Transforming Households: Reducing Incidence of Violence in Emergencies (THRIVE)

OVERVIEW

There is an urgent need for programs that reduce violence in the home in emergencies, including intimate partner violence (IPV), emotional abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and child maltreatment and neglect. While there is a growing body of evidence on children’s and women’s global exposure to violence in emergency settings, efforts to both measure and prevent violence within the household have lagged behind evidence emerging from development settings. Work on violence against children (VAC) and violence against women (VAW) in emergencies has been fragmented across the Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection (CP) sectors, which has impeded effective learning and action within and across these sectors. The Transforming Households: Reducing Incidence of Violence in Emergencies (THRIVE) project, co-led by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Child Protection in Crisis (CPC) Learning Network at Columbia University (CU), aims to bridge this gap by investigating drivers of household violence during emergencies and identifying innovative interventions to address and mitigate this violence.

GOALS

Drawing on a model developed by CU and UNICEF, THRIVE will build an evidence base on drivers of household violence in emergencies, effective strategies for addressing household violence, and new approaches contributing to the prevention of household violence. THRIVE will develop a grounded Theory of Change (TOC) to inform interventions, and devise a measurement approach to document drivers of violence and evaluate programs seeking to reduce its frequency. Together, these new tools will enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to understand and prevent household violence in emergency settings, and encourage collaboration between the GBV and CP sectors.

THE PARTNERS

With financial support from USAID/OFDA, the CPC Learning Network at CU will serve as the technical lead for THRIVE-specific research. UNICEF provides the operational arm for the project, coordinating partners during both research and implementation, and UNICEF—Innocenti will provide guidance and share learning from their Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children project.

THRIVE PROJECT PHASES

1: LITERATURE & PRACTICE REVIEW

- Systematic review of existing knowledge on risk factors for household violence (including, but not limited to, intimate partner violence and household-level child maltreatment)
- Landscaping review of existing programs and promising practices in addressing household violence
- Research objective priority-setting through key stakeholder meetings

2: FORMATIVE RESEARCH & TOOL DEVELOPMENT

- Formative qualitative data collection to identify local drivers and social norms affecting household violence in two pilot locations
- Measurement approach and Theory of Change (TOC) development rooted in existing evidence on drivers of violence and promising interventions
- Collaboration with local partner organizations to implement Phase 3

3: IMPLEMENT, MONITOR, & EVALUATE INTERVENTIONS

- Implement interventions identified in Phase 2 across emergency settings, prioritizing efforts that address field-level conceptions of household violence, and using field-adapted evaluation designs
- Adapt interventions to contribute to desired change on local levels and crisis constraints
- Disseminate research findings to international and local humanitarian actors to inform their efforts to reduce household violence in emergency contexts