

The Impact of Donor Governance and Practice on Efforts to Program SGBV Interventions at Scale:

Learning from the DREAMS Partnership and the Spotlight Initiative

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“Thank God that there's feminists inside DREAMS, inside Spotlight, inside all of these things like thank God for ‘em, right. And that is such a hard job because nobody's ever happy with them, but they're really advocating, but the whole system is really set up so it doesn't actually support good programming, and it's a waste of everybody's time and money and harmful for communities.”

-- Implementing Partner

Goal: Strengthen approaches to SGBV prevention

- Identify where and why promising interventions go off track
- Foster reflection on donor funding practices
- Improve learning, innovation, and impact

Why look at DREAMS and Spotlight together?

Similarities

Impact on the Field
Drive for Scale
Evidence-Based Interventions
New Approaches to Civil Society Engagement
Complex Programming

Divergences

Target Groups
Layering vs Whole of Society & Government
Ending Violence as a Means vs an End

Our Research Approach

- Country Funding Analysis*
- Institutional Analysis and Lit Review
- Round 1 Semi-Structured Remote Stakeholder Interviews
- Working Paper
- Round 2 Semi-Structured Remote Stakeholder Interviews

* *Bencomo, C., Battistini, E., McGovern, T. (2022). Gender-Based Violence Is a Human Rights Violation: Are Donors Responding Adequately? What a Decade of Donor Interventions in Colombia, Kenya, and Uganda Reveals. HHRJ, 24:2.*

Themes Highlight Real and Perceived Tradeoffs around

- Fidelity vs Scale vs Time Scale
- Measurement and its Impact
- Learning and Innovation
- Civil Society Engagement
- Power and Power Shifting

Pressure to quickly deliver big impact at scale affected:

Intervention selection

Intervention fidelity

- Implementer selection
- Measurement decisions
- Sustainability and ability to innovate of local CSOs and CBOs

Approaches to engaging civil society and impact on

- Learning and innovation
- Localization and power shifting
- Sustainability

Ways Forward

- Unpack what counts as evidence
 - Move beyond the focus on RCTs
- Greater intentionality in program design
 - Align resources, scale, and time scale
- Improve technical support for implementation
 - Engage intervention designers early
- Better support for learning and innovation
 - More flexibility, localization
- Better support and power for civil society

Get in touch!

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