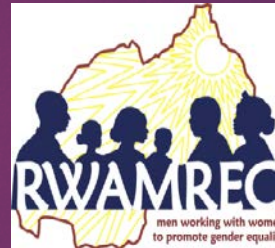


Indashyikirwa safe spaces for women: An enabling environment to prevent and respond to IPV in Rwanda

Erin Stern
19 September 2017



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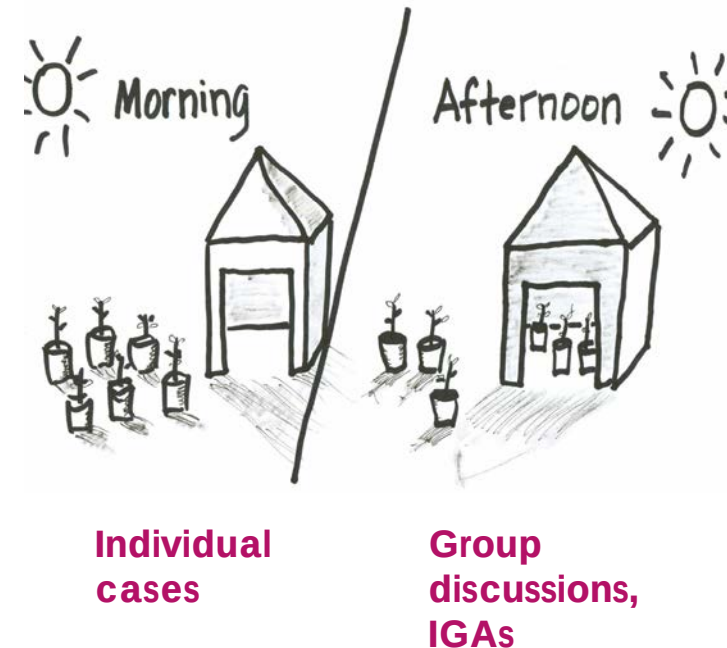


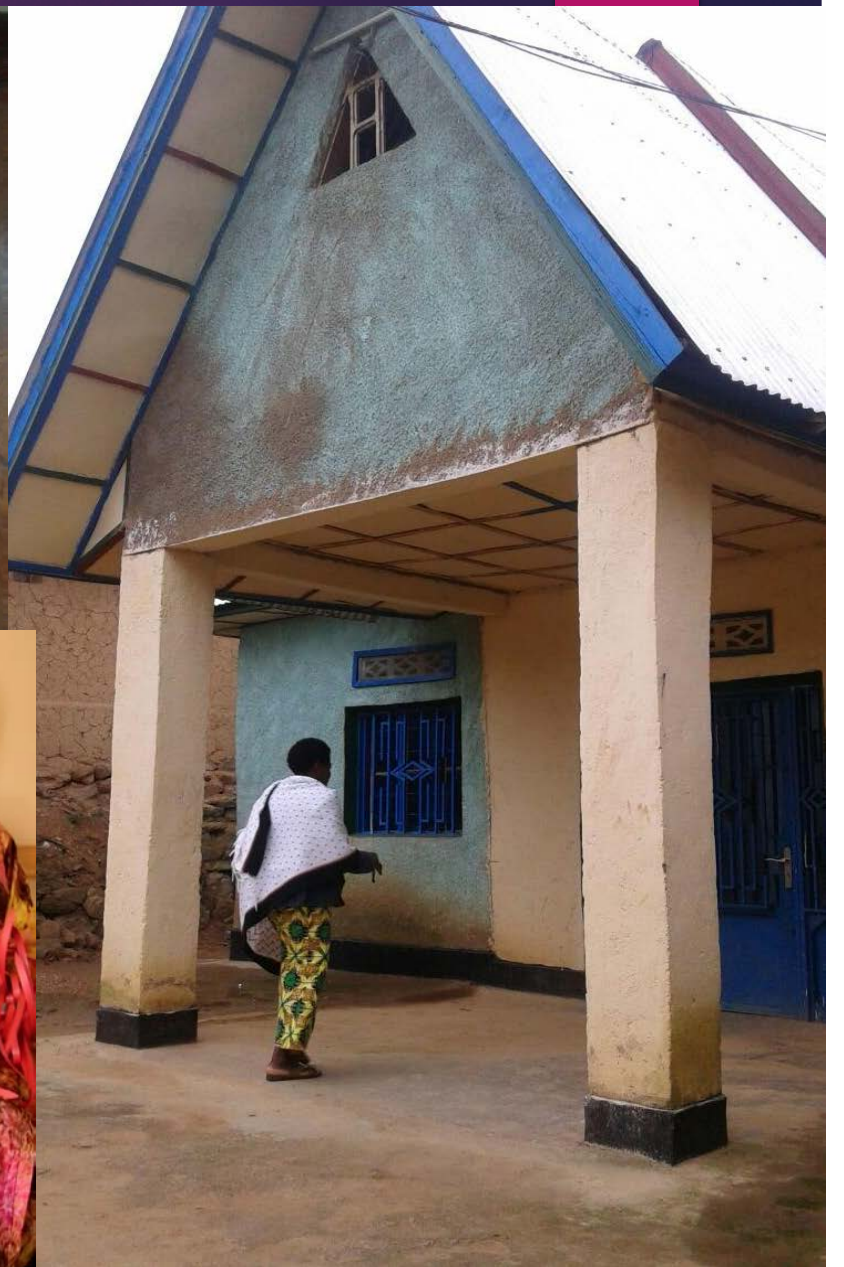
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Indashyikrwa: Women's Safe Spaces

- ▶ 14 spaces across 3 Rwandan provinces
- ▶ Facilitators elected from communities:
 - ▶ Provide safe spaces to discuss IPV, power
 - ▶ Educate women about their rights
 - ▶ Refer/accompany women for services
- ▶ Advocate for improved services, IPV prevention





Approach to Assess Women's Spaces

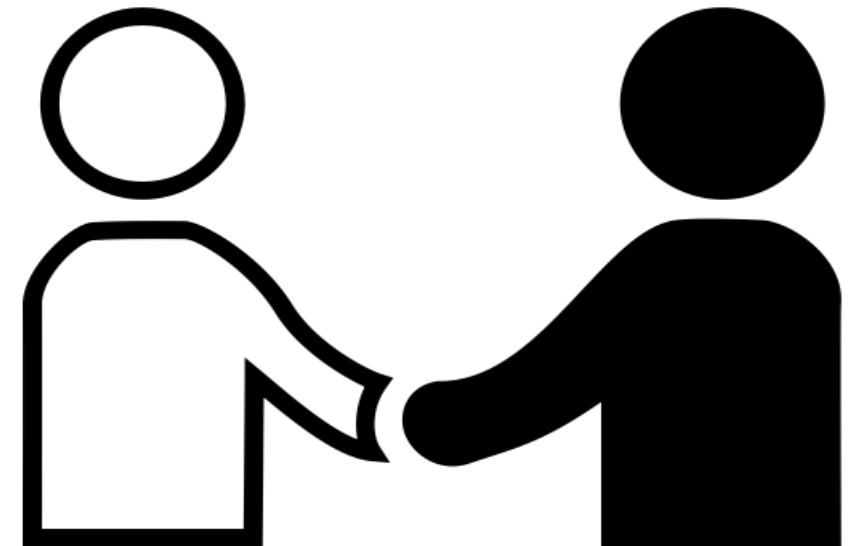
- ▶ Conducted in 3 diverse safe spaces
- ▶ **3 IDIs** with facilitators **1)** May 2016 **2)** June 2017
- ▶ **6 IDIs** with female attendees **1)** September 2016 **2)** June 2017 (+2 male attendees)
- ▶ **6 Observations** of activities **1)** September 2016 **2)** June 2017
- ▶ **7 IDIs** with RWN staff **1)** May 2016 **2)** May 2017
- ▶ Findings analyzed thematically using NVIVO



Appreciation of the Women's Safe Spaces

Community
RCT: 89% of women heard of spaces reported attending multiple times

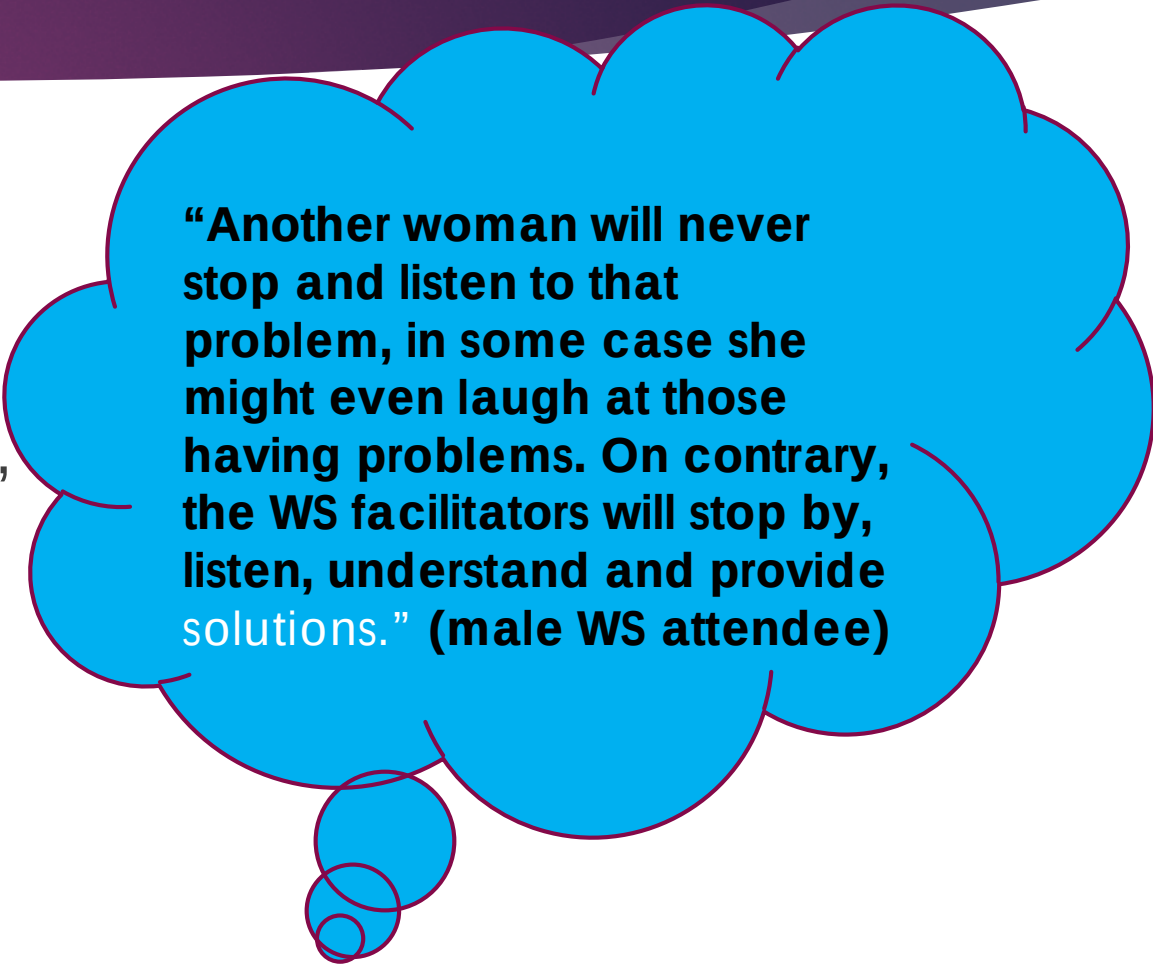
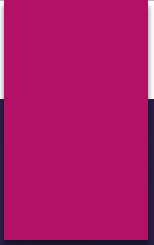
- ▶ Facilitators from communities
- ▶ Relevant issues: power, women's rights
- ▶ Solidarity groups
- ▶ Learning skills
 - ▶ Conflict resolution, communication
 - ▶ Handicraft





Lessons Learned for Improved Reporting of IPV

- ▶ Dedicated time and space
- ▶ Confidential
- ▶ Non-judgmental /victim blaming
- ▶ No fear of consequences (i.e paying fine, arrest of partner)
- ▶ Preferred reporting over family, neighbours, leaders, police (**hierarchy**)



“Another woman will never stop and listen to that problem, in some case she might even laugh at those having problems. On contrary, the WS facilitators will stop by, listen, understand and provide solutions.” (male WS attendee)

Engagement of Men

- ▶ Open to men: avoid backlash, support women's access, engage other men
- ▶ Through witnessing benefits, visits by WSF, male partners more supportive
- ▶ Some women struggle to engage male partners
- ▶ Men could dominate WS discussions

" Her husband said 'you are a crazy woman ! What are you going to say about us?' He was worried that she would tell everything related to the relationship and family." (WSA01N)



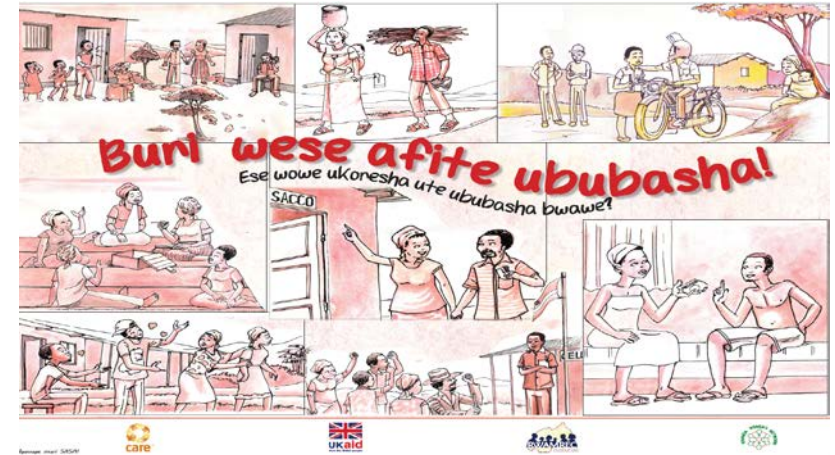


Improving Quality of & Linkages with GBV Services

- ▶ WSF ask attendees to complete forms for services referred to
 - ▶ Used to assess quality and advocate for improved services
- ▶ Police, health facilitators, local leaders, land mediators invited to spaces to raise awareness of services, inform women of their rights
- ▶ WSF taking ownership of spaces; critical for sustainability

Strategies to Improve Women's Safe Spaces

- ▶ Training for WSF in public speaking, participatory management (posters support this)
- ▶ Dedicated days for men and couples
- ▶ Regular meetings with WSF, local leaders, community activists (for sustainability)
- ▶ Organize clubs to draw young people
- ▶ Incorporate early childhood development in future



In Summary

- ▶ Value of research informing programme development on ongoing basis
- ▶ Value of women led physical space that prioritizes safety and well-being
- ▶ Critical gap in community that improves quality, linkage of services



Thank You!

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GBV METHODS SHORT COURSE applications open

“Researching Gender-Based Violence: Methods and Meaning”

Who should apply:

Individuals who will conduct or commission research on gender based violence

Location:

Gender Violence & Health Centre, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (London, UK)

Dates:

12-16 February 2018

Details:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/gender-violence>

