BACKGROUND

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) refers to assaultive and coercive behaviors that adults use against their intimate partners.1
- The Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP) is a non-governmental organization established in Vietnam in 2008. In 2014, CCIHP partnered with an Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI) team to investigate the connection between childhood exposure to violence and IPV perpetration in rural Vietnam.
- Using qualitative and quantitative methods with rural Vietnamese men and women, previous CCIHP-Emory research revealed that 37% of men reported perpetration of IPV, and a majority reported having witnessed IPV against their mother and having experienced physical maltreatment as a child.2
- One key area of focus for the prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration in adulthood is reducing experiences of violence in childhood. The issue of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) is critical in Vietnam and the region at large, and since schools are a place of academic and social learning, schools are a well-suited environment for a critical assessment and for taking action on norms related to perpetrating and experiencing violence.
- According to a Plan International survey in 2014, 71% of students in Hanoi, Vietnam, reported experiencing some form of SRGBV - physical, sexual, or psychological - in the past 6 months.3
- This EGHI project extended the partnership between Emory and CCIHP to include collaboration on program design. CCIHP expressed an interest in conducting a gender analysis using the with the CCIHP leadership to understand the context in which IPV occurs and the various factors that influence it.

OBJECTIVE

To design an intimate partner violence prevention program that is sensitive to the intergenerational teaching of violence in Vietnam and the needs, experiences, and exposures of young people. In this project, we used design thinking to develop a intervention that would address and reduce childhood experiences of violence and involve previously untargeted stakeholders who have influence over community norms to challenge the acceptance of violence as disciplinary tool. We used participatory design to identify key stakeholders, potential obstacles, mutually beneficial relationships and opportunities for intervention. Honoring the host organization’s priorities and needs was part of our rights-based approach and capacity building was a priority for our team.

METHODOLOGY

Rapid Assessment
- Co-conducted a legal analysis with a student from the Hanoi School of Law to identify existing structures that support victims through reporting and enforcement and legislative functions and rights provided by law, both in penalization/criminalization and protective rights.
- Conducted a gender analysis using the with the CCIHP leadership to inform the program design for the intervention.

Program design & Violence Prevention Mainstreaming
- Facilitated a participatory design workshop with all CCIHP staff to brainstorm possible interventions and how to mainstream IPV prevention methods into current programming
- Facilitated a problem tree and PESTLEd (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, Environmental, Demographic) analysis to better understand the context in which IPV occurs and the various factors that influence it.

Capacity Building
- Facilitated QMETs (capacity-building workshops) to strengthen current CCIHP staff with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and Qualitative Methods. Facilitated QMETs on human vulnerability theory to supplement the design of a holistic intervention.
- Consulted on monitoring and evaluation, current program and project implementation, and document/publication review and editing.

OUTCOME/NEXT STEPS

Proposal for a 5-year school-based intervention including:
- A bi-annual school safety survey to determine knowledge, attitudes and beliefs on gender equity, experiences of and perpetration of physical and emotional violence
- Technical analysis and support by CCIHP to analyze the results of these surveys and provide recommendations
- Parent Teacher Councils who work with school administrators and students to collaborate on initiatives to address, protect against and support victims of violence at school and at home

LEGAL paper Vietnam Law on Domestic Violence and Control

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- Funding organization: Emory Global Health Institute

REFERENCES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.