| D. To explore common priorities                      | NA   | Priorities for Latin America on VAWG prevention    | Focus group                                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meetings |

|                                 |    |                            |             |  |
|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| D. To explore common priorities | NA | Learnings from the project | Focus group | 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meetings |
|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-------------|--|

## 2.3.2. Quantitative instruments

### 2.3.2.1. Acceptability of the process

To measure the quality of the implementation, the team collected information on the participants' perception of acceptability for the project. As mentioned before, this variable is a strong predictor for future adoption of evidence-based interventions and allows the team to account for the achievement of objective A. Table 2 displays a list of indicators sampled during the project and computed indexes when applied (See annexe 3).

Table 2. List of indicators per domain and framework to measure the acceptability of the process

| Objectives                            | Framework                                  | Domain   | Stimulus   | Indicator               | Collection   | Index                           |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting             | 3. Pude compartir mi experiencia sobre las CAUSAS de la VMN en mi región   | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting                     | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting | 4. Pude compartir mi experiencia sobre las CONSECUENCIAS de la VMN en mi región  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting                     |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting | 5. Pude compartir mi experiencia sobre las ESTRATEGIAS contra la VMN en mi región  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting                     |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting | 6. Pude conocer la experiencia de mis compañeras sobre la VMN en la región   | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> regional meeting                     |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting | 3. Pude compartir mi opinión sobre que tan ACEPTABLES son las intervenciones de whatworks para mi región   | Percentage of agreement | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting                     | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting | 4. Pude compartir mi opinión sobre que tan TRANSFERIBLES son las intervenciones de whatworks para mi región  | Percentage of agreement | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting                     |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Perceived effectiveness for the project 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting | 5. Pude compartir mi opinión sobre las ADAPTACIONES necesarias que requieren las intervenciones de whatworks en el hipotético caso de implementar en mi región | Percentage of agreement | 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting                     |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Affective attitude toward the project                                    | 7. Me sentí involucrada durante la sesión  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Affective attitude toward the project                                    | 8. Me sentí cómoda con la metodología de trabajo de la sesión  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | the theoretical framework of acceptability | Affective attitude toward the project                                    | 9. Me sentí cómoda con la conducción de la sesión  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> regional meeting |                                 |

### 2.3.2.2. Chance of adoption

To directly measure the likelihood for future adoption of whatworks interventions, the team decided to use the COM-B system. Informed by this frame the team designed a set of indicators for behavioural determinants of adoption. Because the project lacks a baseline on these indicators, the measurements obtained represent perceived change in the given behavioural determinants. Table 3 presents the set of indicators and indexes captured during the process of implementation (See annex 3).

Table 3. List of indicators per domain and framework to measure the change in behavioural determinants for adoption

| Objectives                            | Framework    | Domain   | Stimulus   | Indicator               | Collection  | Index                           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Psychological capacity   | 5. Mejoró mi conocimiento sobre intervenciones basadas en evidencia  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Psychological capacity   | 6. Mejoró mi conocimiento sobre como erradicar la VMN  | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Reflective motivation (Self-conscious planning, beliefs about what's good/bad) | 8. Mejoró mi motivación para usar intervenciones basadas en evidencia en la lucha contra la VMN              | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Reflective motivation (Self-conscious planning, beliefs about what's good/bad) | 9. Mejoró mi motivación de conocer más sobre intervenciones basadas en evidencia para erradicar la VMN       | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Automatic motivation (Needs, desires, impulses, reflexes)                      | 10. Mejoró mi percepción sobre las intervenciones basadas en evidencia                                       | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting | Average percentage of agreement |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Automatic motivation (Needs, desires, impulses, reflexes)                      | 7. Mejoró mi percepción de los beneficios que tienen las intervenciones basadas en evidencia                 | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting |                                 |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | COM-B System | Social opportunity   | 11. Aumentó mi percepción de cuantas organizaciones están interesadas en intervenciones basadas en evidencia | Percentage of agreement | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting | NA                              |
| A. To increase the chance of adoption | NA           | Behavioural intention for adoption   | 13. Me gustaría aplicar alguna de las intervenciones de whatworks en mi región                               | Percentage of agreement | 2 <sup>nd</sup> interregional meeting                     | NA                              |

### 2.3.2.3. Implementation capacity

The team developed a tool to observationally assess if the potential participants meet criteria derived from CFIR (cite). Two observers of the team reviewed the websites and digital media for evidence in

favour of the capacity for implementation variables. Table 4 displays in more detail the indicators and reviewed (See annexe 4):

*Table 4. List of indicators per domain and framework to measure implementation capacity*

| Objectives  | Framework | Domain                       | Stimulus  | Indicator   | Collection          | Index                    |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|--------------------------|
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Patient needs and resources  | It has some type of report or diagnosis on the causes and consequences, and/or interventions of violence.                       | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process | Average count per region |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Cosmopolitanism              | In the last year, the organization has participated in networks/working groups around the prevention of violence against women. | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process |                          |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Cosmopolitanism              | In the last five years, the organization has received international funding to implement a project.                             | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process |                          |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Cosmopolitanism              | The organization has implemented projects in partnership with other NGOs (not funding organizations.)                           | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process |                          |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Structural Characteristics   | The institution appears to have operations in various regions of the country.   | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process | NA                       |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Networks & Communications    | There is an organizational chart or organizational directory published.   | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process | NA                       |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Culture                      | The organization has a report of results/activities for the last year.  | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process | NA                       |
| B. To explore the implementation capacity for interventions on VAWG | CFIR      | Readiness for Implementation | The organization has published or mentioned the existence of implementation manuals.  | Presence of documents or publications showcasing the content required | Recruitment process | NA                       |

#### 2.3.2.4. Social media campaign performance

Three types of indicators were used to assess the performance of the social media campaign: Impressions, interactions, and the expansion of details. Impressions refer to the number of times people see a tweet. Similarly, the interactions are the times that people interacted with the tweet

(retweet, likes, links, cards, and hashtags, among others). Finally, the expansion of details is the number of times people clicked on the tweet to see more information.

#### 2.4. Qualitative analysis process

Objectives C and D produce qualitative information during the execution of the two regional meetings and in the second interregional meeting. The team decided to use the framework method for qualitative analysis and systematization of the data (Ritchie, Lewis, Nicholls, and Ormston, 2013). This method came from a family of approaches known as thematic analysis or qualitative content analysis and helps to identify commonalities and differences in qualitative data, before focusing on relationships between different parts of the information (Gale, Heath, Cameron, Rashid, and Redwood, 2013). It is important to mention the framework method is not linked to an epistemological view, rather, it is considered a flexible tool that can be used in many circumstances. Its main strength from a methodological point of view is its capability to systematize, manage, and map the data. Therefore, facilitating accountability of the analytical process.

#### 2.5. Quantitative analysis process

The quantitative analysis of the project is focused on two objectives. On one hand, to increase the chance of adoption of evidence-based interventions. On the other, to explore the implementation capacity as potential implementers for the organizations in Latin America. The foremost objective was measured at the end of each of the meetings by a questionnaire applied to the participants and was designed to capture agreement or disagreement with a set of phrases measuring behavioural determinants for adoption. The latter was measured employing a behavioural checklist design with the CFIR and applied to each of the potential implementers by an observer and reviewer of the information available on their digital print. In each case, an index was calculated by averaging percentages of agreements of the questions representing each domain. Section 2.3.2 contains more detail on the composite indexes.

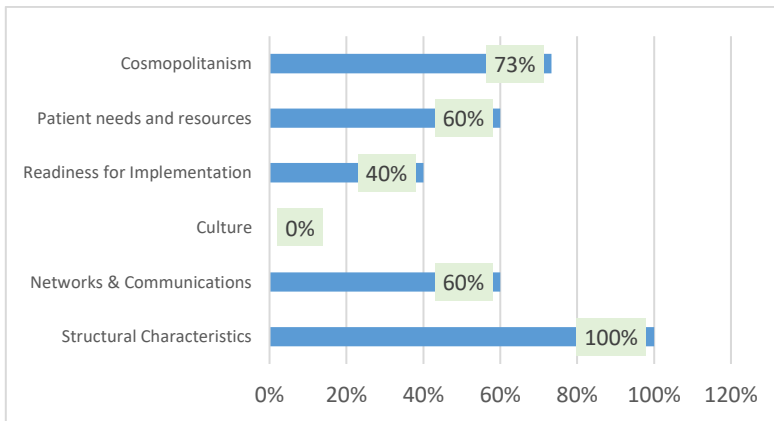
### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Capacity for implementation of *Whatworks* interventions in Latin America

##### 3.1.1 Argentina

Argentina was treated as a singular region given its geographical and cultural distance from the other countries in South America. The team identified five organizations with potential as implementation partners. As mentioned in the section on instruments, the capacity for implementation was measured by an observational checklist based on products available on the websites or digital media of the organizations. The data suggests this area might lack organizations with a culture inclined to measure or reporting of outcomes from their programs. In contrast, the percentage of organizations operating in with national reach appears to be a strength in Argentina.

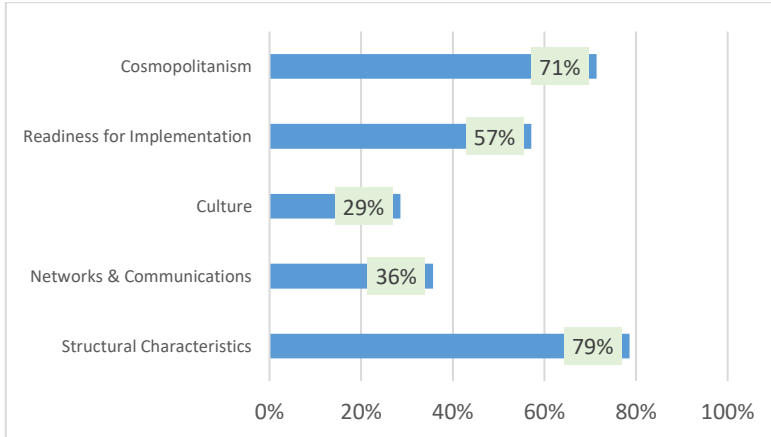
Figure 7. Levels of implementation capacity amongst organizations in Argentina



### 3.1.2 Central America

This region was composed of organizations from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The team identified 14 potential organizations meeting the criteria for participation in the project. Similar to Argentina, the region of Central America has an opportunity to improve its culture by building evidence. Only 29% of the organization published a report on outcomes of activities in the last year. Nevertheless, Central America has as a strength the percentage of organizations with national reach (79%) and with experience working with international funding (71%).

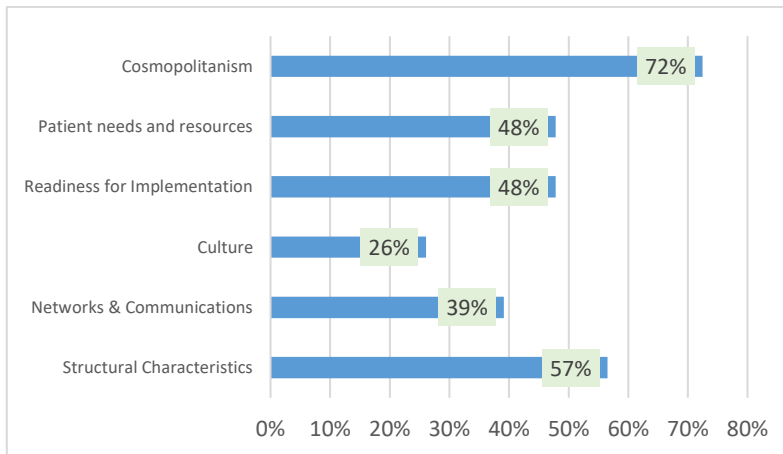
Figure 8. Levels of implementation capacity amongst organizations in Central America



### 3.1.3 Los Andes

Los Andes region was integrated by Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru. This region had a large number of organizations with potential as implementers (n=23). The main strength in the region is the percentage of organizations with experience managing international funding and collaboration with other organizations for implementing initiatives (72%). In contrast, Los Andes could improve their capacity to account for results and activities, only 26% of organizations sampled published a report of outcomes in the last year.

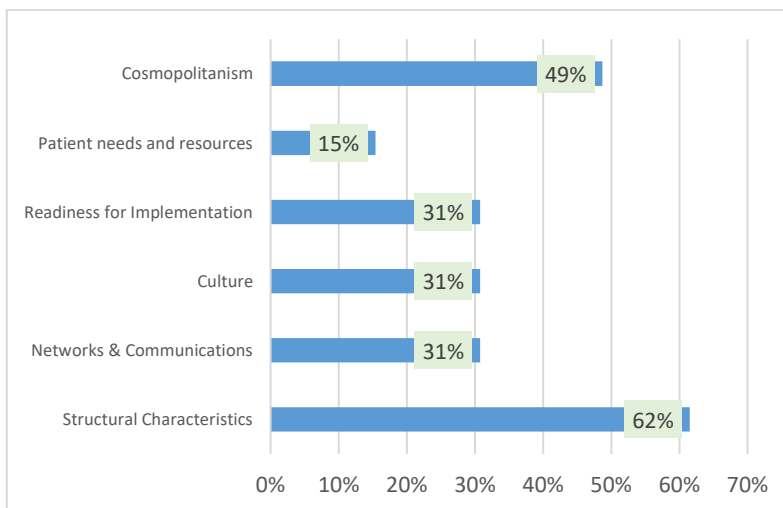
Figure 9. Levels of implementation capacity amongst organizations in Los Andes



### 3.1.4 Mexico

Mexico was treated as a single region because of geographical extension, population, and differences in the context of operation for the organizations. The team identified thirteen potential implementers in the area. As a region, it presents several opportunities before considering the implementation of an evidence-based intervention. For instance, only 15% of potential participants had published or specified a diagnostic for VAWG causes or effects. Similarly, 31% of organizations appear to use manualised interventions, or published outcomes reports for last year. Nevertheless, Mexico has organizations with projects being implemented in different parts of the country.

Figure 10. Levels of implementation capacity amongst organizations in Mexico



### 3.2. Social media campaign outreach and engagement

The social media campaign had a performance similar to other campaigns launched by ITESO's gender department, where the average impression has a mean of 800. The campaign launched to disseminate the flagship reports and insights from what works had an average of 900.83 impressions

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and a standard deviation of 830.71. Similarly, the indicator for interactions in this campaign has an average of 21.5 and a standard deviation of 16.7. Finally, the number of expansions for details averaged 9.5 and had a standard deviation of 8.8. Altogether, these indicators suggest the campaigns had a similar reach to previous efforts and the performance was as expected from the publisher.

The publication with largest success was posted on March 15<sup>th</sup>, it got 1,914 impressions on twitter and it was about one of the key insights from a flagship report from whatworks mentioning the positive effect of religious leaders play for VAWG prevention:

*“Un hallazgo novedoso del Proyecto WhatWorks para Erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas fue que: “Involucrar a los líderes y comunidades religiosas puede ser un plan de intervención estratégico para erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas”*

The opposite result, the publication less successful was posted on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and 102 impressions on Twitter, and it mentioned a key insight about the effect of economic empowerment.

*““Brindar autonomía económica a las mujeres disminuye los indicadores de violencia, y aumenta su nivel socioeconómico (NSE)” WhatWorks, Erradicar la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas (EVAWG).”*

### 3.3. Perspectives on causes of VAWG

The participants across the workshops presented quite homogeneous answers, there were some differences in every group. The participants mentioned a series of causes but mainly centred around structural ones. The main difference was the focus on a community and cultural approach, in the case of Mexico, the Andean region and Central America whereas Argentinians talked more about the responsibility of the state, stating that the lack of justice, norm implementation and appropriate public policy are main causes for violence.

*“Some causes are discrimination, and unequal access to basic services, lack of economic opportunities for women, education and labour systems without gender approach, and the undervaluation of the care work and domestic services” (Organization representative, Colombia).*

Almost all the participants agree on the prevalence of a patriarchal society as a general cause for VAWG. This is expressed in the gender stereotypes and culture of “machismo” across all the countries, which perpetuate gender power relationships and put men and women in unequal positions.

*“The historical patriarchal structure of our societies and the devaluated and subordinated position of women are based on the stereotype of inferiority upon the knowledge and doings of women. This is expressed in the inequality between men and women.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)*

There was an agreement about the prevalence of an economic, political, and social system that is expressed in the norms of every country and the continuous subordination of women.

*“There is an economic, political and social system that is expressed in the constitutional processes and the subordination of women” (Organization representative, Bolivia).*



One important difference was the analysis of the interrelation between that and other systems like race, social class, and ethnicity, where in some cases this was not mentioned, and in the Central America and Mexico workshops, this took a part in the discussion.

*“Racism is an important cause” (Organization representative, Guatemala) / “capitalism” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “the lack of access to health services is worst for poor women” (Organization representative, El Salvador).*

In addition to those causes, something that all the participants agree on is the importance of the economic dependence of women.

*“Economic dependence” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “Economic dependence and lack of spaces where women victims of violence can support each other” (Organization representative, Peru) / “the lack of political and economic autonomy” (Organization representative, Argentina)*

On the other hand, in the four workshops, the participants did not focus on the individual causes of VAGW. There were discussions about the role of these causes. Some suggest they are important factors and others pointed out that elements like substance abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and lack of educational opportunities are risk factors rather than causes.

Related to that, in Mexico’s workshop, there was a disagreement about how violence affects women that have different economic and social positions. One participant suggested that no matter if they are rich or poor, the violence affects them the same, in opposition, another participant suggested that women who live in poverty are more vulnerable and have more challenges accessing institutional attention and support, even though, she agrees that all women can experience violence.

The participants agree that another cause is the lack of access to justice, comprehensive care programmes and a network of support, which makes it harder for women and girls to break the cycle of violence perpetuated among generations and develop an aggressive approach to deal with conflict.

*“Impunity around crimes related to violence against women.” (Academic, El Salvador) / “public policy with no gender approach” (Organization representative, Argentina) / “Today the biggest problem is the lack of access to justice and mental health care. Without a comprehensive approach woman can’t break the cycle of violence” (Organization representative, Argentina) / “The lack of a personal, communal and institutional network support” (Organization representative, Mexico).*

Something that stood out was the fact that Mexicans were the only ones that discussed how the expectations of what is love and how people should engage with each other make the perfect scenario for the normalization of violence and causes of VAWG. This is what is called in Spanish *“amor romántico (culture of romance)”* which has been criticized by many feminist academics, as they mentioned during the workshop”.

*“The model used to engage in relationships has done a lot of damage to women, it has been analysed by feminists to see how we relate and interact with men. This has repercussions for all ages and in the process of parenting. The way we experience love implies the existence of an asymmetrical relation. Even though this is changing, it is still very present.*

*We need to reflect upon this. Even the COVID-19 isolation brought to attention this, with the traditional division of care and work.” (University representative, Mexico).*

*“This goes across all the process of violence and every implicated person, from the abuser who does not recognize their actions as violence and to the victim who believe that is normal and the society who does not believe in her. We need to create awareness about how this works, its roles and impact and its different dimensions. If we don’t work this as a community the causes of violence will prevail.” (Organization representative, Mexico).*

*“Macho culture is present in every social class, and it makes women believe in this idea of love, that we need to find a man, get married and bear violence and abuse because it’s part of the experience of being with someone. On the other hand, this culture makes men believe they can do whatever they want to women, as there is a sense of entitlement and property for their partners and children” (Organization representative, Mexico)*

Another difference was that the stigmatization and naturalization of violence were mentioned as caused in Mexico and as consequences in other workshops. There, one participant said that “there is stigmatization around what it is to be a victim, where violence is seen as normal. This is systemic and it is necessary to look not only for institutional support but also for familiar and social one”

### 3.4. Perspectives on effects of VAWG

All the participants agree that the biggest expression of VAWG is femicide, and they prioritize it during the discussion. The participants mentioned how this is especially relevant in their countries and it is a problem that is getting worst and takes a lot of space on the feminist and public agenda. In addition, in the four workshops, participants centred on mental health consequences, some mentioned the physical, social, community and economic ones with a variation on attention to each one across the regions.

In terms of physical consequences, the Central America participants were the ones who put more attention to these effects. In Mexico, the participants listed physical injuries, sexual abuse, and rapes. In Argentina’s case, sexual violence was mentioned by one participant. Regarding the Andean workshop, only two participants mentioned this kind of effect and there was no mention of sexual violence. The lack of attention to this kind of violence was surprising for the CISALs team, due to the fact we are talking about intimate partner violence where this kind of violence is very present in literature and the systematization of women’s experiences.

Where there was more homogeneity in the responses concerning the effects on mental health. Most of the participants agree that this is very important and is often diminished while talking about VAWG. Some of the effects enlisted mentioned were:

*“Alcoholism in women” (Organization representative, Guatemala) / “Post-traumatic stress” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “Trauma” (Organization representative of El Salvador, Bolivia and Argentina) / “Stress” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “Anxiety” (Organization representative of El Salvador and Colombia) / “Low self-esteem” (Organization representative of Honduras, Peru, Colombia and Mexico) / “Co-dependency” (Organization representative of Guatemala and Mexico) / “Depression” (Organization representative of Peru and Colombia) / lack of sexual desire and pleasure (Organization*

*representative, Colombia) / "Sleeping disorders (Organization representative, Colombia) / "Eating disorders" (Organization representative, Colombia) / "Feelings of guilt, shame and helplessness" (Organization representative, Colombia) / "Burn-out" (University representative, Argentina) / "Insecurities" (University representative, Argentina) / "Lack of hope" (University representative, Argentina) / "Repression of feelings and anger management issues" (Organization representative, Mexico) / "Fear" (Organization representative, Mexico)*

In addition to that, participants mentioned the psychological damage to women and their families.

*"Adverse effects on girls and boys that witness violence in their household" (Organization representative, Honduras) / "harm to the psychosocial well-being of women and girls" (Organization representative, Honduras) / "Trauma and mental illness in women and children, where they present aggressive behaviour, isolation, suicidal thoughts and introversion" (Organization representative, Bolivia) / "Partners use violence towards children as a punishment to their partner" (Organization representative, Mexico).*

One participant from Colombia mentioned that the mental health consequences are very important since they make women isolated and for several reasons, they lose their support network, she mentioned "having these support systems is necessary to break de violence cycle and get out of the situation. For me, all women are at risk of femicide because emotional manipulation can easily transform into physical aggression". Another participant added that "violence against women is a continuum. It affects all our life. Violence is perpetuated in households, and it impacts all areas of personal, family and community life, in varying degrees that go from emotional problems to physical violence femicide or suicide".

Related to economic and employment effects, participants agreed on the lack of independence of women resulting from the inability to work due to VAWG, resulting in "women having less economic power" (Organization representative, El Salvador) and "more economic violence" (Organization representative, Guatemala). One participant from Colombia also mentioned "the impact on their life project (related to work, education and recreation)", in addition to this idea, participants from Argentina pointed out "the lack of empowerment hampers their ability to develop a life project without violence" and the "difficulties to insert themselves on the labour market".

Finally, the community and social effects mentioned evolved around the normalization of violence and empowerment of the violence perpetrators. The more common opinions among the participants were:

*"Violence becomes a social and cultural driver for education" (Organization representative, Mexico) / "The persistence of macho culture and patriarchal societies, which perpetuates the cycle of violence with children" (University representative, Mexico) / "women submission" (Organization representative, Peru) / "Limitations for the exercise of the citizenship and social participation, summed to the loss of familiar and social relations and support networks" (Organization representative, Colombia) / "Social isolation" (Organization representative, Colombia) / "Children's lack of a proper environment to develop and are not taken care off or protected" (Organization representative, Honduras) / "The norms, laws, social conducts, cultural practices, gender roles develop around the normalization of violence" (Organization*

*representative, Honduras) / “Men exercise a violent masculinity” (Organization representative, Guatemala) / “The unhealthy familiar dynamics which subordinate women and girls and normalize using violence to educate children” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “Orphans and women in situation of abandonment” (Organization representative, El Salvador)*

### 3.5. Perspectives on acceptable and effective interventions for VAWG

There was a consensus about some strategies that are perceived as acceptable when implemented, based on the experience of organizations and experts. The first one that was mentioned in the four workshops is promoting economic independence and empowerment.

*“Strategies to favour the economic independence of women” (Academic and university representative, Colombia) / “Comprehensive interventions that aim to the economic empowerment and autonomy for women” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “Skills workshops” (Academic and university representative, Mexico) / “Workshops of financial skills and self-employment” (Organization representative, Mexico)*

Something that was recognised both acceptable and effective was psychosocial counselling and the importance to pair this with a community approach, so women and girls develop support networks and have a safe space where they can heal and develop their skills.

*“Individual counselling and therapy so women can heal emotionally and develop skills so they can break the cycle of violence” (Organization representative, Mexico) / “Support groups where women can have a space for reflection, and accompany and learn from each other” (Organization representative, Mexico) / “Women need to be organized and promote their leadership on their communities” (Organization representative, El Salvador)*

Another intervention that was prevalent across the regions is to use a gender-sensitive approach in education and government systems, to promote a no-violence culture and promote the awareness of women and girls’ situations.

*“It is very important to mainstream this approach [gender-sensitive]. As organizations, we are trying to influence the political agenda to promote these changes in the education system and to implement this in every government institution” (Organization representative, Bolivia) / “We need to promote healthy ways to relate with each other with victims of violence that live in violent environments”*

In the same line, the importance of education strategies amongst women and girls was recognised as acceptable and effective. Some participants pointed out the importance of Human rights training for members of the communities, as well as learning about violence and how to deal with it and prevent it. Others mentioned that this capacity building has to involve government employees.

Participants’ point of view suggested education works better when involves boys and girls from their early development, and in general involve the youth, all sex and genders.

*“We need to work from an early development stage with girls, so they have good self-esteem, knowledge about themselves and their bodies, communication skills and emotion management” (Organization representative, México) / “Learning spaces where children can*

*learn through playing” (Organization representative, Colombia) / “Empowerment of women accompanied with the sensibilization on men about gender and violence” (Organization representative, Peru) / “we need to prevent and act upon the domestic violence that affects girls, boys and the youth, especially women” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “discussion groups with young men and women so they can recognize their naturalized violence actions and beliefs, inappropriate parenting strategies and familiar beliefs that perpetuate VAWG” (Organization representative, El Salvador)*

Other participants centred a lot on the authorities’ responsibility to prevent and attend VAWG. Some participants mentioned this, but when prioritizing stated that community and education strategies are more important.

Something important is that these experts point out is that strategies need to be interventions considering whole systems around women, their health, families, social life, communities, economic independence, and the formation of opportunities for their full development. In terms of effectiveness, it is pointed out that to assure the breaking of the cycle of violence, women and girls need medical, legal, and psychosocial support that persists with time.

Another interesting point, mentioned in all the workshops except Argentina, is that any intervention needs to adapt to its context to be successful and accepted. Also, the language used for any communication needs to be clear and not technical, respecting the diversity of every group of people and their language, especially when working with indigenous communities.

### 3.6. Perspectives on community interventions from *Whatworks*

Related to the theoretical framework of acceptability, for community interventions, especially the Rural response system implemented in Ghana which we reviewed during the four workshops the participants agree that this kind of intervention is pertinent in their countries, with some disagreements.

When talking about affective attitude in the Andean Region, Argentina, Central America, and Mexico the participants stated that it depends on the participants’ openness to talk about their behaviour, especially since violence is normalized and men avoid participating in these kinds of interventions. In some communities these interventions could generate rejection, others could be more open to participating; this depends on their own cultures and experience and could not be generalized for each country since it must be analysed on the local level.

*“It depends, in general, I consider that perpetrators of violence don’t have a good affective attitude towards questioning their violent behaviour, considered normal and permitted, even when they know it isn’t, talking about it implies putting themselves into the spotlight. In the case of victims of violence, it could be inconvenient since their participation could generate new scenarios of violence by sharing what has happened. Nonetheless, I believe that in the long run, victims could generate a positive affective attitude, recognizing this space as something important for them where they can safely talk about their own experiences.”*  
(Organization representative, Colombia)

In some workshops, we saw some disagreement about it. Some said it could be an important experience and some that it could be problematic.

*“It could be an important intervention to apply in our region.” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “This intervention could be very inappropriate and uncomfortable for participants, even problematic.” (Organization representative, Guatemala)*

For achieving a positive affective attitude, the participants suggested the importance of doing a good diagnosis of the community behaviour and attitude towards violence, accompanied by good and open communication strategies.

When talking about if the intervention could be a burden, participants agree that it could imply an important effort because usually people have very demeaning work schedules and participating could involve them not being able to do their chores in time, including those who must take care of their children. Also, it implies a lot of energy, especially for the emotional burden.

*“It requires a lot of time and effort and I consider this could mean a low openness to participate in the group activities.” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “It demands a lot of energy for achieving the goals, not only personally, but also couples and team. Usually, this kind of participant already has a lot of emotional burnouts from living in a violent environment.” (Organization representative, Mexico) / “It implies a lot of effort because people generally have long workdays and participating implies not doing their job (paid or unpaid).” (Organization representative, Colombia)*

For the opportunity cost, participants agree that the level of sacrifice could diminish through the process of the implementation. On the other hand, there is some disagreement about if the opportunity cost would rely on women or men.

*“I consider that we would be hiding violence and women could receive threats if they tell their experience. The compromise for a change would only rely on women, also the sacrifice and danger.” (Organization representative, Guatemala) / “For the perpetrators, there is a clear opportunity cost, as it implies to question themselves about their behaviour and to assume new roles in their relations, which could mean a sacrifice of their privilege gained thanks to violence and patriarchal culture.” (Organization representative, Colombia)*

Although some disagreement in general terms, participants agree on the effectiveness perceived of community interventions. Also, participants pointed out that to assure effectiveness it is necessary to involve religious and community leaders. Even the participants who disagreed at first stated that in doing this, the intervention could work in the region.

*“It could work on some communities. The experience in the region [Central America] shows that community work is usually effective to bring awareness about VAWG.” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “It could work, for that, the involvement of leaders and authorities is key, because they are the first point of reference when there is violence in the community.” (Organization representative, Guatemala) / “In general community activism as approached in What Works is effective for behaviour change towards harmful gender, roles and norms.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia) / “It depends on the strategy, the people involved and the sustaining of the intervention thru time. Although the cost, I consider that working directly with women victims of violence and men that perpetrate it could contribute to the reduction of violence and changes in the perception of gender roles on the familiar level.” (Organization representative, Colombia)*

In terms of self-efficacy, all the participants agree that there is capacity in the region since a lot of organizations do community work already. Also, a lot of the participants mentioned the importance of collaborative strategies and external investment.

*“We do have the intellectual capacity to implement, there are already a lot of expert organizations, nonetheless we need to analyse the investment capital to assure the effectiveness of bringing this experience to our local region.” (Organization representative, Mexico) / “There is the capacity for doing it, we need to form alliances so we can act upon different areas of the strategy.” (Organization representative, Peru)*

The participants of the four regions perceived the intervention as coherent for what it planned to do and what it managed to accomplish. In that sense, the assumption and drivers make sense to the participants. Around the ethicality of the intervention, they feel the intervention is compatible with the region in some sense but urges to consider the diversity of each community since there is not a unity of ethical principles across the region. Also, they stated that maybe some resistance could appear in the more rural areas, because of their ethical values.

For the generalizability frameworks, participants agree that the assumptions and drivers are similar in their countries and the intervention could work, but a lot of effort is needed to adapt it, taking into consideration the differences in causes, effects, and culture in each community. Although the context is different, there are some shared causes of VAWG.

*“There are some similar causes and others are contextual. The interesting part of the intervention is the formation of community groups that uses public spaces, the training of religious leaders and authorities involved in attending VAWG, also the manuals and flexible materials.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia)*

Regarding the changes needed for the intervention to be transferable, the participants agree on the importance of making different strategies depending on the diagnosis of each community. In addition, some participants pointed out the importance of examining each country’s laws and legal systems, for example in Colombia and Argentina it is not permitted to use mediation and conciliation strategies in cases of VAWG. Some of the changes that more than one participant mentioned are also shared below.

*“Each community must be approached differently. The acceptability depends on the shared trust, in that sense who socializes the message is key.” (Organization representative, Argentina) / “Any change to the intervention requires a lot of detail knowledge about the context.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia) / “It’s very important to check on the idea that violence is not conciliable nor susceptible of withdrawal in Colombia.” (Organization representative, Colombia) / “We need to involve the community and academics to assure the sustainability. Make changes according to if you work in urban or rural areas and with indigenous people. Also, I’m worried about the presence of organized crime.” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “We need more time to evaluate the impact, more participants and implementors. Include more community activities (art and cultural). Include some decision-makers on the local level.” (Organization representative, Honduras)*

### 3.7. Perspectives on economic empowerment interventions from *Whatworks*

In terms of economic empowerment interventions, more disagreements were present during the discussion using both frameworks (acceptability and generalizability). The differences revolved around the details of the intervention, especially the participants involved, but all the participants agree that economic empowerment is a key factor to reduce and prevent VAWG.

Talking about affective attitude in the Central America Region all the participants agreed that it wouldn't be a comfortable and acceptable intervention because of the involvement of the extended family. In the Argentinian workshops, participants stated that it could be accepted but involving the parents of the male partner could evolve into more violence and control for women.

*“It is not convenient for women because of the power relations that in-laws exert upon women” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “In the beginning, it could be uncomfortable for women because of the economic power and control that men exert on them” (Organization representative, Honduras)*

For the Andean Region, some participants stated that communities would not have a positive affective attitude, and others stated that in their countries, especially Colombia, this kind of intervention is very accepted because women have a big need for economic autonomy since a lot of them have single-parent households, because of violence and armed conflict.

*“I considered it would be accepted, especially in Colombia since financial vulnerability is one of the key factors for violence against women, therefore contributing for their autonomy means a lot to them.” (Organization representative, Colombia)*

Talking if the intervention could be a burden, participants in Central America stated that more than a burden it implies confrontation genuine introspection, which means emotional effort. The same as in the community intervention, the most common burden mentioned is related to how people have demeaning work schedules and it would be difficult for them to get involved in all the activities, and this would mean extra effort in their daily lives, especially for women who are in the care of all the domestic chores in their households.

*“It would involve a lot of effort considering that most women that are in financial vulnerability have a lot of unpaid caring and other household responsibilities. Also, they usually don't have the financial knowledge necessary to start a business or the support of their families.” (Organization representative, Colombia) / “It demands a lot of energy. There is no homogeneity in the participants' selection, in the sense that some people have more financial trouble and other factors worsen their situation.” (University representative and academic, Argentina)*

Regarding the opportunity cost, some participants agreed that this depends on the context of each participant. Again, some mentioned that for women this kind of intervention could mean more vulnerability, in that sense, it would imply a high opportunity cost. It is agreed that in general, it would imply some sacrifice and high effort.



*“It would imply a high opportunity cost because of the conflict in the household related to who makes the income and has the financial control. But it could work with some changes.” (Organization representative, Honduras)*

In general terms, participants agree on the effectiveness perceived of economic empowerment interventions. Some stated that the only problem would be that it would have a very high financial cost for implementing partners since you need many experts that not only have a gender-sensitive approach, but also financial and business knowledge.

*“It is effective, but It would imply the need for highly skilled staff in at least three subjects: VAWG, financial and business skills, and family dynamics based on gender roles” (Organization representative, Mexico)*

The participants pointed out that to assure effectiveness in preventing VAWG, the economic empowerment of women is not enough, and a broader and sustainable approach is necessary, which the What Works experience already considers, so it means they agree on this mixed approach. Also, they mentioned the necessity to make some changes in the assumptions and strategies to reduce the risk of increasing domestic and intimate partner violence with the partner and his extended family.

For self-efficacy, all the participants agree that there is capacity in the region and some examples of this kind of intervention were mentioned. Also, a lot of the participants mentioned the importance of collaborative strategies and external investment, as well as some capacity building to specialize in the financial and business skills necessary.

*“We already have an economic empowerment program, aimed to reduce violence against women.” (Organization representative, El Salvador) / “In Colombia there are organizations and previous experience, even public ones, that can implement this strategy.” (Organization representative, Colombia)*

This economic intervention seems coherent to the participants, and they state that if it were to be implemented in the region it would need changes to be as coherent, especially related to the familiar dynamics of each community and the context of the financial vulnerability of families increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, regarding the acceptability framework, and the ethicality of the intervention there are some similar values but not so much about the family and community dynamics around the control of money when referring to the Zindagii Shioista intervention specifically.

In particular of the generalizability frameworks, in the four workshops, participants agree that the assumptions and drivers are similar in their countries and the intervention could work, especially regarding the asymmetric power relations around the economy and financial control.

*“The causes are similar, especially emphasizing the asymmetric power relations around gender and economy.” (Organization representative, Honduras) / “It could be implemented only with some changes since families in our region have different dynamics and composition.” (Organization representative, Guatemala)*

Participants agree on the need to adapt the intervention since the context in every region at a local level is different. The familiar system of every place needs to be analysed to improve the intervention to assure financial autonomy and a reduction of violence.

*“We need to make cultural adaptations since it’s not the same to have resources as to have financial autonomy for women. We need to emphasize more the causes of intimate partner violence and power relations.” (Organization representative, Honduras)*

### 3.8. Perspectives on couples’ interventions from *Whatworks*

The couples’ interventions were the ones that generated more debate and disagreement in the four workshops. Regarding the acceptability framework, the main difference was that some participants consider that couples’ therapy can be useful to reduce violence and others stated that it leads to revictimization and even more violence if there is the existence of a cycle of intimate partner violence. This, as they also implied, means that this intervention has a big opportunity cost since women could be sacrificing their security and wellness.

*“Since we are talking about the existence of a situation of violence between couples, we need to talk about crimes if not we can be perpetuating the lack of justice and lead to revictimization.” (Organization representative, Peru) /, “I think it depends on every couple’ situation and the community where the intervention takes place. I’m worried about revictimization and the risk that this implies for women. We need to look through the strategy of working with perpetrators, it’s important, but we need to analyse the way to do it. We need to create spaces for victims to be heard, we could use the ones that already exist in every community. Also, we need to focus more on the violence variable of the intervention.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia)*

In that sense, most participants agreed that the affective attitude would not be positive, because the violence that victims are experiencing would make it very inconvenient and uncomfortable. Others, like the Mexican and Central American participants, stated that it could be positively accepted since there are couples that do want to take therapy together but agreed that maybe it would be better if all the sessions are taken separately.

Regarding the burden part of the frameworks, the participants mentioned the same as the other interventions, that the problem is time and all the responsibilities people already have, making it difficult to participate in a long intervention. It was interesting that in Central America the participants agreed that the amount of effort is manageable and it’s a feasible intervention. On the contrary, the Andean Region participants agreed that it implies a lot of effort from participants.

*“I believe that emotionally could be hard, since it generates a big burden, especially on the victim. We need to think if working separately makes it easier for them” (University representative and academic, Peru) / “It requests a lot of energy not only from participants but also from partner implementors since it’s hard to work with this kind of therapy approach” (University representative, Argentina)*

The same as in other interventions, regarding the opportunity cost, some participants agreed that this depends on the context of each participant. It is agreed that in general, it would imply some

sacrifice and effort to attend all the work sessions, but some participants mentioned that since the effort seems lower, the opportunity cost decreases.

*“It implies some sacrifices to keep up with all of the activities and work sessions.”  
(Organization representative, Mexico)*

Participants of the four workshops agree on the effectiveness of this intervention, but only if it’s done without revictimization. All of the participants agree on how effective therapy and counselling are to reduce VAWG, especially if it’s accompanied by workshops and skills building.

*“I believe it makes sense to work with perpetrators and it’s effective, but we need to take special care on the strategy to avoid revictimization.” (Academic and university representative, Peru)*

In addition, participants believe that working with perpetrators is lesser common and more difficult in Latin America because it’s very hard to get them involved in this kind of intervention, nonetheless, is key to reducing and preventing VAWG.

*“We have been trying to do this kind of intervention, but we have a low percentage of acceptance from men, they accept the invitation but do not assist in the sessions.”  
(Organization representative, Argentina)*

For self-efficacy, all the participants agree that there is capacity in the region and some examples of this kind of intervention were mentioned. A lot of the organizations that participated in the workshops already do therapy and counselling with women and youth, in the four regions, or they have partners who do so, since they are centred on other types of attention, like legal assistance. In Mexico, it was suggested that it could work in a collaborative scheme between civil organizations, government, and external partners, like international ones.

*“We have the technical capacity to operate these interventions, through civil organizations, we could also use a hybrid scheme with government, academia, universities, and private sector.” (Organization representative, Mexico)*

Regarding the coherency of the intervention, almost all of the participants agreed that it seems coherent and with some adjustments, it would be coherent too in our region. Only one participant from Colombia questioned the coherence in the sense that she feels that it doesn’t seem like enough time to get the result they expect.

The ethicality of the intervention was not debated between most of the participants who agreed we shared some ethical values, and also every community have particular ones. One participant from Argentina pointed out that in Argentina it is not perceived as a right of the men to have non-consensual sex, contrary to the experience in Rwanda.

For the generalizability frameworks, in the four workshops, participants agree that the assumptions and drivers are similar in their countries and the intervention could work and seems like an important intervention, that already exists in all of the countries. This without forgetting the adaptation of not mixing couples that already participate in a cycle of violence and the changes needed to consider each community’s culture and social structures, also each country norms and laws. In terms of the adaptation, they had some comments.

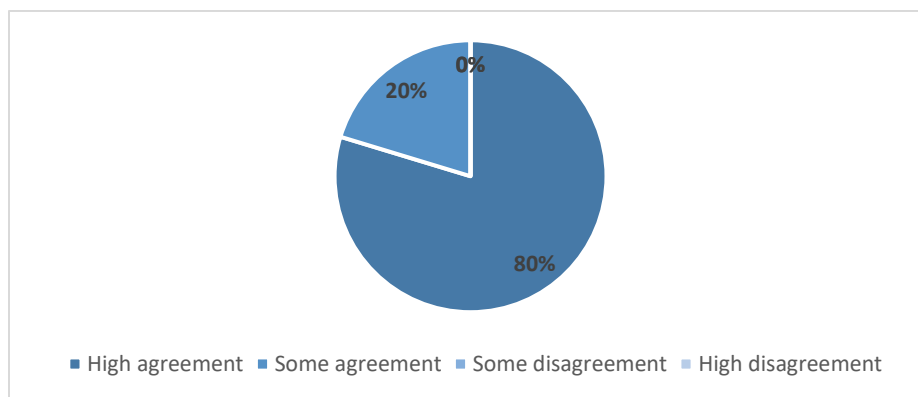
*“The intervention seems interesting since it proposes the change of attitudes and behaviours, and it has a clear component of questioning the gender norms and seeks to transform them.” (Academic and university representative, Colombia) / “We work with indigenous women and every intervention needs to adapt to each group cultural codes and language.” (Organization representative, Guatemala)*

### 3.9. Acceptability of the process

#### 3.9.1. Perceived effectiveness for 1st regional meeting

The participants expressed a high level of perceived effectiveness for the first regional meeting. The combined indicators for this domain indicate that 80% of participants had a high agreement. This means the participants considered they had the opportunity to share their views about the local drivers, consequences of VAWG and ideas to face the problem (See figure 7).

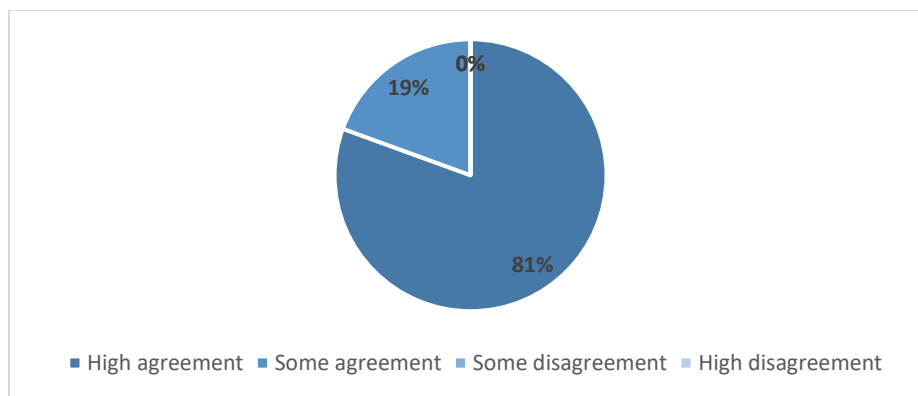
Figure 11. Distribution for levels of agreement on perceived effectiveness for 1st regional meeting



#### 3.9.2. Perceived effectiveness for the project 2nd regional meeting

The perceived effectiveness of the second regional meeting was also high. The average percentage of agreement for the set of indicators was 81%. This number suggests the participants were under the impression that they could effectively express their opinion on the acceptability and generalizability of the whatworks interventions (See figure 8).

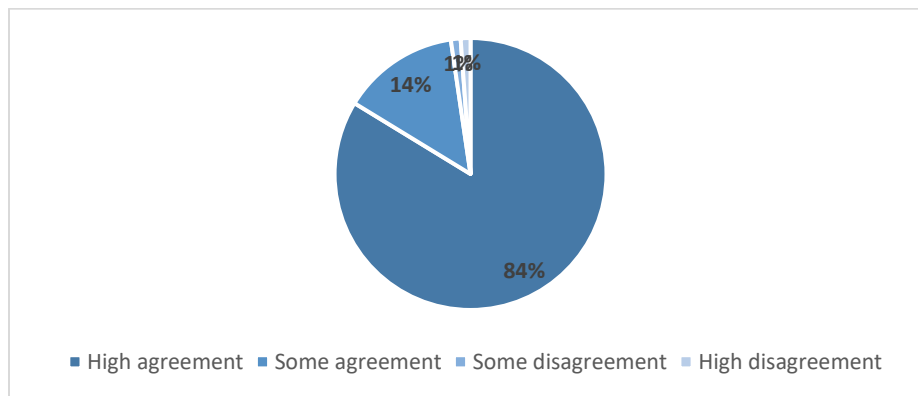
Figure 12. Distribution for levels of agreement on perceived effectiveness for 2nd regional meeting



### 3.9.3. Affective attitude toward the project

The affective attitude is an important domain of acceptability. In the context of this project, the team aimed to favour this element because emotion could trigger an automatic response of approval or rejection towards whatworks interventions. As a whole, the meetings elicited a positive sentiment towards their participation, employed methodology and moderation. It could be said the level obtained was satisfactory given that 84% of participants reported high levels of agreement (See figure 9).

Figure 13. Distribution for levels of agreement on effective attitude for the project

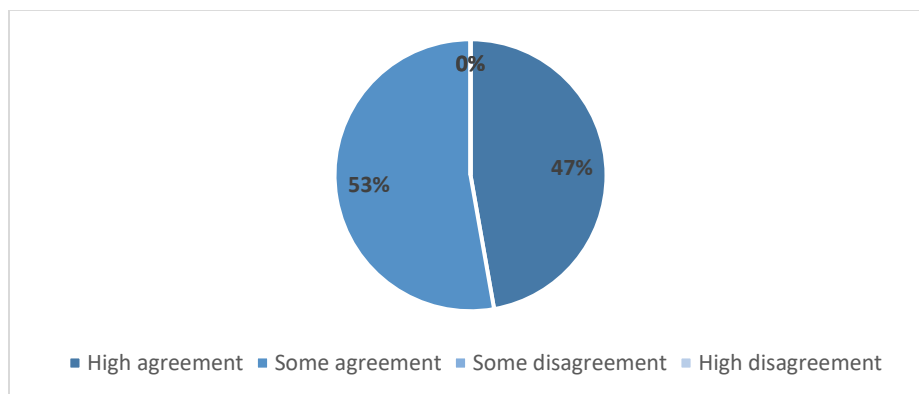


### 3.10. Changes in behavioural determinants for the adoption of evidence-based interventions

#### 3.10.1 Changes in psychological capability

The self-reported changes in psychological participants were acceptable. 47% of participants mentioned high agreement in changes in their capacities, and 53% were in some level of agreement with the self-reported change, more importantly, none of the participants was in some level of disagreement or below. As a whole, these percentages suggest an increased likelihood of future adoption of an evidence-based intervention (See figure 10).

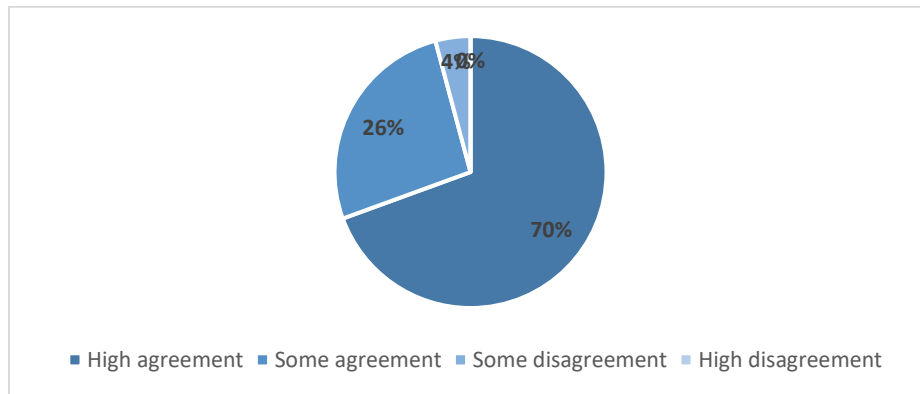
Figure 14. Distribution for levels of agreement on psychological capability



### 3.10.2 Changes in Reflective motivation

The reflective motivation reported by the participants could be considered high. 70% of participants were in high agreement with a positive change in their motivation to use or learn more about evidence-based interventions. This could mean it is more likely the participants engage in adoption behaviour in the future (see figure 11).

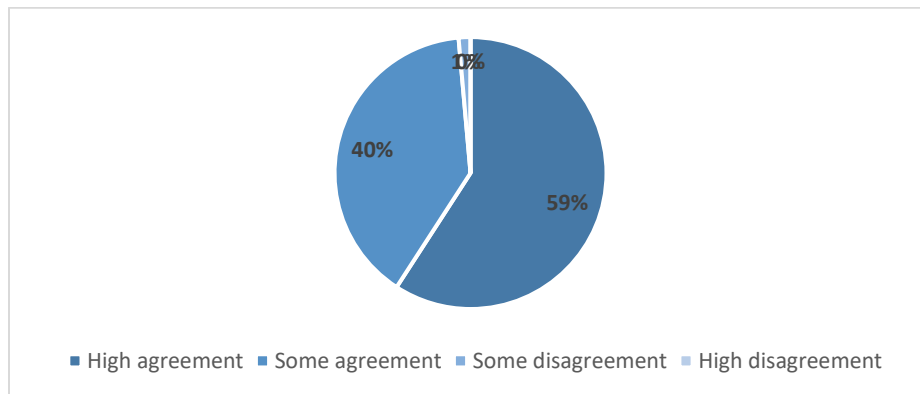
Figure 15. Distribution for levels of agreement on reflective motivation



### 3.10.3 Changes in Automatic motivation

Automatic motivation levels of self-reported change were between acceptable and high. The 59% reported high agreement with the change in automatic motivation, which implies their emotions and affects towards evidence-based intervention improved. Therefore, it could be more possible that they adopt an evidence-based intervention in the future (see figure 12).

Figure 16. Distribution for levels of agreement on automatic motivation

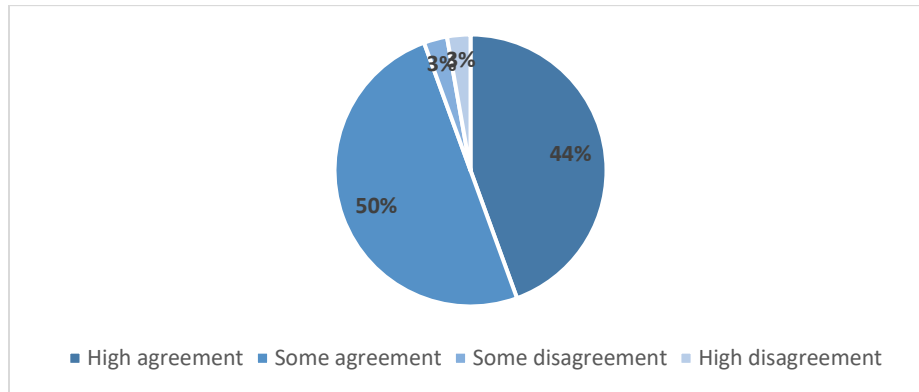


### 3.10.4 Changes in Social opportunity

The self-reported changes in perception of social opportunity were acceptable. The 44% of participants reported high agreement with a change in their perception of social opportunity. Although this average percentage is lower than other indicators, it is important to mind that only 6%

of all the participants reported a negative perception. Because social opportunity could be an important barrier to displaying a behaviour, any positive change in the participants could suggest a larger likelihood to adopt an evidence-based intervention (See figure 13).

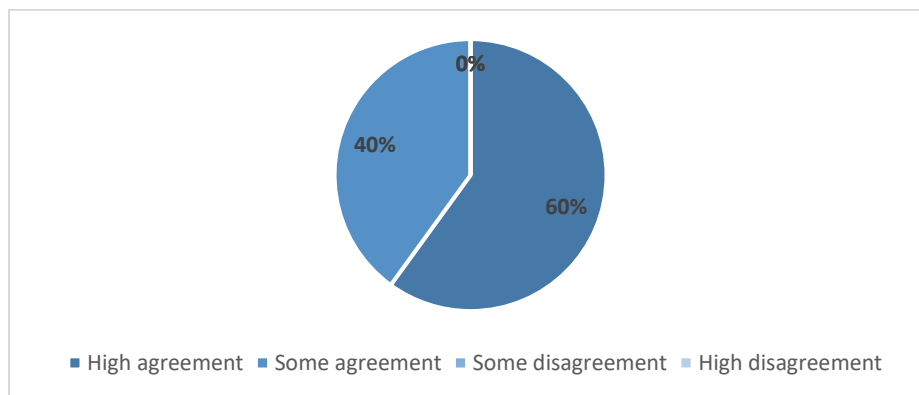
Figure 17. Distribution for levels of agreement on social opportunity



### 3.10.5 Changes in behavioural intention for adoption

The intention to adopt or implement one of the whatworks interventions is a general indicator of the outcome of the project. The 60% of participants of the project considered they are in high agreement to deploy an evidence-based intervention. The participants may be going to engage in the adoption of an evidence-based intervention if they receive the necessary support or training to deploy one of the whatworks interventions (See figure 14).

Figure 18. Distribution for levels of agreement on the intention for adoption



## 4. Discoveries and insights

The causes of violence with greater importance for the participants are those of a structural type, such as the hetero-patriarchal culture and unequal power relationships, they concluded the problem is of a systemic nature. However, there are differences in the point to act on the causal loops and how to better understand the problem. One position focuses on the role of government as a perpetrator of violence and as responsible for its solution. While the other position emphasizes the

importance of working directly with people to understand and address violence at the community level.

Complementary to the above, the participants mentioned that when any of the causes interact with social inequality, the effects of violence are amplified. In this sense, the participants emphasized the importance of adequately contextualizing future scenarios for implementation to take into account interactions.

The most important recommendations to favour the effectiveness of a *whatworks* intervention in Latin America were:

- Long implementation time, preferably more than 24 months.
- A sustainability strategy for the end of the project.
- To generate agreements for access to medical, legal, psychological, personal and social development services to channel the population at risk when appropriate.
- To explore solutions to increase men's engagement and participation.

The general recommendations to increase the acceptability of a *whatworks* interventions in Latin America were:

- To analyse barriers to participation and define prevention actions. For example, providing child care when an intervention requires face-to-face activities.
- To review the legal regulations before adaptation. For instance, in Colombia, it is illegal to reconcile violence.
- To provide technical assistance for implementation improvement and quality. Although the participants self-reported confidence in their strength to implement, they recognized the need to partner with a strategic and stable funder, as well as the need for cooperation for the deployment of high quality.

Community-type interventions had the highest level of acceptability amongst participants. Nevertheless, they stressed the importance of exploring religiosity and/or the presence of strong community leaders to have a higher chance of success for this kind of intervention.

The economic and social empowerment interventions also received a high level of acceptance. However, participants expressed doubts about involving the extended family. Additionally, it was considered of higher importance to guarantee sustainability over time, social empowerment, support networks, and economic activities relevant to the local economic context. Finally, the participants mentioned this type of intervention is especially important in places like Central America and Colombia where the average family composition has been transformed by armed conflicts, and women are family heads more frequently.

The interventions for couples were recognized as the least acceptable. The participants expressed rejection under the argument that couples' therapy can create re-victimization and intensify violence. The only acceptable condition is by separating women and men and/or working with couples without a history of intimate partner violence.



## 5. Conclusion

The methodology used and the moderation process implemented were highly accepted by the participants. Consequently, it is fair to consider the information shared reliable and valid. Similarly, the results for the indicators of change in behavioural determinants of adoption suggest an improvement in participants' chance to adopt evidence-based models, and willingness to implement an evidence-based intervention if given the opportunity and collaboration. Finally, *whatworks* interventions are acceptable and considered promising for Latin America, especially community and economic empowerment approaches. However, a case-by-case analysis of local conditions is important before implementation, as well as technical support, to strengthen implementation fidelity and quality.

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## Annexes

Annexe 1, Annexe 2, Annexe 3 and Annexe 4 are available as an attached folder under request to [agustinrodriguez@iteso.mx](mailto:agustinrodriguez@iteso.mx) and in the website where this document was downloaded.