

# Chapter 9

## Conclusions



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An important finding of the costing exercise that features in this book is that the deleterious effects of VAWG encompass everyone in the society. For instance, the **cost of VAWG to girls is 0.296 per cent of GDP** (or learning time lost in school); the **cost to adult women is around 2.332 per cent of GDP**; **cost to the private sector is 1.997 per cent of GDP**; and thus the cost to the whole of **society is 4.625 per cent of GDP**. The elimination of VAWG thus needs actions on different fronts (source Table A).

#### 9.1 Health and education services need special attention

Healthcare data collection in Seychelles is not able to capture the use of healthcare services by survivors of VAWG and hence the cost. By using assumptions, the present exercise was able to estimate the cost of certain healthcare services (direct costs of medical treatment etc.) to be around SCR 115 million or 0.60 per cent of GDP, yet other healthcare services costs could not be estimated due to data limitations. These include the emotional and psychological costs of VAWG. The following steps could help healthcare services to better cater to the needs of VAWG victims: (i) modification of the forms used for data collation; (ii) digitisation of data collection and sharing; (iii) training and capacity building provided for relevant staff on VAWG and data/information collection, preservation, assessment and dissemination; and (iv) revisiting the healthcare budget to allocate adequate funds to carry out these activities.

Another important finding of the Seychelles costing exercise concerns the learning time lost in school due to VAWG. Even a conservative estimate suggests that the static cost of learning time lost could be SCR 57 million or about 0.3% of GDP. Learning time lost may have far-reaching implications on productivity and hence future earning potentials. The following steps could help improve education services: (i) employing dedicated school welfare personnel in each school to deal with cases relating to VAWG; (ii) arranging special meetings with parents at regular intervals to find out ways to deal with such cases; (iii) digitisation of data collection and sharing; and (iv) revisiting the education budget to allocate adequate funds to carry out these activities.

**Table 9.1 Employment Effects of VAWG in Seychelles**

Broad economic sector	Employed persons		Job loss (persons)	
	All	Private		
Agriculture	400	304	7	5
Industry	9,978	9,478	63	60
Services	36,398	20,872	223	128
Total employment	46,776	30,654	323	212

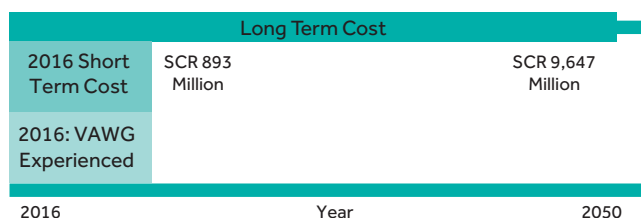
**Source:** Based on Unemployment Statistics, 2017, National Bureau of Statistics.

## 9.2 Employment and role of the private sector

Total employment in Seychelles in 2016 was 46,776, representing almost of 50 per cent of the total population. Around 78 per cent of these people were employed in the services sector. The employment situation is also impacted by VAWG, with estimations that at least **323 persons may be become jobless** due to VAWG. **Out of total job losses, 65 per cent would be in the private sector.**

Table 19.1 the use of an economy-wide model reveals some interesting implications for the private sector. Almost all of the 16 activities or sectors considered in the model are run by the private sector. **Annual output loss to the private sector due to VAWG is SCR 385.7 million or almost 2 percent of GDP. Given this high loss to the private sector, elimination of VAWG in Seychelles should also be a priority of this sector.** The authors of this report envisage a number of roles for the private sector:

- representatives from the private sector must be included in working groups dealing with VAWG;
- as VAWG affects staff members' health and thus performance, employers should engage with specialist women's organisations to devise and implement strategies to prevent VAWG;
- the corporate sector should invest part of their corporate social responsibility funds in VAWG prevention;
- the occupational health and safety agenda should include mental health and well-being;
- companies should clearly define their stance on VAWG via an employee conduct policy;
- domestic violence risk assessments should be carried out; and
- training on gender equality and VAWG prevention should be provided for all staff, recognising that some staff (e.g. human resources, managers, security) may require a more advanced training.

**Figure 9.1 Long Term Cost of VAWG**

### 9.3 Estimated long-term costs

Although in this report, the cost of VAWG is only considered for one year (2016), these costs may continue for much longer (e.g. until the death of VAWG survivors). For instance, it is argued that the health costs will last for as long as it takes to treat longer-term health effects. By comparison, costs to replace damaged property are likely to be incurred in the year when the event of violence took place – hence this is considered to be a short-term cost.<sup>1</sup> Using the victims’ median age of 43 and average female life expectancy of 77, the longer-term time cost of VAWG in Seychelles that took place in 2016 is represented by Figure 9.1.

A longer-term cost estimated over the 34-year period at 2016 prices using a discount rate of 7.5 per cent yields an overall cost of SCR 9,647 million.

### 9.4 Prototype costing model

This book presents the development of a comprehensive economic costing model for Seychelles to estimate the cost of VAWG using country-level data and parameters.

The prototype costing model developed under the aegis of the Commonwealth Secretariat has been numerically specified with member country data from Seychelles. The Seychelles costing model is based on official data and covers several important services such as healthcare, law enforcement, social services and specialised services. It also includes out-of-pocket personal cost incurred by VAW survivors, cost of learning time lost at schools and an estimation of income loss due to women being absent from paid work and household activities. However, the model was unable to include some important costs – such as those related to emotional intimate partner and workplace violence.

A major limitation of the model is the number assumptions (as explained above) made to convert the healthcare data for this exercise. More accurate healthcare data may have implications for the outcomes of the costing exercise. Another limitation is the use of the social accounting matrix (SAM) based on a dated input-output matrix (IOM) to estimate the economy-wide costs. More time and resources could be allocated into this component to

improve the outcome of the economy-wide estimation. A newly developed SAM based on more recent data would not only improve the VAWG costing component, but also help assessment of various economic policies considered in the country's development plan.

The major advantage of this model is that it is developed in an MS EXCEL environment and thus can be transferred to government counterparts (as well to other stakeholders) with focused training. A modular approach has been considered in developing it, such that multiple developers can work simultaneously on different model components. The most important merit is that *it is a live product* – it allows updates, modifications and extensions with ease.

## 9.5 Recommended actions

VAWG is a major violation of human rights. This aspect coupled with the high economic cost of such violence requires immediate and effective actions by the national authority. Suggestions from the consultation meetings in Seychelles, findings of the costing exercise and review of other studies (such as Duvvury et al., 2013) has helped shape these recommendations. Some of the recommended actions include:

### *Enabling policy:*

- i. Engaging the involvement of policy-makers, administrative officials and programme stakeholders to prepare and implement an adequately funded plan of action considering VAWG as a priority development issue.
- ii. Executing a multisectoral and inter-ministerial plan of action on VAWG by establishing mechanisms that focus on co-ordination and accountability.
- iii. Scaling up resources in primary prevention as well as establishing a dedicated budget to address VAWG.

### *Strengthening capacity:*

- iv. Capacity development of the national statistics offices and administrative agencies in gathering VAWG statistics to enable the design of effective strategies and for progress monitoring.
- v. Capacity strengthening of frontline service providers such as police, social services, healthcare services etc. for effective service delivery, and for improve the collection and maintenance of records in appropriate formats and environments.

### *Short term consideration:*

- vi. Design and implement a comprehensive communication strategy involving: communities; individual stakeholders including

- men and boys; government organisations non-governmental organisations/civil society organisations; and the corporate sector.
- vii. Design a data collection protocol for frontline service providers (e.g. in healthcare, the police, the judiciary etc.) using computer enabling software for faster collection, processing and sharing.
  - viii. Operationalise dedicated shelters for VAWG victims (survivors) that provide support such as medical care accommodation, food, counselling and legal aid.

## Note

1. PWC estimated the economic cost violence against women and their children (VAWC) for 2014–15 at 22 AUS \$ billion. The longer-term cost of VAWC using 30-year period (i.e. from 2014–15 to 2044–45) has been estimated at AUS \$ 323.4 billion. For details please refer to PWC Australia, (2015). A high price to pay: The economic case for preventing violence against women.

## References

- Breisinger, C, M Thomas and J Thurlow (2009), 'Social Accounting Matrices and Multiplier Analysis: An Introduction with Exercises', IFPRI, Washington, DC.
- Duvvury, N, A Callan, P Carney and S Raghavendra (2013), 'Intimate Partner Violence: Economic Costs and Implications for Growth and Development', Women's Voice, Agency, & Participation Research Series, No.3., the Work Bank, Washington, DC.