

Glossary

Violence Against Women and Girls

2017

Armed Violence

The use or threatened use of weapons to inflict injury, death, or psychosocial harm, which undermines development. (World Health Organization 2014)

Changing Social and Cultural Gender Norms

Attempts to alter the social expectations that define appropriate behavior for women and men, such as norms that dictate men have the right to control women, and which make women and girls vulnerable to physical, emotional, and sexual violence by men. (World Health Organization 2014)

Condition or Health Condition

A disease, illness, impairment, or injury that negatively affects a person's or group of people's health, or a physiologic condition (e.g., pregnancy) that requires health services to maintain health and/or prevent a complication.

Culture

Culture is comprised of values, attitudes, norms, ideas, internalized habits, and perceptions as well as the concrete forms or expression they take in. For example, social roles, structures and relationships, codes of behaviors and explanations for behavior that are to a significant extent shared among a group people. Culture is learned and internalized, and influences people's actions and interpretations of circumstances at the same time as people in turn influence the content of culture by their compliance with it or by challenging it. (Child Rights International Network 2017)

Equity in Health

(i) The absence of systematic or potentially remediable differences in health status, access to health care and health-enhancing environments, and treatment in one or more aspects of health across populations or population groups defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically within and across countries. (ii) A measure of the degree to which health policies are able to distribute well-being fairly. (World Health Organization 2016)

Gender

The economic, social, political, and cultural attributes, constraints, and opportunities associated with being a woman or a man. The social definitions of what it means to be a woman or a man vary among cultures and change over time. Gender is a sociocultural expression of particular characteristics and roles that are associated with certain groups of people with reference to their sex and sexuality. (Population Reference Bureau 2016)

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Glossary: Violence Against Women and Girls

Gender Equity

The process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be taken to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. (Population Reference Bureau 2016)

Gender Equality

The state or condition that affords women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities, and resources. (Population Reference Bureau 2016)

Gender Inequality

A situation in which gender norms and values can give rise to differences between men and women which systematically empower one group to the detriment of the other. Gender inequalities can lead to inequities between men and women in health status and access to health care. For example, this is important to consider in the context of the AIDS epidemic because gender inequality often leaves women unable to negotiate sexual situations, which increases their risk of contracting HIV. Gender inequality is increasingly seen as a major driver of the AIDS epidemic. (Kaiser Global Health 2013)

Gender Norms

Social expectations that define what is considered appropriate behavior for women and men. The different roles and behaviors of females and males, children as well as adults, are shaped and reinforced by gender norms within society. (World Health Organization 2014)

Indicator

A characteristic of an individual, population, or environment which is subject to measurement (directly or indirectly) and can be used to describe one or more aspects of the health of an individual or population (quality, quantity, and time). (World Health Organization 2015)

Interpersonal Violence

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, by a person or a small group of people against another person or small group that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation. (World Health Organization 2014)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In 2000, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed upon by all United Nations member countries. The MDGs provide a framework for improving health, education, gender equity, economic, and environmental conditions in developing countries. Specific and measurable targets were set for low- and middle-income, developing countries with a goal to achieve them by 2015. (Kaiser Global Health 2013)

Population Health

Population health: The health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group. Crucial to the concept of population health is the idea that most cases in a population come from individuals with an average level of exposure (rather than high-risk groups). A small (clinically insignificant) change at a population level yields a greater impact on population health and well-being than an intervention on high-risk groups. (World Health Organization 2015)

Public Health

Public health refers to all organized efforts of society to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population as a whole. Its activities aim to provide conditions in which people can be healthy and focus on entire populations, not on individual patients or diseases. (World Health Organization 2015)

Sexual Violence

Any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act; or, unwanted sexual comments or advances or acts to traffic that are directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by anyone, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including at home and at work. Three types of sexual violence are commonly distinguished: sexual violence involving intercourse (i.e., rape), contact sexual violence (for example, unwanted touching, but excluding intercourse), and non-contact sexual violence (for example, threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, and verbal sexual harassment). (World Health Organization 2014)

Social Determinants of Health

The circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. The World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) took a holistic view of social determinants of health, arguing that "the poor health of the poor, the social gradient in health within countries, and the marked health inequities between countries are caused by the unequal distribution of power, income, goods, and services." (World Health Organization 2015)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic United Nations Summit—officially came into force. Over the next 15 years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income, to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible, and timely data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses. (United Nations)

Violence Against Women

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private life. (World Health Organization 2014)

Violence

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation. (World Health Organization 2014)

Glossary: Violence Against Women and Girls

Vulnerable Populations

Populations that are at increased risk of exposure to diseases due to socioeconomic, cultural, or behavioral factors. Vulnerable populations include racial and ethnic minorities, refugees, poor people, men who have sex with men, injection drug users, sex workers, and women where gender inequality is pronounced. (Kaiser Global Health 2015)

Women's Empowerment

Improving the status of women to enhance their decision-making capacity at all levels, especially as it relates to their sexuality and reproductive health. (Population Reference Bureau 2016)