

CHAPTER 2

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY



MWAGCD District Development Officer administering a questionnaire during the stand-alone household survey in Mashonaland Central province.

Photo courtesy of MWAGCD

This chapter outlines the project aim, key research questions and five methods employed in the research. The five methods provide different prisms from which to view VAW. The use of several methods - quantitative and qualitative - reflects the complexity of the subject and the need for more than one tool to triangulate, interrogate and interpret the data in ways that strengthen policy-making and action planning.

The flagship method is the prevalence and attitudes household survey based on a two-stage cluster random sampling strategy. The survey is justified on the basis that statistics obtained from administrative data do not cover many forms of gender violence, and even those that are covered are under-reported. However, the "I" Stories, or lived experiences, give a human face to all aspects of the research. The administrative data, media monitoring and political content analysis provide key insights in relevant areas.

Working definition

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defined VAW as "any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"¹⁰. This definition encompasses, but is not limited to:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution; and

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.¹¹

For the purposes of this study, VAW includes:

- Physical, sexual, psychological and economic intimate partner violence;
- Rape and sexual assault by a partner, stranger, acquaintance or family member, experienced by adults and in childhood; and
- Sexual harassment.

Project Aim

The project aimed to:

- Quantify the prevalence of VAW in all its different forms and determine the extent of under-reporting; track and report changes;
- Map the underlying attitudes towards gender equality that fuel VAW;
- Quantify the economic, social and psychological costs of VAW;
- Assess the way VAW is covered by the media, how this is perceived by audiences and the extent to which the media is playing its role in helping to end or perpetuate violence against women;
- Assess the level of political commitment to address VAW;
- Assess the effectiveness of prevention campaigns from the point of view of some of the respondents to the prevalence study;
- Assess the effectiveness of the response by the police; courts; health; social and all related services; and
- Provide pointers for government and civil society in Zimbabwe to strengthen strategies for preventing and responding to VAW.

Key elements of the project

The study used a combination of research methodologies to test a comprehensive set of indicators and establish extensive VAW data in Zimbabwe. The project components are:

¹⁰ Cited in (2008), Population Council, "Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Africa - A literature review", available at: http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/AfricaSVAW_LitReview.pdf

¹¹ *ibid.*

- Prevalence and attitudes household survey;
- Analysis of administrative data gathered from the criminal justice system (police, courts), health services, and government-run shelter;
- Qualitative research and collection of first-hand accounts of women's experiences and men's perpetration of VAW or "I" Stories;
- Media monitoring; and
- Political content and discourse analysis.

Prevalence and Attitudes Household survey

The purpose of a prevalence and attitudes survey is to investigate the extent and individual effects of VAW, the underlying factors that influence VAW and

to find ways to use this data to improve prevention messages and interventions.

Study Design

Interviewers conducted a cross-sectional household survey of women and men. The women's survey described the prevalence and patterns of women's experience of VAW, HIV risk behaviour, pregnancy history, mental health, help seeking behaviour after experiences of VAW, gender attitudes, and exposure to prevention campaigns in Zimbabwe. The men's survey described men's perpetration VAW, gender attitudes, HIV risk behaviour, fathering, and exposure to prevention campaigns.

Unique features of the project

Unlike previous prevalence surveys that have focussed on a few aspects of VAW, the set of indicators seeks to measure:

- The extent of the problem (what uniform administrative and survey data could be obtained across all SADC countries).

- The social and economic effects of VAW.
- Response and support interventions as measured by the multi-stakeholder National Action Plan to End Gender Violence based on the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- Prevention interventions that underscore the importance of a paradigm shift towards prevention rather than focus primarily on response.

Questionnaire development and testing

GL with expert and reference group consultations developed the English questionnaire that was translated into Shona and Ndebele. A project inception and reference group meeting was held in August 2012 in Harare. The objectives of the meeting included, sharing the project overview; brief participants on how the research was going to be conducted; obtain stakeholder buy-in; obtaining recommendations for project implementation; and to finalise the research tools.

Participants at the meeting included representatives from the MWAGCD, MLGURD, MJLA, UN Women, SIDA, ZiLGA, ARDCZ, UCAZ, Musasa, Padare Men's Forum and WIPSU.

Description of the questionnaire

The study employed two questionnaires: one for women as survivors and the other for men as perpe-



Participants at the VAW Baseline Study reference group meeting held in Harare in August 2012.
Photo by Colleen Lowe Morna

trators. The women's questionnaire aimed to describe the prevalence and patterns of women's experience of VAW, HIV risk behaviour, pregnancy history, mental health, help-seeking behaviour after experiences of VAW, gender attitudes, and exposure to media and prevention campaigns. The men's questionnaire aimed to describe men's perpetration of VAW, gender attitudes, HIV risk behaviour, fathering, and exposure to prevention campaigns.

The questionnaires provide information about the following areas:

- A description of gender attitudes, attitudes towards rape and relationship control among women and men;
- A description of the prevalence and patterns of childhood trauma among women and men;
- A description of the experiences of witnessing and intervening with domestic violence among women and men in all countries;
- A description of the risk/protective factors for experiencing VAW among women including socio-demographic characteristics, attitudes, partner characteristics, substance use;
- A description of the prevalence and patterns of women's experience of VAW, and associated health risks, including HIV risk factors including condom use, concurrent partners, number of sexual partners and transactional sex;
- A description of the health consequences associated with experience of VAW including: self-reported Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV testing, unwanted/unplanned pregnancy, substance use, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder among women;
- A description of the prevalence and patterns of men's perpetration of VAW in all countries, and associated risk factors and health risks;
- Association between gender attitudes, relationship control and perpetration of gender-based violence among men;
- Association between men's perpetration of gender-based violence and HIV risk factors including condom use, concurrent partners, number of sexual partners, substance use and transactional sex;

- A description of the health consequences associated with perpetrating VAW in all countries including STIs, HIV testing, fathering a unplanned pregnancy;
- A description of the awareness of campaigns against VAW and relevant legislation including the Domestic Violence Act;
- An exploration of men's experience of IPV, and
- An exploration of economic abuse and its relationship to violence against women.

Sampling

ZimSTATS used a two-stage proportionate stratified design to identify a representative sample of men aged 18 years and older and women aged 18 years and older living in Zimbabwe. The primary sampling frame was the Zimbabwe Population and Housing 2002 census. The dwelling counts obtained from the 2002 census were the measure of size (MOS). Probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling was employed to ensure that the districts were sampled with probabilities proportional to their sizes based on the number of Enumeration Areas (EAs) and dwelling counts.

The sample size calculation was based on achieving sufficient statistical power to estimate the prevalence of (a) experience of gender-based violence among women and (b) experience of perpetrating gender-based violence among men with acceptable precision. The study assumed all households had an eligible female, but 26% will have no eligible male. Furthermore, assuming a consistent 10% non-response rate, and that cluster sampling (through use of enumeration areas (EAs) as the primary sampling unit) leads to a design effect (deff) of 1.8. This effective sample size allowed for the estimation of the lifetime prevalence of experience/perpetration of VAW with an absolute precision of +/- 5%, which is adequate to address the primary goal of the research. A sample of 419 Enumeration areas (EAs), with either 20 men's households or 20 women's households sampled per EA yielded a target sample of 8354 households to give a target sample of 4507 men and 3847 women.

Table 2.1: Sample breakdown across 10 provinces

Province	Enumeration areas			Participants		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bulawayo	14	12	26	281	240	521
Manicaland	31	26	57	614	524	1138
Mashonaland Central	19	16	35	371	316	687
Mashonaland East	23	19	42	452	386	838
Mashonaland West	23	20	43	468	400	868
Matebeleland North	12	10	22	242	206	448
Matebeleland South	11	10	21	229	196	425
Midlands	26	23	49	527	450	977
Masvingo	24	21	45	486	415	901
Harare	42	36	78	837	714	1551
Grand Total	225	193	418	4507	3847	8354 ¹²

ZimSTATS provided maps for each EA. The interviewers listed all households/visiting points in a given EA so that a random sample of 20 households/visiting points per EA was obtained. Using a definition of a household as comprising members who regularly eat together, interviewers determined the number of households at each visiting point supplied. If there was more than one household per visiting point, the interviewers only randomly selected one household. In households where there was more than one eligible respondent, interviewers randomly selected one individual to participate in survey.

Strengths of the sampling method

The sampling method employed has several merits including:

- That it ensured each member of the population had an equal chance of being selected.
- That it ensured random selection of the sample, a characteristic which gives the possibility of carrying out further inferences such as standard errors, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing.
- The fixed number of sample members within each EA allowed better administration of fieldwork and supervision.
- The stratification at all three stages ensured representativeness of the sample over the whole

country and thus improved precision compared to a simple random sample.

- The selection of one person per selected household reduced the risk of contamination of the responses and protection of survivors, which is considered high for such type of surveys involving sensitive questions.

Limitations of the sampling method

The survey sampling methods also presented limitations such as:

- Some questions were applicable to only a part of the respondents for example survivors only or perpetrators only. The result is that only a small proportion of the sample (3%-10%) based on previous research responded to these.
- The sampling method did not allow substitution of non-respondents and so made three follow-up visits in an attempt to contact a potential participant.

Training of Interviewers

Interviewers were trained in September 2012. The training covered the purpose of the study, the sampling approach, the content of the questionnaires, and the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs). The researchers tested the draft questionnaires through mock interviews during the training. This experience

¹² Please take note that the actual number of participants reached differed from the one previously targeted. The actual reached was 8503. This was because the actual physical maps given were more and this was only discovered when fieldwork was already underway.

allowed refinements to the questionnaire before actual fieldwork. The training underscored the ethics of the research, the recruitment and consent process.

Data collection

Data collection took place from 15 October to 10 November 2012 in all the country's ten provinces. Interviewers visited preselected dwellings and randomly selected one household. Within each household, the interviewers recruited only one randomly-selected eligible person (male or female depending on the EA allocation over the age of 18 years). If the sampled household member was not at home at the first visit, the interviewers made three further attempts to interview the sampled participant. The interviewers did not substitute if they could not interview the sampled participant. To ensure safety of respondents, the interviewers did not interview men and women from the same households or EA.

Questionnaires were administered using PDAs. An interviewer read each question and associated answer choices as presented on the PDA screen. Programmers set the PDAs so that questions could be read in English, Shona or Ndebele. The participants chose their language of preference.

Inclusion criteria

Women and men were eligible for the study if they were aged 18 years or older, normally resident in the sampled household and apparently mentally competent to complete the questionnaire.

Ethical considerations

Interviewers emphasized to respondents that participation in the survey was completely voluntary and that all information they provided would be confidential. They told them that non-participation would not affect

them in any way and that they could skip any question they chose or withdraw from the interview at any time. Participants received an information sheet about the study, read to them when necessary. After the full briefing, respondents signed a consent form before the interview. To ensure anonymity, interviewers identified all questionnaires using non-consecutive study ID numbers. The study thus cannot link respondents to their questionnaires.

Due to the sensitive nature of the questions that ask about experiences of violence, trainers gave interviewers a session on basic principles of trauma counselling. In addition, interviewers distributed a package of support material that includes contact details for organisations that provide support and counselling to each woman interviewed.

Response rates

The interviewers contacted 8503 households. Among the selected households, 6600 participants: 3326 women and 3274 men consented and completed interviews to give an overall response rate of 78%. There were however differences in the response rates per province as shown in Table 2.2.



MWAGCD Director of Gender Ms Caroline Matizha training the survey researchers.

Photo by Tapiwa Zvaraya

Table 2.2: Provincial response rates

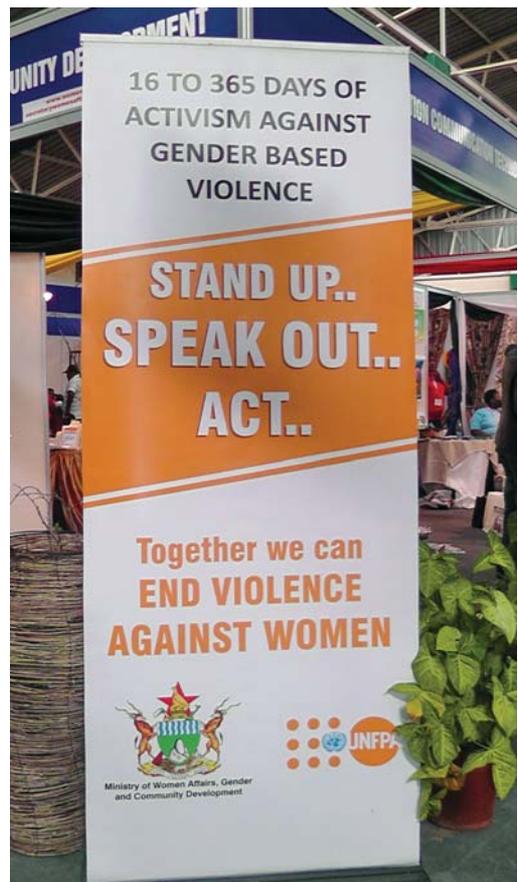
Province	Number of households contacted	Refusal or no data collected	Number of interviews completed	Response rate = number of interviews/ number of households
Bulawayo	520	148	372	71.5%
Harare	1541	673	868	56.3%
Manicaland	1180	155	1025	86.9%
Mashonaland Central	720	145	575	79.9%
Mashonaland East	860	417	443	51.5%
Mashonaland West	860	78	782	90.9%
Masvingo	921	150	771	83.7%
Matebeleland North	460	52	408	88.7%
Matebeleland South	420	31	389	92.6%
Midlands	1021	54	967	94.7%
Total	8503	1903	6600	77.6%

The response rate per province shows rates above 70% for all provinces except Harare and Mashonaland East. Harare had a response rate of 56% and Mashonaland East 52% due to a higher refusal rate by pre-selected participants or non-contact after three attempts. In other recent national surveys (for example the 2011 Labour Force survey) Harare also had the lowest response rate¹³. Considering that “relationships” are considered a private issue within the Zimbabwean socio-cultural context, the response rate overall is satisfactory.

The non-response was also corrected at the analysis stage through the use of weights. In many situations the sample fraction varied by stratum and data was weighted to correctly represent the population. Weighting was also necessary because while households in the survey had equal selection probabilities, one person was interviewed from within each household. This may have resulted in people from large households a smaller chance of being interviewed. This was therefore accounted for using survey weights.

Data management and analysis

The interviewers downloaded data daily from the PDAs and merged it into a complete dataset.



Zimbabwe International Trade Fair exhibition. Photo by MWAGCD

¹³ <http://www.zimstat.co.zw/dmdocuments/Laborforce.pdf>

GL conducted data analysis using Stata version 11 taking into account the survey's two stage sample design. To meet the objectives, descriptive statistics are presented in this report for the relevant variables and constructs. Data analysts compared the proportions or means for the different variables using tests of statistical significance. This report presents the results of bi-variate analyses for the chi-squared tests of association between exposures and outcomes.

Qualitative method: Speaking out can set you free - the "I" Stories experience

The qualitative component of the study complements the prevalence and attitude survey and provides information on forms of VAW that are rarely disclosed or understood in society. The qualitative research investigated the existence of VAW; its manifestations in relationships and factors influencing non-disclosure; the extent of economic abuse and its interface with other forms of abuse; and investigated the needs and challenges faced by shelters for survivors of violence. The stories also shed light to the impact of the abuse on women's ability to leave abusive relationships and the support that has been available for women experiencing abuse.

This study used the "I" stories methodology to gather the experiences of VAW. The method involves gathering women's first-hand accounts of physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse.

Musasa facilitators conducted the "I" stories work-shops in nine provinces in collaboration with the local councils participating in the Centres of Excellence (COE) in gender mainstreaming in local government programme. The stories from women survivors assisted in identifying the following key research questions for VAW:

1. Are women able to identify the various forms of abuse? (physical, sexual, psychological or economic)
2. How many women interviewed are experiencing the various forms of abuse?
3. What are the causes of violence against women?

4. What are the effects of violence against women? (physical, psychological, economic or social)
5. How does abuse impact on ability of women to leave abusive relationships?
6. What support has been available for women experiencing abuse?

Ethical considerations

During the writing workshops, facilitators shared examples of published "I" stories with participants so that they understood what the final product will look like. The facilitators also informed participants how their stories would be used and distributed and sought permission from the participants to use their photographs and reveal their identities. They gave participants the option of using a pseudonym and not revealing their identities and asked them to sign off the final versions of their stories.

Some of the participants who told their stories asked not to be named. The writers chose pseudonyms. At the request of these participants, GL has not used their photographs.

Description of survivors

The workshops collected first-hand accounts from 92 women in nine provinces aged between 18 and 71 years, with an average age of 34 years. The majority of women (66) were married, four were widowed, five were single and two were cohabiting. The remaining women did not reveal their marital status.



Women participants writing their stories at the Norton "I" Story Workshop. Photo courtesy of Musasa

Table 2.3 shows the distribution of participants by province. The women were from the nine provinces of Zimbabwe and the majority of stories were collected in the Midlands province.

Table 2.3: Distribution of stories by province

Province	Number of stories
Mashonaland Central	10
Bulawayo	9
Harare	11
Manicaland	9
Masvingo	7
Matebeleland North	10
Mashonaland East	8
Mashonaland West	12
Midlands	16
Total	92

Analysis

All “I” stories collected were included in the analysis. Firstly, the stories were coded and categorised into the different forms of violence reported. Socio-demographic characteristics of the survivors and the various acts of violence experienced were captured per story. The stories were also coded according to the type of support sought, the response received and the different forms of effects. Data entry was done in MS Excel and the data was exported into Stata for analysis. The results from the analysis are descriptive and speak to the proportion of stories that contain a specific variable category.

Administrative data

The main purpose of collecting and analysing administrative data was to complement the results of the prevalence and attitudes survey data. It is widely accepted that administrative data does not accurately provide information on the extent of VAW, more

especially of intimate partner violence, mainly due to the high levels of underreporting.

In the words of Sylvia Walby: “... it would be most unwise to treat such data as a guide to the actual level of violence in that if it were used as an indicator it might create a perverse incentive to minimise the amount of violence over time in order to suggest improvements”¹⁴.

However, this data provides a basis for assessing the costs of VAW and - most importantly - it can provide information on the use of services by survivors and the areas in need of improvement .

Administrative data on current VAW response was collected from institutions, namely the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), MJLA, MOHCW, ARC, LAD, Musasa, ZWLA, WLSA and Padare.

Description of data

Data requested from the respective institutions included:

- Numbers and nature of cases relating to the DVA; femicide and other cases reported to the police or justice related VAW service providers for the period 2011-2012.
- Numbers, nature and status of cases relating to the DVA where charges were brought against the alleged perpetrator for the period 2011-2012.
- Number, nature and the treatment required for the VAW cases that health centres dealt with for the period 2011-2012.
- Number, nature and type of support provided by identified shelters for the period 2011-2012.

In this report the administrative data, will be analysed in conjunction with the results of the household survey to provide some indication on the current levels of underreporting of VAW, as well as on the adequacy of public services responses and their compliance with legislation and policies.

¹⁴ Walby, S, op cit.

¹⁵ Ibid.



Hlengiwe Dube, a media monitor with the Media Monitoring project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ) monitors one of Zimbabwe Television's 8pm news bulletins.
Photo by Nhlanhla Ngwenya

Media monitoring

The research also draws on the findings of the 2010 Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS) that monitored media over a period of one month. It sought to establish, among other issues, the proportion of VAW coverage in the media, and how much of this related to prevention, the effects on victims and others, support and response. The study also explored the way in which VAW is covered, who speaks on VAW and how messages are conveyed.

Research tools

Monitors gathered quantitative data on the media's coverage of gender, HIV and AIDS and VAW. Team leaders selected articles for further analysis to give more in-depth analysis to the quantitative findings. The quantitative monitoring consisted capturing data

on the media's coverage of gender, VAW, and HIV and AIDS using a coding instrument. Data was captured into a database pre-designed for this research. Monitors had to capture a specified set of data from each item.

This included information about the item itself, who generated or presented the story (presenter, anchor, reporter, and writer) and who featured in the item.

The process included filling in standard forms each day for each item monitored with the assistance of a user guide prepared by GL; submitting forms for checking to the team leader who generally monitored at least one medium to better understand any difficulties that the monitors encountered; entering of data into a database; delivery of the database by e-mail to be synthesised into one

central database that made possible the production of the GMPS study, as well as country comparisons with regional averages, and data analysis and generation of graphs.

Qualitative media monitoring

For this study, researchers randomly selected 58 articles published in 2012, from five newspapers: *The Chronicle*, *The Herald*, *The Sunday Mail*, *The Standard* and the *Daily News*. The qualitative analysis enhances and strengthens the quantitative findings. These case studies highlight best practices in the coverage of VAW as well as areas that need improvement. The case studies serve to further elaborate and support many of the observations made in the quantitative analysis and answer the following questions:

- How are women and men labelled as sources in the media?

¹⁶ Rudling, A. (2009), *La Señora Presidenta. Feminist policy-making by female Latin-American presidents? Quoting Fairclough, Norman (1995). Critical Discourse Analysis. A Critical Study of Language*, New York: Longman Publishing Inc., available at: <http://hh.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:239541>

- Is there a good balance of men and women sources?
- Do women and men speak on the same topics, or do media reserve specific topics for men only and specific topics for women?
- Does the language promote stereotypes of men and women?
- Are physical attributes used to describe women more than men?
- How are women portrayed in the story? How are men portrayed in the story?
- Are all men and women in a society represented and given a voice in the media?
- What are the missing voices, perspectives in the story?
- What are the missing stories?

Public pronouncements analysis

Public pronouncements by political leaders form an essential part of social behaviour, as it dominates the way persons interact with peers and superiors in accordance to what is expected of them, what they think is possible and who they are.¹⁶ Public pronouncements and discourse also contribute to the “creation and/or transformation of the society and culture through rearticulating three domains of social life: a) representations of the world, b) the social relations between people and c) the individual and social identities of people”.¹⁷ In this vein, the messages passed on by politicians in their speeches do have an impact on the way their constituencies access knowledge and shape their opinions on VAW and act thereof. Political discourses are useful as a strategic public awareness and accountability tool for civil society. In terms of the overall indicators project, analysing the speeches and pronouncements of key political figures assists in framing and triangulating the findings of other study components.

Aim

The analysis of available speeches, statements and pronouncements is aimed at establishing the prevalence, consistency and commitment to addressing

VAW by key senior political figures. More specifically the aim was to assess the level of conceptual clarity on the structural causes of the problem, how holistic the alternatives offered to the survivors are, and the level of commitment to address the issue in the framework of state accountability, among other issues.

Sources of data

To measure the prevailing VAW discourses articulated by political leaders, researchers collected and analysed the content in speeches made by key government functionaries. Researchers undertook desktop research for the purposes of finding speeches online. This included visiting all official ministry websites, which would have any speeches published. Since there were few speeches on ministerial websites, letters were sent to the relevant ministries requesting access to any other published pronouncements.

Table 2.4: Nature of pronouncements collected

Nature of pronouncements	Number of speeches
Budget speech	2
Official funeral/ memorial	4
Departmental budget note	1
Ministerial cluster meeting	1
Political party/ committee meetings	6
Conference	20
UN meeting	3
Official statement	1
Official launch/ opening	41
Other	44
Total	123

What was analysed?

The researchers accessed 123 readily available speeches by key senior politicians made during the period 2011-2012 for analysis. The speeches collected include speeches from the following categories:

¹⁷ Op. Cit quoting Romero, Juan Eduardo (2005). “Usos e interpretaciones de la historia de Venezuela en el pensamiento de Hugo Chávez” in Revista Venezolana de Economía y Ciencias Sociales, Volume 11, Number 2, available at: <http://hh.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:239541>

For the purpose of this research, only official written speeches were analysed, as they are official texts and cannot be subject to misinterpretation or debate in terms of their emission. Pronouncements were

dissected and analysed in order to assess how often VAW was mentioned, by whom and to what audience. Only the speeches that explicitly address VAW were subject to a more detailed content analysis.

Triangulation

Table 2.5: Project components and tools used to gather data

RESEARCH TOOL/ INDICATORS	Prevalence and attitudes survey	Administrative data	"I" Stories	Media monitoring	Political content analysis
Extent	X	X	X		X
Effect	X		X		
Response	X	X	X	X	X
Support	X	X	X	X	X
Prevention	X		X	X	X

Table 2.5 shows how the five tools interrelate and how the research uses them to triangulate findings throughout the study to answer the key questions

relating to extent, effect, drivers, prevention, protection, programmes and participation.

