

# Learning from SASA!: The Adaptations Project

## BACKGROUND

Violence against women (VAW) is one of the biggest issues women face worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that globally, 1 in 3 women have experienced some sort of intimate partner violence in their lives.<sup>1</sup> The effects of VAW are both immediate and enduring, and include bodily injuries, unwanted pregnancies, increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, and long-term mental health problems, among others.<sup>2,3</sup>

SASA! is a community mobilization approach to reduce VAW and HIV risk and infection. It was designed by Raising Voices, a non-governmental organization working to prevent violence against women and children in Uganda. In a cluster randomized trial conducted in Kampala, Uganda, SASA! was proven to effectively reduced levels of partner violence, as well as social acceptance of violence.

## SASA!

SASA! works by working directly with communities to encourage a process of change, engaging people across all levels of society to shift social norms surrounding the acceptability of VAW. SASA! is currently being implemented in more than 20 countries by more than 60 organizations in a variety of diverse settings and locations.



Source: Raising Voices

SASA! is an acronym for the methodology's four phase process:

Phase	Description
<b>1 START</b>	Start thinking about violence against women and HIV/AIDS as interconnected issues and foster power within yourself to address these issues.
<b>2 AWARENESS</b>	Raise awareness about communities' acceptance of men's use of power over women, which fuels HIV/AIDS and violence against women.
<b>3 SUPPORT</b>	Support women and men directly affected by or involved in these issues to change.
<b>4 ACTION</b>	Take action to prevent HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

## SETTING

Despite the fact that organizations are implementing SASA! in communities across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, researchers have yet to systematically study the challenges and struggles that groups implementing SASA! have experienced. This project fills that gap by learning from organizations using SASA!.

Raising Voices has teamed up with the University of California San Diego to conduct this 3-year study, funded by a grant from the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Researchers will partner with organizations in three settings: Rural Tanzania, refugee camps in Kenya, and a Caribbean community in Haiti:



Tanzania & Kenya



Haiti

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## METHODS

This mixed methods, comparative case study will strengthen the evidence base of SASA!'s impact and provide guidance for how to most effectively adapt the methodology, maximizing efficiency and cost-effectiveness of interventions like SASA!.

The three core objectives are to investigate:

1. The SASA! adaptation process
2. Context-specific implementation strategies
3. Organizational structures and processes necessary for quality programming

## FINDINGS

Findings from this project will be used to develop user-friendly tools that support quality adaptation, integration and implementation of the SASA! intervention in diverse contexts. This is a critical need as global interest and funding for primary prevention of violence against women and HIV increases, and more and more programming and research organizations begin to implement the SASA! approach as a key prevention tool.



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### References

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- <sup>3</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Retrieved from [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf)
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