



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2024

October 2025



BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS (BBS)
STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS DIVISION (SID)
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2024

Published by

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
www.bbs.gov.bd

Published on

October 2025

Design concepts

BBS & UNFPA

Printing at

Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS

For further information on the report, please contact

Director General
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
Email: dg@bbs.gov.bd

Complimentary copy

Copyright © Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

ISBN: 978-984-475-381-5

This publication or any portion thereof cannot be copied, microfilmed or reproduced for any commercial purpose. Data therein can, however, be used and published with proper acknowledgement of the source.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2024

October 2025



BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS (BBS)
STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS DIVISION (SID)
MINISTRY OF PLANNING



Director General
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

PREFACE

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has conducted the third round of Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey in the year 2024. The survey is conducted following the internationally accepted methodologies, norms and standards. By collecting data on violence against women and assessing its prevalence and patterns, this survey presented valuable insights into the SDG targets related to gender equality, women's empowerment and the reduction of violence against women. These data are instrumental in tracking progress towards specific indicators, such as 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. This survey serves as a foundational source of information that supports evidence-based policy making and aligns with Bangladesh's commitment in achieving international development goals and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported the BBS to carry out this important survey. The expert team from UNFPA regional office visited the field work during the survey. The team played very significant role through providing training to the enumerators and supervisors those who were engaged in conducting the survey. I am extremely grateful to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their technical and financial contributions, those were instrumental throughout the process of the survey.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and profound gratitude to the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), for valuable guidance in conducting this survey. I also extend my thanks to the members of the Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee for their important suggestions in the process of conducting the survey. Special thanks are due to Project Director, her team members and enumerators for their relentless efforts to carry out the allotted activities in a fruitful manner to accomplish the survey successfully.

I hope the report of this survey will serve as a valuable resource to support evidence-based policy making, planning of the Government and further analysis by development partners, NGOs, practitioners and researchers.

Any recommendation to improve the quality of survey and standard of report will be appreciated.

Dhaka, October 2025

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman



UNFPA Representative
in Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am pleased to welcome the release of the Violence Against Women Survey 2024 Report, which builds on the foundations of two earlier rounds to provide the most comprehensive evidence yet on the nature and extent of violence against women in Bangladesh. This report was made possible by the 27,476 women who were randomly selected and agreed to share their experiences. I extend my deepest gratitude to each of them for their trust and courage.

I commend the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics for spearheading this survey—the first in over a decade to generate updated, nationally representative data. The findings reaffirm the profound consequences of violence, impacting not only individual women but also the well-being of families, the fabric of communities throughout Bangladesh and the sustainability of its development and economic gains. The report highlights how rapid urbanization, climate displacement and technological advancements are increasingly shaping women's realities, while drawing attention to the challenges faced by marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, adolescent girls and those in informal settlements or disaster-prone areas.

While there are notable signs of progress, with reductions observed across nearly all forms of violence, the evidence is conclusive: violence against women remains a widespread human rights crisis. This moment calls for transformative action. The women we met in the field, whose strength carried this survey forward, cannot wait any longer and will accept nothing less.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is proud to support the Government of Bangladesh in strengthening the national evidence base to enable people-centred policymaking. For this survey, we contributed to the methodological design, training of national statisticians and data collection and analysis in line with ethical and safety standards. We remain committed to supporting the government, civil society and development partners in translating these findings into transformative action.

I extend my gratitude to more than one hundred female data collectors who travelled across Bangladesh to reach thousands of respondents—meeting everyone of them with compassion, respect and professionalism. I also thank the experts from UNFPA's regional kNowVAWdata initiative and the University of Melbourne for their invaluable technical support and our development partners whose contributions enabled UNFPA to support this critical survey.

Far from being an end, this report marks a beginning. Urgent action is critical—using this evidence to inform policies, prioritize investments and strengthen partnerships aimed at eliminating gender-based violence in Bangladesh. While the road ahead is long, this report provides a foundation for collective action underscoring the importance of working together to achieve progress.

Dhaka, October 2025



Catherine Breen Kamkong



Project Director
Integrating Geospatial Information with
Gender and Vital Statistics Project
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Safe, ethical and robust household surveys for measuring violence against women are globally recognized and crucial strategies for understanding and addressing gender-based violence. In Bangladesh, this is a key endeavor of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), widely acknowledged by policymakers, researchers and development partners.

The first nationally representative Violence Against Women (VAW) survey was conducted in 2011, followed by 2015, both providing critical insights into the prevalence, forms and consequences of violence against women, informing policies and interventions. The 2024 survey represents a significant milestone, featuring key enhancements that maintain comparability with previous surveys while aligning more closely with global standards. UN Acts provide data for SDG monitoring and international commitments, while Local Acts reflect country-specific contexts, enabling more targeted policy responses.

The survey also incorporates economic cost estimation and recognizes the growing impact of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, particularly online harassment and abuse. Additionally, it offers disaggregated data across slum and non slum areas; city corporation and non city corporation areas; disaster-prone and non disaster-prone regions; and women with disabilities. Risk factor analysis is conducted to identify key determinants, helping policymakers take more targeted interventions to address violence against women. The Quantitative Survey includes an in-depth research component for the first time, which further illustrates the nuanced dimensions of violence against women in Bangladesh.

By measuring different forms of violence against women, the 2024 survey provides crucial data to inform policies, interventions and resource allocation, strengthening Bangladesh's commitment to SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Honourable Adviser, Ministry of Planning, for his support and guidance. We also extend appreciation to Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), for her invaluable support in ensuring high-quality data collection. We also acknowledge Director General, BBS for his administrative support and guidance throughout the process. BBS sincerely appreciates all stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, for their dedicated involvement, which was crucial to the survey's success. We also acknowledge the contribution of the former Project Director, Mr. Iftekhairul Karim, whose leadership and commitment- spanning survey design, field operations and inter-agency coordination- were instrumental in the survey's implementation.

Special gratitude is extended to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), including its Bangladesh Country Office and Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO), for their technical and financial support. This assistance has been instrumental to the survey's execution and we deeply value their efforts in driving this initiative forward. We are immensely grateful for the support from kNOWVAWdata, an initiative designed to strengthen regional and national capacity to measure violence against women in Asia and the Pacific. The expertise of the kNOWVAWdata team has been instrumental in building national capacity and providing technical guidance for the 2024 survey. This survey has greatly benefited from

the guidance of Jessica Gardner (UNFPA APRO), as well as Associate Professor Kristin Diemer and Professor Cathy Vaughan of The University of Melbourne. It has also benefited from the research contributions of Sarah Bergman and Dr. Sadika Akhter (The University of Melbourne). We thank East West University for providing ethical review and clearance for the in-depth research component of this survey.

We extend appreciation to the members of the Project Steering Committee, Project Implementation Committee and Working Committee for their valuable contributions in guiding the survey implementation. Since 2011, UNFPA's ongoing technical and financial cooperation with the VAW survey has played a pivotal role in its success. A special note of gratitude goes to the VAW survey team for their dedicated engagement throughout the survey.

Above all, we recognize the extraordinary efforts of the field enumerators and their supervisors, who, despite enormous challenges, were instrumental in capturing voices from the ground. Most importantly, we are deeply grateful to the thousands of women who courageously shared their experiences, providing vital data to inform policies and programmes aimed at ending violence against women in Bangladesh. We also extend appreciation to development partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose continuous support was essential throughout the process.

Finally, we hope that the VAW survey 2024 report serves as a comprehensive and authoritative account of the latest prevalence data and related findings on violence against women in Bangladesh. As a full technical report of the survey, it is intended to inform policy, programming and future research. We welcome comments and feedbacks to further strengthen its utility and impact.

Dhaka, October 2025



Minakhi Biswas

CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
MESSAGE	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xii
ACRONYMS	xv
KEY FINDINGS	2
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 BACKGROUND	6
1.2 INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTING DATA COLLECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	7
1.3 GLOBAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT OF VAW	8
1.4 RATIONALE FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF VAW SURVEY	8
1.5 ENHANCED FEATURES OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2024	9
1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY	9
CHAPTER 2: SURVEY METHODS	12
2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE SURVEY DESIGN	12
2.2 QUANTITATIVE SURVEY	12
2.3 IN-DEPTH RESEARCH: COMPLEMENTARY CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVES	19
2.4 TRIANGULATION OF FINDINGS	20
2.5 ETHICS AND SAFETY	21
CHAPTER 3: BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS	24
3.1 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS	24
3.2 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS (SURVEYED POPULATION)	27
CHAPTER 4: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER (HUSBAND)	32
4.1 MEASURING AND INTERPRETING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA	33
4.2 DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE	34
4.3 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	35
4.4 SEXUAL VIOLENCE	40
4.5 PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY	44

4.6 CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR	45
4.7 EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE	50
4.8 ECONOMIC VIOLENCE	54
CHAPTER 5: NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE	60
5.1 DIFFERENT FORMS OF NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE	61
5.2 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	62
5.3 SEXUAL VIOLENCE	68
5.4 COMPARISON BETWEEN PARTNER AND NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE	72
CHAPTER 6: TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	76
6.1 BACKGROUND	76
6.2 MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES AND CONCEPTUAL GAPS	77
6.3 INCLUSION OF TFGBV IN THE VAW 2024 SURVEY	77
6.4 PREVALENCE OF TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE	78
CHAPTER 7: REPORTING, LEGAL RECOURSE AND AWARENESS	86
7.1 REPORTING OF PARTNER VIOLENCE	87
7.2 LEGAL ACTION TAKEN FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE	90
7.3 LEGAL ACTION TAKEN FOR NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE	94
7.4 KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE TO REPORT THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE	95
CHAPTER 8: RISK FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	100
8.1 BACKGROUND	100
8.2 RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE	102
8.3 MULTIVARIATE LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS	106
8.4 RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE	113
CHAPTER 9: COST OF VIOLENCE	120
CHAPTER 10: RECOMMENDATIONS	124
10.1 RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	124
10.2 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	125
10.3 DATA AND EVIDENCE ON VAW	126
10.4 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY AND RIGHTS	127
REFERENCE	130
APPENDICES	134
APPENDIX 1: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES	134
APPENDIX 2: SDG 5.2 INDICATORS	148
APPENDIX 3: PROJECT COMMITTEES, VAW EXPERTS AND CONTRIBUTORS	152

LIST OF TABLES

Table I:	Trends in prevalence of intimate partner violence experienced at least once among ever-married women aged 15 years and above in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)	2
Table II:	Trend in prevalence of non-partner (other than husband) violence experienced at least once among all women since age 15 years in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)	3
Table III:	Prevalence of forms of TFGBV experienced at least once among all women since age 15 years in lifetime and last 12 months (%) (prior to survey)	3
Table IV:	Survivor disclosure, legal action, treatment seeking and associated costs	4
Table 1.1.1:	Key global frameworks addressing violence against women	7
Table 2.1:	Distribution of sample PSU and households (HH) by domain using Kish allocation	14
Table 2.2:	Distribution of sampled household, eligible women, interviewed women and response rate by locality	18
Table 2.3:	Number of interviewed women by marital status and locality	18
Table 2.4:	In-depth data collection activities	20
Table 3.1.1:	Characteristics of households	24
Table 3.1.2:	Housing structure of households	25
Table 3.1.3:	Households' access to utilities and amenities	26
Table 3.2.1:	Background characteristics of interviewed women aged 15 years and above	27
Table 4.3.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of physical violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)	36
Table 4.4.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of sexual violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)	40
Table 4.5.1:	Percentage of currently married women reporting physical and sexual violence during pregnancy	45
Table 4.6.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of controlling behaviour among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)	46
Table 4.7.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of emotional violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)	50
Table 4.8.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of economic violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)	54
Table 5.1.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of physical and sexual non-partner violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)	61
Table 5.2.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence (%) of non-partner physical violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)	62
Table 5.2.2:	Prevalence of specific acts of non-partner physical violence among all women aged 15+ years	63
Table 5.2.3:	Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of non-partner physical violence experienced by all women aged 15+	65
Table 5.2.4:	Distribution of perpetrators of lifetime non-partner physical violence (share of responses and cases)	65
Table 5.2.5:	Number and percentage of survivors who experienced physical violence (by most harmful perpetrators)	66
Table 5.3.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence (%) of non-partner sexual violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)	68
Table 5.3.2:	Prevalence of specific acts of non-partner sexual violence among all women aged 15+ years	69
Table 5.3.3:	Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of non-partner sexual violence experienced by all women aged 15+ years	70
Table 5.3.4:	Distribution of perpetrators of lifetime non-partner sexual violence (share of responses and cases)	71
Table 5.4.1:	Comparison of physical and sexual violence between partner and non-partner	73
Table 6.4.1:	Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of technology-facilitated gender-based violence among all women	77
Table 6.4.2:	Percentage of responses and cases by type of perpetrator involved in harassment/blackmail	81
Table 6.4.3:	Number and percentage of responses and cases by type of perpetrator for whom the survivors felt embarrassed	83

Table 7.1.1:	Percentage of ever married women sharing experiences of physical and/or sexual violence by husband/partner to persons/authorities	87
Table 7.1.2:	Persons to whom the survivors shared/reported their experience of physical or sexual violence	87
Table 7.1.3:	Reasons for not reporting/telling by the ever-married women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence	88
Table 7.2.1:	Percentage of ever-married women (survivors) took legal action for the experiences of physical or sexual violence by husband/partner to persons/authorities	91
Table 7.3.1:	Percentage of all women experiencing non-partner violence who reported taking legal action against perpetrators	95
Table 7.4.1:	Knowledge about where to report the incidence of violence	96
Table 7.4.2:	Knowledge about government helpline	97
Table 8.2.1:	Bivariate analysis of risk factors associated with different forms of Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey)	103
Table 8.3.1:	Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for women experiencing intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual violence)	106
Table 8.3.2:	Summary of statistically significant risk factors from the multilevel multivariate model, controlling for confounders (across types of IPV)	111
Table 8.4.1:	Bivariate analysis of potential risk factors associated with different forms of non-partner violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey)	113
Table 8.4.2:	Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for non-partner's physical and/or sexual violence	115
Table 9.1:	Treatment-seeking, treatment costs and legal expenses due to physical, sexual or emotional violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey) among all women	120
Table 9.2:	Reasons for not taking treatment	122

LIST OF FIGURES

MAP 1:	Prevalence of any form of intimate partner violence among ever-married women aged 15 years in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)	3
Figure 4.1:	Lifetime prevalence of violence (%) among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by current or former husband)	34
Figure 4.2:	Last 12 months prevalence of violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by current or former husband)	35
Figure 4.3.1:	Prevalence of specific acts of physical violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)	38
Figure 4.4.1:	Prevalence of specific acts of sexual violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)	42
Figure 4.6.1:	Prevalence of specific acts of controlling behaviour among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)	48
Figure 4.7.1:	Prevalence of specific acts of emotional violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)	52
Figure 4.8.1:	Prevalence of specific acts of economic violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)	56
Figure 5.2.1:	Distribution of survivors by maximum number of different perpetrators of physical violence	67
Figure 7.2.1:	Legal actions taken by survivors who intended to seek justice	87
Figure 8.1:	Heise's ecological model of violence against women (A multilevel framework for risk factor analysis)	96
Figure 8.2:	Number of women in the survey according to their partnership status and their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a male partner	98

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence against women remains one of the most serious human rights violations and a major barrier to achieving gender equality and sustainable development in Bangladesh. The Violence Against Women Survey 2024- the third of its kind- is conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics with technical support from UNFPA. Building on earlier rounds carried out in 2011 and 2015, the 2024 survey provides a robust and nationally representative evidence base, delivering timely insights into the prevalence, forms, patterns and consequences of violence against women across the country.

The 2024 survey is a nationally representative survey grounded in the rigorous methodology of the World Health Organization (WHO) multi-country study and aligned with United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) guidelines for violence against women surveys. With a high response rate of 95.4%, the survey successfully interviewed 27,476 women out of a target sample of 28,800 across all eight administrative divisions of Bangladesh. For the first time, the survey included a parallel in-depth research component, comprising focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in-depth interviews with survivors, men and women in the community and service providers involved in responding to violence against women (VAW). Participants were recruited and protected in accordance with ethical and safe VAW research principles.

This comprehensive mixed-methods approach builds on previous rounds of the survey in 2011 and 2015. It incorporates several important enhancements, including the measurement of technology-facilitated violence, the economic costs of violence and disaggregated data for marginalized populations. The survey provides an unparalleled evidence base for policy and programming by collecting specific data from women living in urban slums, disaster-prone areas and those with functional difficulties.

The results from the 2024 survey are strategically designed for broad dissemination, providing evidence to inform and shape response and prevention interventions across sectors. This data should be actively utilized by a wide array of stakeholders, including government ministries, policymakers, civil society organizations, academic researchers, gender-based violence (GBV) programming staff and development partners, for more targeted, evidence-based and effective programs in crucial areas such as health, justice, social services, education and economic empowerment.

The findings will also serve as an indispensable resource for reviewing, amending and strengthening existing national policies and legal frameworks, ensuring they are responsive to the evolving realities of violence against women and aligned with national commitments and international human rights standards. Strategic application of the survey's insights is vital to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and fostering a society where all women and girls in Bangladesh can live free from violence.

KEY FINDINGS

The 2024 survey reveals a pervasive reality of violence affecting women across Bangladesh, highlighting both persistent challenges and emerging concerns.

- **Widespread intimate partner violence (IPV):** A staggering 75.9% of ever-married women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. Controlling behavior is the

most prevalent form, reported by 67.6% of women, underscoring a pervasive pattern of psychological domination. Nearly half (47.3%) have faced physical violence, almost one-third (29.0%) sexual violence and nearly one in five economic violence (19.6%) in their lifetime. Crucially, 48.7% experienced some form of IPV in the last 12 months, highlighting its ongoing impact on women's daily lives.

- The findings highlight the chronic nature of intimate partner violence. Many women who experienced physical abuse reported that it was not an isolated incident but rather occurred repeatedly over time. Pregnancy-related violence also emerged as a major concern: 7.2% experienced physical and 5.3% sexual violence during pregnancy, with in-depth research insights revealing escalation during this vulnerable period.
- **Vulnerability of adolescents and marginalized groups:** Adolescent girls (15-19 years) face disproportionately high rates of recent violence, underscoring their unique vulnerability. Women in urban slums and disaster-prone regions also report higher rates across various forms of violence, emphasizing the intersection of gender-based violence with socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities.
- **Non-partner violence remains a concern:** Beyond intimate relationships, 15.0% of women have experienced physical violence from a non-partner and 2.2% sexual violence, since age 15 years. Urban women—especially those in city corporations—face higher risks. Family members are often the perpetrators, with mothers-in-law, male relatives and in-laws being the most frequently mentioned.
- **Emerging digital threats:** For the first time, the survey reveals the growing threat of some critical forms of Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV), with 8.3% of women experiencing unwanted sexual communications, sexual blackmail or image-based abuse or technology-facilitated controlling behavior in their lifetime. These forms of violence are notably higher among younger, urban and digitally connected women, signaling a new frontier for prevention and response efforts.
- **Culture of silence and limited access to justice:** It is essential to understand that almost two thirds (64%) of intimate partner violence survivors had told no one about their experiences before the survey, highlighting deep-rooted stigma, fear and normalization of violence. When disclosed, family members are the primary confidants, with formal support systems remaining underutilized. Awareness of government helplines remains critically low, with only 12.3% of all women surveyed knowing about the dedicated VAW Helpline ‘109’ and 45% of Helpline ‘999’, indicating low awareness is a potential barrier to help seeking. Awareness of formal reporting mechanisms remains low. This signals a critical outreach failure to those who need support most.
- **Significant economic burden:** The human cost of violence is compounded by substantial economic burdens on survivors and their families. Survivors seeking health care or taking legal action incurred average treatment costs of approximately BDT 2,512 (approx. \$21 USD) and legal action costs averaging BDT 4,104 (approx. \$35 USD) in the past year.
- **Identified risk factors:** The survey reveals that young women, particularly those aged 15–19, are the most vulnerable to all forms of intimate partner violence. Several relationship-based factors significantly increase the likelihood of abuse. Women who face dowry-related pressure are much more likely to experience violence. If the partner has an extramarital relationship or abuses drugs, the chance of violence increases even more. One of the strongest signs of risk is fear—women who said they are “always afraid” of their husbands are far more likely to experience violence than those who are not. Where a woman lives also matters. Those living in certain divisions, such as Barishal and Chattogram, urban slums or city corporation areas face higher levels of violence than women in other regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ending violence against women requires concerted, multi-sectoral efforts grounded in the socio-ecological framework. This framework recognizes that violence is not an isolated issue but is shaped by a complex interplay of factors at different levels: individual, relationship, community and societal. Effective interventions must address these interconnected levels simultaneously, moving beyond single-factor solutions to foster systemic change and create environments where all women and girls can thrive free from violence.

1. Strengthen comprehensive response services:

- Ensure access to survivor-centered GBV services, including expanding access to mental health and psychosocial support, with referral linkages across health, justice, legal and social services.
- Institutionalize and adequately resource a trained GBV response workforce, including case managers and counselors and integrate GBV content into professional training across all relevant service sectors.

- Provide economic support and safe shelter homes for survivors, ensuring accessibility without judicial orders.
- Integrate GBV response across all health service disciplines, moving from a medico-legal examination approach toward holistic, survivor-centred care.
- Develop tailored strategies for at-risk groups, including adolescent girls, women in informal settlements and women with disabilities.
- Strengthen response to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) through comprehensive laws and policies, survivor-centered service provision and stronger coordination across sectors.
- Develop region-specific response strategies with targeted interventions, prioritizing slum and other high-risk urban areas due to their elevated risks.
- Strengthen the capacity of community leaders, who are involved in over half of legal actions pursued by survivors, through training, links to formal systems and accountability measures.

2. Promote holistic prevention strategies:

- Foster violence-free relationships through positive parenting and couple programs, addressing substance abuse and harmful gender norms.
- Engage men and boys in challenging harmful gender norms and promoting positive masculinities. Mobilizing community and religious leaders is also crucial for driving positive change.
- Empower women and adolescent girls through policies promoting fair employment, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.
- Integrate safety planning, partner engagement and social empowerment into women's economic empowerment programs.
- Launch awareness campaigns about support services, ensuring reach to hard-to-reach populations.
- Address poverty drivers of GBV by increasing access to social protection schemes.
- Ensure both online and offline spaces are safe for women and girls by promoting positive gender norms, digital literacy and institutional accountability to address TFGBV.
- Leverage Bangladesh's youth bulge by integrating gender-transformative approaches and violence prevention education into formal and informal education.
- Design and implement evidence-based behavior and social norm change programmes in partnership with women's rights organizations.

3. Enhance data and evidence for informed action:

- Transition to the latest WHO multi-country study questionnaire for future VAW surveys to ensure global comparability.
- Conduct regular VAW surveys (every 5-10 years) to monitor trends and inform policy.
- Strengthen administrative data systems across key sectors by accelerating the development of safe, ethical and robust solutions for collecting and managing reported VAW cases.
- Undertake dedicated studies on GBV among key vulnerable populations (e.g., female sex workers, women with disabilities, transgender individuals).
- Widely disseminate the VAW survey findings to inform targeted interventions and secondary analyses.

4. Cultivate an enabling environment:

- Identify and amend discriminatory GBV-related laws and policies, ensuring enforcement of protective frameworks.
- Strengthen legal framework for TFGBV through streamlined reporting, specialized cyber courts, cross-border cooperation and stronger survivor protection.
- Ensure funding for national action plans on GBV and child marriage, including costed monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms.
- Implement recommendations from UPR, CEDAW, CSW, Beijing Platform for Action and other international frameworks.
- Implement comprehensive Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training for all GBV actors.
- Support ethical, gender-sensitive reporting codes in media, promoting equitable representation and narratives.

Violence Against Women Survey 2024 highlights both persistent and emerging threats to women's safety, rights and well-being in Bangladesh. It offers a strong evidence base to guide the development of targeted, data-driven and survivor-centered strategies. To meaningfully reduce violence, a comprehensive, multisectoral approach is needed—one that addresses the complex and intersecting factors driving abuse. This report serves as a foundational document for all stakeholders—government, civil society, academia and development partners—to collectively work towards a Bangladesh where every woman and girl can live free from violence, with dignity and respect.

ACRONYMS

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CAP	Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CC	City Corporation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
Deff	Design Effect
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
ESP	Essential Services Package
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HH	Household(s)
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPV	Non-Partner Violence
OSCC	One Stop Crisis Centre
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
RC	Reference Category
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
TFGBV	Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations

KEY FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS

A. PREVALENCE OF PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG EVER-MARRIED WOMEN

Table I: Trends in prevalence of intimate partner violence experienced at least once among ever-married women aged 15 years and above in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)

Type of violence	Lifetime (since marriage)					Last 12 months				
	UN Standard			Local Context including UN		UN Standard			Local Context including UN	
	2024	2015	2011	2024	2015	2024	2015	2011	2024	2015
Physical violence (%)	46.7	49.6	47.8	47.3	50.3	10.5	20.8	26.4	10.6	21.6
Sexual violence (%)	28.5	27.2	37.3	29.0	27.2	9.3	13.3	24.0	9.4	13.3
Psychological										
- Emotional violence (%)	32.7	28.7	40.2	37.4	34.5	14.9	24.2	30.0	17.6	29.1
- Controlling behavior (%)	50.1	55.4	67.8	67.6	70.9	33.0	38.8	56.2	44.0	56.7
Economic violence (%)	9.7	11.4	17.8	19.6	39.7	4.2	6.7	13.9	10.6	14.2
Physical and/or sexual violence (%)	54.1	54.2	57.8	54.4	54.6	16.0	26.9	37.0	16.1	27.5
Physical and/or sexual and/or emotional (%)	57.8	57.7	62.5	59.3	58.6	22.8	38.0	45.1	24.4	41.4
Any form of violence	69.6	72.6	79.4	75.9	82.7	41.2	54.7	66.9	48.7	66.3

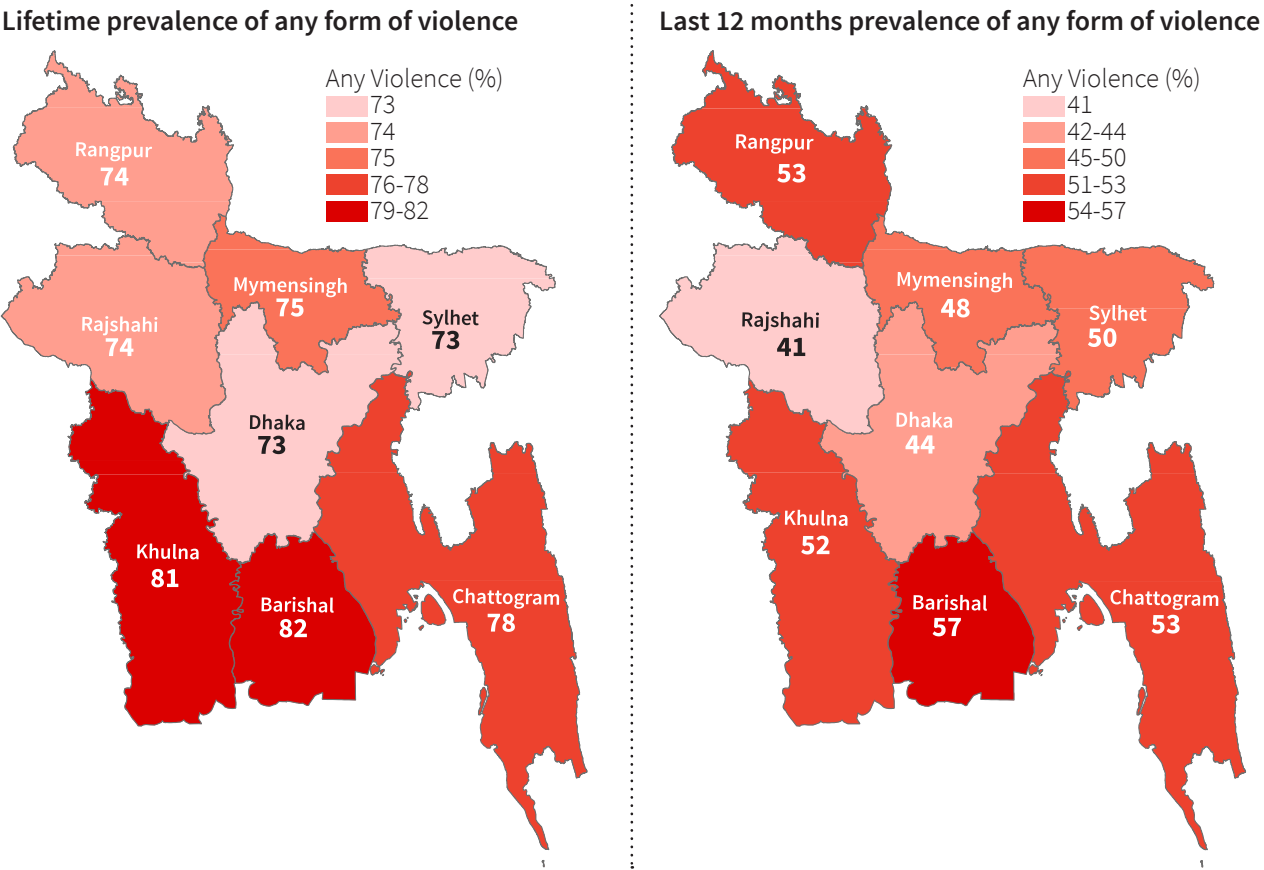
Note: UN Standard Acts and Local Acts: The survey generates two sets of statistics; one aligned with United Nations (UN) standards and another reflecting context-specific acts of violence common in Bangladesh, referred to in this report as “local acts”. Local acts include all UN acts, with additional forms specific to the Bangladesh context, ensuring that the findings remain comprehensive and grounded in local realities. This distinction between UN acts and local acts is applied only for selected types of intimate partner violence (IPV) and not for non-partner violence (NPV). A full listing of the detailed acts by type of violence is provided in the questionnaire and statistical tables in the Appendix.

Any Form of Violence: According to the UN, violence against women is defined as “any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Under this definition, any form of violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, controlling or economic violence.

To enable trend comparisons with previous survey rounds, data using both definitions are presented; however, the detailed disaggregated analysis in this report is based primarily on the local acts. The estimates for 2015 based on the local context were calculated from metadata.

Precision and reliability measures of survey estimates: Table A1 in the Appendix provides key statistical parameters for the core indicators of the survey, including the standard error, 95% confidence interval, intra-cluster correlation (ICC) and design effect.

MAP 1: Prevalence of any form of intimate partner violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)



B. NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

Table II: Trend in prevalence of non-partner (other than husband) violence experienced at least once among all women since age 15 years in lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey)

	Lifetime			Last 12 months		
Type of non-partner violence	2024	2015	2011	2024	2015	2011
Physical violence (%)	15.0	27.8	23.8	3.7	6.2	7.8
Sexual violence (%)	2.2	3.0	4.4	0.5	2.5	1.0

Note: There is no difference between the UN standard and locally relevant acts of non-partner violence.

C. TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Table III: Prevalence of forms of TFGBV experienced at least once among all women since age 15 years in lifetime and last 12 months (%) (prior to survey)

	National	Rural	Urban
Lifetime	8.3	7.4	10.3
Last 12 months	5.2	4.7	6.4

D. DISCLOSURE, LEGAL ACTION, TREATMENT AND LEGAL COST

Table IV: Survivor disclosure, legal action, treatment seeking and associated costs

	National	Rural	Urban
Number of survivors (n)	13,485	5,782	7,703
Survivors who told no one (%)	64.0	63.4	64.4
Survivors who disclosed (%)	36.0	36.4	35.6
Survivors took legal actions in last 12 months (%)	7.4	6.5	9.5
Survivors took treatment in last 12 months (%)	14.5	15.1	13.1
Average treatment cost (BDT)	2,512	2,672	2,394
Average legal action cost (BDT)	4,104	3,780	4,341
Average overall cost (BDT)	2,674	2,878	2,529

Note: n includes a subset of survivors who experienced physical, sexual or emotional IPV and/or physical or sexual NPV. The legal actions presented here refer only to survivors of IPV.

1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Violence against women represents a grave violation of human rights and a significant barrier to achieving gender equality and sustainable development in Bangladesh. For too long, the prevalence of this violence was primarily captured through anecdotal accounts and reports to service providers. However, population-based prevalence surveys have more recently emerged as essential tools for systematic data collection, providing a more accurate and nationally representative understanding of the issue.

Violence against women is driven by deep-rooted gender inequality and sustained through social, cultural, economic and structural factors. Centuries-long patriarchal norms reinforce male dominance and female subordination, creating environments where violence is tolerated and at times, normalized (Jewkes et al., 2015). Cultural norms can lead women to normalise violence in their lives, while women's economic dependence on men further entrenches gender inequalities, limiting their ability to escape abusive relationships. Furthermore, inadequate legal frameworks and weak enforcement mechanisms diminish women's access to justice and safety, failing to establish strong legal norms that uphold their human rights.

The consequences of violence against women are far-reaching and devastating, impacting not only individual women but also their children, families, communities and national economies. Women may suffer severe physical injuries, psychological trauma, depression and post-traumatic stress

disorder (WHO, 2013). Beyond individual health, violence reduces women's productivity, increases healthcare expenditures and burdens legal and social services (Duvvury et al., 2013). Economically, intimate partner violence alone can cost a country up to 3.7% of its GDP (UN Women, 2016). These costs perpetuate cycles of trauma and poverty across generations. Ultimately, this violence restricts women's access to education, employment and healthcare, severely limiting their ability to lead fulfilling lives (UN, 2015).

Globally, violence against women is a pervasive issue, with one in every three women aged 15-49 experiencing physical or sexual violence by intimate partners or non-partners (WHO, 2021). While prevalence varies, no nation is immune. The international community formally recognized violence against women as a human rights concern at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna (Khan et al., 2017). The subsequent 1995 Beijing Platform for Action spurred global efforts, leading 193 countries to enact 1,583 legal reforms aimed at preventing and responding to this violence by 2024 (UN Women, 2024).

Collecting information on such sensitive issues from women is inherently challenging, as perpetrators are often husbands or close family members and the stigma surrounding violence limits disclosure. Robust prevalence data requires survey designs embedded with strong ethical principles, prioritizing a "do no harm" approach and centering the safety and dignity of women.

1.2 INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS SUPPORTING DATA COLLECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The international community’s recognition of the urgency of addressing violence against women has led to the establishment of several normative frameworks since 1979. These frameworks not only set standards for prevention and response but also empower civil society and women’s rights organizations to advocate for safeguarding women’s rights and eliminating violence. Table 1.1 highlights key international frameworks relevant to data collection on violence against women.

Building on these frameworks, the UN Secretary-General’s 2006 study, “Ending Violence against Women: From Words to Action,” underscored the need for intensified efforts, identifying household surveys as essential for generating statistics for evidence-based policies. The United Nations Statistics Division recommends conducting surveys on violence against women every 5–10 years to ensure data remains relevant for policy formulation and monitoring progress towards targets, including SDG 5.

Table 1.1: Key global frameworks addressing violence against women

Title	Year of inception	Main theme associated with VAW
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	1979	CEDAW provided a foundational framework that allowed for the issue of violence against women to be addressed as a form of discrimination. General Recommendation 12 (1989) recommended that States Parties report on measures to address violence against women, while General Recommendation 19 (1992) explicitly declared gender-based violence a form of discrimination under CEDAW, detailing how it violates women’s human rights and requiring States to take action against it.
Vienna Declaration and Platform for Action	1993	With a focus on human rights, eliminating VAW from public and private life was conceded.
Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women	1993	Acknowledged that VAW violates women’s rights and freedoms and urged Member States along with the international community to take measures to eliminate it.
Beijing Platform and Declaration for Action	1995	Acknowledged the critical need to address VAW as an issue central to gender equality and sustainable development
Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals	2015	SDG 5 included targets for ending VAW and harmful practices.

1.3 GLOBAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT OF VAW

Prior to CEDAW, comprehensive global data on violence against women was scarce. Pioneering surveys by Statistics Canada in 1993 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Justice in 1994 revealed the widespread experience of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners in North America. European countries subsequently followed suit, uncovering similar findings. The WHO multi-country study on low-income countries and the Demographic and Health Surveys systematically accumulated data over the years, significantly advancing the global understanding

of physical and sexual violence against women across 79 countries. By 2018, 153 countries had reported data on violence against women, firmly establishing this as a global problem demanding critical attention (Stockl and Sorenson, 2024).

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 brought unprecedented global recognition to the issue, with Goal 5 specifically emphasizing the elimination of all forms of violence against women (Goal 5, Target 5.2). Two key indicators are used to track progress:

SDG 5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by the form of violence and by age

SDG 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by a person other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and by place of occurrence

1.4 RATIONALE FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF VAW SURVEY

In Bangladesh, addressing violence against women is critical for public health and economic and human development. Previous estimates have indicated that 54% of women have faced physical or sexual violence from their husbands (BBS, 2016), highlighting the pervasive nature of the issue.

In alignment with the SDG Framework and UN Statistics Division recommendations, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has been a pioneer in systematic data collection on violence against women. The country's first dedicated national survey on this issue was conducted in 2011, providing initial prevalence estimates and a foundational understanding of the issue across the country. A crucial follow-up survey in 2015 focused exclusively on measuring the prevalence of various forms of violence against women, allowing for a comparative analysis of trends and patterns. These two previous surveys have provided insights into the scope and nature of violence experienced by women in Bangladesh, informing policy discussions and programmatic interventions.

However, Bangladesh's rapidly changing socio-economic context, the emergence of new forms of violence (such as technology-facilitated gender-based violence) and persistent data gaps concerning marginalized groups of women necessitated updated and expanded statistics. Violence Against Women Survey 2024 is the third survey in this vital series. It builds upon the methodologies and findings of the 2011 and 2015 surveys, while significantly enhancing its scope and depth to capture the evolving nature of violence. This iteration incorporates new dimensions to provide critical, timely insights into prevalence, trends, patterns and consequences of violence against women. This enhanced evidence base is crucial for informing targeted interventions, robust policy formulation and continuous improvements to existing legal frameworks and support services, ultimately contributing to the elimination of violence against women in Bangladesh.

1.5 ENHANCED FEATURES OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY 2024

The 2024 survey on violence against women incorporates several enhanced features to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of this violence in Bangladesh, aligning with international best practices and the principle of “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB).

- **Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning:** For the first time, the 2024 survey included the international standard Washington Group questions to identify women with functional difficulties, serving as a critical proxy measure of disability. This ensures the inclusion of women with disabilities, who often face heightened risks of violence.
- **Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV):** Recognizing TFGBV as a growing global concern, the survey included specific questions to identify forms of violence committed, abetted or aggravated by information and communication technologies. This addresses a critical emerging area, especially given that in 2018, the Cyber Help Center reported 70% of 17,000 complaints originating from women (Akter, 2018), highlighting the disproportionate exposure of women to TFGBV.
- **Cost of Violence:** Understanding the substantial financial implications of violence against women on individuals, households and the national economy, the 2024 survey collected data on direct, indirect and induced costs. This includes average treatment costs, costs of accessing care, types of treatment received, location of treatment and who accompanied survivors seeking medical help after a violent incident.
- **In-depth Research Component:** To enrich the quantitative findings and provide a deeper understanding of lived experiences, the 2024 survey integrated in-depth research focused on specific themes and geographic “hotspots.” This component explores women’s lived experiences and perceptions of violence, the meanings they ascribe to these experiences and broader social perceptions. It offers in-depth examinations of emerging issues like technology-facilitated gender-based violence alongside other forms of violence and importantly, incorporates the perspectives of men (on attitudes and perceptions) and service providers (on response efforts), providing a more holistic view. It also identifies key barriers preventing women from seeking help.
- **Inclusive Survey Coverage:** The 2024 survey on violence against women was designed to be inclusive, ensuring the voices of marginalized groups were heard. The sample supported the identification of women with functional difficulties and those living in urban slums. Careful consideration was given to the safety of both respondents and data collectors. Post-stratification techniques were implemented to provide reliable prevalence estimates for disaster-prone regions.
- **Electronic Data Capture with CAPI Tools:** This round of the survey employed Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), utilizing digital technology for data collection. This method significantly improved data quality, minimized errors and facilitated efficient monitoring of the data collection process across all regions, enhancing the reliability and timeliness of the data.

1.6 OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

The 2024 survey sought to generate comprehensive data on the prevalence, forms, causes and consequences of violence against women in Bangladesh. Supporting the disaggregation of data at national, divisional, urban and rural levels, it aims to inform targeted interventions, policy formulation and improvements to existing legal frameworks.

Specific Objectives:

1. Measure the prevalence of various forms of violence against women among different demographic groups, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, Target 5.2. This includes assessing trends in both intimate partner violence and non-intimate partner violence.
2. To analyze the factors associated with violence against women, including identifying risk factors, barriers to reporting and perceptions surrounding VAW.
3. To document the physical, psychological and social impacts of VAW, including injuries and other physical consequences.
4. To examine patterns of support-seeking behavior among survivors of VAW, including the types of services utilized and reasons for not seeking help.

2 SURVEY METHODS

SURVEY METHODS

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE SURVEY DESIGN

This survey used a mixed-methods approach to capture the multifaceted nature of violence against women. This approach is consistent with the gold standard set by the World Health Organization's (WHO) multi-country study on violence against women, which recognizes that understanding this complex issue requires both broad statistical insights and contextual data. The quantitative component employed a nationally adapted version of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) module and adhered to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) guidelines for producing official statistics on violence against women. To ensure cultural relevance, additional context-specific questions were developed to reflect acts of violence pertinent to the national context. The nationally representative household survey covered 28,800 women aged 15 years and older.

To complement the survey and enhance the interpretation of its findings, a thematic inquiry was carried out using focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in-depth interviews in select geographic “hotspots”—Dhaka and Noakhali. This targeted exploration focused on emerging concerns such as controlling behaviors, certain aspects of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), barriers to service seeking and the experiences of marginalized populations. It involved in-depth interviews with survivors, key informant interviews with service providers and stakeholders and focus group discussions with community members, with participants recruited separately using safe and ethical research principles. By leveraging both the broad statistical insights from the survey and the nuanced understanding from the thematic inquiry, the survey enabled triangulation and enriched the overall analysis, thereby strengthening the validity and depth of the findings.

2.2 QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

2.2.1 SAMPLING DESIGN FOR QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

The Violence Against Women Survey 2024 was conducted to generate reliable, disaggregated data by locality, including rural, urban and city corporation areas. It was designed to represent all eight administrative divisions, with each subdivided into rural, urban and city corporation areas—treated as independent survey domains to enable precise sub-national estimates. Dhaka includes four city corporations (Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Gazipur

and Narayanganj) and Chattogram includes two (Chattogram and Cumilla), bringing the total to 12 city corporations. In total, the survey covers 28 administrative domains: the eight divisions across three area types—rural, urban (excluding city corporations) and city corporation areas—plus four additional city corporations that were sampled separately to ensure independent estimates of violence prevalence.

The survey employed a stratified two-stage cluster sampling design, treating each domain as a stratum.

1. First Stage: Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected from the geographic domains using the probability proportional to size (PPS) method. The Population and Housing Census 2022 served as the sampling frame, providing updated household counts and clearly defined geographic boundaries.

2. Second Stage: In each selected PSU, a household listing to identify households with at least one eligible woman (age 15 or above and resided in the household for at least six months) was first done. From the list, 20 households were randomly selected using a systematic sampling procedure.

To ensure separate estimates for each domain, the sample size was calculated independently for each domain using the following formula:

$$n = \frac{z_{\alpha/2}^2 p(1-p)}{d^2} \times deff$$

where, $p = 49.6\%$ (expected true proportion (from Violence Against Women Survey 2015))

$z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$ is the value of the standard normal distribution allowing

$\alpha = 5\%$ level of significance

$d = 0.05$ is the margin of error

$deff = 2.1$ (design effect from Violence Against Women Survey 2015, which leads to 5% intra-cluster correlation with cluster size 20).

The target parameter of interest is the prevalence of different forms of violence such as physical, sexual, emotional, economic and controlling behavior. According to the Violence Against Women Survey 2015, these parameters have an estimated prevalence ranging from 30% to 70%. For having the minimum allowable sample size for each of all parameters of interest, we considered the estimate of physical violence as 49.6% in the 2015 survey as our expected proportion to calculate the sample size using the above formula.

Based on the formula, the minimum required sample size for this survey was 860 households per domain, including a 7% allowance for non-response. To minimize the number of households required in each domain, no adjustments for population size were made, as the number of households in each defined stratum typically exceeds 8,000. At the second stage of sampling, 20 households were systematically selected from each chosen PSU, resulting in a requirement of: $860/20 = 43$ PSUs per domain.

While proportional allocation of sample households is a commonly used strategy, it is unsuitable in this context where administrative regions serve as the primary domains requiring separate estimates. Proportional allocation assigns smaller sample proportions to smaller

domains, potentially compromising the reliability of estimates for these areas. On the other hand, equal allocation results in substantial variation in sampling fractions, disproportionately assigning larger sampling fractions to smaller domains.

To address these challenges, a compromise method, known as Kish allocation, was adopted. This approach ensures that each domain is assigned at least 43 PSUs, striking a balance between proportional and equal allocation, thereby optimizing representation and sampling efficiency.

Using Kish allocation, the total number of PSUs across all domains is approximately 1,440 and the total number of households is approximately 28,800. Table 2.1 presents the detailed distribution of PSUs and households across the domains.

In addition to producing estimates for the 28 administrative domains, the survey responded to growing interest in understanding violence among marginalized populations, particularly those in low-resource settings (e.g., slums) and disaster-prone areas. To address this, two additional domains—slum areas and disaster-prone regions—were included, with separate estimates generated for each. Their sample sizes were determined

Table 2.1: Distribution of sample PSU and households (HH) by domain using Kish allocation

Administrative division	Subdivisions/Domains							
	Rural		Urban (excluding CC)		City Corporation		Total	
	PSU	HH	PSU	HH	PSU	HH	PSU	HH
Barishal	43	860	43	860	43	860	129	2,580
Chattogram	97	1,940	43	860	43	860	183	3,660
Dhaka North City Corporation	--	--	--	--	43	860	43	860
Dhaka South City Corporation	--	--	--	--	43	860	43	860
Dhaka	117	2,340	43	983	--	--	160	3,323
Khulna	70	1,400	43	860	43	860	156	3,120
Mymensingh	53	1,060	43	860	43	860	139	2,780
Rajshahi	83	1,660	43	860	43	860	169	3,380
Rangpur	73	1,460	43	860	43	860	159	3,180
Sylhet	44	880	43	860	43	860	130	2,600
Narayanganj City Corporation	--	--	--	--	43	860	43	860
Gazipur City Corporation	--	--	--	--	43	860	43	860
Cumilla City Corporation	--	--	--	--	43	860	43	860
Total	580	11,600	344	6,880	516	10,320	1,440	28,800

using post-stratification, as both groups are nested within the 28 administrative domains where sampling had already been conducted.

Disaster-Prone Areas: Randomly selected PSUs from the 28 domains (excluding slum areas) were assessed to determine whether they fell within disaster-prone districts or upazilas, using the 2021 Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics (BBS) as the reference. This database provided a clear mapping of disaster-prone areas. The post-stratification process identified disaster-prone PSUs, which represented approximately 25% of the total sample.

Slum Areas: Within urban and city corporation domains, selected PSUs were used to classify households as slum or non-slum dwellers. The total number of slum households (1.4% of the sample) was then determined through post-stratification.

Selection of Eligible Women

In each selected PSU, a household listing was conducted to identify households with at least one eligible woman (aged 15 years or older and residing in the household for at least six months). One eligible woman was interviewed per household. In households with multiple eligible women, one was randomly selected using a built-in random number generator in the CAPI system. Line numbers assigned in the household roster ensured unbiased selection. To preserve the integrity of the

sampling process, a selected woman who was unavailable or declined to participate was not replaced, preventing selection bias and maintaining methodological rigor.

2.2.2 SURVEY TOOLS AND MANUAL

Questionnaire Development and Testing

To ensure international comparability, the standard questionnaire developed by UNECE and recommended in the UNSD Guidelines on Producing Statistics on violence against women (United Nations, 2014) was adapted to the national context through a structured customization process. Selected questions from the WHO multi-country study on violence against women were also incorporated. This module serves as a model for generating recommended violence against women prevalence indicators, rather than a mandatory UNSD questionnaire.

Given that certain acts of violence against women are more widespread or culturally specific in Bangladesh—though they may not be commonly recognized or prevalent elsewhere—the survey questionnaire was carefully designed to capture both globally defined acts (based on UN standards) and those that are locally prevalent, including all acts covered by the UN standard. The adaptation process included extensive consultations with key government stakeholders, UN agencies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including representatives

from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Law; Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; and icddr,b.

As a result, the survey generates two sets of statistics; one aligned with UN standards and another reflecting the context-specific acts of violence common in Bangladesh, referred to in this report as “local acts”. This dual approach ensures that the findings offer a comprehensive and contextually grounded picture of violence against women in the country. To enable trend comparisons with previous survey rounds, data using both definitions are presented; however, the detailed disaggregated analysis in this report is based primarily on the local acts.

The survey tools comprised two questionnaires:

- A. Household Questionnaire: Included modules capturing household-level and individual-level demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.
- B. Women’s Questionnaire: Focused on experiences of partner and non-partner violence and help-seeking behavior.

Questionnaire Structure

The questionnaire was organized into the following sections or modules:

1. Household Characteristics: Information on dwelling type, water source and land tenure.
2. Person Module: Listing of household members with characteristics such as age, sex, relationship to household head and education level.
3. Informed Consent: Verbal consent from the selected eligible woman.
4. Marital Status Module: Captured current and previous marital status.
5. Functional Difficulties: Measured using the Washington Group’s six-question set (vision, hearing, mobility, memory, self-care and communication).
6. Violence Experience Sub-Modules:
 - a. Violence by current husband.
 - b. Violence by previous husband.
 - c. Non-partner violence.
7. Cost of Violence: Included direct costs (e.g., healthcare, legal fees, property replacement) and indirect costs (e.g., lost workdays for women and spouses).

In addition, the survey incorporated modules and/or questions on technology-facilitated violence, women’s help-seeking behavior and access to justice to capture emerging forms of violence and align

with global and national monitoring frameworks. These additions ensure that the survey contributes to reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators particularly SDG 5.2.

8. Technology-Facilitated Violence: Violence occurring through social media, email, mobile apps and similar platforms.
9. Help-Seeking and Justice: Questions on seeking treatment, accessing justice after experiencing violence and identifying the type of perpetrator.
10. SDG-Related Questions: Included to align the survey with Sustainable Development Goal indicators, particularly SDG 5.2.

Operational Definition of Violence Used in the Questionnaire

This survey adopts the definition of violence against women agreed upon by UN Member States in the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which defines it as: “Any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Guided by this internationally recognized framework and following technical guidelines provided by the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO), the questionnaire measured various forms of violence through behaviorally specific acts. Unless otherwise noted, the prevalence presented in this report refer to experiences of violence based on local acts, which is inclusive of standardized UN measures.

The definitions and concepts, outlined in in this section, encompass the following categories:

- **Physical Violence:** This included acts intended to cause bodily harm or injury, whether committed by a partner (current or former) or a non-partner. Women were asked if they had ever experienced any of the following: being slapped or having something thrown at them that could hurt; being pushed, shoved or having their hair pulled; being hit with a fist or something else that could cause harm; being kicked, dragged or beaten up; being choked or intentionally burned and being threatened with or attacked using a gun, knife or other weapon. These questions were adapted from internationally validated modules to ensure behavioral specificity and comparability across contexts.

- Sexual Violence:** This encompassed a range of coercive and forced sexual acts or attempts, by both partners (current and former) and non-partners. Respondents were asked whether they had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to, had sexual intercourse because they were afraid of what the other person might do or were forced to perform other sexual acts that they found degrading or humiliating. Additional questions captured whether they were ever coerced or forced into sexual activity with another person. These items help capture both overt and coercive sexual violence, regardless of the relationship with the perpetrator.
- Emotional Violence:** This was measured through experiences of non-physical abuse intended to degrade, intimidate or undermine an individual's self-esteem, identity or development. Women were asked if they had ever been insulted or made to feel bad about themselves, belittled or humiliated in front of others, intentionally intimidated (such as being yelled at, stared at threateningly or having objects smashed near them), threatened with harm or threatened with eviction from the home.
- Economic Violence:** This involves behaviors that deny, restrict or exploit a woman's access to financial resources. It causes or attempts to cause, an individual to become financially dependent on another person, by obstructing their access to or control over resources and/or independent economic activity. Questions included in this survey to measure economic violence examined actions such as an intimate partner refusing to provide money for household expenses even when the partner has sufficient funds and refusing to give pocket money even when the partner is capable of doing so.
- Controlling Behavior:** This was assessed through questions on restrictions to the woman's autonomy, decision-making and social interactions. Specifically, respondents were asked whether their partner had tried to keep them from seeing friends or family, insisted on knowing their whereabouts at all times, shown jealousy or suspicion if they spoke with other men, ignored or treated them indifferently or required them to seek permission before accessing health care for themselves. These behaviors are indicative of patterns of control and domination that limit women's freedom and independence.

These definitions were based on instruments developed by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2005) and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Domestic

Violence Module (Kishor & Johnson, 2004). They also draw on the terminology guidance provided in "Measuring Prevalence of Violence against Women: Key Terminology" (2016) by the UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. These categories reflect the multidimensional nature of violence and align with internationally recognized frameworks for measuring and analyzing its prevalence and impact. In addition, each of these definitions was adapted to the national context through the inclusion of acts of violence considered particularly relevant to Bangladesh, known as Local Acts. The analysis in this report is based primarily on these Local Acts, while the SDG indicators are estimated and presented in the appendix using the UN Acts.

Transformation of the Questionnaire into a CAPI

The questionnaire was converted into a Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) format to improve the accuracy, efficiency and consistency of data collection. Programmed in CSPro, the digital tool included built-in validation rules and real-time consistency checks, reducing errors and allowing secure, immediate data entry and transmission. CAPI proved especially valuable for this complex survey, enabling dynamic question flows, automated skip patterns and secure data storage—streamlining the entire data collection process.

Questionnaire Pre-Testing

Three rounds of pre-testing were conducted in urban, rural and city corporation areas to assess: Questionnaire structure and wording, Completion time, Respondent comprehension, Variation in responses. Findings informed revisions to ensure the questionnaire's clarity, relevance and effectiveness.

Field Operations Manual

A detailed field manual was developed to guide enumerators and supervisors, providing explanations on question phrasing, skip patterns and validation rules. All field staff were required to carry the manual to ensure consistency and accuracy throughout data collection.

2.2.3 FIELD IMPLEMENTATION FOR DATA COLLECTION

Recruitment of Supervisors and Enumerators

A total of 120 experienced female enumerators were recruited for data collection. Candidates were selected based on their prior experience with similar, sensitive data collection and with using CAPI. A total of 24 teams were formed, each comprising five enumerators and one experienced supervisor. Supervisors were all male BBS officials with extensive field experience in data collection and field operations management.

Training of Supervisors and Enumerators: The training of supervisors and enumerators was conducted in multiple stages to ensure comprehensive preparation for the survey:

1. Training of Trainers (ToT): A five-day in-house ToT was organized in mid-February 2024 for 16 officials from BBS and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). The training was facilitated by international experts from the University of Melbourne, UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and Bangladesh Country Office..
2. Training for Enumerators and Supervisors: Following a one-week interval, a detailed 21-day training program for 120 female enumerators and 30 supervisors was held from 23 February to 14 March 2025, covering:
3. Thematic Training: Concepts of gender and violence; addressing myths surrounding violence; and ethical and safety considerations for both survey participants and interviewers.
4. Interview Techniques: Best practices for conducting interviews with sensitivity and effectiveness.
5. Questionnaire and CAPI Familiarization: Hands-on training with hard copies of the questionnaire and the CAPI system installed on tablets.

CAPI Training and Pre-Testing

Installation and use of the CAPI application; Navigating the digital questionnaire and troubleshooting technical issues to ensure smooth operation. Following the training, a structured pre-test was conducted with all enumerators and supervisors to assess their ability to approach households, evaluate respondent comprehension of questionnaire items and test the operational reliability of the CAPI system in real field conditions. Findings were systematically reviewed and both technical and content-related feedback were used to refine and finalize the CAPI application prior to full-scale deployment.

Deployment

After final preparations, data collection teams were deployed across Bangladesh from March to June 2024. To protect respondent confidentiality, data collectors were assigned outside their home districts, reducing the risk of familiarity that could hinder disclosure of violence. This approach ensured both data quality and adherence to ethical standards.

2.2.4 MONITORING DATA COLLECTION AND ASSURING QUALITY CONTROL

To ensure data quality throughout the collection period, several measures were implemented. Supervisors regularly reviewed completed questionnaires within the CAPI system to identify errors or inconsistencies; if needed, enumerators were sent back to re-interview respondents. At the central level, the BBS data manager conducted daily checks to verify interview submissions, review data entry across all modules and monitor average interview duration to flag anomalies. Additionally, GIS technology was used to track geo-coordinates of surveyed households in real time, helping to verify field coverage, detect overlaps or gaps and ensure alignment with the sampling plan. This geo-tagging feature strengthened accountability and enhanced the overall transparency of field operations.

Regular Data Quality Inspection: The BBS and UNFPA technical team, along with consultants, conducted weekly checks for data inconsistencies by generating field check tables for selected indicators from each module. Teams and enumerators associated with flagged inconsistencies were identified and the control room followed up to clarify misunderstandings or errors in questionnaire administration. Feedback was provided as needed, supported by regular weekly and bi-weekly meetings, to maintain data quality throughout the process.

Identification of Data Inconsistencies and Replacement survey: Major inconsistencies in data from some enumerators were detected beginning in the 7th week of the 13-week data collection period, particularly in indicators related to the prevalence of violence. These issues were largely attributed to enumerator fatigue, supervisory lapses and challenging field conditions, including extreme heat, Ramadan and cyclones. As a result, data from 355 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) collected during the final six weeks were affected. To address this, corrective measures were implemented based on expert recommendations approved by the project implementation committee and project steering committee of BBS. The affected PSUs were revisited in December 2024 and January 2025, with new households randomly selected, ensuring no overlap with previously interviewed ones. These steps preserved the integrity and reliability of the dataset. Real-time monitoring, geo-location tracking and corrective actions collectively ensured the overall quality, transparency and robustness of the survey data.

2.2.5 DATA CLEANING, WEIGHTING and STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The collected data underwent a rigorous cleaning process to address inconsistencies, handle missing values and identify outliers. Outliers were assessed through frequency checks and statistical thresholds based on variable distributions, such as values exceeding plausible physiological or demographic limits. This ensured a high-quality dataset suitable for analysis.

Given the two-stage sampling design of the VAW survey 2024, survey weights were calculated to ensure representativeness. Inverse probability weighting was applied to adjust for unequal selection probabilities—first at the PSU level within each domain and then at the household level within each PSU. Final weights were the inverse of these combined probabilities, with adjustments for non-responses at both household and individual levels. Separate weights were computed for households and for women, factoring in the probability of selecting one eligible woman when multiple were present.

Data analysis was conducted using Stata version 16. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, proportions) were used to summarize key indicators across modules. Confidence intervals were calculated, especially for violence prevalence, to assess estimated precision. Risk factor analysis, including multivariate regression,

identified associations and controlled for confounders to determine the independent effects of key predictors. All analyses accounted for complex survey design features—sampling weights, clustering and stratification—ensuring robust, policy-relevant insights.

2.2.6 DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY SAMPLE AND RESPONSE RATE

This section outlines the distribution of the survey sample and response rates at both the household and individual levels. Table 2.2 presents response rates by area of residence, indicating high national participation. At the household level, 97.9% of targeted households were successfully interviewed, with minimal variation between rural (98%) and urban (97.8%) areas. Among eligible women, 27,476 were interviewed, reflecting a 95.4% response rate.

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of respondents by marital status and location. Overall, 90.8% (24,963) were ever-married (including currently married, widowed, divorced and separated), of whom 80.8% (22,189) were currently married. The remaining 9.2% (2,513) were never-married. The proportion of ever-married women was higher in rural areas (92.8%) compared to urban areas (89.5%), with city corporations showing the lowest share of never-married women (8.7%), versus 11.6% in other urban areas.

Table 2.2: Distribution of sampled household, eligible women, interviewed women and response rate by locality

	Household (HH)			Eligible women (15 years and older in HH)	Sampled women		
	Sampled	Interviewed	Response Rate (%)		Sampled	Interviewed	Response Rate (%)
National	28,800	28,188	97.9	44,046	28,800	27,476	95.4
Rural	11,600	11,365	98.0	17,613	11,600	11,038	95.2
Urban (total)	17,200	16,823	97.8	26,433	17,200	16,438	95.6
City Corporation (CC)	10,320	10,099	97.9	15,837	10,320	9,892	95.9
Urban (excluding CC)	6,880	6,724	97.7	10,596	6,880	6,546	95.1

Table 2.3: Number of interviewed women by marital status and locality

Marital status	Number of interviewed women				
	National	Rural	Urban		
			City Corporation (CC)	Other than CC	Total
Total	27,476	11,038	9,892	6,546	16,438
Ever-married	24,963	10,246	8,741	5,976	14,717
Currently married	22,189	9,160	7,764	5,265	13,029
Never married	2,513	792	1,151	570	1,721

2.3 IN-DEPTH RESEARCH: COMPLEMENTARY CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVES

To complement the household survey and provide rich context for its findings, this survey included a focused in-depth research component. This part of the survey used three methods to gather data: in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Data were collected in person from September to December 2024 in two specific geographic “hotspots”: metropolitan Dhaka (including urban slums) and Noakhali (a coastal district in the Chattogram Division).

Dhaka was selected due to the high prevalence of violence among slum population and its extremely high rate of in-migration. Noakhali, a district with a high prevalence of violence against women, was chosen to ensure the perspectives of women from rural areas—and those particularly impacted by climate change, flooding and drought—were captured.

This in-depth research focused on the following key areas:

- The impact of emotional abuse and controlling behaviors on women
- Men’s understanding of and attitudes about coercive and controlling behaviors towards women
- Barriers to help faced by women who have experienced violence
- Women’s experiences with technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) and their help-seeking efforts

This two-part, mixed-methods approach provided a comprehensive lens to better understand the multifaceted nature of violence against women. It ensured that the survey captured the full scope and impact of violence by combining the broad statistics from the survey with nuanced, lived experiences. While the in-depth research primarily focused on emotional abuse, controlling behaviors and TFGBV, survivors often spoke about other forms of violence—including physical, sexual and economic violence—during their interviews. This highlights how women often experience multiple forms of violence as part of a wider pattern of abuse. These additional experiences were included in the report to fully capture their lived realities.

2.3.1 USED METHODS

Ethical approval for the in-depth research was obtained from East West University (Bangladesh) and the University of Melbourne (Australia). Following this, in-depth interviews were conducted with women who had experienced intimate partner violence, non-

partner sexual violence and/or technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), to develop a deeper understanding of their experiences of violence and the impact of this; their help-seeking and help-receiving experiences and the barriers that women who have experienced violence face when trying to get help. Women who had experienced TFGBV were specifically recruited to the survey to increase understanding of this emerging form of violence and its impacts on Bangladeshi women. Potential survivor participants were recruited through violence response services, women’s groups and research networks, following standardized information-sharing protocols.

To ensure confidentiality, only members of the in-depth research team confirmed women’s participation in the survey, so service providers were not aware if potential participants had participated in the research. The consent form clearly stated that participation was voluntary and that the choice to participate or decision to withdraw at any time would not impact the woman’s relationship with service providers, researchers or research institutions. Participants were also verbally reminded of this information before proceeding with the interview.

Focus group discussions were held with two types of participants: 1) men in the community and 2) service providers working in women’s services (including domestic violence services). Focus group discussions (FGDs) with men in the community specifically asked about men’s understanding of and attitudes towards coercive and controlling behaviors against women. Service providers were asked about their experiences of the barriers that women face in reaching their services and specifically about their experiences of providing support to women who had experienced TFGBV. Potential participants in all FGDs were recruited with the assistance of violence response services and women’s non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Finally, key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders working in the technology; law and justice; government and cybersecurity sectors (including digital safety NGOs) to examine how TFGBV is understood in Bangladesh, as well as the barriers in TFGBV response that limit survivors’ help-seeking behavior. Potential participants were recruited with the support of the UNFPA Bangladesh Country Office. For both focus group discussions and key informant interviews, only the in-depth research team members confirmed participation in the research, ensuring confidentiality.

Table 2.4 summarizes the in-depth data collection activities involving 105 participants, including in-depth interviews with 40 survivors of intimate partner violence and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, 8 key informant interviews and focus group discussions with 44 community men across six groups and 13 service providers across two groups.

Table 2.4: In-depth data collection activities

Data collection activity	Participants
In-depth interviews with survivors of intimate partner violence	20
In-depth interviews with survivors of TFGBV (specifically)	20
Key informant interviews	8
Focus group discussions with men in the community (6 groups)	44
Focus group discussions with service providers (2 groups)	13

2.3.2 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

All data were collected in Bangla by a native Bangla-speaking researcher. Focus group discussions with men were facilitated by a male Bangladeshi researcher, with all other data collection undertaken by a female Bangladeshi researcher, both trained in the specific ethical considerations associated with research on violence against women. Data collection was undertaken in private and secure locations to ensure the safety, privacy and confidentiality of participants. All participants provided informed consent to their

voluntary participation in the survey and were provided with information about and contact details for violence response support services in their community. To protect participants' privacy, all names used in the in-depth research sections of this report are pseudonyms, with survivors referred to by their pseudonym and general location only.

2.3.3 DATA ANALYSIS

All interviews and focus group discussions were audio-recorded, with participants' consent. Audio recordings were then transcribed and translated from Bengali into English. All transcripts were cleaned and de-identified using pseudonyms. Any participant names or demographic data were stored separately from the recordings and transcripts.

Transcripts were subject to thematic analysis. Transcripts were entered into qualitative analysis software NVivo to support analysis and a coding frame was developed based on the question guides (a deductive approach to thematic analysis) and on the content of the data (inductive thematic analysis). Codes were clustered into themes for presentation in this report to complement the quantitative survey data. While women's experiences of physical and sexual violence or economic abuse were not the specific focus of the in-depth data collection, women did share these experiences during interviews. Relevant quotes about these experiences have been extracted and included in the report to complement the quantitative data.

As a relatively new and rapidly evolving form of violence against women in Bangladesh, TFGBV was a key focus of the in-depth component, examining women's diverse experiences of violence, barriers to accessing services and the perspectives of service providers.

2.4 TRIANGULATION OF FINDINGS

In this survey, triangulation of quantitative and in-depth research findings was employed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the prevalence and dynamics of violence against women. The quantitative component provided statistically robust, generalizable data on patterns and prevalence, while the in-depth component offered deeper, context-specific insights into women's attitudes, lived experiences and coping mechanisms.

By integrating these two approaches, the study was able to cross-validate findings, identify consistent patterns and explore discrepancies or emerging themes that may not have been captured through quantitative methods alone. This strengthened the overall validity of the results and allowed for a more nuanced interpretation. The combined evidence offers critical insights for policy formulation and program design, ensuring that interventions are informed by both statistical trends and the lived realities of women affected by violence.

2.5 ETHICS AND SAFETY

To ensure the ethical and safety concerns of both respondents and interviewers during the survey, several guidelines and strategies were implemented:

1. **Female Interviewers for Sensitive Topics:** Recognizing the sensitive nature of the questions and the fact that all respondents were female, only female interviewers were employed to conduct the survey.
2. **Informed and Voluntary Participation:** Verbal informed consent was obtained from all participants, who were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses. Enumerators used a standardized script to explain the study's purpose, potential benefits and limitations, data privacy and participants' rights—including the right to decline participation or withdraw at any time without consequences. Participants were also informed they could skip any question. Before sensitive sections, such as those on violence, respondents were notified of the content and explicit permission was sought to proceed.
3. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** Interviewers were instructed and well trained to conduct interviews in a private and non-judgmental manner while strictly maintaining the confidentiality of respondents' information.
4. **Strategies to Ensure Privacy and Minimize Risk:** To uphold ethical standards and ensure respondent safety, the 2024 Survey implemented a comprehensive set of protective measures. Interviewers were not

assigned to their own communities to preserve anonymity. The survey was introduced at the community and household levels under the neutral title "Survey of Women's Status", which also appeared on the questionnaire to avoid revealing its focus on violence. Only one woman per household was interviewed and all interviews were conducted in private settings—rescheduled if privacy could not be guaranteed. Interviewers were trained to manage interruptions sensitively. If a partner or family member entered during the interview, they were instructed to shift to a decoy women's health questionnaire, a strategy that was explained to participants in advance. The term "violence" was deliberately omitted from all materials, including household listings. There were no public announcements or social media activity related to the survey until after the official release of findings. A safety plan was in place to respond to any emergencies involving either the respondents or the data collection team.

5. **Provision of Support Services Information:** At the conclusion of each interview, all participants were provided with information about available referral services to women who have experienced violence.

These measures were designed to ensure that the survey adhered to the highest ethical standards, safeguarded the privacy and dignity of participants and minimized any potential harm or distress caused by the interview process.

3

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS

BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS

3.1 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS

The Violence Against Women Survey 2024 collected detailed information on households and individuals to ensure equal representation across different population groups. This approach enables valid comparison between groups and identifies which groups are more likely to experience violence. Gathering household and respondents' characteristics is crucial for understanding the broader socio-economic, cultural and demographic factors associated with violence against women in Bangladesh. Depending on the context, factors such as age, education, marital status and employment can influence the likelihood of experiencing violence. For instance, women with lower education attainment or younger women may be more vulnerable to violence than their other women. Household level characteristics such as home ownership, place of residence, access to electricity and the internet, sanitation facilities and wealth

shed light on how household power dynamics, access to resources and economic conditions influence the risk of violence against women.

The household profile captured in the survey reveals marked contrasts across rural, urban and city corporation areas, providing insights into infrastructure, socio-economic conditions and living standards (Table 3.1.1). On average, surveyed households comprise approximately 4.2 members, with minimal variation between rural and urban settings. Nearly all households (98.6%) are categorized as “general households”, while slum households constitute only 1.4% of the total sample. However, a notable proportion of households in city corporation areas live in slums (9.1%), compared to a negligible presence in rural regions (0.2%). Men run most of these households (85.7%) and the rest are female-headed (14.3%).

Table 3.1.1: Characteristics of households

Demographic and socio-economic background	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Household size	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.2
Type of household	100	100	100	100	100
General	98.6	99.8	96.0	90.9	99.5
Slum	1.4	0.2	4.0	9.1	0.5
Sex of household head	100	100	100	100	100
Male	85.7	85.9	85.3	85.6	85.0
Female	14.3	14.1	14.8	14.4	15.0
Disaster prone status	100	100	100	100	100
Disaster prone	28.5	28.3	28.8	25.6	31.0
Non-disaster prone	71.6	71.7	71.2	74.4	69.0
Type of housing tenure	100	100	100	100	100

Demographic and socio-economic background	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Other than CC
	%	%	%	%	%
Owned	82.6	92.7	60.2	32.1	79.5
Rented	14.9	5.0	37.1	65.0	17.9
Without rent	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.2
Others	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Wealth index	100	100	100	100	100
Poorest	20.0	33.9	10.7	3.3	21.8
Poorer	20.0	28.9	14.0	7.8	23.2
Middle	20.0	18.0	21.3	21.4	21.2
Richer	20.2	14.9	23.8	26.1	20.2
Richest	19.8	4.3	30.3	41.4	13.6

Over one in four households (28.5%) are located in disaster-prone areas, with a notably higher concentration in urban areas outside city corporations (31%). This highlights the heightened vulnerability of certain geographic segments to climate-related shocks.

Home ownership remains the dominant tenure nationally (82.6%), with rural areas reporting the highest rate (92.7%). In contrast, rental arrangements are particularly prevalent in city corporations, where only 32.1% of households own their homes and 65% live in rented dwellings.

The wealth distribution data paints a revealing picture. The wealth index divides the population into five equal groups (quintiles) by household wealth. The 1st quintile represents the poorest 20 percent and the 5th quintile the richest 20 percent; in this report, we label these groups Poorest, Poorer, Middle, Richer and Richest. Approximately one-third of rural households fall into the poorest quintile, whereas only 3.3% of city corporation

households do. Conversely, over 40% of the wealthiest households nationally are concentrated within city corporation areas, reflecting sharp urban-rural disparities in economic status.

Table 3.1.2 shows the housing structure of households. Housing construction materials vary widely. Rural homes are more likely to have floors made of soil (57.6%) and roofs of tin (83.2%). In contrast, urban households—especially those in city corporations—feature more durable construction, with 60.1% having cement or brick floors and 63.5% having cement roofs. Slightly over one-third of the households use tiles to build their floors. Still, rural households use tin (83.2%) as the common roofing material, whereas the majority of urban dwellers build their roofs with bricks or cement. However, semi-urban areas also use tin as a roofing material. Walls made of bricks and cement dominate city households (88.5%), while tin remains the most common wall material in rural areas (49.3%).

Table 3.1.2: Housing structure of households

Housing condition	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Floor material (main house)	100	100	100	100	100
Soil	47.0	57.6	23.1	4.1	36.2
Wood/Bamboo	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.0
Brick/Cements	43.3	37.9	55.6	60.1	52.5
Mosaic/Tiles	9.2	4.1	20.6	35.8	10.2
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Roof material (main house)	100	100	100	100	100
Straw/Bamboo/Polythene/etc.	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.6
Tin	75.6	83.2	58.6	36.2	74.1

Housing condition	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Tiles	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4
Bricks/Cements	23.3	15.5	40.7	63.5	25.0
Others	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wall material (main house)	100	100	100	100	100
Straw/Bamboo/Polythene, etc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.7	2.5
Soil/Raw Bricks	6.0	7.6	2.3	0.5	3.5
Tin	42.6	49.3	27.5	10.2	39.3
Wood	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4
Bricks-Cement	49.2	40.7	68.1	88.5	54.2
Others	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1

Table 3.1.3 presents data on household utilities and amenities. Regardless of locality, nearly all households have access to electricity, with 98.7% of households connected to the national grid. Cooking fuel patterns underscore the urban-rural divide. Rural households prefer to use traditional fuels like wood, bamboo, cow dung, straw and dry leaf, while urban households,

specially dwellers in city corporation, depend primarily on gas or LPG (86.1%) for cooking.

Tube wells continue to be the main source of drinking water for most households (88.5%), especially in rural areas (95.5%). In contrast, over half of the city corporation households rely on supply water (52.5%).

Table 3.1.3: Households' access to utilities and amenities

Types of utilities and amenities	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Access to electricity	100	100	100	100	100
National grid	98.7	98.5	99.3	99.7	99.0
Solar/Generator	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.6
No electricity	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4
Main source of cooking fuel	100	100	100	100	100
Wood/Bamboo	38.3	43.5	26.5	9.4	38.2
Kerosene	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0
Gas/LPG	23.7	10.3	53.4	86.1	31
Electricity	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.1	1.1
Straw/Dry leaf/Cow dung	37.2	45.5	18.8	2.9	29.7
Bio-gas	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1
Others	0.1	0.1	0	0	0
Main source of drinking water	100	100	100	100	100
Supply	8.5	1.5	24.2	52.5	4.9
Tube well	88.5	95.5	72.7	43.4	92.8
Others	3.0	3.0	3.1	4.2	2.3
Toilet facilities	100	100	100	100	100
Improved	94.5	94.1	95.2	95.1	95.3
Unimproved	5.2	5.5	4.6	4.9	4.4

Types of utilities and amenities	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Open defecation	0.3	0.4	0.2	0	0.3
Toilet shared with other households	24.8	24.6	25.4	29.5	22.6
Access to Internet	61.6	56.8	72.1	79.5	67.1

Sanitation facilities are generally improved across the country (94.5%), yet shared toilet use is common, particularly in city areas (29.5% in city corporations). Open defecation is nearly eliminated. When women and girls do not have secure and private toilet facilities, they are often forced to use isolated areas and go out at night, increasing their risk of experiencing violence (Winter et al., 2023). In such vulnerable situations, the threat of sexual violence, assault or coercion increases sharply, particularly in communities with poor lighting, weak law

enforcement or overcrowded public toilets. The lack of proper sanitation facilities is not just a health concern, it directly undermines women's dignity, safety and freedom (Saleem and Ahsan, 2019).

While 61.6% of households have access to the internet overall, access is significantly higher in city corporations (79.5%) compared to rural areas (56.8%), highlighting a persistent digital divide.

3.2 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS (SURVEYED POPULATION)

Table 3.2.1 presents the demographic profile of surveyed women across five geographical settings: National, Rural, Urban, City Corporation and Urban (excluding City Corporation). The weighted sample distribution shows 69.5% rural and 30.5% urban respondents, closely aligning with the 2022 National Census figures (Rural: 68.3%; Urban: 31.7%). This geographical representativeness also extends to other sub-populations within the sample. With a total sample size of 27,476 respondents, these weighted distributions affirm the survey's national representativeness for subsequent analyses.

The age distribution shows that nationally, women are

distributed across all age groups with 14.7% in the 15-19 years age group, making it the largest proportion and nearly one in 10 women aged 60 years and above. When comparing geographical areas, the distribution remains relatively similar, though with some variations. Rural areas have a slightly higher proportion of women aged 60 years and above (11%) compared to urban areas (8.2%) and city corporations (6.5%). City corporations show a higher percentage of younger women aged 15-19 years (15.9%) compared to the national average. Urban areas excluding city corporations have slightly higher percentages in the 20-24 years age group (13.7%) compared to rural areas (11.5%).

Table 3.2.1: Background characteristics of interviewed women aged 15 years and above

Background characteristics	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
Respondent age group	100	69.5	30.5	12.9	17.6
	100	100	100	100	100
15-19	14.7	14.7	14.9	15.9	14.1
20-24	12.1	11.5	13.6	13.5	13.7
25-29	11.6	10.9	13.3	14.0	12.7
30-34	10.1	9.9	10.5	10.2	10.7
35-39	12.4	12.4	12.2	12.5	12.0

Background characteristics	National	Rural	Urban	City Corporation (CC)	Urban (excluding CC)
	%	%	%	%	%
40-44	9.0	9.1	8.7	9.6	8.0
45-49	8.0	8.3	7.2	7.1	7.3
50-54	6.5	6.3	6.9	7.1	6.8
55-59	5.5	5.9	4.5	3.8	5.1
60 and above	10.2	11.0	8.2	6.5	9.5
Literacy	100	100	100	100	100
Can read and write	74.1	72.1	78.8	80.2	77.8
can read only	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
Can not read and write	25.3	27.3	20.7	19.2	21.8
Educational attainment	100	100	100	100	100
No education	23.8	30.4	19.4	23.8	16.5
Primary incomplete	7.4	8.5	6.7	7.4	6.3
Primary complete	12.2	13.5	11.3	12.2	10.5
Secondary Incomplete	28.3	30.2	27.0	28.3	26.3
Secondary complete	11.8	9.2	13.6	11.8	14.6
Higher secondary (HSC)	11.5	6.8	14.7	11.5	16.3
Bachelor and above	5.0	1.4	7.4	5.0	9.5
Functional difficulties					
No/some difficulties	91.5	91.3	91.8	93.7	90.4
Moderate/Severe difficulties	8.5	8.7	8.2	6.3	9.6
Marital status	100	100	100	100	100
Never married	12.6	11.5	15.0	17.5	13.1
Currently married	76.4	77.9	73.0	70.5	74.8
Widowed	9.3	9.0	10.0	9.7	10.2
Divorced	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.9
Separated	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9
Abandoned	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Occupation					
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Housewife/Housekeeping	76.4	79.7	69.0	61.0	74.9
Student	11.3	10.6	12.8	14.4	11.7
Seeking Job	0.8	0.7	1.1	1.5	0.8
Unable to work/Aged	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.6	2.1
Begging	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Retired	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6
Others (Bua, tailor/dorzi, tutor, livestock/poultry farming, etc.)	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8

Nationally, 74.1% of women can read and write, while less than one percent can read only and a quarter cannot read or write. The literacy rates show notable differences between geographical areas. In rural areas, 72.1% of women can read and write, which is lower than urban areas (78.8%) and city corporations (80.2%). Consequently, illiteracy is higher in rural areas (27.3%) compared to urban areas (20.7%) and city corporations (19.2%).

In terms of educational attainment, nationally, nearly one in four women have no formal education, 7.4% have not completed primary education and 12.2% have completed primary education. The largest group (28.3%) has not completed secondary education, while 11.8% have completed secondary education. The urban-rural educational disparities are significant. Rural areas have a higher percentage of women with no education (30.4%) compared to urban areas (19.4%). Conversely, only 1.4% of women in rural areas have bachelor degrees or above, compared to 7.4% in urban areas and 9.5% in urban areas excluding city corporations.

Regarding functional difficulties, 91.5% of women nationally report no or some difficulties, while 8.5% report moderate or severe difficulties. This distribution remains fairly consistent across geographical areas, with city corporations showing relatively lower rate of

moderate/severe difficulties (6.3%) and urban areas excluding city corporations showing higher prevalence (9.6%).

In terms of marital status, 12.6% of women nationally have never married, 76.4% are currently married and 9.3% are widowed. City corporations have the highest percentage of never-married women (17.5%) compared to rural areas (11.5%). Rural areas have the highest percentage of currently married women (77.9%) compared to city corporations (70.5%).

Regarding occupation, 76.4% of women nationally identify as housewives or engaged in housekeeping. Students make up 11.3% of the sample, while 0.8% are seeking jobs. Women unable to work or aged account for 1.8%, while very small percentages are engaged in begging, are retired or involved in other occupations such as domestic help, tailoring, tutoring and farming.

There are notable differences in occupational patterns across geographical areas. The percentage of housewives is highest in rural areas (79.7%) and lowest in city corporations (61%). The percentage of students is highest in city corporations (14.4%) and lowest in rural areas (10.6%). Job-seeking women are more prevalent in city corporations (1.5%) compared to rural areas (0.7%).

4

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER (HUSBAND)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER (HUSBAND)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- About three quarters (75.9%) of ever-married women aged 15 years and above in Bangladesh have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime and 48.7% in the past 12 months.
- Controlling behavior is the most common form, affecting 67.6% of women in their lifetime, with relatively higher rates in Khulna, Barishal, disaster-prone regions, poorer households, among less educated women and those with functional difficulties. Current controlling behavior (44.0%) is most common among adolescents and declines with age, wealth and education.
- Nearly half of women (47.3%) have experienced physical violence in their lifetime, with higher prevalence in Khulna, slums, poorer households, among less educated women and those with functional difficulties. Recent physical violence (10.6%) is most common among adolescents aged 15-19 years.
- About 29.0% of women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, with higher rates in Barishal, slums, disaster-prone areas, poorer households, less educated women and those with functional difficulties. Recent sexual violence (9.4%) is most prevalent among adolescents aged 15-19 years.
- About 37.4% of women have faced emotional violence in their lifetime, with relatively higher prevalence in Barishal, slums, disaster-prone areas, poorer households, among less educated women and those with functional difficulties. Recent emotional violence (17.6%) is more prevalent among younger women and declines with age, wealth and education.
- Around, 19.6% women have experienced economic violence in their lifetime, relatively high in Barishal, disaster-prone regions, poorer households, among less educated women and those with functional difficulties.
- Around 7.3% of currently married women have experienced physical or sexual violence during pregnancy. In-depth research showed abuse can worsen during pregnancy, often linked to son preference.
- Intimate partner violence is often repeated rather than isolated. Among women who experienced physical violence, 29.4% reported it happened many times in their lifetime, while 55.9% of those forced to have sex said it happened many times.
- In-depth research showed that physical violence is often chronic, with husbands' anger escalating into severe beatings. Discussions with men also highlighted harmful attitudes and beliefs, such as husbands' perceived entitlement to sex regardless of women's consent.

This chapter presents data on the prevalence of different forms of violence committed by husbands- current or former- against ever-married women, whether currently or previously married at any point in their lives. It examines five forms of intimate partner violence: physical, sexual, emotional, economic and controlling behaviour. The prevalence of violence, frequency of some specific acts

of violence, disclosure about experiencing violence and sources of seeking legal help are some of the key issues discussed in this chapter. The chapter focuses only on violence by a current or former husband. A total of 24,963 ever-married women were interviewed to measure intimate partner violence in Bangladesh. In this survey, the word ‘partner’ refers to ‘husband’.

4.1 MEASURING AND INTERPRETING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA

Understanding the extent of violence against women often involves looking at two key measures of prevalence: 12-month prevalence and lifetime prevalence.

12-Month Prevalence (Current): This rate captures the proportion of women who have experienced one or more acts of violence in the last 12 months prior to the survey (i.e., the 12 months preceding data collection). This includes violence that may have started recently or been ongoing for a longer period and encompasses instances that may have ceased within the past year or are still occurring at the time of data collection.

Lifetime Prevalence (Ever): This rate indicates the proportion of women who have experienced one or more acts of violence at any point in their lives. While surveys typically interview women of age 15 years and above, the timeframe for “lifetime” can vary slightly depending on the type of violence:

- For intimate partner violence, women are usually asked if they have ever experienced violence by a husband. This means that if a woman was married before the age of 15 years, any violence she experienced in that relationship would still be included in the lifetime prevalence of IPV.
- For non-partner violence, questions are phrased to ask about experiences since the age of 15 years. This means the lifetime prevalence for non-partner violence measures acts occurring from age 15 onwards.

A crucial point to note is that 12-month prevalence are by definition lower than lifetime rates. This is because the lifetime measure accumulates experiences across a significant portion of or an entire lifespan, while the 12-month measure focuses only on recent occurrences.

Utility of Each Measure:

12-Month Prevalence Data is valuable for:

- Planning Immediate Support Services: It provides insight into the immediate need for services like crisis centers, hotlines and emergency shelters.
- Designing interventions: Using this rate to develop a policy or program that is targeted at a particular area or group can help address violence against women more effectively. For instance, in Mongolia, 12-month prevalence data informed the strategic placement of 10 new One-Stop Service Centres across the country to support survivors seeking help.

Lifetime Prevalence Data can be used for:

- Advocacy and Awareness Raising: It powerfully illustrates the overall magnitude of violence against women across the population, highlighting the pervasive nature of the issue over women’s lives. The Vanuatu Women’s Centre, for example, has used this data for strengthening advocacy efforts following the country’s first population-based survey on violence against women.
- Planning Long-Term Support Services: It helps in understanding the need for ongoing and long-term support for survivors, such as mental health counseling, housing assistance and legal aid, even if the violence did not occur in the past year.

The Significance of the Gap: The difference between lifetime and 12-month prevalence reveals the proportion of women who have experienced violence at some point in their lives but not in the recent past. A substantial gap between these two rates can be a positive indicator, suggesting that interventions, policy changes or broader societal shifts may be contributing to a reduction in violence. This differential is a vital piece of information for

researchers, policymakers and advocates to understand changes over time, evaluate the impact of prevention and response strategies and inform future actions.

Importance of Considering both Rates Together: While certain contexts may emphasize either 12-month or lifetime prevalence, it is crucial to consider both together.

Lifetime prevalence reflects the cumulative and deep-rooted nature of violence, while 12-month prevalence offers insight into recent patterns and the impact of interventions. Viewed side-by-side, they provide a fuller understanding of the scope and persistence of violence, informing more effective policy, programming and advocacy.

4.2 DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 presents estimates of the prevalence—that is, the proportion of ever-married women aged 15 and above—who have experienced different forms of violence in their lifetime and last 12 months. Controlling behavior is the most commonly reported form of violence, experienced by 67.6% of women in their lifetime. Physical violence was reported by 47.3%, followed by emotional violence (37.4%), sexual violence (29.0%) and economic violence (19.6%). These findings suggest that many women were subjected not only to controlling behavior but also to physical assault, emotional distress, sexual coercion and economic deprivation by their intimate partners.

When looking at combinations of violence, more than half (54.4%) of ever-married women reported experiencing either physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime. When emotional violence is also included, the proportion rises by nearly five percentage points to 59.3%, highlighting the overlapping nature of different forms of abuse. Any form of violence includes experiencing at least one type among physical, sexual,

emotional, economic or controlling behavior. Based on this definition, just over three-fourths (75.9%) of ever-married women reported experiencing some form of violence during their lifetime.

When considering experiences in the last 12 months, a substantial proportion of women are currently experiencing violence (Figure 4.2). Controlling behavior remained the most commonly reported form (44%), followed by emotional violence (17.6%).

About one in ten women reported experiencing physical violence (10.6%) and the same proportion reported economic violence (10.6%). Approximately 16.1% of women reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months. Nearly a quarter (24.4%) of women reported experiencing a combination of physical, sexual and emotional violence in the last 12 months. Overall, 48.7% of ever-married women reported experiencing any form of violence in the last 12 months, underscoring the persistence and intersection of multiple forms of violence in the recent past.

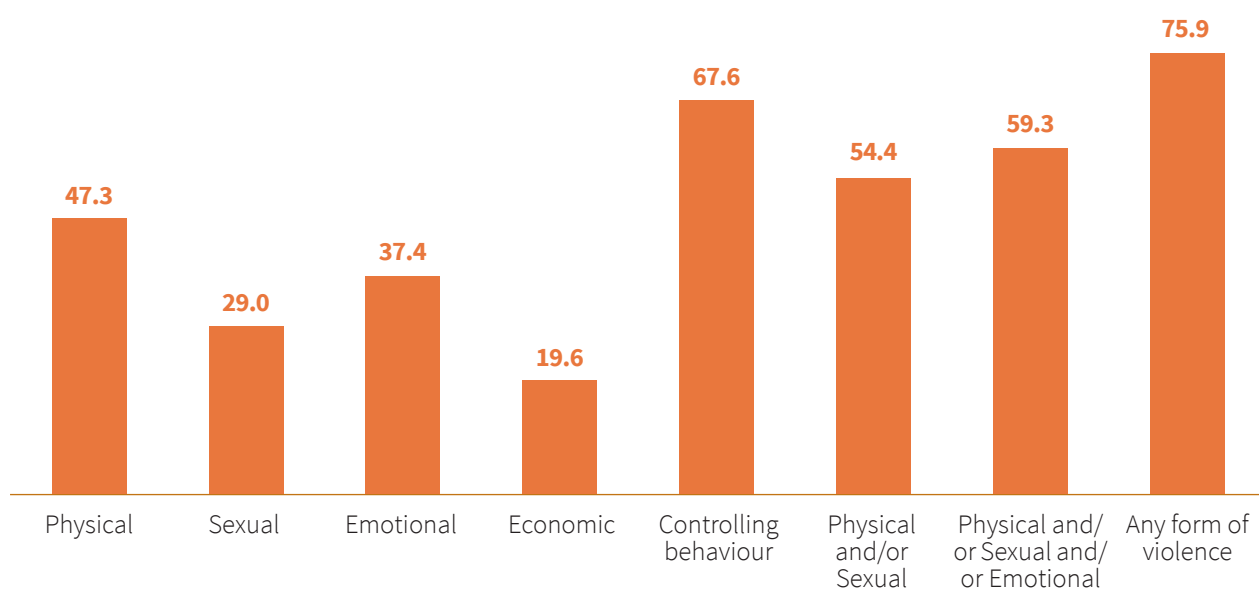


Figure 4.1: Lifetime prevalence of violence (%) among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by current or former husband)

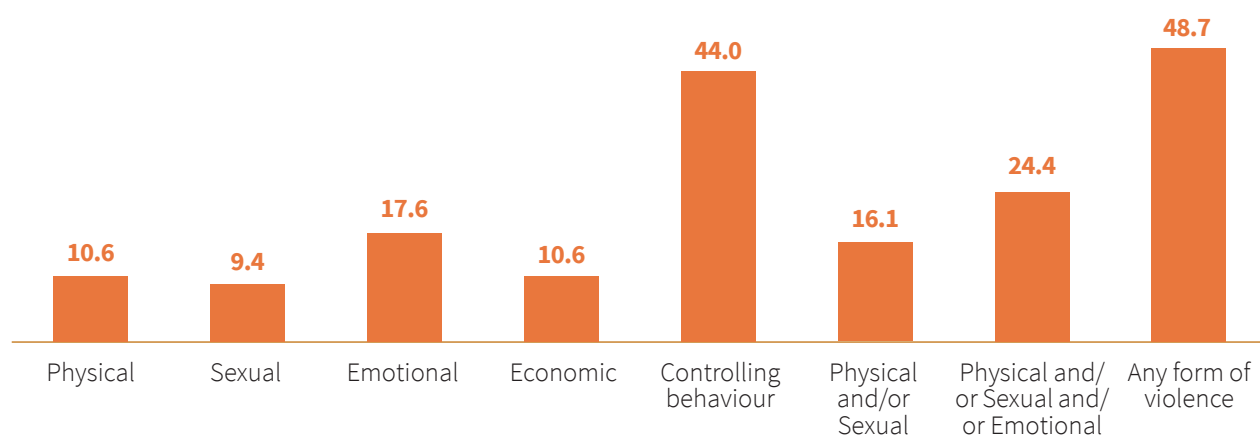


Figure 4.2: Last 12 months prevalence of violence (%) among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by current or former husband)

4.3 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Table 4.3.1 presents the prevalence of physical violence committed by intimate partners among ever-married women aged 15 years and above during their lifetime and in the last 12 months. Physical violence refers to the intentional use of physical force with the potential to cause harm. Ten acts were used to define physical violence, such as: a) being slapped, having something thrown at them that caused injury; b) being pushed, shoved or having their hair pulled by hair; c) having acid thrown at them intentionally; d) being kicked, dragged or beaten up; e) being choked on purpose; f) being burnt on purpose; g) being threatened with or attached using a gun, knife or other weapon and h) being hit with a stick. The findings are further disaggregated by locality, administrative region, type of housing, disaster-prone status, age, education level, wealth quintile and functional difficulties. At the national level, nearly half (47.3%) of ever-married women reported experiencing physical violence by their husband during their lifetime, while only 10.6% reported such violence in the last 12 months.

Geographic variations show rural areas with slightly higher lifetime prevalence (48%) compared to urban areas (45.6%), with city corporations showing marginally lower rates (43.8%) than other urban areas (46.8%). The prevalence of current violence is 11.3% in city corporations, which is higher than in other areas. Divisions display more notable variations. Khulna has the highest lifetime

prevalence (57.2%) while Sylhet has the lowest (33.5%). In the last 12 months, Rangpur shows the highest rate (14.1%) while Mymensingh reports the lowest (9%). Women living in slums reported higher lifetime experiences of violence (53.7%) compared to those in non-slum areas (47.1%). This pattern also held for past-year prevalence, with slum dwellers reporting 14.1% compared to 10.6% among non-slum residents. Women in disaster-prone regions report higher violence prevalence, notably in the lifetime (51.2%) versus 45.7% in non-disaster-prone areas.

Lifetime prevalence of physical violence increases with age, ranging from 29.6% among women aged 15–19 years to 55.4% among women aged 45–49 years and then declines slightly in older groups. This pattern reflects the cumulative nature of lifetime measurements. In contrast, last 12 months prevalence shows a clear declining trend with age. Young women aged 15–19 years report relatively higher prevalence in the last 12 months (17.9%), which steadily decreases to just 2.6% among women aged 60 and older.

Lifetime experience of physical violence is higher among divorced, separated and widowed women (52.0%) compared to currently married women (46.6%). However, currently married women face more recent violence (11.7% vs. 3.3%).

Table 4.3.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of physical violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
National	47.3	10.6	24,963
Area of residence			
Rural	48.0	10.5	10,246
Urban	45.6	10.9	14,717
City Corporation (CC)	43.8	11.3	8,741
Urban (excluding CC)	46.8	10.6	5,976
Division			
Barishal	50.9	13.0	2,310
Chattogram	45.5	10.9	3,897
Dhaka	44.2	9.3	5,708
Khulna	57.2	11.1	2,776
Mymensingh	43.6	9.0	2,370
Rajshahi	49.9	9.5	3,036
Rangpur	50.2	14.1	2,795
Sylhet	33.5	10.7	2,071
Type of household			
Slum	53.7	14.1	713
Non slum	47.1	10.6	24,250
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	51.2	10.7	6,777
Non disaster-prone	45.7	10.6	18,186
Age			
15-19	29.6	17.9	1,049
20-24	34.6	14.7	2,695
25-29	45.0	13.8	3,520
30-34	47.6	13.3	3,324
35-39	49.6	12.6	3,691
40-44	53.0	11.7	2,616
45-49	55.4	8.5	2,313
50-54	50.0	5.2	1,778
55-59	54.5	3.5	1,501
60+	50.6	2.6	2,476
Marital status			
Currently married	46.6	11.7	22,189
Divorced, separated and widowed	52.0	3.3	2,774

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	56.1	9.7	8,487
Primary complete	53.0	13.2	3,242
Secondary incomplete	45.4	12.8	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	34.3	9.0	2,632
Higher secondary (HSC)	30.7	8.0	2,042
Bachelor and above	23.2	4.7	1,702
Wealth index			
Poorest	55.4	14.2	5,166
Poorer	49.7	11.4	5,047
Middle	46.1	9.1	5,014
Richer	42.5	8.9	4,981
Richest	35.7	7.3	4,755
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	46.3	11.1	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	56.1	6.6	2,451

Note: Table A1 in the Appendix provides key statistical parameters for the core indicators, including the standard error, 95% confidence interval, intra-cluster correlation (ICC) and design effect. These metrics offer insights into the precision and reliability of the survey estimates, accounting for the complex sampling design used in data collection.

Violence prevalence decreases steadily as educational attainment increases, with uneducated women reporting relatively higher lifetime rates (56.1%) compared to 23.2% among those with bachelor's degrees or higher. This pattern is mirrored in last 12 months prevalence (9.7% vs. 4.7%).

Similarly, a clear socioeconomic gradient exists across wealth quintiles. Women in the lowest wealth quintile experience relatively higher prevalence of both lifetime (55.4%) and last 12 months prevalence of violence (14.2%), with rates progressively decreasing across quintiles to 35.7% (lifetime) and 7.3% (last 12 months) in the highest quintile.

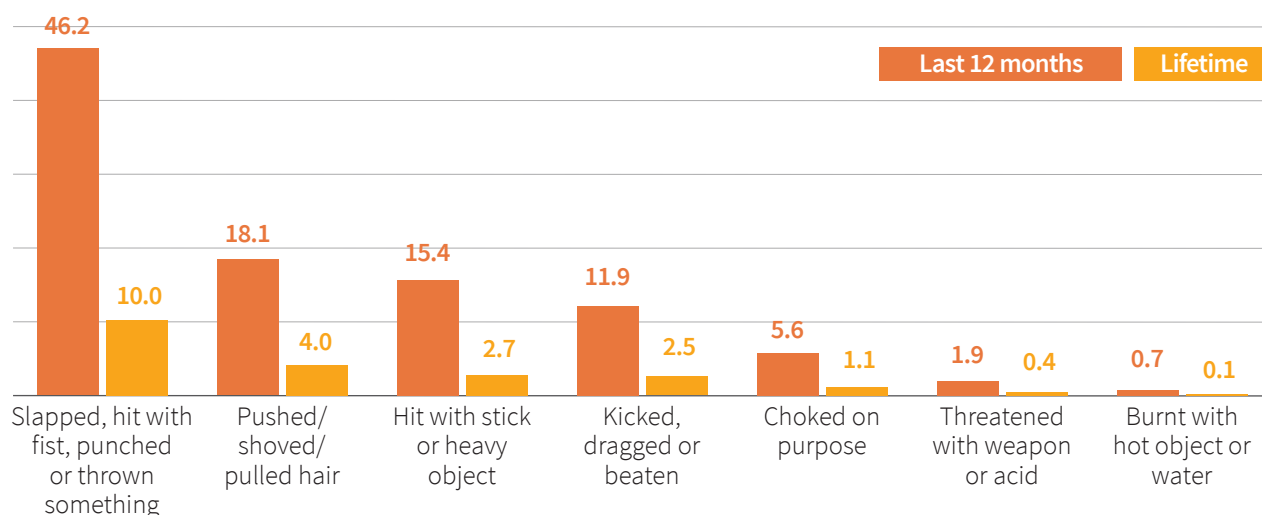
Women with moderate to severe functional difficulties report higher lifetime violence (56.1%) than those with no or minimal difficulties (46.3%). They report lower prevalence in last 12 months (6.6% vs. 11.1%).

The data shows that physical violence by husbands affects women across all demographic segments, though with pronounced variations. The data indicate that lifetime and last 12 months physical violence rates tend to be lower

among women with higher age, education and wealth. While geographic variations exist, with notable differences between divisions and modest rural-urban differences, socioeconomic indicators show particularly distinct patterns in relation to the prevalence of violence.

4.3.1 ACTS AND FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Figure 4.3.1 presents the prevalence of specific acts of physical violence experienced by women in their lifetime and in the last 12 months. Almost half of all women lived through some acts of physical violence, such as being slapped, hit with a fist, punched or had something thrown at them in their lifetime. One in every ten women has been subjected to the same acts of physical violence in the last 12 months. Nearly one in every five women stated being pushed/shoved or pulled by their hair in their lifetime. Less than 5% of women reported experiencing the same acts in the previous 12 months. Another 15% mentioned that they were hit with a stick or heavy object at some point in their life by their husbands. About 3% of women reported being hit with a stick or a heavy object within the last 12



Note: Women may have reported experiencing one or more of these acts. Additionally, the survey measured more acts of physical violence than those presented here. For statistics on all acts included in the calculation of the physical violence prevalence, see Table A2 in the Appendix.

Figure 4.3.1: Prevalence of specific acts of physical violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)

months. Another 12% mentioned that they were kicked, dragged or beaten by their husbands in their lifetime. The rate is 2.5% for the previous 12 months.

In addition, Table A2 in the Appendix presents different acts of physical violence across rural and urban areas, including city corporation. The least common forms include acid throwing, burns with hot objects and threats with weapons. A rural-urban divide exists, with rural areas showing slightly higher rates of certain acts of violence like

slapping/hitting (46.7% rural vs. 44.8% urban) and using sticks/heavy objects (16.1% rural vs. 13.8% urban). City corporations present interesting findings, showing lower lifetime rates of violence overall but slightly higher rates of recent incidents. Urban areas excluding city corporation show notably higher rates of pushing/shoving/hair pulling (18.6%) and threats with weapons (2.1%) compared to national averages. These geographic variations suggest that violence prevention strategies should consider the specific patterns found in different community settings.

In the VAW in-depth research, the majority of women recounted experiences of physical violence from their husbands. They often reported enduring repeated instances of physical violence throughout their marriage, which caused them to live in constant fear. For example, Rozina (pseudonym), a respondent in Noakhali, had been living with violence for over 15 years and described how her husband's anger would intensify so rapidly that he would use anything he could find to harm her.

"He uses whatever he finds in his hand to hit me...he would use a stick, a broom and even kick me... he puts his hand on my mouth so I can't speak or scream."

— Rozina, Noakhali

When Rozina's daughters tried to intervene to stop the physical violence, her husband threatened to kill them—illustrating how a partner's abuse can extend to survivors' children. At the same time, Rozina shared that she stayed in the abusive marriage to protect her children and their social reputation.

Similarly, Rajia (pseudonym), a respondent in Noakhali, disclosed that she endured ongoing physical violence from her husband, including severe beatings. The violence had long-term impacts on Rajia's mental health and she revealed that she had considered committing suicide. Furthermore, Rajia explained that she lived in an area vulnerable to river erosion, which destroyed her house every year and exacerbated the psychological impact of the violence.

"I don't have any place. **We are victims of river erosion, so every year, our house is destroyed by the river.** My in-laws had to move after their house was also destroyed."

— Rajia, Noakhali

This evidence highlights the importance of providing high-quality, accessible mental health services for survivors of violence. Additionally, Rajia's story reinforces that the climate crisis is shaping women's experiences of violence and any effort to address violence against women must consider the intersection of gender and climate change.

In interviews, survivors expressed that there were various barriers that prevented them from leaving the abusive relationship. Notably, most women reported a profound lack of family support, which left them isolated and unable to seek help. Findings showed that families (both natal and in-laws) often discouraged women from leaving abusive relationships, failed to provide financial or emotional support and in some cases, even contributed to their suffering.

Without reliable support from their own family, many survivors felt trapped, fearing social stigma and financial instability. This included Hamida, a respondent in Noakhali, who experienced physical violence from her husband for years. Hamida shared that she suffered from chronic pain because of the violence but explained that she could not report the abuse to the police because no family member supported her.

"**[My in-laws] wouldn't allow me to report the abuse.** I once asked my husband's cousin to report it, but they discouraged me. "

— Hamida, Noakhali

Several women described how their families pressured them to stay with an abusive husband despite ongoing violence. One respondent shared how, after enduring years of abuse, she considered filing a case against her husband. However, her father dismissed the idea, saying that one day her husband would change and become a better man, reinforcing the belief that a woman's duty is to endure suffering for the sake of the marriage.

Table A3 in the Appendix provides detailed insights into the nature and severity of physical violence experienced by women in Bangladesh. It categorizes each act by how often it occurred—once, a few times (2–5) or many times (6 or more)—along with the number of women who reported each act. Rather than merely reporting whether violence occurred, it distinguishes how often each act was committed—offering a more nuanced understanding of the abuse.

Among all women who experienced at least one act of physical violence, about one-third (33.5%) said it happened once in the past 12 months, while over half (50.7%) faced violence a few times and 15.9% endured it many times. When looking over their lifetime, the share of women who experienced repeated abuse is even more pronounced: 29.4% reported being physically assaulted many times, suggesting that for many, violence was a recurring feature of their relationship rather than a one-off event.

Some specific acts illustrate the pattern more starkly. Among women who were slapped or had objects thrown at them, a striking 59.0% experienced this many times in their lifetime and 18.0% even in the last year. Similarly, 39.1% of women who were kicked, dragged or beaten reported that this happened many times in their life. Other severe acts—such as choking, burning and being hit with heavy objects—also show notable shares of

women experiencing them on a repeated basis. Even among the rare and extreme cases, like being threatened with or attacked using a weapon, nearly a third of survivors experienced this more than once.

These findings underscore that physical violence by intimate partners is not only widespread but also often chronic and repeated.

4.4 SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Table 4.4.1 presents the prevalence of sexual violence by husband among ever married women. Sexual violence refers to any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual or unwanted sexual comments or acts that involve coercion. Four acts were used in this survey to define sexual violence, such as: a) whether women were forced to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to, b) being compelled to have sexual intercourse against will, c) whether women were forced to do something sexual that she found degrading or humiliating and d) other unwanted sexual behaviour. In Bangladesh, sexual violence is a highly stigmatized subject and sexual violence within marriage is often unacknowledged. However, evidence shows

that ever-married women are among the survivors of sexual violence. Around one-third (29.0%) of the women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime by their husband, whereas 9.4% of women experienced it within the last 12 months at the national level. The table also provides a comprehensive breakdown of sexual violence experienced by ever-married women across various demographic and geographic segments. Unlike physical violence, sexual violence shows higher prevalence in urban areas (31.3%) than in rural settings (28.0%), with city corporations showing the highest rates (31.4% lifetime, 11.6% last 12 months).

Table 4.4.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of sexual violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
National	29.0	9.4	24,963
Rural	28.0	8.9	10,246
Urban	31.3	10.5	14,717
City Corporation (CC)	31.4	11.6	8,741
Urban (excluding CC)	31.3	9.8	5,976
Division			
Barishal	35.7	13.2	2,310
Chattogram	34.1	11.2	3,897
Dhaka	27.8	8.7	5,708
Khulna	29.5	9.1	2,776
Mymensingh	23.0	7.6	2,370
Rajshahi	27.2	7.8	3,036
Rangpur	26.6	9.1	2,795
Sylhet	28.2	10.7	2,071

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Type of household			
Slum	36.4	10.1	713
Non slum	28.8	9.4	24,250
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	32.4	10.8	6,777
Non disaster-prone	27.6	8.8	18,186
Age			
15-19	24.0	16.1	1,049
20-24	22.3	11.9	2,695
25-29	25.8	12.9	3,520
30-34	30.6	13.7	3,324
35-39	29.1	10.8	3,691
40-44	33.5	9.7	2,616
45-49	30.0	7.0	2,313
50-54	32.6	5.6	1,778
55-59	31.3	3.4	1,501
60+	31.4	0.9	2,476
Marital status			
Currently married	28.2	10.5	22,189
Divorced, separated and widowed	34.2	1.3	2,774
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	34.5	7.7	8,487
Primary complete	32.1	11.1	3,242
Secondary incomplete	26.5	10.8	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	22.7	9.8	2,632
Higher secondary (HSC)	18.9	9.1	2,042
Bachelor and above	18.8	8.8	1,702
Wealth index			
Poorest	31.2	9.5	5,166
Poorer	29.5	9.1	5,047
Middle	29.3	9.7	5,014
Richer	26.8	8.8	4,981
Richest	26.5	10.1	4,755
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	28.1	9.7	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	37.0	6.8	2,451

Significant geographic variations exist across divisions, with Barishal showing the highest lifetime (35.7%) and last 12 months prevalence (13.2%), whereas Mymensingh has the lowest lifetime prevalence (23.0%) and one of the lowest prevalence in the last 12 months (7.6%). The prevalence of sexual violence in the last 12 months is more than 10% in Chattogram and Sylhet.

Sexual violence is high in slum areas compared to non-slum areas considering lifetime experience (36.4% vs. 28.8%). However, the difference has been negligible in the last 12 months. Women who are from disaster-prone regions also experience a high prevalence of sexual violence (32.4%) in their lifetime compared to non-disaster-prone regions (27.6%). The gap is minimal in the last 12 months.

These findings align with existing literature suggesting that economic distress caused due to a disaster can trigger sexual violence by intimate partners (Boddy et al., 2024). Similarly, literature indicates that economic insecurity and poor living conditions in slum areas may contribute to increased sexual violence. Kalokhe et al. (2018) note that some men use such violence to express frustration at their inability to cope with prevailing socio-cultural and economic circumstances.

Table 4.4.1 also shows that younger women face a higher past 12 months prevalence of sexual violence. While lifetime prevalence increases with age—peaking at 33.5% among women aged 40–44 years, recent experience is relatively high among 15–19 years old (16.1%) and declines steadily with age, reaching just 0.9% among women aged 60 years and above.

Lifetime prevalence of sexual violence is higher among divorced, separated and widowed women (34.2%) than

currently married women (28.2%). However, currently married women face more recent violence (10.5% vs. 1.3% in the past year).

Women with no education report a relatively higher lifetime prevalence (34.5%), compared to 18.8–18.9% among those with higher education. This pattern is less evident in last 12 months.

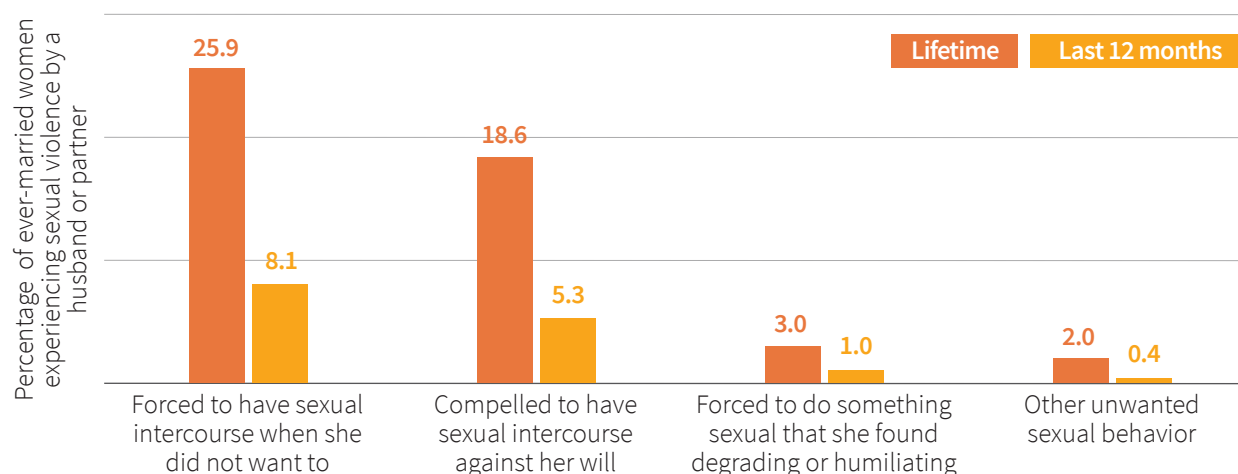
There appears to be a weak association between wealth and the experience of sexual violence. Lifetime prevalence declines slightly from 31.2% in the lowest quintile to 26.5% in the highest, with no clear trend in last 12 months.

Women with functional difficulties report higher lifetime sexual violence (37%) than those without (28.1%), though recent violence appears lower among them.

4.4.1 ACTS AND FREQUENCY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Figure 4.4.1 illustrates the prevalence of specific acts of sexual violence committed by husbands or partners against ever-married women in Bangladesh. Approximately 26% of women reported being forced to have sex by their husbands at some point in their lives, a figure consistent with the national lifetime prevalence. Eight percent of women reported forced sex in the last 12 months.

The second most commonly reported form of sexual violence is being compelled into sex against one's will, experienced by 19% of respondents. In the previous 12 months, 5.3% of women reported being forced to engage in sexual intercourse without their consent. Additionally,



Note: Women may have reported experiencing one or more of these acts.

Figure 4.4.1: Prevalence of specific acts of sexual violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)

3% of ever-married women reported being forced to engage in acts they found degrading or humiliating, while 2% reported experiencing other forms of unwanted sexual behavior in their lifetime. However, the prevalence for these two acts is relatively low in the last 12 months.

In addition, Table A4 in appendix shows that rural women reported a relatively lower lifetime experience of forced sex (25.1%) compared to women in urban areas. In the past 12 months, one in ten women in city corporations experienced forced sex by their husbands—slightly higher than in rural (7.7%) and other urban areas (9%). Around 20% of women in urban areas (excluding city corporations) reported being compelled to have sex in their lifetime, compared to rural (18.6%), urban (18.8%) and city corporations (17.1%). Recent (12-month) rates ranged from 5% to 6% across localities. Other forms of violence remained low.

Table A5 in Appendix summarizes the frequency of different acts of sexual violence experienced by women

in the past 12 months and over their lifetime. It classifies each act based on how frequently it occurred: once, a few times (2–5) or many times (6 or more).

For at least one act, 14.8% experienced it once, 60.3% a few times and 24.9% many times in the past year, while lifetime figures were 7.8%, 49.6% and 42.6%. Forced sexual intercourse when unwilling shows a similar pattern, with the vast majority of survivors experiencing it repeatedly and more than half reporting multiple incidents over their lifetime.

Being compelled to have intercourse follows the same trend, with most survivors facing more than one incident both recently and over time. Acts considered degrading or humiliating, as well as other unwanted sexual behaviors, are also more often repeated than isolated.

Overall, the data clearly show that sexual violence is rarely a one-time event, with forced sexual intercourse standing out as the most recurrent form.

Findings from the VAW in-depth research help tell the story behind these numbers. Most women in interviews recalled being forced or pressured to have sex with their husband at least a few times and some participants disclosed that this occurred regularly throughout their marriage. For instance, Masheda (pseudonym), a respondent from Noakhali, shared that she never had any say in her sexual relationship with her husband. Furthermore, her husband became physically violent when Masheda was not willing to have sex. Similarly, Farida (pseudonym), a survivor in Dhaka, explained that her husband never cared about her consent during sex.

“I felt he was very rude. [Sex] was never good and he never cared about consent. He didn’t think that women could have consent.”

— Farida, Dhaka

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with both service providers and men in the community to explore the factors influencing women’s experiences of violence, including sexual violence. While sexual violence was a widespread issue affecting women across all age groups, results suggested that adolescent girls and young women were at greater risk of experiencing sexual violence in marriage. In Noakhali, participants in the FGD with service providers reported that the young age of girls was a contributing factor, as it could exacerbate unequal power dynamics in marriage (especially when girls married much older men) and therefore increased the risk of sexual violence.

“Girls as young as 12 or 13 are married off and expected to manage the household, take care of in-laws and meet their husband’s demands. At such a young age, they are not ready for these responsibilities and when they struggle, violence often starts...the husbands, often much older, demand things they have seen in pornography without understanding the girl’s situation.”

—Service provider FGD participant, Noakhali

Findings from FGDs with men in the community provided further insights into why women are experiencing sexual violence in marriage. Notably, most men held attitudes that condoned sexual violence in marriage. This included a pervasive belief in men's marital 'right' to sex, which men often justified using their religious faith. To that end, male FGD participants largely agreed that their wives must engage in sexual activity with them whenever men initiated it, with exceptions made for when women are sick.

"If the wife is sick, the husband should not force her. But if she is physically fit, she must respond to her husband."

—Men's FGD participant, Noakhali

Furthermore, most male participants did not perceive forced sex in marriage to be violence.

"Forceful sex is not VAW (violence against women). If a wife says no to her husband, it's injustice. A husband has the right to have sex with his wife whenever he wants."

—Men's FGD participant, Noakhali

Overall, this attitude from men around sex in marriage suggests a prevailing belief in men's dominance in sexual relationships, which prioritizes men's desire and ignores women's consent—therefore demonstrating that harmful gender norms drive many married women's experiences of sexual violence. While men did not specifically mention this in FGDs, the legal environment may further shape men's attitudes, since the Penal Code, 1860, excludes cases of marital rape in its definition of rape, with the sole exception being cases where the wife is under 13, thus condoning sexual violence in marriages.

4.5 PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY

Table 4.5.1 presents the percentage of currently married women who reported physical, sexual and/or both violence during pregnancy. At the national level, 7.2% of women reported experiencing physical violence during any pregnancy in their lifetime, while 3.5% experienced such violence in the last 12 months. The corresponding figures for sexual violence are 5.3% (lifetime) and 2.5% (last 12 months).

Rural and urban comparisons show modest differences. Within urban areas, women living outside city corporations experienced relatively higher prevalence of

both physical (8.0%) and sexual (6.0%) violence during pregnancy in their lifetime.

When both forms of violence are combined, 7.3% of currently married women nationally reported experiencing either physical or sexual violence during any pregnancy in their lifetime, while 4.1% experienced it in the last 12 months. Again, a relatively higher prevalence in the last 12 months was found among women in urban areas excluding city corporations (4.6%), while the lowest was in city corporation areas (3.6%).

Table 4.5.1: Percentage of currently married women reporting physical and sexual violence during pregnancy

Type of violence during pregnancy	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation (CC)		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months
n	20,902		8,672		12,230		7,233		4,997	
Physical violence (%)	7.2	3.5	7.6	3.5	6.9	3.4	6.2	3.2	8.0	3.8
Sexual violence (%)	5.3	2.5	5.5	2.5	5.2	2.6	4.7	2.3	6.0	2.9
Physical and/or sexual (%)	7.3	4.1	7.7	4.2	7.0	4.0	6.3	3.6	8.1	4.6

The in-depth component revealed that some women in abusive relationships hoped having a child would reduce their husbands' violence. However, interviews with survivors uncovered that intimate partner violence often worsened when women became pregnant. For example, Pori (pseudonym), a respondent in Noakhali, shared that her husband's abusive behaviors started shortly after their wedding. The violence subsequently escalated when Pori became pregnant and she recalled how her husband would kick her stomach and squeeze her abdomen, which caused her to fear for her unborn child's life. Additionally, Pori's husband and his family were upset when she gave birth to a daughter, suggesting that son preference remains an issue in communities.

4.6 CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR

Table 4.6.1 presents the prevalence of controlling behavior by husbands/partners. Controlling behavior refers to restrictions to the women's autonomy, decision-making and social interactions. It is defined using 18 acts, such as: prevented contact with friends, restricted contact with birth family, constantly monitored whereabouts, ignored and treated women differently, husbands got angry if wives spoke with men, suspicious of infidelity, required permission for healthcare, forced to wear veil/hijab, restricted/stopped education, prevented from working, restricted recreational outings, insulted or

disrespected wives parents, forced use of contraceptives, prevented use of contraceptives, abused for giving birth to a girl, abused due to in-laws complaints, anger during arguments which scared women and restricted use of social media. Compared to other forms of violence, controlling behavior emerged as the most dominant form of violence. At the national level, two-thirds of women (67.6%) mentioned experiencing controlling behavior in their lifetime by their intimate partners, while 44% experienced such behavior in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Table 4.6.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of controlling behavior among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
National	67.6	44.0	24,963
Rural	67.6	44.7	10,246
Urban	67.4	42.5	14,717
City Corporation (CC)	63.1	39.3	8,741
Urban (excluding CC)	70.4	44.6	5,976
Division			
Barishal	73.1	52.9	2,310
Chattogram	70.8	48.2	3,897
Dhaka	63.2	39.4	5,708
Khulna	73.4	48.4	2,776
Mymensingh	67.7	43.2	2,370
Rajshahi	65.4	37.4	3,036
Rangpur	67.6	47.3	2,795
Sylhet	66.2	46.4	2,071
Type of household			
Slum	66.6	36.5	713
Non-slum	67.6	44.2	24,250
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	73.2	48.8	6,777
Non disaster-prone	65.3	42.2	18,186
Age			
15-19	63.2	59.1	1,049
20-24	64.2	51	2,695
25-29	66.6	51.6	3,520
30-34	69.0	51.0	3,324
35-39	68.6	47.3	3,691
40-44	67.9	45.6	2,616
45-49	69.2	42.9	2,313
50-54	67.0	35.7	1,778
55-59	67.3	33.0	1,501
60+	70.3	21.5	2,476
Marital status			
Currently married	67.1	49.5	22,189
Divorced, separated and widowed	71.1	6.3	2,774
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	71.5	38.7	8,487

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Primary complete	69.5	46.5	3,242
Secondary incomplete	67.5	50.6	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	62.7	44.8	2,632
Higher secondary (HSC)	58.4	43.6	2,042
Bachelor and above	54.8	39.6	1,702
Wealth index			
Poorest	71.1	46.4	5,166
Poorer	68.5	45.0	5,047
Middle	67.6	42.8	5,014
Richer	65.8	43.4	4,981
Richest	61.4	40.4	4,755
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	66.5	44.6	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	78.1	38.7	2,451

The prevalence in rural and urban areas follows a similar pattern exhibited at the national level. However, urban areas excluding city corporations surpassed the national prevalence (70.4% vs. 67.6%). Rural women faced a disproportionately high rate of controlling behavior by their husbands compared to women in all other localities during the last 12 months.

The survey data also shows women of all divisions follow the national prevalence with a minor variation in some divisions, keeping lifetime experience in the background. Khulna and Barishal stood out as the two divisions crossing the national rate with 73.4% and 73.1% of women reporting controlling behavior, while Dhaka had the lowest (63.2%). Khulna and Barishal divisions have also a high rate of controlling behavior experienced by women in the last 12 months. No notable difference has been observed between women residing in slum and non slum areas during their lifetime, however, controlling behavior is relatively low in slum areas compared to non-slum areas in the last 12 months. Women in disaster-prone regions report higher levels of controlling behavior (73.2% lifetime, 48.8% last 12 months) compared to those in non disaster-prone areas (65.3% lifetime, 42.2% last 12 months).

Controlling behavior shows distinct age-related patterns. Lifetime prevalence remains relatively consistent across age groups, ranging from 63.2% among 15–19 years old to 70.3% among those aged 60 years and above. In contrast, recent controlling behavior declines sharply

with age—from 59.1% among the youngest women to just 21.5% among those 60 years and older—indicating that younger women are far more likely to face current controlling behavior by husbands.

The lifetime prevalence of controlling behavior is 67.1% among currently married women and 71.1% among those who are divorced, separated or widowed. However, recent (past 12 months) prevalence is higher among currently married women (49.5%) compared to only 6.3% among formerly married women.

Education level shows a clear gradient. Women with no or pre-primary education report a relatively higher lifetime prevalence (71.5%), while those with a bachelor's degree or higher report lower rates (54.8%). In the last 12 months, however, the pattern is less straightforward: women with incomplete secondary education report a relatively higher prevalence (50.6%), while both the least and most educated women report lower rates (38.7% and 39.6% respectively).

Controlling behavior also varies with household wealth. Lifetime prevalence declines from 71.1% in the lowest quintile to 61.4% in the highest. Controlling behavior in the last 12 months shows a similar, though less marked, decline from 46.4% to 40.4%.

Women with moderate to severe functional difficulties are particularly vulnerable, reporting a much higher lifetime

prevalence of controlling behavior (78.1%) compared to those with no or minimal difficulties (66.5%). Their recent exposure is slightly lower (38.7% vs. 44.6%).

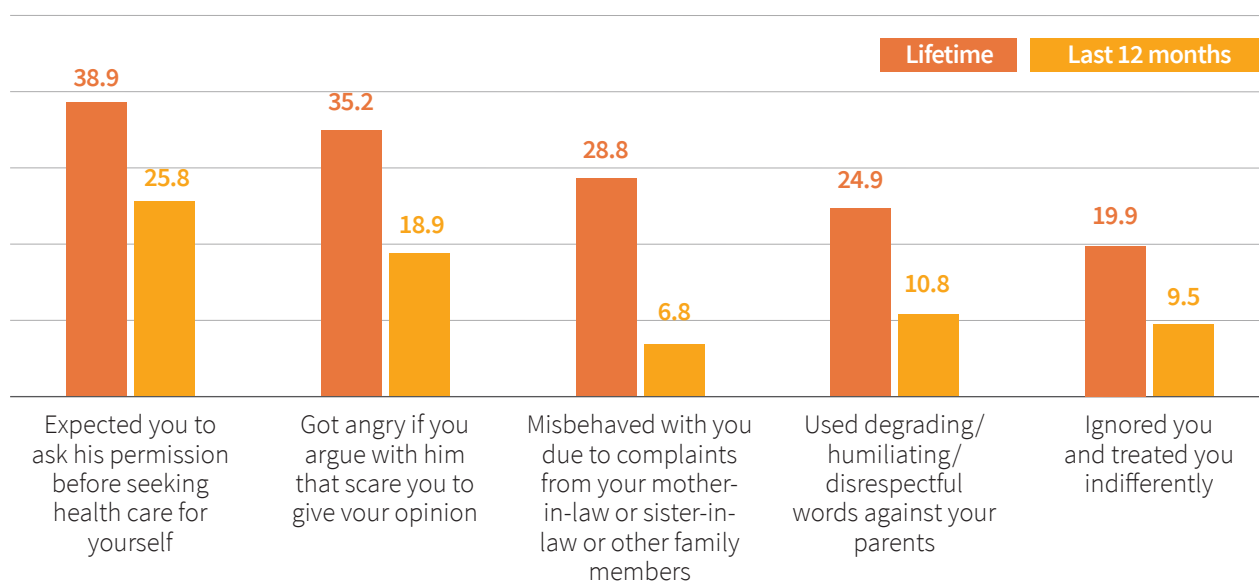
The prevalence data reveal that controlling behavior affects a substantial majority of ever-married women during their lifetime and nearly half within the past year. This form of psychological abuse is more widespread than physical or sexual violence across nearly all demographic groups. Distinct patterns emerge across socio-economic factors—higher levels of education and wealth are associated with lower rates of controlling behavior. The notably higher rates among younger women underscore their heightened vulnerability to current experiences of control.

4.6.1 ACTS OF CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR

Table A6 in Appendix presents 18 acts of controlling behavior segregated by locality. Women's responses indicate that intimate partners seek to control women in multiple ways. Four acts stand out among others in

dominating women's behavior: husbands' expectations of wives taking permission before seeking health care, women withholding their opinions assuming husbands would get angry, husbands getting angry after receiving complaints from in-laws and husbands making disrespectful comments about wives' parents.

Figure 4.6.1 shows that around 39.0% of women responded that their husbands expected them to seek permission before seeking health care from outside. Another 35.0% reported that husbands got angry if wives argued, which stopped them from providing any opinions. Close to 29.0% of women affirmed that husbands got angry after getting complaints from in-laws. One in every four women reported that their husbands made disrespectful comments about their parents. In the past 12 months, about 26.0% of women reported needing permission to seek health care, 19.0% said their husbands became angry when they argued, 7.0% experienced misbehavior due to complaints from in-laws, 11.0% faced disrespectful comments about their parents and 10.0% were ignored or treated indifferently.



Note: Women may have reported experiencing one or more of these acts. Additionally, the survey measured more acts of controlling behavior than those presented here. For statistics on all acts included in the calculation of among all women prevalence, see Table A6 in the Appendix.

Figure 4.6.1: Prevalence of specific acts of controlling behavior among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)

In-depth interviews provided further insights into women's lived experiences of controlling behaviors. For example, Rabeya (pseudonym) recounted how her husband demanded that she pay the house rent after she obtained a job. As Rabeya endured frequent verbal abuse from her husband, she was afraid to voice her opinion and agreed to use her income to pay the house rent. Over time, Rabeya's husband stopped paying for all household expenses and refused to give her any money to provide for their children, despite having the means to contribute. In addition to experiencing economic coercion, Rabeya's husband started pressuring her to have another child and forcing her to have sex, thus illustrating how abusive partners can use multiple forms of violence to increase control over survivors' lives.

Interviews also confirmed that women's relationships with their in-laws were one of the sources of marital conflict. Women often reported that complaints from their in-laws triggered psychological violence from their husbands. Pervin (pseudonym), for example, lived with her in-laws while her husband worked in the Middle East and described how her husband would become angry after he received complaints about her from his mother.

"[My husband would say to me] **You behaved badly with my mother.** You do not listen to her. You do not respect her."

—Pervin, Dhaka

Pervin explained that her husband would stop all digital communications with her for days, unfairly giving Pervin the silent treatment as punishment. Such evidence highlights how controlling behaviors can be perpetrated even when intimate partners are physically separated from each other.

The VAW in-depth research also conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with men in the community to investigate the high prevalence of controlling behaviors. Crucially, findings from FGDs showed that most men did not consider controlling behaviors to be violence against women. There was a strong perception among men's FGD participants in both Dhaka and Noakhali that a man was entitled to control a wife's behavior as the guardian and head of the family.

"People misunderstand nirjaton (violence against women). Not everything is violence. **Some actions are part of a man's duty to guide or control his wife.**"

—Men's FGD participant, Dhaka

These attitudes among men in the community help explain why women are experiencing high rates of controlling behaviors from their partners and highlight a need for awareness-raising initiatives so that men recognize these behaviors as violence. Previous research has examined the prevailing marital norm of male guardianship in Bangladesh, which dictates that married men should provide for and protect their family (White 2016; Munro et al. 2015). In-depth research suggest that this model promotes men's dominance in marriages and consequently normalizes men's controlling behaviors against women. This implies that VAW prevention and response programming will need to include engagement with men to address marital gender norms and men's understandings of violence.

4.7 EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

Table 4.7.1 presents the prevalence of emotional violence by husbands/partners. Emotional violence refers to experiences of non-physical violence intended to degrade,

intimidate or undermine an individual's self-esteem, identity or development.

Table 4.7.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of emotional violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
National	37.4	17.6	24,963
Rural	36.6	17.7	10,246
Urban	39.5	17.2	14,717
City Corporation (CC)	38.1	17.4	8,741
Urban (excluding CC)	40.5	17.1	5,976
Division			
Barishal	48.4	25.3	2,310
Chattogram	36.9	17.3	3,897
Dhaka	35.9	15.5	5,708
Khulna	40.8	18.7	2,776
Mymensingh	35.1	18.3	2,370
Rajshahi	35.1	14.9	3,036
Rangpur	38.6	20.8	2,795
Sylhet	35.8	18.1	2,071
Type of household			
Slum	41.8	18.4	713
Non slum	37.3	17.5	24,250
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	41.7	18.0	6,777
Non disaster-prone	35.8	17.4	18,186
Age			
15-19	25.7	20.8	1,049
20-24	28.7	19.7	2,695
25-29	37.4	20.2	3,520
30-34	40.6	21.4	3,324
35-39	39.5	20.9	3,691
40-44	38.9	19.8	2,616
45-49	40.3	17.6	2,313
50-54	40.6	13.9	1,778
55-59	41.5	11.1	1,501
60+	38.6	6.9	2,476

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Marital status			
Currently married	36.3	19.6	22,189
Divorced, separated and widowed	45.2	3.5	2,774
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	43.5	17.0	8,487
Primary complete	41.3	18.8	3,242
Secondary incomplete	35.7	20.4	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	26.8	13.9	2,632
Higher secondary (HSC)	25.6	13.7	2,042
Bachelor and above	29.7	15.4	1,702
Wealth index			
Poorest	43.5	21.1	5,166
Poorer	38.3	18.0	5,047
Middle	35.7	16.1	5,014
Richer	32.2	15.7	4,981
Richest	35.1	15.2	4,755
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	36.2	17.6	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	48.9	17.4	2,451

Women were asked whether they have been insulted or humiliated, belittled or humiliated in front of others, intentionally intimidated, threatened with harm or divorce or another marriage, mistreated for socializing with neighbours or other women to measure emotional violence. Additionally, behaviours such as insulting, humiliating, getting angry for trivial reasons, threatening to hurt or getting a divorce are used to measure emotional violence, which creates fear or distress on the part of women.

The table shows that nationally 37.4% of respondents reported experiencing emotional violence by a husband or partner during their lifetime, while 17.6% experienced such violence within the past 12 months. Geographic patterns reveal variations across different areas, with rural areas showing 36.6% lifetime prevalence and 17.7% recent prevalence, while urban areas display 39.5% lifetime prevalence and 17.2% recent prevalence. Within urban classifications, areas excluding city corporations show relatively higher rates at 40.5% lifetime prevalence.

Across the eight divisions surveyed, prevalence vary considerably. Barishal reports the highest figures with 48.4% lifetime prevalence and 25.3% last 12 months prevalence, while Mymensingh and Rajshahi show among the lower rates at 35.1% lifetime prevalence. The remaining divisions display rates ranging from 35.8% to 40.8% for lifetime prevalence.

The data distinguishes between household types, showing that women living in slum areas report 41.8% lifetime prevalence compared to those in non slum areas with 37.3% lifetime prevalence. Regarding disaster exposure, areas classified as disaster-prone show 41.7% lifetime prevalence, while non disaster-prone areas report 35.8% lifetime prevalence.

Age-related data spans from 15 years to 60+ years, showing varying prevalence across different age cohorts. The youngest group (15-19 years) reports 25.7% lifetime prevalence but 20.8% last 12 months prevalence. Lifetime prevalence generally increase with age, with the 55-59 years

age group showing relatively higher lifetime prevalence at 41.5%. However, prevalence shows a different pattern, generally decreasing with age, particularly among older respondents where the 60+ years age group reports only 6.9% prevalence in last 12 months.

Marital status data divides respondents into currently married women, who report 36.3% lifetime prevalence and 19.6% last 12 months prevalence and those who are divorced, separated or widowed, showing 45.2% lifetime prevalence but only 3.5% recent prevalence.

Educational data reveals varying patterns across six categories. Women with no education or pre-primary education report a relatively higher lifetime prevalence at 43.5%, while those with secondary complete education show the lowest at 26.8%. Bachelor's degree holders and above report 29.7% lifetime prevalence.

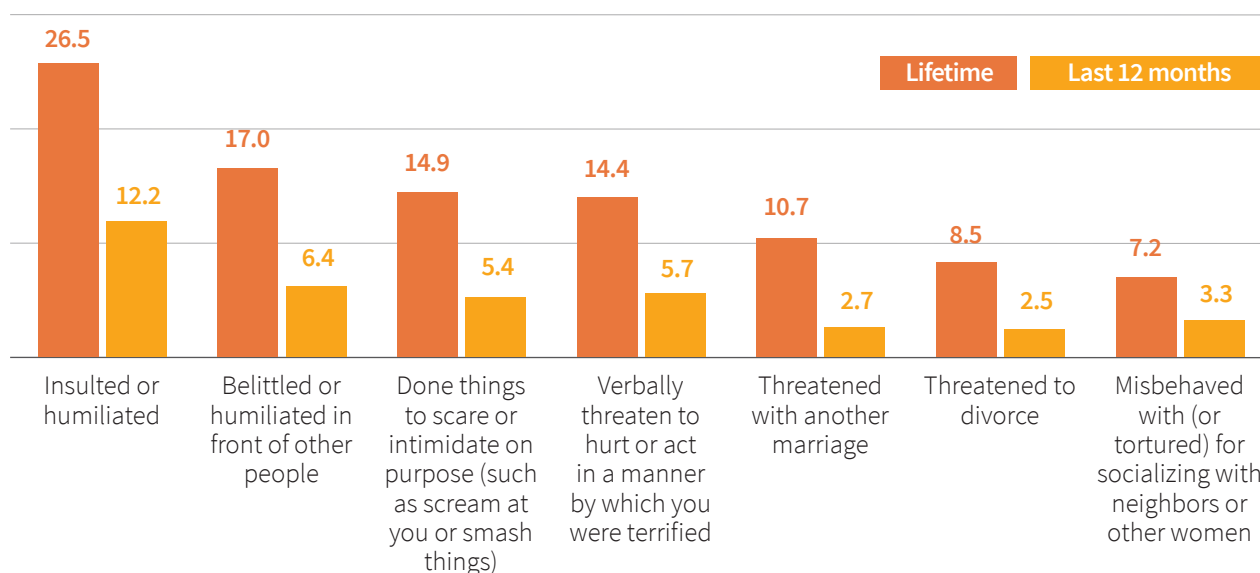
The wealth index divides respondents into five quintiles, with the first quintile (lowest wealth) showing 43.5% lifetime prevalence and 21.1% recent prevalence. The fourth quintile shows the lowest lifetime prevalence at 32.2%, while the fifth quintile reports 35.1% lifetime prevalence.

Regarding functional difficulties, the majority of respondents with no or some difficulties report 36.2% lifetime prevalence and 17.6% in the last 12 months. The smaller group with moderate or severe difficulties reports substantially higher rates of 48.9% lifetime prevalence, though their last 12 months prevalence (17.4%) remains similar.

4.7.1 ACTS OF EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

Table A7 in Appendix presents the differentials in the prevalence of specific acts of emotional violence based on locality. Three acts came out as dominant across national and subnational levels: whether women were insulted or humiliated, whether they were belittled or humiliated in front of other people and whether their husbands did anything to scare or intimidate them on purpose.

Figure 4.7.1 illustrates the prevalence of specific acts of emotional violence experienced by ever-married women reported for both lifetime and the past 12 months. Insults or humiliation are the most common, with 26.5% reporting lifetime experiences and 12.2% in the past year. Belittling or humiliating in front of others follows, with 17% lifetime and 6.4% last 12 months prevalence. Acts intended to scare or intimidate, such as yelling or breaking objects, were experienced by 14.9% over a lifetime and 5.4% in the past year, while 14.4% reported being verbally threatened with harm at some point, compared to 5.7% in the past year. Threats of another marriage (10.7% lifetime, 2.7% past year) and divorce (8.5% lifetime, 2.5% past year) are less frequent but still notable. Misbehavior related to socializing with neighbors or other women was reported by 7.2% over a lifetime and 3.3% recently. Overall, these patterns highlight the multifaceted nature of emotional violence and its enduring impact on women's lives.



Note: Women may have reported experiencing one or more of these acts.

Figure 4.7.1: Prevalence of specific acts of emotional violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)

In-depth research revealed that women experienced various manifestations of emotional violence from their partners, including verbal abuse, threats and acts intended to humiliate the survivor in front of other people. In interviews, women most often reported enduring verbal insults and bullying from their husbands. This included insults directed at a woman's appearance and her perceived abilities to perform household tasks. For example, Farida (pseudonym) recounted experiencing a daily cycle of emotional abuse in her marriage and shared that even cooking a meal would provoke her husband's anger. Additionally, Farida expressed that her husband regularly insulted her by criticizing her appearance and comparing her to other women.

"He would tell me, 'You're ugly, you're not beautiful' and even showed me pictures of other women. He thought they were better than me."

—Farida, Dhaka

Additionally, women reported experiencing verbal threats from their husbands, including threats to hurt them. Such threats were especially likely to occur in contexts where women attempted to seek formal services. For example, Tamanna (pseudonym) spoke about her husband's angry response after she went to the police station to file a complaint against him.

"He threatened to hurt me if I came back to his home. He even said he would hit me in front of my parents to teach me a lesson."

—Tamanna, Dhaka

4.8 ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

Table 4.8.1 shows the prevalence of economic violence experienced by ever-married women across various demographic and geographic segments. Economic violence refers to financial control, restriction or deprivation imposed by a partner. Two broad acts have been used to define economic violence, such as: refusing to give money for household expenses even though the husband has enough money and refusing to provide pocket money even though he is capable. One in every five women in Bangladesh disclosed experiencing economic violence by their husbands. At the national level, 19.6% of ever-married women have experienced economic violence by their husband or partner during their lifetime, while 10.6% experienced such violence in the 12 months preceding the survey. The same trend prevails in rural and urban settings. The prevalence is slightly high in urban areas (excluding city corporations).

Substantial variations exist across divisions, with Barishal showing relatively higher prevalence for both lifetime (27.3%) and last 12 months economic violence (16.1%), while Sylhet reports the lowest lifetime and last 12 months prevalence (13.5% and 7.3%).

Economic violence occurred in both slums (18.7%) and non-slum areas (19.6%). Recent experiences show that slum areas have a relatively higher prevalence (13.7%) of economic violence than non slum (10.5%) areas. Women in disaster-prone regions experience higher rates of economic violence (23.1% lifetime, 12.3% last 12 months) compared to those in non disaster-prone areas (18.2% lifetime, 9.9% last 12 months), consistent with patterns observed for other forms of intimate partner violence.

Table 4.8.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of economic violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband, disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
National	19.6	10.6	24,963
Rural	19.2	10.5	10,246
Urban	20.6	10.7	14,717
City Corporation (CC)	18.7	10.5	8,741
Urban (excluding CC)	22.0	10.9	5,976
Division			
Barishal	27.3	16.1	2,310
Chattogram	23.5	12.5	3,897
Dhaka	16.5	8.9	5,708
Khulna	19.3	10.7	2,776
Mymensingh	18.8	9.5	2,370
Rajshahi	16.6	7.4	3,036
Rangpur	23.9	14.6	2,795
Sylhet	13.5	7.3	2,071
Type of household			
Slum	18.7	13.7	713
Non slum	19.6	10.5	24,250
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	23.1	12.3	6,777
Non disaster-prone	18.2	9.9	18,186
Age			

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
15-19	14.4	12.4	1,049
20-24	14.0	9.9	2,695
25-29	18.7	11.7	3,520
30-34	19.5	12.2	3,324
35-39	20.2	12.8	3,691
40-44	19.9	11.4	2,616
45-49	22.6	12.2	2,313
50-54	19.4	8.8	1,778
55-59	24.4	10.0	1,501
60+	22.7	4.4	2,476
Marital status			
Currently married	18.0	11.5	22,189
Divorced, separated and widowed	30.4	4.1	2,774
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	24.9	11.4	8,487
Primary complete	19.4	10.8	3,242
Secondary incomplete	17.9	11.4	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	13.9	8.1	2,632
Higher secondary (HSC)	12.1	8.3	2,042
Bachelor and above	11.2	7.5	1,702
Wealth index			
Poorest	23.2	12.2	5,166
Poorer	20.4	10.6	5,047
Middle	19.0	11.3	5,014
Richer	17.2	9.8	4,981
Richest	15.5	7.7	4,755
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	18.7	10.6	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	27.6	10.5	2,451

Lifetime prevalence of economic violence is lowest among young women (14.4% for 15–19 years age group), peaks among women aged 55–59 years (24.4%) and slightly declines afterward. In the last 12 months, younger women report relatively high rates (12.4%), which remain stable through middle age and drop sharply among older women (4.4%).

Lifetime experience of economic violence is higher among divorced, separated or widowed women (30.4%) than

currently married women (18.0%). However, in the past 12 months, the prevalence is higher for currently married women (11.5%).

Education corresponds to lower rates of economic violence. Women with no or pre-primary education report higher lifetime prevalence (24.9%), compared to 11.2% among those with a bachelor's degree or higher. A similar trend appears in the last 12 months prevalence, ranging from 11.4% to 7.5%.

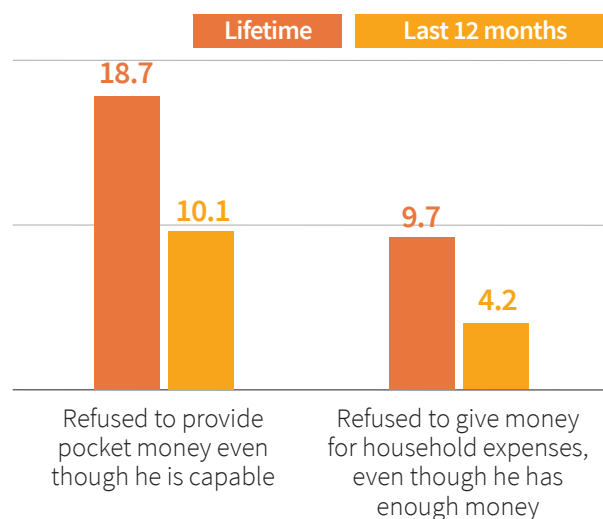
Wealth also shows a clear pattern: lifetime prevalence drops from 23.2% in the lowest wealth group to 15.5% in the highest, while prevalence in the last 12 months falls from 12.2% to 7.7%.

Women with moderate to severe functional difficulties face higher lifetime economic violence (27.6%) than those with no or minimal difficulties (18.7%). However, prevalence in the last 12 months are nearly the same for both groups (around 10.5%).

In summary, economic violence affects about one in five women in Bangladesh over their lifetime. While rural-urban differences are minimal, prevalence is slightly higher in urban areas outside city corporations. Regional disparities are evident, with disaster-prone areas showing higher rates. Prevalence starts low among younger women, peaks in later middle age and declines with age. Recent economic violence is more common among younger women, dropping sharply among older age groups. Lower rates are observed among women with higher education and wealth, suggesting the importance of women's empowerment. Finally, women with functional difficulties face higher lifetime exposure, likely due to greater economic dependence.

4.8.1 ACTS OF ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

Figure 4.8.1 presents the prevalence of specific acts of economic violence experienced by ever-married women from their husbands. Around 19% of women reported that their husbands refused to provide pocket money despite



Note: Women may have reported experiencing one or more of these acts.

Figure 4.8.1: Prevalence of specific acts of economic violence among ever-married women aged 15+ years (by a current or former husband)

being able to do so, while about 10% experienced this in the past 12 months. Similarly, nearly 10% of women reported that their husbands refused to give money for household expenses even though they had sufficient means, compared to 4% in the past year.

Table A8 in the Appendix presents detailed data on all acts of economic violence, disaggregated by rural and urban areas.

In-depth research showed that women encountered different forms of economic violence, with women often lacking access to and control over household finances. Men's control of household finances meant that women were economically dependent on their husbands, which increased women's exposure to economic violence and produced barriers to help-seeking.

In interviews, multiple survivors shared cases where their partners refused to give them money, despite their partners having the financial ability to contribute. For instance, Afrina (pseudonym) discussed how her husband provided minimal financial support to their household, even though they had two young children. While Afrina's husband occasionally provided some groceries, he generally avoided taking responsibility for household expenses, including even rent at times.

"When it's time to pay the rent, he sometimes disappears, leaving me to manage everything on my own."

—Afrina, Dhaka

Women also described situations where their husbands provided them with insufficient funds and refused their requests for additional pocket money, even though their husbands had the means to contribute. Tamanna (pseudonym), a respondent in Dhaka, described how her husband only gave her 1,500 taka (just over USD12) a month to cover her and their child's needs. Furthermore, Tamanna's husband restricted her from working, which limited her ability to contribute to the household.

In situations where women worked, respondents frequently shared that they lacked control over their earnings, highlighting how women's experiences of economic violence were often linked to controlling behaviors from abusive partners. For example, Fatema (pseudonym), a respondent in Dhaka, explained that she and her husband both worked full-time, but noted that her husband held all the economic decision-making power. As a result, Fatema's husband controlled her income and directed her to pay for most household expenses without her having any choice in the matter.

"It was like my financial autonomy was slipping away. I was contributing to the household but had no control over my own earnings... it's not like I don't contribute—I cover our rent, food and everything the house needs, but he still makes all the big decisions alone, always."

—Fatema, Dhaka

Overall, the lack of access to and control over finances—including their own income restricted women's abilities to make decisions that were in their own best interest, such as leaving an abusive partner.

5 NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Nationally, 15.0% of women faced lifetime physical violence by a non-partner and 3.7% in the past 12 months. For sexual violence, the corresponding figures are 2.2% and 0.5%, respectively.
- Urban women, especially in city corporations, reported higher prevalence of non-partner physical and sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Dhaka and Chattogram divisions show relatively higher rates of non-partner violence in their lifetime, while Rajshahi reports the lowest (9.6%).
- Adolescents aged 15-19 years and never-married women face higher prevalence of recent non-partner physical and sexual violence.
- Slapping and unwanted touching are the most common acts of physical violence, while the most common act of sexual violence is attempted but unsuccessful forced sex.
- Most perpetrators of non-partner physical violence are known individuals, particularly family members such as mothers-in-law and siblings-in-law.
- Many women experience repeated non-partner sexual violence, with over 30% reporting such acts occurred few times and some experiencing them many times.
- Male family members, male friends and recent acquaintances are the most frequently reported perpetrators of non-partner sexual violence.

Non-partner violence refers to physical or sexual violence or both, perpetrated by someone who is not or was not, an intimate partner. In the context of this survey in Bangladesh, “non-partner” refers to anyone other than the respondent’s current or former husband that she has come into contact with since the age of 15.

This chapter presents findings on the experiences of women aged 15 years and above, including both ever-married and unmarried women. It examines physical or sexual violence by non-partners, offering analysis of specific acts, frequency, comparisons with intimate partner violence and in-depth research insights.

Data are presented across two timeframes: 12-month prevalence, capturing violence experienced in the year preceding the survey and lifetime prevalence, capturing experiences since age 15 years. The 12-month prevalence is generally lower than lifetime prevalence, as it reflects only recent incidents, whereas lifetime prevalence accumulates experiences over a longer period.

5.1 DIFFERENT FORMS OF NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

Table 5.1.1 presents the prevalence of different forms of non-partner violence (other than husband) experienced by all women disaggregated by residence, division, household type and disaster vulnerability.

Nationally, 15% of women reported experiencing physical violence by a non-partner in their lifetime, while 3.7% experienced it in the last 12 months. Sexual violence was reported by 2.2% of women in their lifetime and 0.5% in the past year. When combining physical and sexual violence, 15.8% experienced either physical or sexual violence in their lifetime and 3.9% in the past year.

Urban women, especially those in city corporation areas, consistently report higher levels of violence compared to rural women. These areas show the highest reported lifetime prevalence of physical violence (17.6%), sexual

violence (2.8%) and any form of non-partner violence (18.6%).

By division, Dhaka and Chattogram report higher lifetime prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners (18.9% and 18.6% respectively), while Rajshahi reports the lowest (9.6%). Notably, Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet also report relatively higher levels of non-partner violence in the last 12 months.

Regarding household type, the reported prevalence is slightly higher in non slum areas for sexual violence. Women living in disaster-prone regions report higher levels of non-partner sexual violence (2.8% lifetime) and overall physical and/or sexual violence (17.6% lifetime) than those in non disaster-prone areas.

Table 5.1.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of physical and sexual non-partner violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)

	Physical		Sexual		Physical and/or sexual		n
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Area of residence							
National (Total)	15.0	3.7	2.2	0.5	15.8	3.9	27,476
Rural	14.3	3.4	2.1	0.5	15.2	3.6	11,038
Urban	16.5	4.5	2.5	0.5	17.3	4.7	16,438
City Corporation (CC)	17.6	4.9	2.8	0.6	18.6	5.2	9,892
Urban (excluding CC)	15.7	4.1	2.3	0.4	16.4	4.3	6,546
Division							
Barishal	15.0	3.7	2.2	0.5	15.8	3.9	2,469
Chattogram	17.1	4.3	3.3	0.4	18.6	4.5	4,294
Dhaka	17.9	4.5	2.7	0.5	18.9	4.8	6,347
Khulna	15.1	3.8	2.0	0.5	15.7	4.0	3,001
Mymensingh	13.6	3.1	3.3	0.4	15.9	3.2	2,632
Rajshahi	9.2	2.7	0.8	0.1	9.6	2.8	3,246
Rangpur	14.5	3.4	2.5	0.5	14.8	3.6	3,039
Sylhet	17.1	4.0	1.7	0.5	17.5	4.4	2,448
Type of household							
Slum	14.3	3.8	1.4	0.7	15.1	4.3	765
Non slum	15.0	3.7	2.3	0.5	15.8	3.9	26,711
Disaster-prone status							
Disaster-prone	16.4	3.9	2.8	0.4	17.6	4.1	7,363
Non disaster-prone	14.4	3.7	2.0	0.5	15.1	3.9	20,113

5.2 PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Table 5.2.1 presents the national prevalence of non-partner physical violence disaggregated by various geographic and residential categories and also highlights prevalence differentials by age, marital status, education, wealth and functional difficulties.

The table shows that, at the national level, lifetime prevalence fluctuates between 11.6% and 17.3% across age groups, with higher prevalence reported among the youngest group (15–19 years) at 17.3%. Recent (12-month) prevalence, however, is higher among never-married women (12.1%) and women aged 15–19 years (10.5%), indicating that younger and unmarried women experience a higher current prevalence of non-partner physical violence.

Married women living with their husbands report lower rates of both lifetime (14%) and last 12 months (2.6%) violence compared to never-married women.

Educational differences in lifetime prevalence are relatively minor though current violence is slightly higher among those with incomplete secondary education. Similarly, wealth differences are modest, though those in the middle and upper quintiles report slightly higher recent experiences.

A notable pattern appears in relation to functional difficulties: women with moderate to severe difficulties report higher lifetime prevalence (16.6%) but lower in the last 12 months (1.8%) compared to women with no or mild difficulties (14.8% lifetime and 3.9% last 12 months).

Overall, the table underscores that non-partner physical violence affects women across all demographic and socioeconomic segments, but recent experiences are more pronounced among younger and never-married women.

Table 5.2.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence (%) of non-partner physical violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Age			
15-19	17.3	10.5	2,887
20-24	15.2	4.2	3,187
25-29	14.2	2.4	3,625
30-34	16.4	3.9	3,362
35-39	16.6	2.8	3,710
40-44	12.3	1.9	2,620
45-49	16.4	1.8	2,320
50-54	16.0	2.4	1,780
55-59	11.4	1.8	1,505
60+	11.6	0.9	2,480
Marital status			
Married and living with husband	14.0	2.6	21,101
Married, living apart from husband	15.0	3.2	1,088
Divorced, separated and widowed	15.0	1.9	2,774
Never married	20.3	12.1	2,513
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	15.7	2.7	8,574
Primary complete	14.7	3.5	3,354
Secondary incomplete	14.9	4.9	7,767
Secondary complete (SSC)	13.3	3.9	3,280

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Higher secondary (HSC)	15.3	4.6	2,635
Bachelor and above	14.5	2.5	1,865
Wealth index			
Poorest	15.3	3.5	5,475
Poorer	15.4	4.0	5,482
Middle	14.6	3.5	5,501
Richer	13.9	3.8	5,541
Richest	15.8	4.1	5,477
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	14.8	3.9	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	16.6	1.8	2,451

5.2.1 ACTS AND FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY NON-PARTNERS

Table 5.2.2 presents the prevalence of specific acts of physical violence by non-partners. The data shows that physical violence against women by non-partners remains a significant concern, with 15.0% of women nationwide reporting at least one incident in their lifetime and 13.7% in the last 12 months. Lifetime prevalence is higher in urban areas (16.5%) compared to rural areas (14.3%).

The most common form is being slapped, hit, punched or having something thrown, affecting 10.5% of women in their lifetime and 2.4% in the last 12 months. The act of being “touched with bad intention” is reported

more frequently in urban areas (6.2% lifetime) than in rural areas (3.5%). In city corporations, 4.6% of women reported experiencing this in the last 12 months. Other acts with notable recent prevalence include pushing, shoving or hair-pulling.

Severe forms of violence, including being kicked or dragged and threats with a weapon, though less common, are still present. Acid throwing was reported at an almost negligible level across all areas and timeframes.

In summary, non-partner physical violence affects a substantial number of women, with hitting, unwanted touching and pushing being particularly common. The high recent prevalence, especially for unwanted

Table 5.2.2: Prevalence of specific acts of non-partner physical violence among all women aged 15+ years

Acts of physical violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation (CC)		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)
At least one act of physical violence	15.0	3.7	14.3	3.4	16.5	4.5	17.6	4.9	15.7	4.1
a) Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown some thing	10.5	2.4	10.5	2.4	10.5	2.4	9.8	1.9	11.0	2.7
b) Pushed or shoved you or pulled/ shoved hair	5.2	1.1	4.9	1.0	5.8	1.2	5.3	1.2	6.1	1.3
c) Choked you on purpose	1.0	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.2

Acts of physical violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation (CC)		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)
d) Threatened with a gun, knife or weapon	1.3	0.3	1.4	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.1	1.3	0.4
e) Threw acid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
f) Touched you with bad intention	4.3	1.0	3.5	0.7	6.2	1.7	8.3	4.6	1.1	0.8
g) Kicked you, dragged you	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.4	2.0	0.4
h) Hit you with a stick or any heavy things	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2
i) Burnt you on purpose throwing hot liquid or hot utensil etc.	2.7	0.5	2.8	0.6	2.5	0.5	1.7	0.4	3.1	0.6

touching in densely populated urban centers, highlight the urgency of addressing this persistent public health and safety concern.

Table 5.2.3 presents the percentage distribution of frequency of specific acts of non-partner physical violence experienced by women both in their lifetime and in the past 12 months. The data is categorized by how often the acts occurred: once, a few times (2–5) or many times (6 or more).

Of the women who experienced physical violence by a non-partner since the age of 15 (n=5,172), 46.9% reported it happened once, 39.9% a few times and 13.2% many times. In the last 12 months (n=1,162), 50.7% experienced it once, 37.4% a few times and 11.9% many times.

Across different acts of non-partner physical violence, slapping, hitting, punching or having objects thrown were the most common: in their lifetime, nearly half of affected women experienced these acts a few times and in the last 12 months almost as many (47%) reported a one-time incident. Pushing, shoving or hair-pulling showed a similar pattern, with lifetime reports spread across once and a few times, while in the past year over half (55%) reported it happened once.

More severe forms, such as choking or being threatened with a weapon, were less frequent. Over half of women who had ever been choked reported it happened once in their lifetime and in the last 12 months, two-thirds (67%) also reported a single occurrence. Threats with a weapon

displayed a similar trend, though around one in ten women reported experiencing them many times across their lifetime.

Some acts were rare across both lifetime and last 12 months reports. Acid throwing, for example, was reported by only a few women, almost all describing it as a one-time experience, with no cases reported in the last 12 months. Burning was also uncommon.

The act of being touched with bad intention stands out as recurrent. While most women reported experiencing it once, over a third indicated repeated incidents across their lifetime and in the last 12 months, more than 40% reported it happened more than once.

In summary, certain acts, especially slapping, pushing and touching with bad intention, show a strong tendency to recur across both lifetime and recent measures. Extreme forms such as acid throwing remain negligible.

Threats with a gun, knife or weapon were reported once by 50.0% of women, a few times by 39.2% and many times by 10.8%. Acid attacks were rare, with 85.7% of those affected reporting a single incident in their lifetime and 14.3% reporting a few incidents, while none were reported in the past 12 months. Touching with bad intention was experienced once by 59.5% of women, a few times by 35.6% and many times by 4.9%.

Other acts such as being kicked or dragged, hit with a stick or heavy object or burnt on purpose followed similar

Table 5.2.3: Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of non-partner physical violence experienced by all women aged 15+

Acts of physical violence	Lifetime				Last 12 months			
	Once	Few times	Many times	n	Once	Few times	Many times	n
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
At least one act of physical violence	46.9	39.9	13.2	5,172	50.7	37.4	11.9	1,162
a) Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown something	39.0	49.0	12.1	2,779	47.4	44.1	8.5	597
b) Pushed or shoved you or pulled/ shoved hair	40.6	48.5	10.9	1,413	55	36.9	8.2	282
c) Choked you on purpose	54.3	37.5	8.2	280	66.7	25	8.3	60
d) Threatened with a gun, knife or weapon	50.0	39.2	10.8	332	49	39.2	11.8	102
e) Threw acid				7				
f) Touched you with bad intention	59.5	35.6	4.9	1,271	58.9	34.5	6.6	287
g) Kicked you, dragged you	39.0	47.6	13.4	456	56.9	32.4	10.8	102
h) Hit you with a stick or any heavy things	47.6	42.9	9.5	756	58.3	35.6	6.1	163
i) Burnt on purpose	76.7	20.0	3.3	90	57.1	35.7	7.1	14

trends, where most women experienced them once, but a notable proportion endured repeated occurrences.

Overall, non-partner physical violence is widespread. Slapping, hitting and pushing are the most common forms, often experienced multiple times. More severe acts such as choking, threats with weapons and kicking or dragging occur less often but remain significant,

while acid attacks are rare. Although many survivors experienced a single incident, a considerable share faced repeated violence.

Table 5.2.4 analyzes a total of 8,376 reported experiences of lifetime physical violence perpetrated against survivors by individuals other than intimate partners. The data is drawn from the experiences of survivors, as

Table 5.2.4: Distribution of perpetrators of lifetime non-partner physical violence (share of responses and cases)

Perpetrators of the reported incidents of physical violence			
	Frequency	% Response	% Cases
Total	8,376	100	194.9
Father	267	3.2	6.2
Uncle (paternal/maternal/in-law)	120	1.4	2.8
Mother	879	10.5	20.5
Mother-in-law	1,505	18.0	35.0
Brother in-law/Sister in-law (nanad/jaa/bhai-bou)	1,253	15.0	29.2
Other male members of family	1,448	17.3	33.7
Other female members of family	495	5.9	11.5
Someone at work-male	133	1.6	3.1
Someone at work-female	33	0.4	0.8
Male friend	185	2.2	4.3
Female friend	39	0.5	0.9

Perpetrators of the reported incidents of physical violence

	Frequency	% Response	% Cases
Recent acquaintance-Male	460	5.5	10.7
Recent acquaintance-Female	197	2.4	4.6
Unknown-Male	616	7.4	14.3
Unknown-Female	7	0.1	0.2
Teacher-Male	113	1.3	2.6
Teacher-Female	63	0.8	1.5
Doctor/Health worker-Male	15	0.2	0.3
Doctor/Health worker-Female	1	0.0	0
Religious leader/fatwabaj-Male	5	0.1	0.1
Religious leader/fatwabaj-Female	0	0.0	0
Member of law enforcing agency-Male	6	0.1	0.1
Member of law enforcing agency-Female	1	0.0	0
Public harraser	182	2.2	4.2
Stepmother	58	0.7	1.3
Other	295	3.5	6.9

indicated by the ‘% of Cases’ total. The “% of responses” shows how survivors distributed their answers across different perpetrator categories, with the total adding up to 100 percent. In contrast, the “% of cases” reflects that many survivors named more than one perpetrator, which is why this column sums to more than 100 percent.

The total ‘% of Cases’ (194.9%) is an indication of poly-victimization, meaning the average survivor experienced physical violence from nearly two different types of perpetrators.

The analysis reveals that perpetrators are overwhelmingly family members, with female in-laws

being the most prevalent. The most significant category is ‘Mother-in-law’, responsible for 18.0% of all incidents and affecting 35.0% of all survivors—more than one in three. This is followed closely by violence from ‘Other male member of family’ (17.3% of incidents; 33.7% of cases) and ‘Brother/Sister-in-law’ (15.0% of incidents; 29.2% of cases).

The data further shows that violence is perpetrated within the home, including by the ‘Mother’ (10.5% of incidents; 20.5% of cases).

In summary, the findings indicate that the threat of non-partner physical violence primarily originates

Table 5.2.5: Number and percentage of survivors who experienced physical violence (by most harmful perpetrators)

Perpetrators (individuals responsible for the most harmful acts/behaviour)	Frequency	% of response	% of cases
Total	5,886	100	135.6
Father	206	3.5	4.8
Uncle (paternal/maternal/in-law)	89	1.5	2.1
Mother	665	11.3	15.3
Mother-in-law	1,115	18.9	25.7
Brother in-law/Sister in-law (nanad/jaa/bhai-bou)	827	14.1	19.1
Other male member of family	849	14.4	19.6
Other female member of family	290	4.9	6.7
Someone at work-Male	91	1.5	2.1
Someone at work-Female	18	0.3	0.4
Male friend	159	2.7	3.7

Perpetrators (individuals responsible for the most harmful acts/behaviour)	Frequency	% of response	% of cases
Female friend	41	0.7	0.9
Recent acquaintance-male	331	5.6	7.6
Recent acquaintance-female	112	1.9	2.6
Unknown-Male	556	9.4	12.8
Unknown-Female	14	0.2	0.3
Teacher-Male	95	1.6	2.2
Teacher-Female	49	0.8	1.1
Doctor/Health worker-Male	16	0.3	0.4
Doctor/Health worker-Female	1	0.0	0.0
Religious leader/fatwabaj-Male	3	0.1	0.1
Member of law enforcing agency-Male	4	0.1	0.1
Public harasser	168	2.9	3.9
Stepmother	36	0.6	0.8
Other	151	2.6	3.5

In this report, the Bangla term 'bokhate lok' has been translated as 'public harasser'.

from within the survivor's own family and in-law relationships. The extremely high prevalence of poly-victimization demonstrates that for many, this violence is not an isolated event but a persistent pattern of abuse inflicted by multiple perpetrators within their domestic environment.

Table 5.2.5 analyzes 5,886 reported experiences of lifetime physical violence perpetrated by the most harmful perpetrators against survivors by individuals other than intimate partners. These incidents were experienced by survivors, as indicated by the total % of Cases. The total % of Cases (135.6%) shows poly-victimization—on average, each survivor attributed their most harmful incident of violence to more than one type of perpetrator.

The analysis reveals that the perpetrators of the most harmful physical violence are overwhelmingly immediate and extended family members. The most significant category is 'Mother-in-law', identified in 18.9% of the most harmful incidents and affecting 25.7% of all survivors—more than one in four. This is followed closely by violence from 'Other Male member of family' (14.4% of incidents; 19.6% of cases) and 'Brother/Sister in-law' (14.1%; 19.1%). The familial setting is further underscored by the role of the 'Mother', responsible for 11.3% of incidents and 15.3% of cases.

In summary, the most severe non-partner physical violence primarily originates within the survivor's own family and in-law relationships, with female in-laws being the most prevalent perpetrators. The prevalence

of poly-victimization demonstrates that for many survivors, the most harmful physical violence is not an isolated event but part of a persistent pattern involving multiple perpetrators.

Figure 5.2.1 shows women who experienced physical violence, the majority (55.6%) reported being harmed by a single perpetrator. However, a substantial share experienced violence from multiple individuals—22% from two perpetrators, 9.1% from three, 6.1% from four and 7.3% from five or more. These findings indicate that while most women face abuse from a single perpetrator, a considerable portion endure violence from multiple sources, highlighting patterns of poly-victimisation and underscoring the complexity and intensity of their experiences.

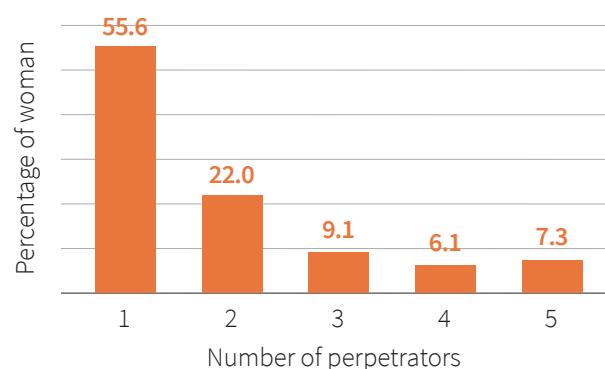


Figure 5.2.1: Distribution of survivors by maximum number of different perpetrators of physical violence

5.3 SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Table 5.3.1 presents data on the prevalence of non-partner sexual violence since age 15 by non-partners among all women aged 15 and above, disaggregated by age, marital status, education, wealth and functional difficulties status, covering both lifetime and last 12-month experiences.

Across age groups, lifetime prevalence is highest among adolescents aged 15–19 years (3.2%), followed closely by those aged 20–24 years and 25–29 years. The prevalence steadily declines with age, with women aged 50–54 years and 55–59 years reporting the lowest lifetime prevalence. In terms of recent experience, non-partner sexual violence in the past 12 months is highest among adolescents (1.7%), whereas prevalence is nearly negligible or zero among older age groups.

Marital status reveals notable differences. Women who have never married report a relatively higher lifetime (3.9%) and past-year (2.1%) experiences of non-partner sexual violence.

Education levels show a trend of increasing prevalence with higher levels of education. Women with higher

secondary education and those with a bachelor's degree or above report higher lifetime prevalence than women with no education or only pre-primary. Past-year prevalence is relatively high among women who completed secondary school.

Prevalence also increases modestly across wealth quintiles. Women in the wealthiest quintile report relatively high lifetime prevalence (3.1%) compared to the poorest (2.0%).

Lastly, women with moderate to severe functional difficulties report a higher lifetime prevalence of sexual violence by non-partners (3.0%) compared to those with no or some difficulties (2.2%). The difference is also evident for the past 12 months, with women with functional difficulties experiencing slightly higher recent violence.

Overall, young and married, living apart from husband report a relatively higher prevalence of non-partner sexual violence. Prevalence tends to decrease with age but increases slightly with higher education, wealth and disability status.

Table 5.3.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence (%) of non-partner sexual violence since age 15 years among all women (by socio-demographic characteristics)

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Age			
15-19	3.2	1.7	2,887
20-24	3.0	0.5	3,187
25-29	2.6	0.1	3,625
30-34	2.2	0.4	3,362
35-39	2.7	0.4	3,710
40-44	2.0	0.3	2,620
45-49	2.0	0.1	2,320
50-54	1.1	0.1	1,780
55-59	0.6	0	1,505
60+	1.1	0	2,480
Marital status			
Married and living with hus-band	1.9	0.2	21,101
Married, living apart from husband	4.0	0.5	1,088
Divorced, separated and widowed	1.9	0.6	2,774
Never married	3.9	2.1	2,513
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	1.8	0.2	8,574
Primary complete	2.0	0.5	3,354
Secondary incomplete	2.1	0.5	7,767
Secondary complete (SSC)	2.7	1.0	3,280
Higher Secondary (HSC)	3.4	0.3	2,635

Background characteristics	Lifetime (%)	Last 12 months (%)	n
Bachelor and above	3.3	0.4	1,865
Wealth index			
Poorest	2.0	0.3	5,475
Poorer	1.9	0.3	5,482
Middle	2.2	0.7	5,501
Richer	2.4	0.5	5,541
Richest	3.1	0.6	5,477
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	2.2	0.4	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	3.0	0.6	2,451

Table 5.3.2 presents national and sub-national data on the prevalence of specific acts of sexual violence committed by non-partners, reported by women across their lifetime and in the last 12 months. It provides both a composite measure (“any sexual act”) and four specific categories of sexual violence, disaggregated by rural, urban and city corporation areas.

Among the specific acts of violence, the most reported is attempted but unsuccessful forced sex, with a national lifetime prevalence of 1.4% and 0.3% in the past year. This act shows minimal variation by region, though prevalence is slightly higher in city corporations (1.7% lifetime).

Unwanted sexual touching—specifically, being touched on private parts with bad intentions—was reported by 1.1% of women nationally over their lifetime, with marginally higher rates in urban and city areas (up to 1.4%). The 12-month prevalence remains low (0.2–0.3%).

Forced sexual intercourse that was completed is reported by 0.2% of women over their lifetime and almost no one in the last 12 months. Slightly higher rates are seen in urban areas, but overall prevalence is very low.

Being forced to touch a perpetrator’s private parts is the least commonly reported act, with only 0.3% of women nationally indicating they experienced it in their lifetime and 0.1% in the past year, with little variation across areas.

In summary, while overall reported experiences of non-partner sexual violence are relatively low, the data indicates somewhat higher lifetime prevalence in urban and city corporation areas. Attempted sexual violence and unwanted touching are the most frequently reported acts, with actual completed acts and forced sexual contact being far less common. Reports of violence within the last 12 months remain consistently lower than lifetime figures, across all forms and locations.

Table 5.3.2: Prevalence of specific acts of non-partner sexual violence among all women aged 15+ years

Acts of sexual violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation (CC)		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months
Total (Any sexual act)	2.2	0.5	2.1	0.5	2.5	0.5	2.8	0.6	2.3	0.4
a) Physically forced to have sex and succeeded	0.2	0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0	0.3	0	0.2	0
b) Tried to have sex against your will but did not succeed	1.4	0.3	1.4	0.3	1.5	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.3	0.3
c) Touched your private parts with bad intention	1.1	0.2	1.0	0.2	1.3	0.2	1.4	0.3	1.3	0.2

Acts of sexual violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation (CC)		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months	Lifetime	Last 12 months
d) Forced you to touch their private parts against your will	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0

5.3.1 FREQUENCY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY A NON-PARTNERS

Non-partner sexual violence continues to be a cause of concern for Bangladesh, where 2.2% of women aged 15 years and older have experienced sexual violence since age 15 years.

Table 5.3.3 presents a breakdown of how often women in Bangladesh have experienced specific forms of sexual violence perpetrated by non-partners—defined as individuals other than current or former husbands. Four acts of non-partner sexual violence are analyzed.

Among women who reported experiencing non-partner sexual violence in the last 12 months, the most commonly reported act was unwanted sexual touching—69.1% said their private parts were inappropriately touched at least once. Similarly, 57.7% reported being forced to touch the perpetrator's private parts once, 53.1% experienced attempted but unsuccessful forced sex once and 50% were physically forced to have sex once in the past year.

A significant proportion also experienced repeated incidents. For example, 37.5% of women who were

physically forced to have sex said it occurred a few times and 12.5% said it happened many times. Likewise, 40.6% of women experienced attempted forced sex a few times and 6.3% many times. Unwanted touching and coercion to touch the perpetrator's sex organs were also recurrent for a notable share of women.

Lifetime data show similar patterns. Most women reported experiencing each type of act only once over their lifetime: 64.5% for unwanted touching, 60.8% for attempted forced sex, 56% for coercion to touch and 54.4% for forced sex. However, a substantial share experienced repeated abuse. For example, 30.9% experienced forced sex 1–5 times in their life and 14.7% reported it occurred six or more times—suggesting persistence in abuse for some.

When considering all four types of non-partner sexual violence collectively: In the past 12 months, 58.4% experienced an incident once, 32% a few times and 9.6% many times. Over their lifetime, 62.8% experienced such acts once, 31.5% 1–5 times and 5.8% many times.

These findings highlight that while single incidents are most common, a considerable portion of women experience repeated abuse, especially in the form of

Table 5.3.3: Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of non-partner sexual violence experienced by all women aged 15+ years

Type of acts	Lifetime				Last 12 months			
	Once	Few times	Many times	n	Once	Few times	Many times	n
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
Total (Any sexual act)	62.8	31.5	5.8	693	58.4	32	9.6	125
a) Physically forced to have sex and succeeded	54.4	30.9	14.7	68	50	37.5	12.5	8
b) Tried to have sex against your will but did not succeed	60.8	35.5	3.8	400	53.1	40.6	6.3	64
c) Touched your private parts with bad intention	64.5	27.9	7.6	341	69.1	21.8	9.1	55
d) Forced you to touch their private parts against your will	56	38.5	5.5	109	57.7	34.6	7.7	26

forced sex and unwanted sexual acts. This underscores the importance of addressing both the prevalence and frequency of non-partner sexual violence in policies and protection efforts.

Table 5.3.4 analyzes a total of 1,039 reported experiences of lifetime sexual violence perpetrated against survivors by individuals other than intimate partners. The ‘% of responses’ shows how survivors’ answers are distributed across perpetrator categories, summing to 100 percent. The ‘% of cases’ reflects that many survivors named multiple perpetrators, causing this column to exceed 100 percent.

The total of 151.5 percent indicates poly-victimization, meaning the average survivor experienced violence from more than one type of perpetrator.

The analysis reveals that perpetrators are overwhelmingly known to the survivors. The most significant category is

‘Other male family members’, responsible for 19.3% of all incidents and affecting 29.2% of all survivors—nearly one in three. This is followed closely by violence from male friends (18.2% of incidents; 27.5% of cases) and unknown males (17.7% of incidents; 26.8% of cases). The data further shows that violence is perpetrated in various settings, including by acquaintances (21.5% of cases) and individuals at work (16.2% of cases).

In summary, the findings indicate that the threat of non-partner sexual violence primarily originates from survivors’ acquaintances, though strangers are also a notable source. The high prevalence of poly-victimization demonstrates that for many, sexual violence is not an isolated event but a pattern inflicted by different perpetrators across multiple environments

Table 5.3.4: Distribution of perpetrators of lifetime non-partner sexual violence (share of responses and cases)

Persons (non-partners) responsible for acts of sexual violence	Frequency	% of Responses	% of Cases
Total	1039	100	151.5
Stepfather	0	0	0
Uncle (paternal/maternal/in-law)	35	3.4	5.1
Other male family members	200	19.3	29.2
Other female family members	9	0.9	1.4
Someone at work-Male	111	10.7	16.2
Friend-Male	189	18.2	27.5
Unknown-Male	184	17.7	26.8
Little known-Male	147	14.2	21.5
Teacher-Male	16	1.6	2.4
Doctor/Health worker-Male	3	0.3	0.4
Religious leader/fatuabaj-Male	2	0.2	0.3
Law enforcement member-Male	0	0.0	0
Public harasser	84	8.1	12.3
Other	58	5.5	8.4

In this report, the Bangla term ‘bokhate lok’ has been translated as ‘public harasser’.

In-depth research revealed that women faced violence from non-partners, especially husbands' family members such as mothers- and sisters-in-law. While the survey defined and measured non-partner violence as physical and sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than a current or former husband, in-depth research helped capture how women also encountered forms of economic violence, emotional violence and controlling behaviours from non-partners.

Women in interviews said that their mothers-in-law restricted their access to financial resources and controlled all their spending. Some women also reported that their in-laws limited their access to education, which further increased their economic dependency on husbands' families.

"If my child was sick, I had to ask my mother-in-law for small amounts like 5 or 10 taka."

- Afifa, Dhaka

Violence from women's in-laws often manifested in verbal insults and bullying and commonly consisted of insults related to gendered responsibilities, such as cooking and household chores. In many cases, verbal abuse also led to physical violence from women's in-laws. This was true in Fatema's case. She recounted an incident where confronting her mother-in-law's bullying led to an argument in which she was slapped. Devastated, she sought support from her husband, but instead he blamed her.

"He just said, 'It was your fault for arguing with her.' That hurt more than anything."

- Fatema, Dhaka

Lack of spousal support was consistent among women who experienced violence from their husbands' families. Pervin similarly discussed her husband's failure to support her and spoke about her mother-in-law's wide-ranging abuse, including restricting her access to food. The abuse was further exacerbated by the fact that Pervin's husband lived and worked in the Middle East.

"She started to give me not enough food...I was the person who used to eat last. My husband's brothers and sisters always got the good food—the good pieces of chicken, the fish, everything...sometimes, my mother-in-law would eat with all her sons and daughters. She wouldn't even allow me to eat at the same table."

- Pervin, Dhaka

While the reasons for in-law violence are nuanced, in patriarchal and patrilocal societies mothers-in-law often hold higher status within the family than their sons' wives. Having navigated similar patriarchal systems and internalised harmful gender norms, mothers-in-law may assert dominance over daughters-in-law to reinforce their authority. Overall, patriarchal gender norms sustain patrilineal traditions, creating an enabling environment for in-law abuse against women.

5.4 COMPARISON BETWEEN PARTNER AND NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Table 5.4.1 provides a comparative analysis of physical and sexual violence between partner and non-partner, offering a disaggregated view of women's experiences across geographic and household contexts.

Nationally, women report significantly higher levels of violence from partners than from non-partners. Lifetime physical violence by partners stands at 47.3%, compared to 15.0% by non-partners. For sexual violence, 29.0%

Table 5.4.1: Comparison of physical and sexual violence between partner and non-partner

Background characteristics	Physical violence				Sexual violence				n	
	Lifetime		Last 12 months		Lifetime		Last 12 months			
	Partner	Non-partner	Partner	Non-partner	Partner	Non-partner	Partner	Non-partner	Partner	Non-partner
Area of residence										
National	47.3	15.0	10.6	3.7	29.0	2.2	9.4	0.5	24,963	27,476
Rural	48.0	14.3	10.5	3.4	28.0	2.1	8.9	0.5	10,246	11,038
Urban	45.6	16.5	10.9	4.5	31.3	2.5	10.5	0.5	14,717	16,438
City Corporation (CC)	43.8	17.6	11.3	4.9	31.4	2.8	11.6	0.6	8,741	9,892
Urban (excluding CC)	46.8	15.7	10.6	4.1	31.3	2.3	9.8	0.4	5,976	6,546
Division										
Barishal	50.9	17.1	13.0	3.7	35.7	2.2	13.2	0.5	2,310	2,469
Chattogram	45.5	17.9	10.9	4.3	34.1	3.3	11.2	0.4	3,897	4,294
Dhaka	44.2	15.1	9.3	4.5	27.8	2.7	8.7	0.5	5,708	6,347
Khulna	57.2	13.6	11.1	3.8	29.5	2.0	9.1	0.5	2,776	3,001
Mymensingh	43.6	9.2	9.0	3.1	23.0	3.3	7.6	0.4	2,370	2,632
Rajshahi	49.9	14.5	9.5	2.7	27.2	0.8	7.8	0.1	3,036	3,246
Rangpur	50.2	17.1	14.1	3.4	26.6	2.5	9.1	0.5	2,795	3,039
Sylhet	33.5	9.3	10.7	4.0	28.2	1.7	10.7	0.5	2,071	2,448
Type of household										
Slum	53.7	14.3	14.1	3.8	36.4	1.4	10.1	0.7	713	765
Non slum	47.1	15.0	10.6	3.7	28.8	2.3	9.4	0.5	24,250	26,711
Disaster-prone status										
Disaster-prone	51.2	16.4	10.7	3.1	32.4	2.8	10.8	0.4	6,777	7,363
Non disaster-prone	45.7	14.4	10.6	3.3	27.6	2.0	8.8	0.5	18,186	20,113

report lifetime experience from partners versus 2.2% from non-partners. This trend persists for recent experiences, with partner violence remaining considerably higher.

Urban women, particularly those in city corporation areas, face higher levels of non-partner violence than rural women, whereas rural women experience slightly higher partner violence. For example, lifetime non-partner physical violence is 17.6% in city corporations versus 14.3% in rural areas, while partner violence is higher in rural areas (48.0%).

At the divisional level, Khulna reports the highest prevalence of lifetime partner physical violence, while Chattogram and Barishal lead in non-partner physical violence. Barishal also records the highest partner sexual violence and notable recent partner violence.

Women in slum areas are particularly vulnerable, reporting 53.7% lifetime partner physical violence and 14.3% from non-partners, with higher rates of recent violence as well. This highlights the compounded faced in marginalized urban settings.

Similarly, women in disaster-prone areas report a higher prevalence of both partner and non-partner violence, particularly over their lifetime, with the prevalence relatively higher for physical and sexual IPV.

Overall, partner violence remains the most pervasive form of violence experienced by women, yet non-partner violence—especially in urban, slum and disaster-prone settings—poses a significant concern. These findings underscore the need for tailored prevention and response strategies addressing both partner and non-partner violence.

6 TECHNOLOGY- FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

6.1 BACKGROUND

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) represents a rapidly emerging dimension of violence against women in the digital age. As digital tools, including mobile phones, social media and messaging platforms, become integral to everyday life, these same technologies are increasingly being misused as tools for harassment, control and abuse. UNFPA (2023) defines TFGBV as “an act of violence perpetrated by one or more individuals that is committed, assisted, aggravated and amplified in part or fully by the use of information and communication technologies or digital media, against a person on the basis of their gender.”

These definitions encompass a spectrum of behaviors, including cyber harassment (persistent online abuse), cyberstalking (digital surveillance with implied threats), image-based abuse (nonconsensual creation, sharing or threats to distribute intimate content), deepfake exploitation (AI-generated explicit content) and technology-enabled intimate partner surveillance. TFGBV often

occurs in private or virtual spaces, without witnesses, making detection and response particularly challenging. This highlights the online–offline continuum, where technology can be misused to extend violence across spheres—for example, using digital tools to track someone’s whereabouts in order to locate them offline and cause harm.

In Bangladesh, the rapid growth of ICT infrastructure and widespread use of mobile phones and social media platforms have expanded both the reach and complexity of TFGBV. While this technological expansion has enhanced access to information and communication, it has also created new channels for gender-based harm. According to GSMA (2023), many female users in Bangladesh lack awareness of digital privacy protections or the tools to report abuse, making them more vulnerable. In many cases, mobile phones have become tools of control within intimate relationships—used for monitoring, harassment and non consensual content sharing.

6.2 MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES AND CONCEPTUAL GAPS

Capturing TFGBV in national surveys remains a methodological challenge. Unlike physical or emotional violence, TFGBV currently lacks a universally accepted definition and a standardized taxonomy of behaviors. A statistical framework is being developed through the United Nations Statistical Commission and until it is formally adopted, robust measurement standards remain absent. Terms such as “online harassment” or

“cyberstalking” are interpreted differently across cultures and contexts. In Bangladesh, the local understanding of technology facilitated violence may diverge significantly from global norms, affecting both response accuracy and prevalence estimates.

This is where it becomes essential to clarify that the Violence Against Women Survey 2024 does not

generate a comprehensive “TFGBV prevalence”. Rather, it focuses only on the prevalence of selected forms of TFGBV, reflecting a limited set of acts included in the questionnaire. This distinction is critical: underreporting or underestimation due to constrained survey

instruments may obscure the true extent of TFGBV. As UNFPA (2023) cautions, “Underestimating TFGBV due to incomplete measurement may be more damaging than having no data at all.”

6.3 INCLUSION OF TFGBV IN THE VAW 2024 SURVEY

The inclusion of a TFGBV module in the VAW Survey 2024 represents a significant advancement. This was implemented as a set of questions within the non-partner module, asked of all women about their experiences since age 15, with perpetrators potentially being either partners or non-partners. In addition, TFGBV-related acts of controlling behavior were captured in the partner violence module. This marks one of Bangladesh’s first nationally representative efforts to capture data on technology-facilitated acts of violence against women. Recognizing data and conceptual gaps, the module employed a structured, context-sensitive approach:

- **Technology Access as a Baseline:** Respondents were first screened for exposure to mobile phones and digital platforms.
- **Unwanted Sexual Communications:** The survey asked about experiences of unsolicited sexual messages or online harassment through social media or messaging apps.

- **Sexual Blackmail and Image-Based Abuse:** Women were queried about experiences of sextortion, threats to share intimate images and actual non-consensual distribution of such content.
- **Technology-Facilitated Controlling Behavior:** A key component of the TFGBV module was the measurement of controlling behaviors using digital tools. Women were asked whether their partners monitored their phones, read messages without permission, tracked their online activity or demanded access to social media accounts. These questions reflect how digital platforms, including Facebook, have become tools for extending coercive control within intimate relationships, reinforcing emotional and psychological abuse.
- **Perpetrator Identification:** To assess the relational dimension of abuse, questions probed the relationship between survivors and perpetrators—whether intimate partners, acquaintances or strangers.

6.4 PREVALENCE OF TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED VIOLENCE

Table 6.4.1 presents women’s reported experiences of selected forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Bangladesh, both over their lifetimes and in the 12 months preceding the survey. Nationally, 8.3% of women reported having experienced some form of TFGBV

in their lifetime, while 5.2% experienced such violence in the past year. These estimates reflect exposure to a limited number of specific TFGBV acts and should not be interpreted as capturing the full spectrum of TFGBV.

Table 6.4.1: Lifetime and last 12 months (prior to survey) prevalence of technology-facilitated gender-based violence among all women

Background characteristics	All women		
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	n
	%	%	
National	8.3	5.2	27,476
Rural	7.4	4.7	11,038
Urban	10.3	6.4	16,438
City Corporation (CC)	11.9	7.1	9,892
Urban (excluding CC)	9.2	5.8	6,546

Background characteristics	All women		
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	n
	%	%	
Division			
Barishal	8.5	5.0	2,469
Chattogram	12.2	8.4	4,294
Dhaka	9.7	6.2	6,347
Khulna	6.2	3.2	3,001
Mymensingh	7.2	4.4	2,632
Rajshahi	5.1	2.4	3,246
Rangpur	5.0	2.9	3,039
Sylhet	6.4	5.4	2,448
Type of household			
Slum	4.6	3.2	765
Non slum	8.3	5.2	26,711
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone	10.0	6.2	7,363
Non disaster-prone	7.6	4.8	20,113
Age			
15-19	11.9	9.6	2,887
20-24	16.0	11.0	3,187
25-29	13.3	7.9	3,625
30-34	10.2	5.6	3,362
35-39	7.1	3.8	3,710
40-44	5.0	2.3	2,620
45-49	3.7	1.8	2,320
50-54	2.3	1.0	1,780
55-59	1.4	0.8	1,505
60+	1.4	0.4	2,480
Marital status			
Married and living with husband	7.7	4.8	21,101
Married, living apart from husband	19.8	13.8	1,088
Divorced, separated and widowed	4.3	1.4	2,774
Never married	10.1	7.2	2,513
Educational attainment			
No education/pre-primary	2.8	1.6	8,574
Primary complete	4.9	2.9	3,354
Secondary incomplete	9.8	6.7	7,767
Secondary complete (SSC)	12.8	7.9	3,280
Higher secondary (HSC)	16.7	11.0	2,635
Bachelor and above	18.8	9.0	1,865

Background characteristics	All women		
	Lifetime	Last 12 months	n
	%	%	
Wealth index			
Poorest	4.9	3.4	5,475
Poorer	7.0	4.8	5,482
Middle	8.5	5.2	5,501
Richer	9.1	5.4	5,541
Richest	14.9	8.6	5,477
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	8.6	5.5	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	4.5	2.2	2,451
Use any electronic device			
Yes	10.3	6.3	20,172
No	3.4	2.6	7,304

TFGBV is more commonly reported in urban settings, particularly in city corporations, where lifetime prevalence reaches nearly 12%. By division, the highest rates were recorded in Chattogram, followed by Dhaka and Barishal, while Rangpur and Rajshahi reported the lowest. Women living in disaster-prone areas also reported higher exposure to TFGBV compared to those in non disaster-prone regions.

The forms of TFGBV measured suggest prevalence varies by age: younger women face a notably higher prevalence, with 16% of those aged 20–24 years reporting lifetime experience of TFGBV, compared to just 1.4% among women aged 60 years and above.

TFGBV prevalence is relatively high among women who are married but living apart from their husbands and among never-married women.

The data also show sharp disparities by education and wealth. Women with higher education and from the wealthiest quintiles are more likely to report TFGBV, with nearly 19% of women with bachelor's degrees or higher affected. In contrast, women with no education reported only 2.8% lifetime prevalence.

Use of digital devices increases exposure to TFGBV. Among women who use any electronic device, 10.3% reported lifetime experience, compared to 3.4% among non-users.

Functional ability also influences TFGBV: women with moderate or severe difficulties report markedly lower rates.

Overall, these findings suggest that TFGBV is a growing concern, especially among younger, urban and digitally connected women. However, it is important to reiterate that the reported rates reflect only some forms of TFGBV, based on the limited acts included in the questionnaire.

The VAW in-depth research showed that technology-facilitated gender-based violence can occur within marriage, often perpetrated by husbands. Women in interviews specifically highlighted image-based sexual abuse as a common and harmful form of violence that they experienced. This included their husbands producing, recording, disseminating and/or threatening to distribute intimate images or videos without the woman's consent.

Kohinoor (pseudonym), for example, entered an arranged marriage at 18 years old and faced continuous image-based sexual abuse from her husband. Kohinoor explained that her husband frequently made videos of their intimate moments and took photos and videos of her changing clothes, despite Kohinoor expressing that she did not want him to do that. Kohinoor was later shocked to discover that her husband was selling her private photos and videos online to make money.

“He even made me, his wife, a product... he just sold my videos, my pictures, to earn money.”
—Kohinoor, Dhaka

Kohinoor shared that her husband also didn’t respect her consent in their physical sexual relationship, further illustrating how TFGBV occurs on an online-offline continuum. More broadly, such evidence suggests that married women may be particularly at risk of experiencing both TFGBV and in-person violence from their husbands.

In-depth research also revealed that it was increasingly common for women, especially adolescent girls and young women, to experience TFGBV from boys and men in dating relationships. For example, Zannat (pseudonym) discussed how her boyfriend started pressuring her to send him nude photos of her when she was a higher secondary school student. Zannat tried to protest, but her boyfriend coerced her into sending the photos by threatening to expose their relationship to her parents.

“He said if I don’t send him a nude picture, he will tell my parents about our relationship.”
—Zannat, Noakhali

In contexts where dating before marriage is socially stigmatized, adolescent girls and young women may be more likely to be exposed to TFGBV, since young people often use technology to build intimate relationships to avoid parental and family supervision.

Women in interviews also indicated that they experienced TFGBV from male friends, especially when they rejected a romantic relationship with them. This included Kajol (pseudonym), who experienced TFGBV from a male school friend when she was an adolescent. When Kajol’s male school friend proposed a romantic relationship with her and she rejected him, the male friend posted fake conversations and edited photos of them together on social media to convince people that Kajol was romantically involved with him. Despite Kajol’s innocence in the situation, she shared that she faced victim-blaming from both her family and friends, which increased her feelings of isolation.

Similarly, Munira (pseudonym) also encountered victim-blaming from her friends when she experienced TFGBV. This included her friends questioning why she had a Facebook account, implying that the TFGBV experience was her fault.

“I heard from some friends that, ‘Why did you create a Facebook account?’ So instead of getting help, sometimes you will be judged by your friends and by your relatives. And you will be part of their gossip.”

—Munira, Noakhali

These in-depth research findings suggest that young women and adolescent girls are particularly at risk of experiencing TFGBV, including in dating relationships and friendships. Furthermore, survivors’ experiences of victim-blaming from friends and family indicate that patriarchal gender norms in communities urgently need to be addressed, so survivors are adequately supported.

Table 6.4.2 presents data on perpetrators of technology-facilitated harassment and blackmail against women. It analyzes 259 reported lifetime instances of such violence and 106 instances occurring in the last 12 months. The “% of responses” column reflects the distribution of all reported perpetrators, while the “% of cases” column shows the share of survivors who experienced harassment from each type of perpetrator. The totals for “% of cases” exceed 100% (104.9% for lifetime and 102.9% for the last 12 months), indicating that some survivors experienced harassment from multiple perpetrators.

A key contrast with other forms of violence is evident: strangers dominate as perpetrators of technology-facilitated violence. For lifetime experiences, Complete

stranger – Male emerges as the most significant category, accounting for 43.6% of responses and affecting 45.8% of survivors. This is followed by Male friends (16.2% of responses; 17.0% of cases) and Recent acquaintance – Male (13.9% of responses; 14.6% of cases). The pattern is even sharper for recent experiences, where Complete stranger – Male represents 47.2% of responses and affected 48.5% of survivors.

Comparing lifetime and recent experiences highlights a consolidation of harassment from strangers and recent acquaintances. In the past 12 months, harassment by Complete stranger – Male accounted for 47.2% of responses, while harassment by Recent acquaintance – Male was 16.0%.

Table 6.4.2: Percentage of responses and cases by type of perpetrator involved in harassment/blackmail

Persons responsible for harassment or blackmail	Lifetime			Last 12 months		
	Number of responses	% responses	% of cases	Number of responses	% responses	% of cases
Total	259	100.0	104.9	106	100	102.9
Present husband	6	2.3	2.4	4	3.77	3.9
Past husband	8	3.1	3.2	2	1.89	1.9
Male friend	42	16.2	17.0	11	10.38	10.7
Friend (Female)	6	2.3	2.4	2	1.89	1.9
Classmate	9	3.5	3.6	1	0.94	1.0
Uncle (paternal/maternal/in-law) /aunt	1	0.4	0.4	1	0.94	1.0
Stepfather	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Other male family members	7	2.7	2.8	2	1.89	1.9
Someone at work -Male	3	1.2	1.2	2	1.89	1.9
Someone at work -Female	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Recent acquaintance - Male	36	13.9	14.6	17	16.04	16.5
Complete stranger - Male	113	43.6	45.8	50	47.17	48.5
Teacher-Male	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Doctor/Health worker-Male	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Religious leader - Male	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Law enforcement member - Male	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Public harasser	18	7.0	7.3	9	8.49	8.7
Cousin	4	1.5	1.6	3	2.83	2.9
Politically influential local leader	1	0.4	0.4	0	0	0.0
Fiance	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Other	5	1.9	2.0	2	1.89	1.9

In-depth research indicated that perpetrators were increasingly using fake profiles to enact TFGBV against women. This was the case for Munira (pseudonym), who experienced online abuse as an entrepreneur selling products through her Facebook page. One day, Munira discovered that she had a fake Facebook profile, which was filled with digitally manipulated photos of her (deepfake image-based abuse).

“I came to know that I have another Facebook page... and the person who created the Facebook page sent invitations to all my friends and family members. **They used my photo, my face and they put my face and everything to another nude body and they were circulating those through the Facebook page under my name.** It was circulated to my friends and relatives... and the title of the page is a very, very bad name –as we call it in Bengali, “magi”, means that you are a whore or sex girl.”

– Munira, Noakhali

Munira shared that she did not know who created the fake profile and the NGO she sought help from could not identify the perpetrator either. Furthermore, after the NGO helped Munira deactivate the fake account, someone created another new, fake profile. Key informant interviews with stakeholders further confirmed this trend of fake profiles. An NGO stakeholder, for example, recalled handling a case where the perpetrator made 50 fake accounts to harass one woman.

“In one case, a perpetrator used 50 fake accounts across various platforms like Viber and imo to harass a woman. Even after efforts were made to disable these accounts, the perpetrator continued creating new ones.”

—Key informant interview, NGO representative, Noakhali

These cases demonstrate how the anonymous and accessible nature of technology makes it possible for perpetrators to continually harass women online, while also producing immense challenges for survivors when they attempt to seek justice.

In summary, technology-facilitated violence follows a markedly different pattern than intimate partner violence, with the majority of perpetrators being unknown males. The growing prominence of strangers and acquaintances in recent experiences underscores the rising incidence of technology-enabled harassment originating outside women’s immediate social networks.

Table 6.4.3 examines perpetrators who caused feelings of embarrassment through technology-facilitated harassment. It covers 217 lifetime instances and 82 instances in the last 12 months. As with Table 6.4.2, totals for “% of cases” exceed 100% (107.4% lifetime and 105.1% last 12 months), indicating that many survivors reported embarrassment caused by multiple perpetrators.

The data reveals a broadly similar pattern to general harassment, though with distinct emotional dimensions. For lifetime experiences, Complete stranger – Male was the largest category, accounting for 28.6% of responses and causing embarrassment to 30.7% of survivors. This was followed by Male friends (21.7% of responses; 23.3% of cases) and Recent acquaintance – Male (12.4% of responses; 13.4% of cases).

The same structure persists in recent experiences, with strangers remaining the dominant perpetrators. However, last 12 months data shows a relative rise in the role of acquaintances. Recent acquaintance – Male accounted for 14.6% of recent responses, signaling a growing role of peers in causing embarrassment.

Female friends and classmates also constitute notable proportions, suggesting that harassment from peers can have significant emotional consequences.

In summary, technology-facilitated embarrassment is primarily driven by unknown males, but acquaintances and peers contribute substantially to survivors’ distress.

The consistency across lifetime and recent experiences—alongside a shift toward acquaintance-perpetrated embarrassment—illustrates the evolving and persistent nature of technology-facilitated harassment, which enables both strangers and peers to inflict emotional harm through digital platforms.

Table 6.4.3: Number and percentage of responses and cases by type of perpetrator for whom the survivors felt embarrassed

Individuals who made survivors feel embarrassed	Lifetime			Last 12 months		
	Frequency	% responses	% of cases	Frequency	% responses	% of cases
Total	217	100	107.4	82	100	105.1
Present husband	5	2.3	2.5	3	3.7	3.9
Past husband	7	3.2	3.5	3	3.7	3.9
Male friend	47	21.7	23.3	11	13.4	14.1
Female friend	16	7.4	7.9	5	6.1	6.4
Classmate	14	6.5	6.9	3	3.7	3.9
Uncle (paternal/maternal/in-law) /aunt	1	0.5	0.5	1	1.2	1.3
Stepfather	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other male family members	5	2.3	2.5	3	3.7	3.9
Someone at work -Male	1	0.5	0.5	1	1.2	1.3
Someone at work -Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recent acquaintance - Male	27	12.4	13.4	12	14.6	15.4
Complete stranger - Male	62	28.6	30.7	26	31.7	33.3
Teacher - Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doctor/Health worker - Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Religious leader - Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement member - Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public harasser	13	6.0	6.4	4	4.9	5.1
Cousin	5	2.3	2.5	1	1.2	1.3
Politically influential local leader	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fiance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	14	6.5	6.9	9	11.0	11.5

In-depth research revealed that survivors faced confusion and frustration when seeking assistance for TFGBV cases. A legal NGO representative explained that law enforcement agencies often shifted responsibility among different divisions, with no single body taking clear ownership. This lack of coordination, combined with survivors’ limited awareness of and access to formal services, left many uncertain about where to turn for effective support. As the key informant explained:

“We often hear [from survivors], **‘I want to report, but I don’t know how’**.”
 - Key informant interview, Legal NGO representative, Dhaka

Many women relied on informal support systems such as relatives, neighbours or NGOs. However, these informal networks could be unreliable, inconsistent or limited in what they offered. For example, one key informant emphasised the importance of offering mental health support for women experiencing violence but explained that their NGO struggled to provide regular counselling services due to budget issues.

A key informant also highlighted that TFGBV cases could only be filed at cyber tribunals in Dhaka and Chittagong, making travel costs even more burdensome.

“Bangladesh has only two cyber tribunals—one in Dhaka and another in Chittagong. Victims must travel to these tribunals to file cases, making the process costly and inaccessible.”

- Key informant interview, NGO representative, Noakhali

Results also indicated that police officers and judges require specialized training on TFGBV, including guidance on filing reports and familiarity with relevant technologies. Key informants suggested that some police officers downplayed TFGBV behaviours, especially those related to image-base sexual abuse, thereby demonstrating a lack of understanding of the seriousness of TFGBV.

“Receiving nude pictures on phones has become normalised and many don’t view this as cybercrime. Additionally, police departments struggle to investigate crimes on platforms like Snapchat and TikTok, focusing primarily on Facebook. They feel more comfortable using Facebook than apps popular with younger generations.”

- Key informant interview, Legal NGO representative, Dhaka

These findings underscore the need for capacity building support for service providers so that they have the necessary expertise to manage TFGBV cases, as well as understand the seriousness of TFGBV as a form of violence.

7 REPORTING, LEGAL RECOURSE, AND AWARENESS

REPORTING, LEGAL RECOURSE AND AWARENESS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Most survivors among ever-married women (64.0%) did not tell anyone about their experiences of violence, while only 36.0% came forward to share them with someone else.
- Among women who share their experiences of violence, one in three open up to their parents.
- Only 7.4% of IPV survivors and 3.8% of NPV survivors took legal action in the past 12 months.
- Most IPV survivors who took legal action sought help from a local leader, while for NPV survivors it was the police, followed by a local leader.
- One in every four IPV survivors went to the police and one in every ten went to court to seek justice.
- One in two interviewed women do not know where to report violence.
- Knowledge of the two government helplines remains generally low: only 45% of interviewed women are aware of 999 and just 12% know about 109.

Effective prevention and response to violence against women requires more than documenting its prevalence—it demands a deeper understanding of how women seek help, whether they report violence, take legal action and what knowledge they have of available support systems.

Knowledge of where and how to report VAW is not merely informational—it is empowering. It enables survivors to break the cycle of violence and access justice. Countries with strong legal frameworks and accessible reporting mechanisms consistently show lower rates of intimate partner violence, underscoring the preventive power of robust systems (UN Women, 2024). In this context,

collecting nationally representative data on reporting behaviors, legal action and awareness of services—including knowledge of the government’s national helpline—is central to designing evidence-based policies, protecting survivors and ensuring accountability. Transforming silence into action begins with knowing where, how and why women seek—or do not seek—help.

Understanding whether survivors pursue legal action—and whether they seek redress through formal institutions (courts, police, legal aid) or informal systems (community leaders, family, religious bodies)—is equally important. These patterns reveal not only women’s pathways to justice but also

the barriers that deter them, such as cost, procedural complexity, fear or mistrust. Data on legal recourse helps identify underutilized institutions, guide resource allocation and shape more survivor-centered justice systems.

This chapter presents findings on key dimensions of VAW response. It begins with data on the reporting of intimate

partner violence, followed by reasons for non-reporting and legal action taken. It then examines responses to non-partner violence and concludes with insights into women’s knowledge of where and how to report violence, including awareness of helplines and other support channels.

7.1 REPORTING OF PARTNER VIOLENCE

A culture of silence prevails around women’s experiences of violence, limiting their access to support. Among ever-married women, 64.0% did not tell anyone about their lifetime experiences of violence, while only 36.0% came forward to share them (Table 7.1.1). There are hardly any rural-urban gaps in this regard.

Table 7.1.2 presents data on whom women turned to after experiencing violence - people they shared with and institutions they reported to. It covers 12,026 lifetime experiences of physical or sexual violence survivors nationally. The “% of responses” column shows the share of all instances directed to each person or institution, while the “% of cases” column shows the share of survivors who shared with or reported to each.

Table 7.1.1: Percentage of ever married women sharing experiences of physical and/or sexual violence by husband/partner to persons/authorities

	National	Rural	Urban
Number of survivors (n)	13,485	5,782	7,703
Survivors who told no one (%)	64.0	63.4	64.4
Survivors who told someone (%)	36.0	36.4	35.6

Table 7.1.2: Persons to whom the survivors shared/reported their experience of physical or sexual violence

Reported to/ Shared with	National			Rural			Urban		
	Frequency	% responses	% of cases	Frequency	% responses	% of cases	Frequency	% responses	% of cases
Parents	3,641	30.1	78.8	1,608	31.4	79.0	2,033	27.1	78.4
Father-in-law/ Mother-in-law	1,203	10.2	26.8	521	10.2	25.6	682	10.2	29.6
Brother/Sister	1,445	12.5	32.8	610	12.0	30.2	835	13.6	39.2
Brother-in-law/ Sister-in-law	1,542	13.4	35.2	659	12.9	32.3	883	14.6	42.3
Other relatives	1,043	9.4	24.7	481	9.1	23.0	562	10.1	29.1
Friend	851	6.6	17.3	364	6.7	16.9	487	6.3	18.2
Neighbor	235	1.7	4.6	81	1.6	3.9	154	2.1	6.1
Police	1,322	10.4	27.2	561	10.3	26.0	761	10.5	30.3
Doctor/Health worker	149	1.1	3.0	59	1.1	2.8	90	1.2	3.4
Religious leader	55	0.4	1.0	19	0.4	0.9	36	0.5	1.4
NGO	11	0.1	0.2	5	0.1	0.2	6	0.0	0.1
Local leader	7	0.1	0.1	4	0.1	0.2	3	0.0	0.1
Colleague	479	3.7	9.7	201	3.8	9.6	278	3.4	9.7
Other	43	0.3	0.9	16	0.3	0.8	27	0.4	1.0
Total	12,026	100	262.2	5,189	100	251.3	6,837	100	289.1

Totals exceeding 100% nationally (262.2%), in rural areas (251.3%) and in urban areas (289.1%) indicate that most survivors shared with or reported to more than one party.

At the national level, parents are the most common confidants, accounting for 30.1% of all instances shared and being turned to by 78.8% of all survivors. Other primary familial channels include brothers/sisters-in-law (13.4% of responses; 35.2% of cases) and own brothers/sisters (12.5% of responses; 32.8% of cases). Notably, the police are a significant reporting channel, representing 10.4% of all reports and being contacted by 27.2% of survivors. In contrast, NGOs (0.1% of responses) and health workers (1.1% of responses) are rarely utilized.

In terms of rural and urban perspectives, parents remain the primary recipients in both settings, slightly higher in rural areas (79.0%) than urban (78.4%). Urban survivors tend to share more broadly with extended family—brothers/sisters-in-law (42.3% urban vs. 32.3% rural), brothers/sisters (39.2% vs. 30.2%) and other relatives (29.1% vs. 23.0%). Reporting to police is also more prevalent in urban areas (30.3% of cases) than in rural areas (26.0%).

To sum-up, survivors mainly share their experiences within immediate and extended family, while formal

systems are utilized relatively less frequently. The high totals across settings confirm that survivors share with multiple people and report to multiple institutions rather than relying on a single contact.

Table A9 in the appendix shows that, at the national level, most survivors shared their experience of physical or sexual violence with only one person or institution (41.4%), while smaller proportions reported to two (17.5%) or three (11.2%). Very few went beyond four or five contacts, with reporting dropping sharply thereafter. Rural survivors were more likely to share with only one person (43.5% compared to 36.4% in urban areas), whereas urban survivors were relatively more inclined to report to multiple contacts.

Table 7.1.3 presents data on the barriers preventing women from sharing or reporting experiences of violence. It captures 12,808 instances cited by survivors as reasons for not reporting, drawn from their experiences nationally. The % of responses column shows the share of all instances reported, while the % of cases column shows the share of survivors who cited each barrier. Because most survivors reported multiple, overlapping barriers, totals exceed 100% nationally (145.8%), in rural areas (141.7%) and in urban areas (155.6%).

Table 7.1.3: Reasons for not reporting/telling by the ever-married women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence

Reason for not reporting/sharing	National			Rural			Urban		
	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases
Afraid of husband	448	3.6	3.6	194	3.6	5.2	254	3.5	5.5
Afraid of other family members	185	1.4	1.3	67	1.3	1.8	118	1.5	2.4
Fear of more violence	294	2.3	2.2	101	2.2	3.1	193	2.5	3.9
Fear of divorce	295	2.3	2.2	100	2.2	3.1	195	2.5	3.9
Fear of public disgrace	1,616	12.8	12.6	677	12.6	17.9	939	13.2	20.5
Fear of society	405	2.9	2.7	156	2.7	3.9	249	3.3	5.1
Fear of losing family honor	2,021	15.0	14.5	784	14.5	20.6	1,237	16.2	25.1
Considered sharing unnecessary	4,724	37.4	38.8	2,001	38.8	55.0	2,723	34.3	53.4
Considered violence unimportant	1,284	9.2	9.2	521	9.2	13.1	763	9.2	14.4
Didn't understand the importance of sharing	972	8.2	8.1	424	8.1	11.4	548	8.5	13.2
Was not necessary	479	4.2	3.9	189	3.9	5.6	290	4.8	7.5
Other	85	0.7	0.8	35	0.8	1.2	50	0.5	0.8
Total	12,808	100	145.8	5,249	100	141.7	7,559	100	155.6

At the national level, the most significant barrier is the normalization of violence. The leading instance-“Considered sharing unnecessary”- accounts for 37.4% of all responses and was cited by 38.8% of survivors. This is followed by strong social stigmas, such as “Fear of losing family honor” (15.0% of responses; 14.5% of cases) and “Fear of public disgrace” (12.8% of responses; 12.6% of cases). In contrast, direct fears of the perpetrator are less frequently cited, e.g., “Afraid of husband” (3.6%) or “Fear of more violence” (2.3%).

Normalization of violence is the dominant barrier in both rural and urban areas. However, social stigma is more

pronounced in urban settings: a higher percentage of urban survivors cited “Fear of losing family honor” (25.1% vs. 20.6% rural) and “Fear of public disgrace” (20.5% vs. 17.9%). Divorce is also a greater concern in urban contexts (3.9% vs. 3.1% rural).

In sum, the findings highlight that the main barriers to reporting are not immediate threats of violence, but deeply internalized social norms that trivialize women’s experiences and prioritize family reputation over their well-being. The high totals across settings confirm that survivors’ silence often stems from a complex web of overlapping personal and societal barriers.

Findings from the VAW in-depth research indicated that women often did not disclose their experiences of intimate partner violence to anyone. In interviews, women often spoke about their preference to stay in the relationship, which influenced their decision to not report the violence. While women’s reasons for staying in an abusive marriage are complex, findings revealed that social and cultural expectations played a strong role. Survivors, for instance, frequently discussed the stigma around divorce and the social pressure for women to remain in a marriage at any cost. One survivor highlighted the gendered nature of this social pressure, noting that women disproportionately experience stigma in their communities if they leave their husbands.

“When a woman leaves her husband, people blame her. They think a good wife endures, no matter what.”

—Afrina (pseudonym), Dhaka

This suggests that harmful gender and social norms contribute to women’s desire to stay in abusive relationships, which may subsequently prevent them from disclosing their experiences and receiving support.

When survivors did share their experiences, they preferred to tell family members, which aligns with results from the quantitative survey. Key informant interviews (KIIs) with frontline service providers provided insights into why women rely on informal networks over institutional or professional support systems. Notably, findings suggested that there was an underlying fear from both wives and husbands that formal action would make their issues public, leading to social stigma and a loss of reputation within their community. This discouraged women from reporting to formal authorities, as they feared their husband’s response and worried it would lead to divorce. For example, one key informant, a government representative from the study area, confirmed that the desire to stay in an abusive marriage often impacted if and how women sought help.

“Despite facing violence, women still want to continue their family life with their husband, mostly because of their children or because they have nowhere else to go... women believe that if they file a case, their husband will never take them back. That’s why they avoid formal legal action.”

—Key informant interview, Government representative.

Similarly, another key informant, a police representative in Noakhali, recalled witnessing a case where the abusive husband declared that he would no longer stay in a relationship with the survivor because she had sought help from the police. This participant also indicated that men tended to view intimate partner violence as a “family matter” that should not be addressed by the police. Such evidence suggests that increasing women’s uptake of institutional and professional support systems will require efforts to educate communities, so that domestic violence is treated as a serious issue, rather than as a private matter only to be addressed within families.

7.2 LEGAL ACTION TAKEN FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Table 7.2.1 highlights the limited legal recourse taken by ever-married women in Bangladesh following physical or sexual violence by a husband or partner in the last 12 months. Nationally, only 7.4% of survivors took any legal action, with slightly higher rates in urban areas (9.5%) than in rural areas (6.5%)—a gap that suggests somewhat greater access or willingness to seek justice in urban settings.

The data further break down the places where the 1,332 legal actions were taken. The “% of responses” indicates the distribution of all legal actions across different authorities, while the “% of cases” reflects the proportion of survivors who sought help from each authority. The total “% of cases” exceeds 100% nationally (142.5%), showing that survivors who took action typically sought help from multiple authorities.

At the national level, the most common authority approached was a local leader, accounting for 41.0% of all actions and contacted by 58.4% of survivors who took legal action. The Police/Thana was the second most common authority, representing 25.4% of actions and approached by 36.2% of survivors. In contrast, formal institutions such as courts (10.5% of actions) and government agencies (0.9% of actions) were used much less frequently.

Both rural and urban patterns show local leaders as the primary authority contacted, though their role is even more prominent in rural areas, where they account for 47.2% of actions and were approached by 66.4% of survivors who took action. Urban survivors, on the other hand, demonstrate a slightly greater reliance on the

police (26.7% of urban actions compared to 23.5% in rural areas) and courts (7.5% compared to 8.1% in rural areas).

Overall, the findings reveal that when survivors of intimate partner violence do pursue legal action, they mostly rely on local, informal leaders rather than the formal justice system. The particularly strong engagement with local leaders in rural areas highlights their critical role in these communities. At the same time, the relatively low proportion of survivors taking legal action, combined with the tendency to seek help from multiple sources, underscores the significant barriers to accessing formal justice and the continuing preference for community-based dispute resolution. Figure 7.2.1 presents the number of legal actions taken by survivors of violence who intended to seek justice, based on data from 935 respondents nationwide. It shows the distribution of legal steps pursued, with a breakdown by rural and urban locations.

Nationally, most survivors (75.2%) took only one legal action in their pursuit of justice. This pattern was more pronounced in urban areas, where 80.5% of survivors reported taking a single action, compared to 72% in rural areas.

However, rural survivors were somewhat more likely to pursue multiple legal actions. For instance, 18% of rural respondents reported taking two legal actions, compared to 13.2% in urban settings. Similarly, 7.5% of rural survivors pursued three actions, while only 4% of urban survivors did the same. Only a small fraction of survivors nationally pursued four or more legal actions—2.4% reported taking four steps, while just 0.1% took as many as five.

These findings suggest that while most survivors initiate legal proceedings, relatively few pursue sustained or multiple actions. Rural survivors appear slightly more

persistent in navigating the justice system, potentially reflecting barriers to resolution that require multiple interventions.

Table 7.2.1: Percentage of ever-married women (survivors) took legal action for the experiences of physical or sexual violence by husband/partner to persons/authorities

	National			Rural			Urban		
Number of survivors (n)	13,485			5,782			7,703		
Survivors taken legal actions in last 12 months (%)	7.4			6.5			9.5		
Place where taken legal action	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of cases
Police / Thana	338	25.4	36.2	108	23.5	33.0	230	26.7	34.3
Village court	81	6.1	8.7	30	6.6	9.3	51	5.8	7.4
Union / Upazila parishad / Municipality	142	10.7	15.2	56	8.6	12.0	86	7.8	10.1
Court	140	10.5	15.0	49	8.1	11.4	91	7.5	9.6
Government agency	12	0.9	1.3	2	0.2	0.3	10	0.9	1.1
NGO/private organization	18	1.4	1.9	10	2.3	3.2	8	0.7	0.9
Local leader	546	41.0	58.4	245	47.2	66.4	301	46.8	60.0
Others	55	4.1	5.9	18	3.6	5.1	37	3.8	4.9
Total	1,332	100	142.5	518	100	140.6	814	100	128.4

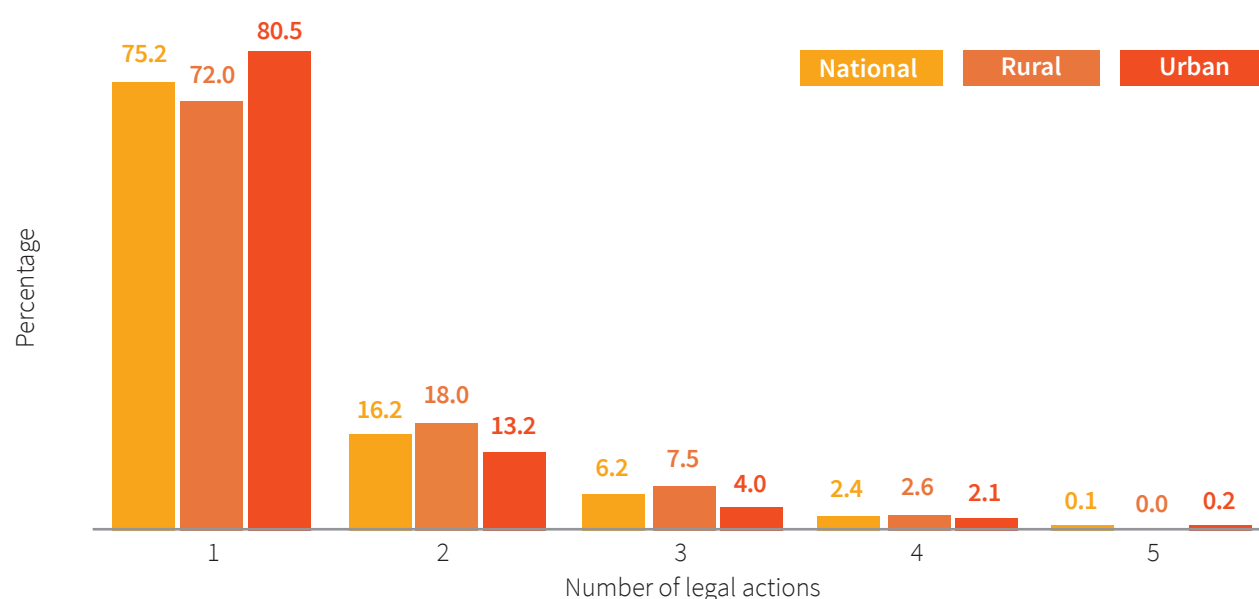


Figure 7.2.1: Legal actions taken by survivors who intended to seek justice

The VAW in-depth research showed that survivors faced various barriers to accessing support and justice. This included the risk of women experiencing additional violence and several respondents in interviews reported that their husbands' abuse worsened when they found out that women had sought help for and therefore disclosed, their situation. For example, Farida (pseudonym), a respondent in Dhaka, discussed how her attempt to seek support from local authorities only provoked greater aggression from her husband, who viewed her actions as an attack on his honor.

“He said, ‘How dare you go to the ward councilor? You ruined my honor; you ruined my prestige.’ Then he became so brutal.”

—Farida, Dhaka

The risk of experiencing increased violence from abusive partners could consequently deter women from reporting their experiences and pursuing legal action.

Additionally, in-depth research findings showed that economic constraints prevented women from seeking legal help. In interviews, survivors mentioned that they could not afford the costs associated with filing a case, traveling to police stations or paying for legal fees. This included Afrina (pseudonym), who endured physical, emotional and economic violence from her husband throughout her marriage and cited financial costs as one of the barriers that prevented her from seeking help.

“I had no money for legal action and no one to support me in this. My sister and brother-in-law were helpful, but they wouldn’t spend money on a legal case.”

—Afrina, Dhaka

In-depth research indicated that most women were economically dependent on their husbands, which impeded women’s abilities to leave abusive relationships and seek formal help. For instance, it was common for husbands to restrict women from studying and working, which meant that women frequently had no income of their own. This lack of economic independence subsequently made it difficult for women to consider leaving abusive relationships due to the financial hardship they would face with no source of income. Similarly, survivors reported that their husbands often controlled all financial resources and refused to provide money for household expenses, medical care or even personal needs. Women were therefore unable to save money for their own use or to seek services, including those that would enable them to leave the marriage. For instance, Moriom (pseudonym), a respondent in Dhaka, discussed how she felt economically trapped in her abusive marriage.

“He never gives me money. Even if I ask for something small, he refuses. How can I leave without money?”

—Moriom, Dhaka

Women’s lack of financial control — even over their own income — also prevented survivors from seeking formal help, as they did not have the economic resources required to access medical care or pursue police or legal action.

In addition to financial obstacles, women frequently expressed that they did not seek police or legal help because they did not trust these institutions. Women questioned the effectiveness of police action and feared that they would be blamed for the violence.

“If you go to the police, you know, police cannot resolve the issue. **We don’t trust the police. We don’t trust the legal system.**”

—Afia (pseudonym), Noakhali

Key informant interviews with NGO service providers further reinforced community mistrust as a barrier that prevented women from seeking legal help. An NGO representative, for example, remarked that the lengthy and complicated nature of the legal process exacerbated community mistrust of the legal system and discouraged survivors from seeking justice.

“The legal processes take a long time and **many [survivors] feel that reporting will not bring them justice but rather put them in more danger.**”

—Key informant interview, NGO representative, Dhaka

These findings suggest that VAW response programming will need to include initiatives to build trust between communities and formal authorities (including police), so that survivors feel safe reporting violence and pursuing legal action. Programming should especially focus on the police, since several survivors shared that they had negative interactions when they reported experiences of violence to police officers. For instance, Farhana (pseudonym), a respondent in Dhaka, disclosed that she experienced sexual assault (groping of her private parts) from a male stranger in a shared taxi. Since the other passengers in the taxi were all men, Farhana felt trapped and endured the violence in silence. Unfortunately, when Farhana sought help from the police, the male police officers asked her inappropriate sexual questions and blamed her outfit as the reason she experienced violence, which further traumatized her.

“**The way the police treated me made it feel like I was being harassed all over again.** This needs to change so survivors feel safe coming forward.”

—Farhana, Dhaka

Such evidence indicates an urgent need to improve training of police to ensure that they themselves do not contribute to violence against women or retraumatize survivors.

The VAW in-depth research component also held focus group discussions (FGDs) with NGO service providers to examine the barriers to help-seeking that women experiencing violence face. These FGDs confirmed that survivors encountered multiple challenges when they sought help from both informal and formal authorities. NGO participants explained that survivors were more likely to seek help from informal authorities, such as members and chairmen of village councils, but flagged that these local leaders were not equipped to provide essential mental health support to survivors. While some women sought justice through the village arbitration (salish) process, findings revealed that this often failed to serve the survivor’s interests. For example, FGD participants described cases where the woman’s family arranged a salish to demand the payment of the mehr (kabin) and the woman did not receive the money, despite the husband and his family agreeing to it. Instead, FGD participants indicated that it was common for the husband and his family to give the money to the community leader overseeing the salish and for the leader to keep the money for himself, highlighting the risks and potential harms of informal mechanisms.

Evidence showed that women faced various problems when seeking formal help. For example, in FGDs, service providers in Noakhali discussed how filing a General Diary (GD) was inaccessible for many women due to financial and logistical barriers. They noted that police stations were often located far from rural villages, requiring travel expenses that women could not afford. Even if women managed to reach the station, bureaucratic hurdles came with additional costs. While service providers viewed filing a GD as an important first step in reporting domestic violence, they explained that it often required an unofficial payment of around 500 taka and bribes were frequently demanded to process the paperwork.

Findings from key informant interviews with frontline service providers also revealed that there are opportunities to improve coordination between local and formal authorities. To that end, a police representative in Noakhali observed that the process of seeking justice could quickly become complicated, with the survivor being passed from one person or authority to another entity. For example, a survivor may first go to the local council member, who then refers her to the village chairman, who eventually sends her to the police station and the police may later send her to court. The police respondent described how this created a “spider web” of referrals, which often led to re-traumatization for the survivor, as she must repeatedly tell her story and face possible victim-blaming from authorities. In addition to improving service access for women experiencing violence, these findings suggest that it is also important to ensure that services are effectively coordinated.

7.3 LEGAL ACTION TAKEN FOR NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

Table 7.3.1 highlights the low proportion of women survivors of non-partner violence who pursued legal action. Among 5,360 survivors nationally, only 13.2% reported taking legal action in their lifetime, with engagement higher in rural areas (15.0%) than in urban areas (9.7%). In the 12 months preceding the survey, this was 3.8% nationally, again with a rural–urban gap of 4.2% versus 3.0%.

The types of action pursued reflect clear geographic contrasts. Arbitration was the most common strategy, particularly in rural areas where it accounted for 41.4% of responses and was used by more than half of survivors who acted (52.5% of cases), compared to 30.0% of responses and 36.4% of cases in urban areas. Urban survivors, on the other hand, were more likely to file a statement or First Information Report with the police, which represented 31.2% of responses and 37.8% of cases in urban areas, compared to 20.4% of responses

and 25.9% of cases in rural areas. General Diaries were common across both settings, with little variation, while court cases were rare overall but slightly more common in urban than rural contexts.

Because many survivors pursued more than one option, the percent of cases exceeds 100%, totaling 125.5% nationally and indicating an average of 1.26 actions per survivor, with multiple actions being somewhat more common in rural areas.

The data on where survivors sought help further underscores this geographic divide. The police or thana was the most common venue nationally, accounting for 42.3% of responses and being approached by 52.3% of survivors who acted, with disproportionate reliance in urban areas where 65.1% of survivors sought police assistance. In contrast, local leaders such as village chairmen or members were the second most common

point of contact nationally, representing 32.2% of responses and 39.8% of cases and in rural areas were nearly as important as the police, involving 44.3% of survivors. Courts were approached by a small but notable minority of survivors (9.5% nationally), with slightly greater use in urban than rural areas.

As with actions, survivors often approached multiple authorities, with the percent of cases summing to 123.4% nationally, averaging 1.23 different places per survivor.

To sum-up, few survivors of non-partner violence take legal action, with rural women showing slightly higher overall engagement but relying heavily on informal arbitration, while urban women are more likely to use formal mechanisms such as FIRs and the police. Multiple actions and authorities were often pursued, with the police and local leaders being the most common points of recourse.

Table 7.3.1: Percentage of all women experiencing non-partner violence who reported taking legal action against perpetrators

Aspects of legal actions	National			Rural			Urban		
Number of survivors (n)	5,360			1,994			3,366		
Survivors taken legal actions in lifetime (%)	13.2			15.0			9.7		
Survivors taken legal actions in last 12 months (%)	3.8			4.2			3.0		
Type of legal action taken in 12 months	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases
General diary	57	22.5	28.2	19	21.8	27.6	38	24.5	29.7
Statement or FIR/ Police case	48	23.1	29.0	24	20.4	25.9	24	31.2	37.8
Court case	25	7.5	9.4	9	7.2	9.2	16	8.4	10.2
Arbitration	90	38.5	48.3	44	41.4	52.5	46	30.0	36.4
Other	8	8.5	10.6	4	9.3	11.8	4	6.0	7.3
Total	228	100	125.5	100	100	126.9	128	100	121.3
Place where legal action taken	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases
Police/Thana	89	42.3	52.3	36	37.5	47.3	53	55.9	65.1
Village court	8	2.7	3.3	4	2.8	3.5	4	2.4	2.8
Union/Upzila parishad/ Municipality	14	4.3	5.3	6	5.0	6.3	8	2.4	2.8
Court	22	7.7	9.5	8	7.1	9.0	14	9.2	10.7
Government agency	1	0.8	1.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.1	3.6
Local leader/Village moral/Chairman/ Member	74	32.2	39.8	35	35.1	44.3	39	24.1	28.1
Other	9	10.0	12.3	6	12.5	15.7	3	2.9	3.4
Total	217	100	123.4	95	100	126.1	122	100	116.5

7.4 KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE TO REPORT THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE

Table 7.4.1 reveals significant gaps in women's knowledge about where to report violence. Nationally, only 48.5% of respondents said they knew where to report incidents, with slightly higher awareness in urban areas (50.7%) than rural (47.5%). This leaves more than half of women without knowledge of available reporting options.

Among women who know where to report, Table 7.4.1 further details the specific places they are aware of. The “% of Response” column shows the distribution of all mentions of reporting places, while the “% of Cases” indicates the proportion of women aware of each place. Totals exceeding 100% nationally (196.3%), in rural areas (197.3%) and in urban areas (194.1%) reflect that most of these women are aware of multiple options.

At the national level, the Police/Thana is by far the most recognized authority, accounting for 46.4% of all responses and cited by 91.0% of women who know where to report. Local governance structures (Union/Upazila Parishad/ Municipality) are the second most recognized, accounting for 16.1% of responses and

known by 31.6% of women. Village leaders/mediators (13.2% of responses) and courts (9.8%) are also notable. In contrast, specialized services such as One Stop Crisis Centers are known by only 2.2% of women (1.1% of responses).

Rural-urban differences are also evident. Awareness of the Police is high in both settings but slightly higher among urban women (94.1%) compared to rural women (89.5%). Rural women show greater familiarity with local and traditional structures, such as village leaders/mediators (28.6% of rural cases vs. 19.8% urban) and Union/Upazila Parishad/ Municipality (34.3% vs. 25.8%). Urban women, by contrast, demonstrate better knowledge of formal systems, including government agencies (9.9% vs. 5.3% rural) and courts (20.4% vs. 18.7%).

In sum, while only about half of women know where to report violence, those who do are overwhelmingly aware of the police. Knowledge is fragmented across multiple options, with rural women more attuned to local and traditional structures and urban women somewhat

Table 7.4.1: Knowledge about where to report the incidence of violence

Knowledge about where to report	National			Rural			Urban		
Know (%)	48.5			47.5			50.7		
Don't know (%)	51.5			52.5			49.3		
Knowledge of the place where to report	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases	Frequency	% of responses	% of Cases
Police/Thana	12,996	46.4	91.0	4,720	45.4	89.5	8,276	48.5	94.1
Village court	1,449	5.5	10.8	643	5.7	11.3	806	5.0	9.7
Union/ Upazila/ Parishad/ Municipality	4,240	16.1	31.6	2,002	17.4	34.3	2,238	13.3	25.8
Court	3,074	9.8	19.3	1,113	9.5	18.7	1,961	10.5	20.4
Government agency	1,182	3.4	6.7	277	2.7	5.3	905	5.1	9.9
One Stop Crisis Center	394	1.1	2.2	86	0.8	1.7	308	1.7	3.3
NGO or non-government agency	1,007	3.5	6.8	328	2.9	5.8	679	4.6	8.9
Village leader/ Mediator	3,313	13.2	25.8	1,688	14.5	28.6	1,625	10.2	19.8
Other	356	1.1	2.1	116	1.1	2.1	240	1.1	2.2
Total	28,011	100	196.3	10,973	100	197.3	17,038	100	194.1

Table 7.4.2: Knowledge about government helpline

Locality and background characteristics	Helpline 109 (%)	Helpline 999 (%)	n
National	12.3	45.0	27,476
Rural	10.8	40.3	11,038
Urban	15.6	56.0	16,438
Division			
Barishal	10.7	42.4	2,467
Chattogram	14.6	48.6	4,292
Dhaka	9.2	49.2	6,343
Khulna	11.0	44.9	2,997
Mymensingh	17.1	36.6	2,630
Rajshahi	12.2	40.4	3,239
Rangpur	16.0	45.9	3,035
Sylhet	10.3	31.4	2,446
Experienced of physical/sexual violence (all women)			
No	15.7	51.5	12,627
Yes	9.2	39.3	14,822
Marital status			
Currently married	10.4	43.7	22,169
Divorced, separated and widowed	3.3	20.4	2,771
Never married	31.8	74.5	2,509

better informed about formal government institutions. The very low awareness of specialized services such as One Stop Crisis Centers highlights a critical gap in public knowledge about comprehensive support mechanisms.

Table 7.4.2 presents women's knowledge of government helplines. At the national level, awareness of Helpline 109 remains alarmingly low, with only 12.3% of women familiar with it, compared to 45% for Helpline 999.

Urban-Rural Divide: Awareness is higher in urban areas—15.6% of urban women know of Helpline 109 and 56% are aware of Helpline 999. In contrast, rural awareness lags at 10.8% and 40.3%, respectively.

Regional Disparities: Awareness varies sharply across administrative divisions: Mymensingh has the highest awareness of Helpline 109 (17.1%), while Sylhet reports the lowest (10.3% for 109, 31.4% for 999). Dhaka Division, despite being the capital region, shows below-average awareness of Helpline 109 (9.2%), though Helpline 999 awareness is relatively high (49.2%). These disparities highlight the uneven effectiveness of awareness campaigns and the need for more localized outreach strategies.

Awareness Among Survivors of Violence: A troubling pattern emerges among women who have experienced physical or sexual violence: Only 9.2% know of Helpline 109 and 39.3% are aware of Helpline 999. In contrast, women who have not experienced violence report higher awareness (15.7% for 109, 51.5% for 999). This gap underscores a critical failure in outreach—those most in need of these services are the least informed about them.

Marital Status and Awareness: Marital status further reveals disparities. Never-married women have relatively higher awareness (31.8% for 109, 74.5% for 999). Divorced, separated or widowed women report shockingly low awareness (3.3% for 109, 20.4% for 999), suggesting severe informational exclusion. Currently married women fall in between (10.4% for 109, 43.7% for 999).

The findings highlight urgent gaps in public awareness, particularly for Helpline 109 and reveal systematic disparities affecting rural women, violence survivors and older or previously married women.

In the VAW in-depth research, many women in both study sites shared that they did not know where to go for help or how to seek support when facing domestic violence. These findings support the quantitative data presented in Sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4. Additionally, harmful gender and social norms discouraged women from seeking legal action and the absence of effective and sustained community awareness programs further hindered their ability to access services. Rozina (pseudonym), a respondent in Noakhali, experienced both emotional and physical violence from her husband for years and explained that she had never heard of any support system for women like her.

“I don’t even know where to go or what to do. **If I leave my husband**, where will I go?”

—Rozina, Noakhali

This lack of awareness and information about shelters, legal aid or women’s rights organizations affected women’s abilities to receive essential services and support when they experienced violence. Similarly, another respondent reported that she only learned about support services after years of suffering. She had no knowledge of legal aid, counselling or financial assistance before a chance encounter with a local NGO. However, by the time she became aware, her situation had worsened and she felt it was too late to seek help. More broadly, these findings highlight a need to increase survivors’ knowledge of VAW response services, alongside efforts to improve access to services. This could include, for example, widespread awareness-raising campaigns that have been proven effective and sustainable in educating communities about the services available to women experiencing violence and how survivors can access them.

8

RISK FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

RISK FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

8.1 BACKGROUND

Understanding the risk factors associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) is essential for designing targeted, evidence-based interventions. Drawing on nationally representative data from the Violence against Women survey 2024, this chapter provides critical insights into the social, economic, demographic and relational characteristics that shape women's vulnerability to different forms of violence in Bangladesh.

Risk factor analysis serves not merely as a statistical exercise but as a diagnostic tool for uncovering the structural and situational inequalities that enable violence to persist. Identifying high-risk profiles is critical for interrupting cycles of abuse. By distinguishing between unadjusted associations and statistically robust predictors through multilevel regression modeling, the Violence against Women survey contributes to a more nuanced understanding of violence dynamics in Bangladesh.

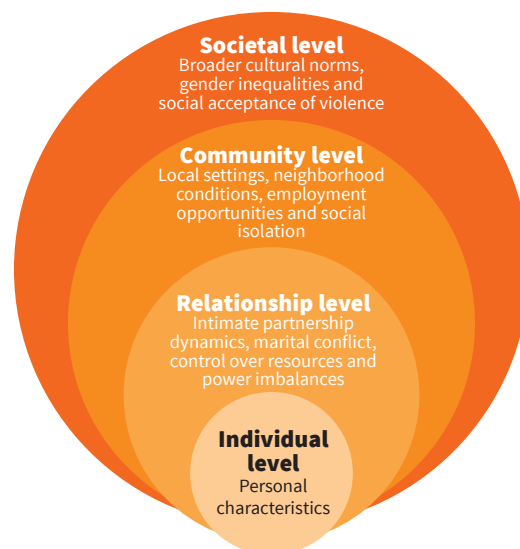
In contexts where patriarchal norms are deeply embedded, such analysis becomes indispensable for informing laws, social protection policies and behavior change communication strategies aimed at reducing gender-based violence and its intergenerational impacts (Heise & Kotsadam, 2015; UNFPA, 2022).

THEORETICAL FOUNDATION: HEISE'S ECOLOGICAL MODEL

Lori Heise's ecological model (1998), along with her revised conceptual framework for partner violence, forms the theoretical foundation for our IPV risk factor analysis. Heise (2011) provides a strong empirical basis for designing IPV risk factor analyses. The ecological model conceptualizes violence against women as the outcome of a complex interplay of factors operating across multiple levels.

- Individual level: personal characteristics and developmental histories that shape vulnerability or resilience.
- Relationship level: intimate partnership dynamics, marital conflict, control over resources and power imbalances.
- Community level: local settings, neighborhood conditions, employment opportunities and social isolation and
- Societal level: broader cultural norms, gender inequalities and social acceptance of violence.

In addition, there is a macro-level environment encompassing national laws, policies and institutional frameworks that directly or indirectly influence women's risk of experiencing violence.



Heise's Ecological Model

Figure 8.1: Heise's ecological model of violence against women (A multilevel framework for risk factor analysis)

This multi layered perspective (Figure 8.1) underscores the need for comprehensive approaches that address the interconnected roots of violence. Rather than attributing violence to single factors, this approach recognizes how influences across these levels interact to create environments where violence emerges.

ADAPTATION OF HEISE'S ECOLOGICAL MODEL FOR ANALYZING NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

Heise's ecological model (1998), along with subsequent refinements (Heise, 2011; WHO, 2010), forms the theoretical foundation for our comprehensive violence risk factor analysis encompassing both IPV and NPV. The World Health Organization (WHO) has demonstrated that Heise's ecological model can and should be applied to all forms of violence against women, not just intimate partner violence. In their comprehensive violence prevention framework, WHO explicitly states that the ecological model is designed to accommodate risk factors for multiple types of violence, including violence by strangers, violence by acquaintances, non-intimate partner violence, sexual violence regardless of perpetrator relationship (WHO, 2002 and Harvey et al 2007).

ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING RISK FACTORS

The identification of risk factors associated with different forms of IPV and NPV followed a structured, multi-step analytical process. While the VAW Survey collected data on both lifetime and past 12-month prevalence of violence, the risk factor analysis used exclusively the 12-month experience data to better reflect current and actionable risk patterns. Lifetime violence may have occurred years earlier when a respondent's circumstances differed significantly, leading to temporal misalignment between exposure (risk factor) and outcome (violence). Focusing on recent months helps researchers identify contemporary conditions associated with ongoing violence, providing a more accurate picture for relevant interventions. This approach aligns with global methodological guidance from WHO and DHS programs, which recommend using 12-month data for risk modeling to support current policy interventions (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006; Kishor & Johnson, 2004).

The analysis began with bivariate analysis using chi-square tests to examine unadjusted associations between potential risk factors and five types of IPV—physical, sexual, emotional, controlling behavior and economic violence—as well as a combined measure of physical and/or sexual IPV. It also explored associations with two forms of non-partner violence (NPV): physical and sexual. Potential risk factors were identified following Heise's ecological model

(1998, 2011), which conceptualizes violence as resulting from interactions between factors at multiple levels. For each risk factor, IPV and NPV prevalence were estimated across relevant categories to assess differences among various sub-groups of women.

During the bivariate analysis, although chi-square tests were conducted, p-values were intentionally excluded from the presentation, as they do not control for confounding and may yield misleading conclusions regarding statistical significance (Greenland et al., 2016). Confounding means factors that influence both the risk factor and violence outcome, potentially distorting their true relationship.

Following the bivariate analysis, simple logistic regressions were conducted using each form of IPV and NPV experienced in the past 12 months as binary outcome variables (1 = experienced violence, 0 = did not experience violence). These regressions estimated unadjusted odds ratios for each risk factor, largely confirming patterns observed in the bivariate analysis. However, as these models do not account for the influence of other variables, the unadjusted results were not reported. However, both bivariate and simple logistic regression analyses helped us identify potential risk factors to be included in the multivariate models, thereby facilitating the initiation of analyses to determine the key risk factors for each type of violence after adjusting for relevant confounders.

To account for confounding effects, multilevel multivariate logistic regression models were applied to estimate adjusted odds ratios (AORs) for the risk factors. These models adjusted for potential confounders and addressed the hierarchical structure of the data resulting from the multi-stage cluster survey design. Specifically, the models incorporated (i) inverse probability weighting to account for complex survey design, (ii) random effects to adjust for clustering at the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) level and (iii) intra-cluster correlation (ICC) estimates to quantify the extent of variation in IPV outcomes attributable to clustering. The observed ICC values supported the use of hierarchical models, which are particularly suited for population-based surveys such as DHS or VAW studies (Raudenbush & Bryk, 2002).

For model selection, a stepwise procedure was employed, beginning with the most significant risk factor and iteratively adding others (Harrel, 2001; Hosmer, Lemeshow, & Sturdivant, 2013). At each stage, the inclusion of new variables was assessed based on changes in the odds ratios and statistical significance of both the existing and added predictors. This iterative process produced several intermediate models. After systematically evaluating all potential risk factors, adding in some stages and dropping in others, the final model was selected based on statistical significance after adjustment for confounders and on the interpretability of results within the context of violence against women.

8.2 RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

8.2.1. DATA SAMPLE

The analysis draws on data from the Violence Against Women Survey 2024, which successfully interviewed 27,476 women aged 15 and above across Bangladesh. As shown in the flowchart (Figure 8.2), of these, 24,963 women had ever had a husband or male partner and were eligible for questions on intimate partner violence (IPV). Among them, 13,485 women reported experiencing physical or sexual IPV in their lifetime. The analytic sub-sample further distinguishes between those who experienced violence from a current partner (11,880 women) and those abused by a previous partner (1,605

women). Of those exposed to current partner violence, 4,383 women experienced such violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, while 7,497 reported violence in their lifetime. In particular, the analyses compare women who experienced violence in the past 12 months by their current partner (bottom-left, darkest shaded box). This group was compared to women who did not experience physical or sexual partner violence in the past 12 months — a broader group (Indian Yellow shaded boxes) that may include women with prior, but not recent, experiences of violence. These two groups form the basis of the risk factor and prevalence analyses in the report.

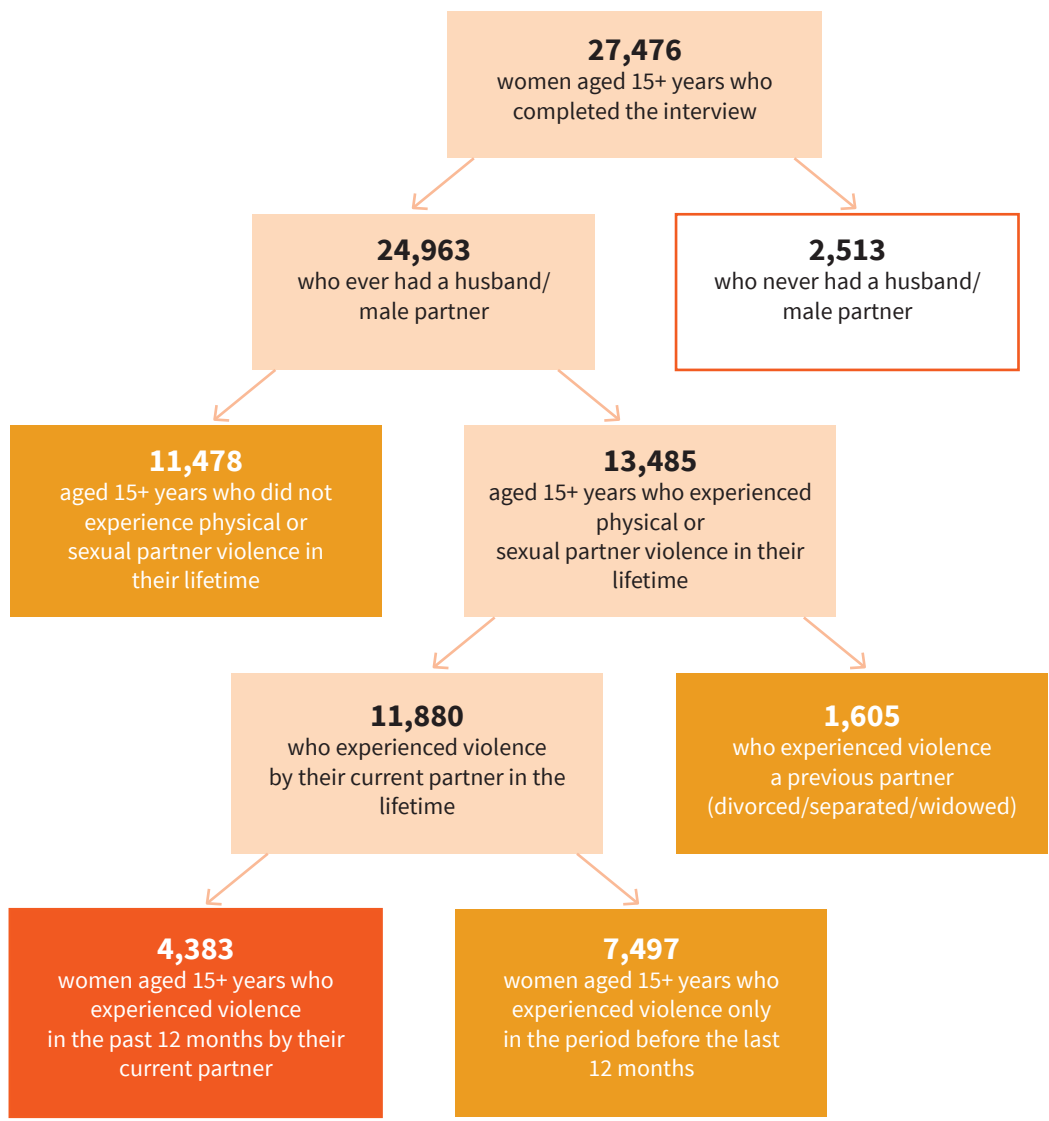


Figure 8.2: Number of women in the survey according to their partnership status and their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a male partner

8.2.1. BIVARIATE ANALYSIS

The bivariate analysis in Table 8.2.1 examines the relationship between a single independent variable (risk factor) and a dependent variable (type of IPV) at a

time, without controlling for potential confounders. For example, it assesses whether physical IPV prevalence differs by education level without accounting for any other factors. This analysis identifies preliminary associations and reveals patterns in the data.

Table 8.2.1: Bivariate analysis of risk factors associated with different forms of Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey)

Risk factors	Prevalence (%) of different forms of IPV in last 12 months					Number of respondents
	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Controlling behaviour	Economic	
Age of the respondents						
15-19	17.9	16.1	20.8	59.1	12.4	1,049
20-24	14.7	11.9	19.7	51.0	9.9	2,695
25-29	13.8	12.9	20.2	51.6	11.7	3,520
30-34	13.3	13.7	21.4	51.0	12.2	3,324
35-39	12.6	10.8	20.9	47.3	12.8	3,691
40-44	11.7	9.7	19.8	45.6	11.4	2,616
45-49	8.5	7.0	17.6	42.9	12.2	2,313
50-54	5.2	5.6	13.9	35.7	8.8	1,778
55-59	3.5	3.4	11.1	33.0	10.0	1,501
60+	2.6	0.9	6.9	21.5	4.4	2,476
Respondent education						
No education/pre-primary	9.7	7.7	17.0	38.7	11.4	6,503
Primary complete	13.2	11.1	18.8	46.5	10.8	3,236
Secondary incomplete	12.8	10.8	20.4	50.6	11.4	6,858
Secondary complete (SSC)	9.0	9.8	13.9	44.8	8.1	2,612
Higher secondary (HSC)	8.0	9.1	13.7	43.6	8.3	2,533
Bachelor and above	4.7	8.8	15.4	39.6	7.5	1,231
Earning status (Cash income)						
No	10.2	9.2	17.0	44.3	10.4	20,447
Yes	13.2	10.6	20.8	42.7	11.9	4,516
Functional difficulties						
No/some difficulties	11.1	9.7	17.6	44.6	10.6	22,558
Moderate/severe difficulties	6.6	6.8	17.4	38.7	10.5	2,405
Marital status						
Married and living with husband	12.2	10.9	20.1	49.6	11.4	21,101
Married, living apart from husband	4.9	5.1	12.0	47.0	13.1	1,088
Divorced, separated and widowed	3.3	1.3	3.5	6.3	4.1	2,774
Number of marriages						
One	10.1	9.2	17.0	43.7	10.0	23,515
More than one	18.2	11.7	26.9	49.5	19.5	14,448
Number of children						
0	10.7	12.6	15.3	45.2	10.3	1,905
1	13.0	10.4	19.4	47.4	11.0	4,751
2	11.7	10.1	18.7	45.7	11.0	8,696
3	10.4	8.9	18.1	44.9	11.6	5,341
4+	7.1	6.4	14.4	36.8	8.6	4,271

Risk factors	Prevalence (%) of different forms of IPV in last 12 months					Number of respondents
	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Controlling behaviour	Economic	
Afraid of husband						
Never	3.3	4.5	6.2	27.8	3.9	11,307
Sometimes	11.2	10.4	19.3	52.6	11.1	9,548
Most of the time	25.9	15.8	39.9	66.7	23.0	2,562
Always	33.7	27.2	50.2	69.6	34.6	1,546
Marriage on dowry						
No	7.6	7.0	13.6	38.7	7.8	18,486
Yes	17.9	15.0	27.2	56.9	17.2	6,468
Husband's extra-marital relationship						
No	8.9	8.6	15.2	42.7	8.9	22,892
Yes	29.8	17.8	42.8	58.5	29.1	2,071
Husband addicted to drug						
No	9.6	8.9	16.6	43.4	9.8	23,694
Yes	28.5	17.5	35.1	54.5	24.5	1,269
Husband education						
No education/pre-primary	13.3	10.0	21.5	49.3	13.7	8,170
Primary complete	13.2	11.7	21.1	51.5	12.2	3,132
Secondary incomplete	12.1	11.8	18.7	49.4	11.1	4,565
Secondary complete (SSC)	10.4	9.3	18.2	46.9	11.2	2,302
Higher secondary (HSC)	8.5	8.6	16.5	47.7	7.9	2,003
Higher education (Bachelor and above)	3.1	4.2	6.4	19.7	3.7	4,791
Wealth index						
Poorest	14.2	9.5	21.1	46.4	12.2	5,166
Poorer	11.4	9.1	18.0	45.0	10.6	5,047
Middle	9.1	9.7	16.1	42.8	11.3	5,014
Richer	8.9	8.8	15.7	43.4	9.8	4,981
Richest	7.3	10.1	15.2	40.4	7.7	4,755
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)						
None	12.4	10.0	19.1	40.4	12.9	10,355
1	11.1	10.1	17.6	47.3	10.5	10,139
2	8.8	7.6	16.4	43.8	8.4	4,358
3	6.5	7.4	13.7	41.4	7.5	1,873
4+	4.4	8.2	16.8	42.2	6.7	751
Religion						
Muslim	10.6	9.6	17.7	45.0	10.8	22,385
Hindu	10.8	7.3	17.1	36.9	9.2	2,368
Buddhist/ Christian	11.2	11.3	11.8	35.3	5.9	210
Division						
Barishal	13.0	13.2	25.3	52.9	16.1	2,310
Chattogram	10.9	11.2	17.3	48.2	12.5	3,897
Dhaka	9.3	8.7	15.5	39.4	8.9	5,708
Khulna	11.1	9.1	18.7	48.4	10.7	2,776
Mymensingh	9.0	7.6	18.3	43.2	9.5	2,370
Rajshahi	9.5	7.8	14.9	37.4	7.4	3,036
Rangpur	14.1	9.1	20.8	47.3	14.6	2,795
Sylhet	10.7	10.7	18.1	46.4	7.3	2,071
Area of residence						
Rural	10.5	8.9	17.7	44.7	10.5	10,246
Urban	10.6	9.8	17.1	44.6	10.9	5,976
City Corporation	11.3	11.6	17.4	39.3	10.5	8,741

Risk factors	Prevalence (%) of different forms of IPV in last 12 months					
	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Controlling behaviour	Economic	Number of respondents
Type of household						
Slum	14.1	10.1	18.4	36.5	13.7	713
Non slum	10.6	9.4	17.5	44.2	10.5	24,250
Disaster-prone status						
Disaster-prone area	10.7	10.8	18.0	48.8	12.3	6,777
Non disaster-prone area	10.6	8.8	17.4	42.2	9.9	18,186
Total	10.6	9.4	17.6	44.0	10.6	24,963

Table 8.2.1 examines how sociodemographic, economic, relational and contextual factors influence five forms of intimate partner violence—physical, sexual, emotional, economic and controlling behavior—among ever-married women, based on the VAW Survey 2024. The analysis provides descriptive insights into how IPV manifests across population subgroups, though these associations represent crude relationships without adjustment for confounding variables.

Age: A clear age gradient exists across all IPV forms. Women aged 15–19 years report the highest prevalence of physical (17.9%) and sexual violence (16.1%), with controlling behavior also notably high (59.1%). The oldest age group (60+) reports the lowest prevalence across all forms—physical (2.6%) and sexual (0.9%)—reflecting increased vulnerability among younger women.

Marital Status: Women currently living with husbands face the highest IPV rates (12.2% physical, 10.9% sexual). Divorced, separated or widowed women report very low 12-month IPV prevalence (3.5% emotional, 6.3% controlling), likely reflecting reduced exposure during the reference period. Women married more than once report higher levels across all forms, particularly emotional (26.9%) and economic violence (19.5%).

Number of Children: IPV shows a curvilinear pattern by number of children: physical violence rises from 10.3% among women with no children to 13.7% among those with three, before dropping to 7.7% for women with four or more. Emotional violence follows a similar trend, increasing from 15.3% (no children) to 18.6% (three children), then declining to 14.4% in the highest parity group.

Education: Education demonstrates a protective gradient. Women with limited education report higher emotional (17%) and economic violence (11.4%) compared to those with higher education (4.7% physical and 7.5% economic). Partner's education shows an even stronger inverse association, with rates dropping markedly when partners

have higher education (e.g., physical violence from 13.3% to 3.1%).

Economic Factors: Interestingly, income-earning women report higher IPV prevalence (13.2% physical vs. 10.2% for non-earners). However, wealth and asset ownership appear protective, with physical violence declining from 14.2% in the poorest to 7.3% in the richest households.

Fear of Husband: Fear shows the strongest association with IPV. As fear increases from “never” to “always,” physical IPV rises dramatically from 3.3% to 33.7% and emotional IPV from 6.2% to 50.2%, underscoring the centrality of emotional control in abusive relationships.

Dowry Practices: Women reporting dowry in marriage experience significantly higher IPV: physical violence is more than twice as common (17.9% vs. 7.6%), with emotional violence (27.2%) and controlling behavior (56.9%) also markedly higher.

Husband's Behavior: Extra-marital relationships strongly correlate with all IPV forms: physical (29.8% vs. 8.9%), emotional (42.8% vs. 15.2%) and controlling behavior (58.5% vs. 42.7%). Similarly, drug addiction is associated with substantially increased IPV risk, with physical violence at 28.5% (vs. 9.6%) and emotional abuse at 35.1%.

Geographic Variation: Notable regional disparities exist: Barishal and Rangpur report the highest physical violence rates (13.0% and 14.1%), while Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet generally report lower prevalence. Urban-rural differences are modest, though city corporations show slightly higher physical (11.3%) and sexual violence (11.6%). Women in slum settlements report higher physical violence (14.1%) but lower controlling behavior (36.5%).

Environmental Factors: Living in disaster-prone areas is associated with slightly higher IPV prevalence across all forms—especially sexual (10.8% vs. 8.8%) and economic violence (12.3% vs. 9.9%).

Functional difficulty status: Women with moderate or severe functional difficulties report lower IPV levels than those with no/some difficulties (physical IPV at 6.6% vs. 11.1%), contrasting with global research suggesting elevated risks for women with disabilities.

Findings from this bivariate analysis indicate significant variation in IPV prevalence across population subgroups. Younger age, cohabitation, remarriage, limited education and reported fear of partners show higher rates of IPV,

whereas higher levels of education, household wealth and asset ownership correspond with lower prevalence. Relationship-level factors such as dowry-related issues, partner infidelity and substance use by the partner exhibit the strongest bivariate links with IPV. These findings underscore the importance of considering both structural conditions and relational dynamics in the design of violence prevention strategies, while recognizing that these are unadjusted associations and may be influenced by confounding factors.

8.3 MULTIVARIATE LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS

The analysis of this section begins with physical and/or sexual violence. The combined category “physical and/or sexual violence” refers to women who have experienced either physical violence or sexual violence or both forms, from an intimate partner. Physical and sexual violence are often combined in epidemiological analyses of intimate partner violence due to their overlapping nature and shared risk factors. While the detailed analysis focuses initially on physical and/or sexual violence, the subsequent summary table expands to include risk factors for all measured types of violence. This structured analytical approach—beginning with rigorous examination of physical and/or sexual violence before expanding to all violence types—provides both analytical depth and a comprehensive view of the risk landscape associated with intimate partner violence..

RISK FACTORS FOR PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The multilevel multivariate logistic regression analysis presented in Table 8.3.1 provides robust evidence regarding the complex constellation of factors that influence women’s vulnerability to physical and/or sexual violence. By accounting for the hierarchical structure of the data (demonstrated by an intra-cluster correlation coefficient of 7.01%), this analysis offers valuable insights into how individual characteristics, relationship dynamics and broader contextual factors collectively shape violence risks.

Table 8.3.1: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for women experiencing intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual violence)

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age group				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.73	<0.001	0.61	0.88
25-29	0.59	<0.001	0.49	0.70
30-34	0.50	<0.001	0.42	0.60
35-39	0.40	<0.001	0.34	0.48
40-44	0.31	<0.001	0.26	0.38
45-49	0.20	<0.001	0.16	0.24
50-54	0.15	<0.001	0.12	0.20
55-59	0.11	<0.001	0.08	0.14
60+	0.07	<0.001	0.05	0.10

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months

Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	0.18	<0.001	0.14	0.24
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.08	<0.001	0.06	0.10
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			
More than one	1.42	<0.001	1.21	1.67
Partner's education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.94	0.300	0.83	1.06
Secondary incomplete	0.94	0.230	0.84	1.04
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.83	<0.01	0.72	0.96
Higher secondary (HSC)	0.84	<0.05	0.72	0.98
Bachelor and above	0.68	<0.001	0.59	0.80
Earning status (Cash income)				
No	RC			
Yes	1.28	<0.001	1.16	1.41
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)				
None	RC			
1	0.85	<0.01	0.78	0.93
2	0.85	<0.01	0.75	0.95
3	0.78	<0.01	0.65	0.92
4+	0.86	0.293	0.65	1.14
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.76	<0.001	1.61	1.92
Afraid of husband				
Never	RC			
Sometimes	3.28	<0.001	2.99	3.61
Most of the time	8.92	<0.001	7.86	10.12
Always	14.68	<0.001	12.59	17.11
Husband's extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	2.32	<0.001	2.03	2.65
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.66	<0.001	1.42	1.95
Type of household				
Non slum	RC			
Slum	1.47	<0.01	1.17	1.84
Disaster-prone status				
Disaster-prone	RC			
Non disaster-prone	1.28	<0.01	1.08	1.52
Division				
Barishal	2.35	<0.001	1.79	3.10
Chattogram	1.69	<0.001	1.36	2.10
Dhaka	1.19	0.075	0.98	1.43
Khulna	1.57	<0.001	1.23	2.00

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months

Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Mymensingh	RC			
Rajshahi	1.16	0.158	0.94	1.43
Rangpur	1.26	<0.05	1.03	1.56
Sylhet	1.22	0.081	0.98	1.53
Area of residence				
Rural	RC			
Urban	1.09	0.145	0.97	1.23
City Corporation	1.35	<0.001	1.21	1.52
Constant	0.10	<0.001	0.07	0.14
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	7.01		5.60	8.80

RC = Reference Category

Age as a Powerful Protective Factor: The regression analysis reveals a strong and consistent inverse relationship between age and violence risk. Women in the youngest age category (15-19 years) experience the highest vulnerability, with risk steadily declining across successive age groups. Women aged 25-29 years have 41% lower odds of experiencing violence compared to those aged 15-19 years (OR=0.59, $p<0.001$), while women aged 45-49 years have 80% lower odds (OR = 0.20, $p<0.001$). This protective effect continues to strengthen, with women aged 60+ years experiencing a 93% reduction in violence odds (OR=0.07, $p<0.001$).

This age gradient aligns with findings from the WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence, which found consistent age-related patterns across diverse settings (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006). Similarly, Abramsky et al. (2011) identified young age as one of the most consistent risk factors for IPV across ten countries. Jewkes (2002) observes, younger women may lack experience in conflict resolution, have fewer resources for establishing autonomy and be more vulnerable to power imbalances in relationships. As women age, they typically develop more effective negotiation strategies and gain resources and status that provide protection against violence. Research by Hindin et al. (2008) indicates that older women often benefit from shifting household power dynamics and increased respect accorded to elder women in many societies. These findings highlight the importance of age-sensitive prevention strategies, with particular attention to the unique vulnerabilities young women face early in their relationship trajectories.

Marital Status and Relationship History: The analysis shows that women who are not currently living with a partner report substantially lower odds of experiencing violence compared to those living with their husbands. Women who are married but living apart have 82%

lower odds of experiencing violence (OR=0.18, $p<0.001$), while divorced, separated or widowed women have 92% lower odds (OR=0.08, $p<0.001$) compared to the women who are married and living with their husband. These differentials highlight how physical proximity to an abusive partner facilitates ongoing violence, a pattern widely documented in the literature on domestic violence dynamics (Stark, 2007).

Research by Krishnan et al. (2010) in urban India similarly found that periods of separation disrupted patterns of abuse, as physical distance reduced opportunities for control. However, it is important to recognize that separation itself can sometimes trigger heightened risk, particularly during the initial stages when attempts to leave may escalate threats and aggression (Campbell et al., 2007).

Women who have experienced multiple marriages face 42% higher odds of violence (OR=1.42, $p<0.001$) compared to women with a single marriage. This elevated risk among remarried women has been documented in several South Asian contexts. Dalal and Lindqvist (2012) found that remarriage was associated with increased violence risk in Bangladesh, attributing this to heightened social and economic vulnerability. Research by Krishnan (2005) suggests that remarried women may face particular challenges including social stigma, weakened family support networks and complex relationship histories that collectively increase their vulnerability. These findings illustrate how individual relationship histories interact with societal attitudes that may stigmatize divorced or remarried women—a dynamic that Heise's ecological model recognizes as operating across multiple levels.

Education as a Pathway to Protection: The results reveal an educational gradient in violence risk, with partner's

higher education conferring significant protective effects. Women whose partners have completed secondary education face 17% lower odds of violence (OR=0.83, $p<0.01$), while those whose partners have bachelor's degrees or higher qualifications experience 32% lower odds (OR=0.68, $p<0.001$). Interestingly, this protective effect only becomes statistically significant at the secondary completion threshold, suggesting that reaching certain educational milestones may be necessary to meaningfully reshape attitudes and behaviors related to gender equity.

These findings align with Heise's recognition of education as a critical individual-level resource that influences violence risk through multiple pathways: exposure to more equitable gender norms, development of improved communication and conflict resolution skills and enhanced critical thinking about social norms. Heise and Kotsadam's (2015) analysis across 44 countries confirmed that educational attainment was consistently associated with reduced IPV, particularly when education challenged traditional gender norms.

The stronger protective effect observed at higher educational levels suggests a cumulative impact that Heise's ecological model would recognize—education functions as both an individual resource and a pathway to community-level norm change, illustrating cross-level interactions in the ecological framework.

Economic Factors- A Complex Picture: The regression results present a seemingly paradoxical picture regarding economic factors and violence risk. Women who earn income face 28% higher odds of experiencing violence (OR=1.28, $p<0.001$) compared to non-earning women. This finding exemplifies what researchers have called the “male backlash” effect, where shifts in traditional economic power dynamics may trigger increased violence as a form of reasserting control. Macmillan and Gartner (1999) theorized that women's employment becomes a risk factor when it threatens male identity in contexts where breadwinner status is central to masculinity constructions.

This backlash phenomenon has been documented in multiple settings. Vyas and Watts (2009) found that women's initial entry into employment often increased short-term violence risk, particularly in more conservative societies.

In contrast to income earning, asset ownership consistently emerges as a protective factor. Women owning one or two assets have 15% lower odds of violence (OR = 0.85, $p<0.01$), while those with three assets have 22% lower odds (OR = 0.78, $p<0.01$). This differential

impact between income and assets has been observed in other studies. Panda and Agarwal (2005) found in Kerala, India, that women's ownership of immovable assets significantly reduced domestic violence risk, even after controlling for other factors.

Grabe et al. (2015) similarly found that land ownership among women in Tanzania provided significant protection against IPV by enhancing women's household status and economic security. This illustrates how different forms of economic resources interact differently with relationship power dynamics—while income generation may directly challenge daily decision-making patterns, asset ownership may enhance women's status and provide fallback options without immediately disrupting household power structures.

Cultural Practices and Relationship Dynamics: The analysis identifies several powerful relationship-based risk factors, with dowry practices showing particularly strong effects. Women in marriages involving dowry payments face 76% higher odds of experiencing violence (OR=1.76, $p<0.001$).

Suran et al. (2004) and Naved and Persson (2010) found that dowry demands in Bangladesh are strongly associated with various forms of domestic violence. Drawing on survey data, both studies show that women whose marriages involved dowry demands—especially where payment was incomplete or unmet—faced significantly higher risks of physical abuse. These findings underscore how dowry practices reflect and reinforce patriarchal norms that contribute to spousal violence.

This risk factor analysis also shows that there is a powerful relationship between women's fear and violence risk. Women who report being “sometimes” afraid of their husbands have 3.3 times higher odds of experiencing violence, those afraid “most of the time” have 8.9 times higher odds, while those “always” afraid face dramatically elevated odds (OR=14.68, $p<0.001$). This exponential increase in risk with increasing fear levels underscores how psychological domination operates as both a warning sign and facilitating mechanism for physical abuse. Stark's (2007) influential work on coercive control explains how fear functions as a central component in the architecture of abusive relationships, often persisting even during periods without physical violence.

Kelly and Johnson (2008) distinguished between different patterns of intimate partner violence, noting that relationships characterized by coercive control and fear typically involve more severe and frequent violence compared to situational couple violence. The dramatic

association between fear and violence in this analysis suggests that fear assessment could serve as a valuable screening tool for identifying high-risk situations before violence escalates further.

Partner behaviors also emerge as significant risk factors, with extramarital relationships associated with 2.3 times higher odds of violence ($p<0.001$) and drug addiction linked to 1.7 times higher odds ($p<0.001$). These associations have been documented across diverse cultural contexts. Jewkes et al. (2010) found in their multi-country study that men's infidelity and substance use consistently predicted increased violence perpetration.

The strong associations observed in this analysis reinforce recommendations by scholars like Abramsky et al. (2011) that addressing male risk behaviors, particularly substance use, should be a key component of comprehensive violence prevention strategies.

Geographic and Environmental Contexts: The analysis reveals significant spatial variations in violence risk, with women in slum areas facing 47% higher odds ($OR = 1.47, p<0.01$) and those in city corporations experiencing 35% higher odds ($OR = 1.35, p<0.001$) compared to their counterparts in other settings. These findings align with urbanization research by McIlwaine (2013), which documented how rapid urbanization in developing countries often creates specific conditions that exacerbate violence risk, including overcrowded living conditions, weakened social support networks and economic pressures.

Studies in Indian urban slums by Pandey et al. (2009) similarly found elevated rates of domestic violence, attributing this to multiple factors including housing stress, poverty, social isolation and limited access to services.

Marked regional disparities emerge when comparing across divisions, with women in Barishal facing 2.4 times higher odds of violence compared to the reference region of Mymensingh ($p<0.001$). Substantial elevations are also observed in Chattogram ($OR=1.69, p<0.001$), Khulna ($OR=1.57, p<0.001$) and Rangpur ($OR=1.26, p<0.05$). These regional variations likely reflect complex interactions between local gender norms, economic conditions, governance factors and historical patterns of family formation and structure.

Research on geographic variations in violence prevalence by Vander Ende et al. (2015) in Bangladesh identified similar regional patterns and linked these to differences in women's status, economic development levels and cultural practices across regions. The pronounced

variation observed in this analysis, even after controlling for individual and household characteristics, suggests that contextual factors exert significant influence on violence risk.

Interestingly, women in non-disaster prone areas show 28% higher odds of violence ($OR = 1.28, p<0.01$) compared to those in disaster-prone regions. This counterintuitive finding warrants further investigation but may reflect the development of community resilience mechanisms in disaster-prone areas that inadvertently provide protection against domestic violence. Research by Parkinson and Zara (2013) on disaster-affected communities has noted that while acute disaster periods often see increased violence, communities with long-standing disaster exposure may develop social cohesion and support systems that ultimately prove protective against multiple forms of harm, including IPV.

To sum-up, the multilevel regression analysis provides crucial insights for designing effective violence prevention strategies that address factors at multiple levels simultaneously. The significant intra-cluster correlation coefficient ($ICC=7.01\%$) indicates that community-level factors explain a meaningful proportion of variation in violence risk, suggesting that interventions should address both individual and community-level influences.

The findings demonstrate that violence risk emerges from the complex interplay between individual characteristics (such as age and education), relationship dynamics (fear, controlling behaviors and partner activities), community factors (settlement type and regional context) and societal influences (cultural practices like dowry).

SUMMARY TABLE OF RISK FACTORS ACROSS VIOLENCE TYPES

The summary provided in Table 8.3.2 captures the risk factors that demonstrated statistical significance across all measured types of violence against women. This enables identification of both shared and unique risk patterns, informing a more nuanced approach to violence prevention and intervention that accounts for the specific dynamics of different violence types while also addressing their common underlying determinants. The detailed tables of risk factors for each specific violence type are provided in the appendix (Table A10 to A14), allowing for more granular examination of particular risk patterns. Together, this analytical framework provides a robust evidence base for developing multi level, targeted prevention strategies that address the diverse manifestations of violence against women.

Table 8.3.2: Summary of statistically significant risk factors from the multilevel multivariate model, controlling for confounders (across types of IPV)

Risk Factor	Physical	Sexual	Physical and/or Sexual	Emotional	Controlling	Economic	Category
Age of the respondent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Marital status	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Number of marriages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Marriage with dowry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Afraid of husband	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Husband's extramarital relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Husband's drug addiction	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Division	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Significant across all IPV types
Husband/partner education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	Significant for 5 Types
Assets owned (land, savings etc.)	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	Significant for 5 Types
Type of Household (Slum/non slum)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	Significant for 5 Types
Earning status of respondent	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	Significant for 4 Types
Functional difficulties	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	Significant for 4 Types
Disaster versus non disaster area	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	Significant for 3 Types
Place of residence (rural/urban)	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	Significant for 3 Types
Wealth index (household)	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	Significant for 2 Types
Respondent's education	✓	X	X	X	X	X	Significant for 1 Type
Number of children	X	X	X	X	X	X	No significant association
Religion	X	X	X	X	X	X	No significant association

Table 8.3.2 presents a summary of the multilevel multivariate logistic regression analysis, identifying statistically significant risk factors for different types of IPV after controlling for confounding variables. This analysis provides a more robust understanding of true

risk associations than bivariate analysis alone. Below is a narrative summary of these findings where checkmarks (✓) indicate statistical significance and (X) marks indicate non-significance.

CONSISTENT RISK FACTORS ACROSS MULTIPLE FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Several factors emerged as significant predictors across most or all forms of violence, as presented in Table 8.3.2.

- Marital Status is significantly associated with all types of violence, suggesting that various marital situations (being married, separated, widowed or divorced) impact vulnerability to IPV in different ways.
- The number of marriages consistently appears as significant across all violence types, indicating that women with multiple marriages may face different risk profiles.
- Husband's Extra-Marital Relationships is a significant risk factor across all violence types, highlighting the consistent association between infidelity and increased IPV risk.
- Husband's Drug Addiction significantly predicts all forms of violence, confirming the well-established link between substance abuse and violent behavior.
- Fear of Husband significantly predicts all types of violence, suggesting that women's subjective perception of threat is a reliable indicator of actual violence risk.
- Marriage with dowry is significantly associated with all violence types, reinforcing the connection between dowry practices and increased vulnerability to IPV.
- Division (geographic region) shows significance across all violence types, indicating important regional differences in violence prevalence even after controlling for other factors.

SOME FACTORS SHOW VARIABLE SIGNIFICANCE DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF VIOLENCE

■ Significant for 5 IPV Types

- Husband/Partner Education: Significant for all forms except economic violence. Higher partner education appears to reduce physical, sexual, emotional and controlling violence—likely through improved communication and exposure to gender-equitable norms.
- Assets Owned: Protective against all IPV types except emotional abuse. Asset ownership enhances economic independence but may not deter psychological control.

- Household Type (Slum/Non slum): Significant for all types except controlling behaviour. Slum residence is linked to higher risks of physical, sexual, emotional and economic IPV.

■ Significant for 4 IPV Types

- Earning Status of Respondent: Associated with physical, physical/sexual, emotional and economic IPV. This may reflect a “male backlash,” where women's earning challenges traditional power dynamics.
- Functional Difficulties (Disability): Linked to sexual, emotional, controlling and economic IPV.

■ Significant for 3 IPV Types

- Disaster vs. Non disaster Area: While the prevalence of violence is higher in disaster-prone areas than in non disaster-prone areas, after controlling for other factors, individuals living in non disaster-prone areas have higher odds of experiencing sexual violence and physical and/or sexual violence compared to those in disaster-prone areas. For other types of violence, the differences are not statistically significant. This suggests that, although environmental stressors in disaster-prone regions may elevate overall risk for certain forms of violence, other underlying social or structural factors in non disaster areas—or possibly stronger social cohesion in disaster-exposed regions—may play a more significant role in driving these specific types of violence.
- Place of Residence (Urban/Rural): Significantly predicts physical, emotional and economic violence, but not sexual violence, combined physical/sexual violence or controlling behavior. This suggests that the urban/rural distinction affects certain forms of violence differently.

■ Significant for 2 IPV Types

- Wealth Index (Household): Protective only for sexual and emotional IPV. Higher household wealth may enhance protection in limited domains but does not universally reduce IPV.

■ Significant for Only 1 IPV Type

- Respondent's Education: Significant only for physical IPV. Its limited effect suggests education alone is insufficient to overcome entrenched power imbalances.

NON-SIGNIFICANT FACTORS

Two factors—number of children and religion—show no statistically significant association with any form of IPV in the multivariate model. This suggests that neither factor independently contributes to variations in IPV risk.

- Number of Children: Contrary to some expectations, the number of children was not associated with IPV risk. This may indicate that family size neither heightens nor mitigates women’s vulnerability in this context.
- Religion: No form of IPV was significantly linked to religious affiliation, suggesting that IPV is more influenced by structural and relational dynamics than religious identity or belief systems.

IMPLICATIONS

This analysis reveals that while some risk factors (like husband’s drug use, extra-marital relationships and fear of husband) consistently predict all forms of intimate partner, others have more specific effects on particular violence types. This nuanced understanding is crucial for designing targeted interventions that address the unique risk profiles for different forms of violence against women in Bangladesh. The multivariate approach used in this analysis provides stronger evidence for independent associations than bivariate analysis alone, as it isolates the independent contribution of each factor while controlling for potential confounders.

8.4 RISK FACTOR ANALYSIS FOR NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

8.4.1: BIVARIATE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN RISK FACTORS AND NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

The bivariate analysis presented in Table 8.4.1 examines potential risk factors associated with different forms of

non-partner violence (NPV) experienced within the last 12 months. The analysis specifically focuses on physical and sexual violence prevalence across various demographic, socioeconomic and geographic characteristics within a sample of 27,476 respondents.

Table 8.4.1: Bivariate analysis of potential risk factors associated with different forms of non-partner violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey)

Prevalence (%) of different form of non-partner violence in last 12 months			
Risk Factors	Physical	Sexual	Number of Respondents
Age of the respondents			
15-19	10.47	1.71	2,887
20-24	4.23	0.50	3,187
25-29	2.43	0.11	3,625
30-34	3.86	0.39	3,362
35-39	2.80	0.36	3,710
40-44	1.94	0.34	2,620
45-49	1.79	0.14	2,320
50-54	1.59	0.03	5,765
55+	1.25	0.01	3,985
Marital status			
Married and living with husband	2.57	0.15	21,101
Married, living apart from husband	3.20	0.48	1,088
Divorced, separated and widowed	1.94	0.59	2,774
Never married	12.11	2.08	2,513
Respondent education			
No education/pre-primary	2.71	0.22	8,574
Primary complete	3.46	0.50	3,354
Secondary incomplete	4.86	0.54	7,767

Prevalence (%) of different form of non-partner violence in last 12 months			
Risk Factors	Physical	Sexual	Number of Respondents
Secondary complete (SSC)	3.89	1.04	3,280
Higher secondary (HSC)	4.62	0.27	2,635
Bachelor and above	2.52	0.42	1,865
Religion			
Muslim	3.90	0.45	24,583
Hindu	2.41	0.40	2,648
Buddhist/ Christian	3.65	1.91	245
Wealth Index			
Poorest	3.46	0.30	5,475
Poorer	3.96	0.33	5,482
Middle	3.48	0.65	5,501
Richer	3.84	0.51	5,541
Richest	4.06	0.60	5,477
Functional difficulties			
No/some difficulties	3.92	0.45	25,025
Moderate/severe difficulties	1.77	0.60	2,451
Type of Household			
Slum	3.84	0.66	765
Non slum	3.74	0.45	26,711
Disaster-prone status			
Disaster-prone area	3.92	0.37	7,363
Non disaster-prone area	3.67	0.49	20,113
Division			
Barishal	4.33	0.36	2,469
Chattogram	4.54	0.51	4,294
Dhaka	3.80	0.49	6,347
Khulna	3.13	0.43	3,001
Mymensingh	2.70	0.07	2,632
Rajshahi	3.42	0.52	3,246
Rangpur	3.97	0.50	3,039
Sylhet	3.04	0.56	2,448
Area of residence			
Rural	3.43	0.45	11,038
Urban excl CC	4.10	0.42	6,546
City corporation (CC)	4.94	0.56	9,892
Total	3.74	0.46	27,476

Age Distribution and Violence Prevalence: A pronounced age-related pattern is evident in non-partner violence prevalence. Adolescents aged 15-19 years demonstrate the highest vulnerability, with 10.47% reporting physical violence and 1.71% reporting sexual violence—rates significantly higher than any other age group. A consistent declining trend is observed with increasing age, from 4.23% physical violence among 20-24 years old to merely 1.59% among those aged 50-54 years. This age gradient suggests that younger women face disproportionate risks of non-partner violence.

Marital Status and Vulnerability: Never-married women exhibit substantially elevated prevalence of both physical (12.11%) and sexual violence (2.08%), markedly higher than any other marital category. In contrast, women who are married and living with their husbands show considerably lower rates (2.57% for physical violence; 0.15% for sexual violence). These findings suggest that marriage—particularly when cohabiting with one's spouse—may confer some protection against non-partner violence, while unmarried status appears to significantly increase vulnerability.

Educational Attainment: The relationship between education and non-partner violence presents a complex pattern. Physical violence prevalence ranges from 2.71% among those with no education to peaks of 4.86% among those with incomplete secondary education, before declining to 2.52% among respondents with bachelor's degrees or higher. Sexual violence similarly

shows variation across educational categories, with the highest prevalence (1.04%) observed among those with completed secondary education. These patterns suggest that moderate levels of education may be linked with increased reporting of violence, while higher education might confer protective benefits.

Table 8.4.2: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for non-partner's physical and/or sexual violence

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for non-partner physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.65	<0.001	0.51	0.82
25-29	0.46	<0.001	0.35	0.61
30-34	0.42	<0.001	0.31	0.55
35-39	0.32	<0.001	0.24	0.42
40-44	0.20	<0.001	0.14	0.29
45-49	0.16	<0.001	0.11	0.24
50-54	0.12	<0.001	0.08	0.19
55+	0.09	<0.001	0.06	0.14
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	1.22	0.245	0.87	1.71
Divorced, separated and widowed	1.20	0.243	0.88	1.62
Never married	3.14	<0.001	2.52	3.92
Respondent education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.74	<0.05	0.58	0.94
Secondary incomplete	0.60	<0.001	0.49	0.73
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.42	<0.001	0.33	0.54
Higher secondary (HSC)	0.45	<0.001	0.34	0.58
Bachelor and above	0.41	<0.001	0.28	0.58
Functional difficulties				
No difficulty	RC			
Some difficulty	1.54	<0.001	1.32	1.80
Moderate/severe difficulty	1.52	<0.001	1.13	2.04
Division				
Barishal	2.10	<0.001	1.44	3.07
Chattogram	2.33	<0.001	1.66	3.27
Dhaka	2.04	<0.001	1.47	2.83
Khulna	1.95	<0.001	1.35	2.81
Mymensingh	RC			
Rajshahi	2.58	<0.001	1.81	3.68
Rangpur	2.30	<0.001	1.61	3.30
Sylhet	1.40	0.085	0.95	2.05
Constant	0.05	<0.001	0.03	0.07
Intra-cluster correlation	8.3%		5.3%	12.5%

RC = Reference Category

Socioeconomic Factors: Wealth quintiles demonstrate modest variation in non-partner violence prevalence without a clear gradient. Physical violence ranges from 3.46% in the poorest quintile to 4.06% in the richest quintile. This indicates that higher economic resources may not necessarily protect against non-partner violence.

Geographic and Contextual Factors: Regional variation is evident across Bangladesh's administrative divisions. Physical violence prevalence ranges from 2.70% in Mymensingh to 4.54% in Chattogram. Urban-rural differences are notable, with physical violence prevalence increasing from rural areas (3.43%) to urban areas excluding city corporations (4.10%) to city corporations (4.94%). This urbanization gradient suggests that city environments may present increased risks of non-partner violence compared to rural settings.

Religious Affiliation shows some variation in violence prevalence, with Muslims reporting higher rates of physical violence (3.90%), while Buddhist/Christian respondents report substantially higher sexual violence prevalence (1.91%) compared to both Muslim (0.45%) and Hindu (0.40%) respondents, although the small sample size of this group (n=245) warrants cautious interpretation.

Environmental Context: Slum residence shows minimal difference in physical violence prevalence but elevated sexual violence (0.66% versus 0.45%). Similarly, disaster-prone areas show slightly higher physical violence prevalence (3.92% versus 3.67%) but slightly lower sexual violence prevalence (0.37% versus 0.49%) compared to non-disaster-prone areas.

Bivariate analysis indicates that several demographic and contextual factors are potentially linked to differences in non-partner violence prevalence. Higher prevalence is observed among younger women, those who have never married and individuals residing in urban areas. The overall prevalence of non-partner physical violence (3.74%) and sexual violence (0.46%) in the last 12 months highlights the importance of these forms of violence as public health concerns within the survey population.

Table 8.4.2 presents a multilevel logistic regression analysis examining risk factors associated with non-partner physical and/or sexual violence experienced within the last 12 months. The analysis employs odds ratios (OR) with corresponding p-values and 95% confidence intervals to quantify the strength and statistical significance of various demographic and socioeconomic risk factors.

Age as a Protective Factor: The analysis reveals a strong, consistent and statistically significant age gradient in vulnerability to non-partner violence. Younger women, particularly those aged 15-19 years (the reference category), demonstrate the highest risk. As age increases, there is a pronounced and systematic reduction in likelihood of experiencing non-partner violence. Women aged 20-24 years show 35% lower odds (OR=0.65, $p<0.001$) compared to the youngest age group. This protective effect strengthens considerably with advancing age, as evidenced by dramatically lower odds among older cohorts: women aged 35-39 years exhibit 68% lower odds (OR=0.32, $p<0.001$), while those 55 years and older demonstrate 91% lower odds (OR=0.09, $p<0.001$) of experiencing such violence. This age-related pattern suggests that vulnerability to non-partner violence diminishes substantially throughout the life course.

Marital Status and Vulnerability: Marital status is a significant factor in the risk of non-partner violence. The analysis shows that never-married women have notably higher odds of experiencing non-partner violence compared to married women living with their husbands (OR=3.14, $p<0.001$). However, this finding should not be interpreted as suggesting that marriage inherently offers protection or as a justification for early marriage as a prevention strategy. Rather, it may reflect greater social and situational vulnerabilities faced by never-married women in the current context. Women who are married but living apart from their husbands (OR=1.22, $p=0.245$) and those who are divorced, separated or widowed (OR=1.20, $p=0.243$) also show somewhat higher odds, though these differences are not statistically significant. These patterns point to the complex interplay of social factors influencing risk, underscoring the need for nuanced, rights-based policy responses.

Educational Attainment as Protection: Education demonstrates a clear protective relationship against non-partner violence, with a generally consistent gradient across educational levels. Compared to women with no education or pre-primary education (the reference category), those with even primary complete education show 26% lower odds (OR=0.74, $p=0.013$) of experiencing non-partner violence. This protective effect strengthens with higher educational attainment, as secondary complete education is associated with 58% lower odds (OR=0.42, $p<0.001$) and bachelor's degree or higher education corresponds to 59% lower odds (OR=0.41, $p<0.001$). These findings suggest that educational achievement serves as an important protective factor against non-partner violence.

Functional difficulties Status and Increased risk: The presence of functional difficulties is associated with elevated risk of non-partner violence. Women reporting “some difficulty” demonstrate 54% higher odds (OR=1.54, $p<0.001$) of experiencing non-partner violence compared to those without difficulty (the reference category). Similarly, those with moderate to severe difficulty show 52% higher odds (OR=1.52, $p=0.005$). This consistent elevation in risk across functional difficulties categories underscores the heightened vulnerability of women with disabilities.

Regional Variation: Significant geographic variation in non-partner violence risk is evident across administrative divisions. Using Mymensingh as the reference category (RC), all other divisions show elevated odds ratios. Rajshahi division demonstrates the highest risk (OR=2.58, $p<0.001$), followed closely by Chattogram (OR=2.33, $p<0.001$) and Rangpur (OR=2.30, $p<0.001$). Only Sylhet shows a non-significant elevation in risk (OR=1.40, $p=0.085$). These substantial regional disparities suggest important contextual or sociocultural factors that

influence vulnerability to non-partner violence across different geographic areas.

The multilevel analysis identified meaningful within-cluster correlation, with an intra-cluster correlation coefficient of 8.3% (95% CI: 5.3%-12.5%). This indicates that approximately 8.3% of the total variance in non-partner violence risk is attributable to cluster-level factors, justifying the multilevel analytical approach and suggesting the importance of contextual factors beyond individual-level characteristics.

To sum-up, the multilevel logistic regression analysis provides robust evidence of multiple risk and protective factors for non-partner physical and/or sexual violence. Younger age, never being married, lower educational attainment, presence of functional difficulties and certain geographic regions emerge as significant risk factors. These findings offer valuable insights for targeted interventions, highlighting particularly vulnerable populations and providing an empirical foundation for violence prevention strategies.

9 COST OF VIOLENCE

COST OF VIOLENCE

Violence against women remains a widespread public health and human rights concern in Bangladesh. The multifaceted impacts of violence continue to affect individuals, families and public systems. Many of these consequences—especially the psychological and social dimensions—are difficult to quantify in monetary terms. In this survey an effort has been made to collect data on some measurable aspects, particularly the costs associated with medical care and legal proceedings. Treatment costs primarily covered doctors' fees, laboratory tests, medicines and transportation. Legal expenses mainly comprised fees for lodging a police case/FIR, lawyers' fees and transportation. These findings, based on a national-level survey, shed light on the financial burden experienced by survivors of violence over the last 12 months and offer insights to inform more targeted interventions and resource allocation.

Table 9.1 presents data on treatment-seeking behavior, associated costs and support systems

among women who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence by a husband or partner (ever-married women) and/or physical or sexual violence by non-partners (among all women) in the last 12 months, disaggregated by rural and urban areas.

Nationally, only 14.5% of women sought any form of treatment following incidents of violence, with a slightly higher proportion in rural areas (15.1%) compared to urban areas (13.1%). On average, the treatment cost per survivor was Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 2,512 nationwide, with rural women incurring slightly higher expenses (BDT 2,672) than their urban counterparts (BDT 2,394). The cost of legal action was substantially higher, averaging BDT 4,104 nationally and again urban survivors reported higher legal expenses (BDT 4,341) compared to rural ones (BDT 3,780). The combined average cost for treatment and legal action stood at BDT 2,674, slightly elevated in rural areas.

Table 9.1: Treatment-seeking, treatment costs and legal expenses due to physical, sexual or emotional violence in the last 12 months (prior to survey) among all women

Type of action and cost	National	Rural	Urban
Treatment uptake among survivors (Last 12 Months)			
% of survivors took treatment in last 12 months	14.5	15.1	13.1
Average treatment cost (BDT)	2,512	2,672	2,394
Average legal action cost (BDT)	4,104	3,780	4,341
Average overall cost (treatment and legal action) (BDT)	2,674	2,878	2,529
Type of violence for which treatment required (%)			
Physical	93.4	92.9	94.6
Sexual	1.5	1.4	1.7
Emotional/mental	15.5	12.7	22.8

Type of action and cost	National	Rural	Urban
Type of treatment taken (%)			
Medical/Allopathic	91.4	92.7	91.8
Kabiraji/Traditional	1.5	1.6	1.6
Ayurvedic	0.0	0.4	0.1
Homeopathic	0.7	1.0	0.8
Counselling	3.4	1.8	3.0
Religious treatment	0.9	0.3	0.7
Other (pharmacy)	6.1	3.9	5.5
The place from where treatment received (%)			
Doctor chamber	17.3	17.8	17.4
Private Clinic	3.0	3.0	3.0
Government hospital	18.0	14.5	17.0
Private hospital	4.3	4.8	4.5
Pharmacy/Drug seller shop	61.1	65.3	62.3
Other	2.3	1.5	2.1
Persons who took the survivors to receive medical care(%)			
Herself	32.1	41.4	34.7
Husband	37.7	31.4	35.9
Other marital family members	10.7	20.6	13.4
Paternal family member	22.3	16.8	20.8
Neighbor	6.7	4.8	6.2
NGO representative	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other	6.8	3.1	5.7
Sources of funding for survivors' healthcare (%)			
Herself	23.3	22.4	23.0
Husband	50.3	43.5	48.4
Other marital family members	11.0	21.0	13.8
Paternal family member	22.5	18.6	21.4
Neighbor	1.5	1.2	1.4
NGO representative	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	3.1	1.7	2.7

Note: Emotional violence was only measured as a form of intimate partner violence, but all women, including those who experienced physical or sexual non-partner violence could have indicated they sought help for emotional violence.

A significant majority of women (93.4%) who sought treatment did so for physical violence. Emotional or mental violence accounted for 15.5% of treatment cases, with urban women more likely to seek help for this type of abuse (22.8%) compared to rural women (12.7%). Only a small fraction of survivors sought treatment for sexual violence (1.5%).

Regarding the type of treatment, medical or allopathic services were overwhelmingly preferred (91.4%). Pharmacies were the most frequently accessed treatment source (61.1%), followed by government hospitals (18%) and private doctor chambers (17.3%). Alternative treatments, including ayurvedic, homeopathic or religious methods, were used by very few.

In terms of who facilitated the treatment, husbands played the primary role (37.7%), followed by the survivors themselves (32.1%). Paternal family members (22.3%) and marital family members (10.7%) also provided support though less frequently.

As for payment, husbands covered the cost in over half of the cases (50.3%), while women themselves paid in 23.3% of instances. Paternal family members contributed in 22.5% of cases and marital family members in 11.0%.

These findings underscore the low rate of formal care-seeking among survivors, the reliance on personal or family resources and the financial burden on women and their immediate families in the aftermath of violence.

Table 9.2 shows that among those who did not seek treatment, the most cited reason—by a large margin—was the perception that treatment was not needed (75.3% nationally). Financial constraints were reported by 4.1% of respondents and fear-related factors (fear of husband, family or social stigma) cumulatively accounted for around 10% of responses.

Social prestige concerns were also reported by some survivors. Only a minimal number mentioned geographic inaccessibility (0.2–0.4%) or natural disasters as barriers. These data highlight the dominance of internalized or socially conditioned barriers over logistical ones, underscoring the need for both awareness-raising and systemic support mechanisms.

Table 9.2: Reasons for not taking treatment

Reasons Cited (multiple responses)	National (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Treatment was not needed	75.3	76.0	73.7
Not applicable	17.3	16.8	18.4
Financial inability	4.1	4.3	3.7
Afraid of social prestige	3.2	3.0	3.8
Afraid of husband	3.1	3.2	2.9
Husband did not allow	2.3	2.3	2.2
Afraid of family member	1.8	1.6	2.2
Threatened by people other than family member	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other	0.6	0.7	0.6
Service is far away	0.4	0.3	0.6
Hard to reach to access the treatment	0.2	0.3	0.1
Natural disaster (flood/cyclone etc.)	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total	108.9	109.0	108.6

10

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ending violence against women requires urgent, multisectoral action across all levels of the socio-ecological framework – from individuals and families to communities and broader systems and institutions. Drawing on the comprehensive findings from the 2024 Violence Against Women Survey, including insights from the complementary in-depth research component, the recommendations below are organized under four foundational pillars: response, prevention, data and evidence and enabling environment.

10.1 RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

10.1.1 ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) SERVICES

Strengthen GBV response services from national to sub-district levels through the operationalization of a survivor-centered case management approach and nationwide rollout of a contextualized Essential Services Package (ESP), ensuring coordinated, multisectoral support across health, justice, legal and social services. Expand access to integrated mental health and psychosocial support for women and girls, particularly survivors, with referral linkages.

10.1.2 INSTITUTIONALISE GBV RESPONSE WORKFORCE

Ensure a well-trained, adequately resourced GBV response workforce by institutionalizing key roles like case managers and counselors, establishing standardized competency frameworks and integrating GBV and harmful practices content into the training of law enforcement, judiciary and local government officials.

10.1.3 ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

Provide economic assistance to survivors and establish safe spaces and district-level shelter homes offering comprehensive GBV case management – integrated into referral systems and accessible without court orders.

10.1.4 MAINSTREAM GBV RESPONSE WITHIN HEALTH SERVICES

Integrate GBV response across all health service disciplines, including family planning, midwifery, antenatal care and other SRHR services – moving from a largely medico-legal examination approach towards holistic, survivor-centred care. Strengthen healthcare providers' capacity to ensure quality survivor support through the nationwide rollout of the 'Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence' protocol.

10.1.5 TARGETED RESPONSE FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS

Tailored strategies must address the needs of at-risk populations, including but not limited to adolescent girls, women and girls in informal settlements and those with disabilities. This includes age-appropriate GBV services linked with child protection, targeted support for those in insecure living conditions and inclusive services for persons with disabilities.

10.1.6 RESPONSE TO TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Strengthen national and institutional responses to technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) through the development and implementation of comprehensive laws, policies and guidelines. Establish clear, survivor-centered reporting and referral mechanisms and integrate

GBV case management practices that will address the needs and risks associated with technology-facilitated GBV. Strengthen service providers' capacity, establish secure procedures for digital evidence handling and enhance coordination with law enforcement, digital service providers and cyber support for women units.

10.1.7 DEVELOP REGION-SPECIFIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES

Programmes should tailor interventions to local contexts, address community norms, engage regional stakeholders and allocate resources based on area-

specific risk profiles rather than applying one-size-fits-all approaches. In particular, create targeted IPV response services — such as mobile crisis units, community safe spaces and coordination with city authorities — in slum and high-risk urban zones to address their elevated risks.

10.1.8 COMMUNITY LEADER CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthen the role of community leaders, who are involved in over half of legal actions, pursued by survivors, through training, links to formal systems and accountability measures.

10.2 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

10.2.1 FOSTERING VIOLENCE-FREE RELATIONSHIPS

Implement positive parenting programmes that are integrated with response services and aligned with education sector efforts to promote violence-free childhoods. Safe prevention programming should be implemented for couples, drawing on evidence and guided by risk assessments. These interventions should also address contributing factors such as substance abuse, particularly in the context of intimate partner violence.

10.2.1a Shift Harmful Norms about Masculinity

Promote positive masculinities by empowering men to reject coercion and control, respect women's choices, mobility and access to resources and actively foster shared decision-making within households and communities.

10.2.2 EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Promote the empowerment of women and adolescent girls through transformative policies supporting fair employment, female-led entrepreneurship and access to vocational and financial literacy programmes aligned with market needs. Prioritize at-risk groups and embed violence prevention education on rights, autonomy and empowerment.

10.2.2a Economic Empowerment with Safety Measures

Integrate safety planning, partner engagement and social empowerment into economic empowerment programs, as evidence supports the “male backlash” effect, where shifts in gender roles during women's economic advancement can trigger violence.

10.2.3 ENHANCING SERVICE AWARENESS

Implement large-scale campaigns to raise awareness of support services and promote help-seeking, ensuring accessible information for hard-to-reach and marginalized groups, including women with limited literacy, disabilities or resources.

10.2.4 ADDRESSING VIOLENCE NORMALIZATION

In contexts where harmful social and gender norms normalize IPV, many women see disclosure as “unnecessary.” At the same time, national data show that a significant proportion of women in Bangladesh report no experience of IPV, especially in the past 12 months, reflecting a growing shift toward non-violent relationships. This dual reality presents an opportunity: while harmful norms must be challenged, positive trends should be reinforced to promote positive behavior change. Shifting perceptions of what is “normal” is critical to preventing violence.

10.2.5 ADDRESSING POVERTY DRIVERS OF GBV

Increase access to contributory and non-contributory social protection schemes, including cash and voucher assistance, to strengthen household economic security and advance development outcomes for women and girls.

10.2.6 SAFER PHYSICAL SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Partner with public and private sectors to integrate gender-responsive safety measures into urban, rural, transport and communication planning. Ensure accountability for creating secure environments that prevent harassment and violence in public spaces (e.g. CCTV cameras in high-risk zones, mobile apps or SMS hotlines for real-time reporting of harassment or unsafe conditions).

10.2.7 DIGITAL SAFETY AND PREVENTION OF ONLINE VIOLENCE

Develop and implement a prevention strategy with government, CSOs and digital actors to address the growing risks of online violence, promote digital safety, challenge harmful norms, integrate digital literacy into education curricula and hold technological companies accountable for ensuring safety by design.

10.2.8 EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Integrate gender-transformative approaches, violence prevention education and life skills across formal and informal education to leverage Bangladesh's youth bulge for generational change. Ensure localization and full implementation of school violence prevention policies and health-promoting practices in schools, universities

and madrasahs. Advocate for phased expansion of stipend programmes to enhance the protective role of education against violence.

10.2.9 TRANSFORMING HARMFUL GENDER NORMS, ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

Design and implement evidence-based, gender-synchronised social norm change programmes, grounded in community needs and local realities, in partnership with youth- and women-led organisations.

10.2.9a Challenge Dowry-Related Norms

Dowry-related practices and expectations significantly increase IPV risk. Recommended actions include transforming harmful social and gender norms, promoting of dowry-free marriage practices, providing economic incentives, engaging religious and community leaders and enhancing legal literacy on dowry prohibition.

10.2.9b Engage Community Leaders

Mobilize community and religious leaders, particularly men, to challenge harmful gender norms, lead public advocacy and support campaigns and programs that promote positive masculinities.

10.2.10 FEAR AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTROL PREVENTION

Fear of a husband is the strongest predictor of violence. Address this through interventions that promote respectful relationships, enhance community understanding of controlling behaviours and emotional violence, normalize help-seeking, enable early intervention by service providers and strengthen access to mental health and psychosocial support.

10.3 DATA AND EVIDENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

10.3.1 TRANSITION TO UPDATED WHO VAW SURVEY TOOLS

Transition to using the latest adaptation of the WHO multi-country study questionnaire for the next national Violence Against Women (VAW) survey to align with global standards, ensure data comparability and support best practices.

10.3.2 INSTITUTIONALIZE PERIODIC VAW SURVEYS

Where there is demand for new data, VAW surveys should be conducted at regular intervals (every 5–10 years) to track trends and progress toward national and international commitments. At the same time, it is important to support policymakers' understanding of the

ethical and safety considerations that make less frequent data collection necessary.

10.3.3 INTEGRATE VAW DATA ACROSS SECTORS

Promote an integrated approach to VAW data by strengthening administrative data systems across key sectors (health, police, MoWCA) and maximizing the use of prevalence data for policymaking.

10.3.4 STRENGTHEN USE OF VAW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DATA

Accelerate the development of safe, ethical and robust solutions for collecting and managing data on reported VAW cases to monitor response service coverage and criminal justice effectiveness.

10.3.5 CONDUCT SURVEYS FOR KEY POPULATIONS

As needed, undertake dedicated surveys or studies on GBV among key populations, such as female sex workers, women with disabilities, people living with HIV and transgender individuals, to understand their specific vulnerabilities and service needs.

10.3.6 DISSEMINATE AND USE VAW DATA EFFECTIVELY

Widely disseminate survey findings and facilitate their use, including through secondary analyses, to inform theme-based and targeted interventions.

10.4 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY AND RIGHTS

10.4.1 IDENTIFY AND REFORM DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS IN GBV-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

Reform discriminatory provisions and ensure enforcement of the protective legal frameworks, including the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act, laws related to mandatory reporting for rape survivors and the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

10.4.1a Strengthen Technology-Facilitated Violence Legal Framework

Current gaps in the legal framework include limited survivor compensation, inadequate gender sensitivity and an overemphasis on criminalization over protection. Strengthening the legal framework on technology-facilitated GBV requires streamlining reporting, establishing specialized cyber courts, supporting survivors with digital evidence, enhancing cross-border cooperation and ensuring survivor protection and privacy.

10.4.2 SECURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR GBV AND CHILD MARRIAGE PLANS

Ensure adequate financing for national action plans on GBV and Child Marriage, with these plans fully coordinated by the Government within its existing financing mechanisms. This must include incorporating

a costed monitoring and evaluation framework and robust accountability mechanisms.

10.4.3 STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL GENDER COMMITMENTS

Enhance accountability for international commitments by implementing recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant frameworks.

10.4.4 INSTITUTIONALIZE PSEA STANDARDS IN GBV RESPONSE

Ensure comprehensive PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) training for all GBV actors working with survivors, establish clear reporting and accountability mechanisms and embed PSEA into organizational policies, standard operating procedures and training programs.

10.4.5 PROMOTE ETHICAL AND GENDER-SENSITIVE MEDIA PRACTICES

Support the adoption of ethical, gender-sensitive reporting codes of conduct in media and promote gender-equitable representation and narratives through enhanced capacity building and strategic partnerships.

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

- Abramsky, T., et al. (2011). *What factors are associated with recent intimate partner violence? Findings from the WHO multi-country study*. BMC Public Health, 11(1), 109.
- Akter, S. (2018). *Cyber violence against women: The case of Bangladesh*. GenderIT.org, Association for Progressive Communications. Available at: <https://www.genderit.org/articles/cyber-violence-against-women-case-bangladesh>.
- Duvvury, N., Callan, A., Carney, P., & Raghavendra, S. (2013). *Intimate Partner Violence: Economic Costs and Implications for Growth and Development (VAP No. 3)*. World Bank.
- Garcia-Moreno, C., Jansen, H. A. F. M., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. H. (2006). *WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses*. World Health Organization. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/924159358X>.
- Greenland, S., Senn, S. J., Rothman, K. J., Carlin, J. B., Poole, C., Goodman, S. N., & Altman, D. G. (2016). *Statistical tests, P values, confidence intervals and power: A guide to misinterpretations*. European Journal of Epidemiology, 31(4), 337–350. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-016-0149-3>.
- GSMA. (2023). *The mobile gender gap report 2023*.
- Harvey, A., Garcia-Moreno, C., & Butchart, A. (2007). *Primary prevention of intimate-partner violence and sexual violence: Background paper for WHO expert meeting May 2–3, 2007*. WHO Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability. Available at: https://www.ndhealth.gov/injury/nd_prevention_tool_kit/docs/who-primary-prevention-of-intimate-partner-violence-and-sexual-violence.pdf.
- Heise, L., & Kotsadam, A. (2015). *Cross-national and multilevel correlates of partner violence: An analysis of data from population-based surveys*. The Lancet Global Health, 3(6), e332–e340. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(15\)00013-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(15)00013-3).
- Hindin, M. J., Kishor, S., & Ansara, D. L. (2008). *Intimate partner violence among couples in 10 DHS countries*. ORC Macro.
- Hosmer, D. W., Lemeshow, S., & Sturdivant, R. X. (2013). *Applied logistic regression (3rd ed.)*. John Wiley & Sons. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/book/10.1002/9781118548387>.
- Jewkes, R. (2002). *Intimate partner violence: Causes and prevention*. The Lancet, 359(9315), 1423–1429.
- Jewkes, R., et al. (2010). *Risk factors for domestic violence: Findings from a South African study*. Social Science & Medicine, 63(11), 2939–2951.

- Jewkes, R., Flood, M., & Lang, J. (2015). *From work with men and boys to changes of social norms and reduction of inequities in gender relations: a conceptual shift in prevention of violence against women and girls*. *The Lancet*, 385(9977), 1580–1589.
- Kalokhe, A. S., Iyer, S. R., Kolhe, A. R., Dhayarkar, S., Paranjape, A., Rio, C. D., Stephenson, R., & Sahay, S. (2018). *Correlates of domestic violence experience among recently-married women residing in slums in Pune, India*. *PLoS ONE*, 13(4), e0195152. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0195152>.
- Khan, N. A., Begum, A., Chowdhury, T. M. J., Das, B. K., Shahid, F., Kabir, S., & Begum, M. (2017). *Violence against women in Bangladesh*. *Delta Medical College Journal*, 5(1), 25–29.
- Kishor, S., & Johnson, K. (2004). *Profiling domestic violence: A multi-country study*. ORC Macro.
- Macmillan, R., & Gartner, R. (1999). *When she brings home the bacon: Labor-force participation and the risk of spousal violence against women*. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 61(4), 947–958.
- Munro, J., Patterson, P. B., & McIntyre, L. (2015). *“Your father is no more”: Insights on guardianship and abandonment from ultrapoor women heads of household in Bangladesh*. *Women’s Studies International Forum*, 53, 43–52. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2015.09.005>.
- Raudenbush, S. W., & Bryk, A. S. (2002). *Hierarchical linear models: Applications and data analysis methods (2nd ed.)*. Sage Publications. Available at: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/hierarchical-linear-models/book226142>.
- Saleem, S., & Ahsan, A. (2019). *Impact of Poor Sanitation on Women’s Safety and Dignity in Socio-Economically Challenged Communities*. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.
- Stark, E. (2007). *Coercive control: How men entrap women in personal life*. Oxford University Press.
- Stockl, H., & Sorenson, S. B. (2024). *Violence against women as a global public health issue*. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 45, 277–294.
- UN Women. (2024). *Global database on violence against women*. Available at: <https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violenceagainst-women>.
- UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. (2022). *Measuring intimate partner violence in Asia: Key lessons from recent prevalence studies*. Available at: <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/understanding-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-asia-qualitative-study>.
- UNFPA. (2023). *Measuring technology-facilitated gender-based violence: A discussion paper*. Available at: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_Measuring%20TF%20GBV_%20A%20Discussion%20Paper_FINAL.pdf
- United Nations. (2014). *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys*. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division and UNECE.
- White, S. C. (2016). *Patriarchal investments: Marriage, dowry and the political economy of development in Bangladesh*. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 47(2), 247–272. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2016.1239271>.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2005). *WHO multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence against women: Summary report*. WHO.
- World Health Organization. (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Table A1: Prevalence, standard error, confidence interval, intra cluster correlation and design effect of the key indicators

Indicators	Prevalence (%)	Linearized Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]		ICC (%)	Design Effect
Intimate partner violence						
Any form of violence in life-time	75.9	0.486	74.9	76.8	22.0	4.59
Any form of violence last 12 months	48.7	0.555	47.6	49.7	13.1	3.14
Physical violence in lifetime	47.3	0.555	46.2	48.4	9.7	2.58
Physical violence in last 12 months	10.6	0.320	10.0	11.3	6.5	2.06
Sexual violence in lifetime	29.0	0.499	28.0	29.9	12.9	3.10
Sexual violence in last 12 months	9.4	0.293	8.8	10.0	9.9	2.61
Controlling behavior in life-time	67.6	0.531	66.5	68.6	17.4	3.84
Controlling behavior in last 12 months	44.0	0.544	43.0	45.1	12.6	3.05
Emotional violence in lifetime	37.4	0.533	36.4	38.5	8.4	2.37
Emotional violence in last 12 months	17.6	0.387	16.8	18.3	8.3	2.35
Economic violence in lifetime	19.6	0.425	18.8	20.4	6.3	2.02
Economic violence in last 12 months	10.6	0.322	10.0	11.2	7.0	2.15
Reporting of IPV						
Reporting (disclose to some-one) by the survivors	36.1	0.722	34.6	37.5	3.3	1.28
Legal action taken by the survivors	7.4	0.526	6.3	8.4	18.0	2.51
Non-partner violence						
Physical violence lifetime	15.0	0.349	14.3	15.7	8.5	2.58
Physical violence in last 12 months	3.7	0.174	3.4	4.1	6.4	2.18
Sexual violence in Lifetime	2.2	0.139	2.0	2.5	16.2	4.00
Sexual violence in last 12 months	0.5	0.070	0.3	0.6	6.3	2.17
Reporting of NPV						
Legal action for non-partner violence	13.2	0.808	11.6	14.8	5.9	1.17
Technology-facilitated gender-based violence						
Lifetime	8.3	0.264	7.7	8.8	6.7	2.23
Last 12 months	5.2	0.215	4.8	5.6	10.1	2.85

ICC= Intra-cluster correlation

Note: This table presents key survey quality metrics- Prevalence, Standard Error, Confidence Interval, Intra-cluster Correlation (ICC) and Design Effect- to help assess the reliability and precision of the estimates.

- Prevalence (%) shows the proportion of respondents reporting the specified experience.
- Linearized Standard Error reflects the sampling variability around the prevalence estimate.
- 95% Confidence Interval indicates the range within which the true population value is likely to fall, with 95% certainty.
- ICC (Intra-cluster Correlation) captures the similarity of responses within clusters; higher ICC values suggest more homogeneity, which can affect the variance.
- Design Effect shows how much the sampling design (e.g., clustering) has increased the estimate's variance compared to a simple random sample. A design effect greater than 1 indicates increased variability due to the survey's complex design.

These metrics can be used to interpret the statistical robustness of the estimates, especially when making comparisons across population subgroups or over time.

Table A2: Prevalence of specific acts of physical violence among ever-married women aged 15+, by a current or former husband

Acts of physical violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least one act of physical violence	47.3	10.6	48.0	10.5	45.6	10.9	43.8	11.3	46.8	10.6
Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown something at you that could hurt you	46.2	10.0	46.7	9.9	44.8	10.2	43.2	11.0	45.9	9.7
Pushed you or shoved you or pulled your hair	18.1	4.0	18.2	3.9	18.0	4.2	17.2	4.3	18.6	4.1
Threw acid intentionally	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kicked you, dragged you or beat you up	11.9	2.5	12.3	2.4	10.9	2.5	9.1	2.2	12.2	2.7
Choked you on purpose	5.6	1.1	5.6	1.1	5.7	1.2	5.3	1.3	5.9	1.1
Burnt you using hot spoon, cooking spud, utensil, threw hot water	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.5	0.0	0.5	0.1
Threaten you with or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon against you? Or threaten to throw acid	1.9	0.4	1.9	0.4	1.9	0.4	1.5	0.3	2.1	0.5
Hit you with a stick or any other heavy things	15.4	2.7	16.1	2.7	13.8	2.5	11.1	1.9	15.7	3.0

Table A3: Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of physical violence experienced by ever-married women aged 15+

Acts of physical violence	Frequency of acts (Life-time)			n	Frequency of acts (Last 12 months)			n
	Once	Few times	Many times		Once	Few times	Many times	
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
At least one act of physical violence	33.5	50.7	15.9	2,969	20.4	50.2	29.4	11,469
Slapped, threw some-thing	26.9	55.2	18.0	2,803	9.1	31.9	59.0	5,882
Pushed, shoved or pulled hair	26.5	52.4	21.2	1,073	14.1	48.1	37.8	4,430
Intentionally acid threw	0	0	0	2	28.6	57.1	14.3	7
Kicked, dragged, beaten up	24.9	51.8	23.3	658	14.2	46.7	39.1	2,893
Choked on purpose	35.3	46.8	17.6	328	28.3	45.2	26.4	1,405
Burnt on purpose	50.0	38.5	11.5	26	51.1	31.8	17.0	176
Threatened or used a gun, knife or other weap-on	33.3	41.1	24.0	127	25.2	46.4	28.4	509
Hit with a stick	30.8	50.8	18.5	685	20.2	46.9	32.9	3,732

Table A4: Prevalence of specific acts of sexual violence among ever-married women aged 15+, by a current or former husband

Acts of physical violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corp.		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least one act of sexual violence	29.0	9.4	28.0	8.9	31.3	10.5	31.4	11.6	31.3	9.8
Force to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to	25.9	8.1	25.1	7.7	27.9	9.0	27.9	10.4	27.9	8.0
Being compelled to have sexual intercourse against will	18.6	5.3	18.6	4.9	18.8	6.3	17.1	6.3	19.9	6.3
Was forced to engage in sexual acts she found degrading or humiliating	3.0	1.0	3.1	1.0	2.8	0.9	2.5	0.9	3.1	0.9
Other unwanted sexual behavior	2.0	0.4	1.7	0.4	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	2.7	0.4

Table A5: Percentage distribution of the frequency of each act of sexual violence experienced by ever-married women aged 15+

Acts of sexual violence	Lifetime				Last 12 months			
	Frequency of acts			n	Frequency of acts			n
	Once	Few times	Many times		Once	Few times	Many times	
	%	%	%	N	%	%	%	N
At least one act of sexual violence	14.8	60.3	24.9	2692	7.8	49.6	42.6	7330
Force to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to	11.5	62.1	26.4	2382	4.4	39.7	55.9	5290
Being compelled to have sexual intercourse against will	11.4	59.3	29.4	1549	5.5	48.3	46.2	4649
Was forced to do something sexual that she found degrading or humiliating	22.1	55.7	22.1	262	17.2	53.8	29.0	799
Other un-wanted sexual behavior	20.7	55.7	23.6	140	16.6	48.9	34.5	490

Table A6: Prevalence of specific acts of controlling behavior among ever-married women aged 15+, by a current or former husband

Acts of controlling behavior	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least one act of controlling behavior	67.6	44.0	67.6	44.7	67.4	42.5	63.1	39.3	70.4	44.6
a. He tried to keep you from seeing your friends?	10.7	4.4	10.3	4.3	11.7	4.8	12.7	5.8	11.1	4.2
b. He tried to restrict contact with your family of birth?	13.1	4.6	13.1	4.7	13.0	4.3	11.0	4.1	14.4	4.4

Acts of controlling behavior	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
c. He insisted on knowing what are you doing and where you are at all times?	7.7	3.2	7.0	3.0	9.2	3.7	9.3	4.0	9.2	3.6
d. He ignored you and treated you indifferently?	19.9	9.5	20.0	9.5	19.8	9.6	18.4	9.6	20.7	9.6
e. He got angry if you spoke with your relative and non-relative male?	16.1	7.2	15.6	6.8	17.4	8.2	16.9	8.5	17.8	8.0
f. He was often suspicious that you are unfaithful?	8.2	3.5	7.9	3.4	8.9	3.5	8.8	3.2	8.9	3.7
g. He expected you to ask his permission before seeking health care for yourself?	38.9	25.8	39.2	26.2	38.1	24.9	31.9	21.0	42.5	27.6
h. He forced you to maintain veil/hijab (Parda)-- only for Muslim woman	13.7	9.0	14.0	9.2	12.8	8.6	10.7	7.2	14.2	9.6
i. He restricted/stop your study?	9.2	2.0	9.4	2.1	8.9	1.9	7.4	2.1	9.9	1.7
j. He restricted /stopped you to work/job? (Economic pressure)	9.6	4.7	8.7	4.6	11.7	4.9	13.7	6.3	10.4	3.9
k. He restricted you from going out of home for recreation?	15.7	7.7	16.1	8.0	14.7	6.9	11.4	5.9	16.9	7.7
l. He used degrading/ humiliating/disrespectful words against your parents?	24.9	10.8	24.5	11.0	25.8	10.1	25.9	11.1	25.7	9.4
m. He forced you to use contraceptives?	3.7	1.8	3.6	1.7	3.9	1.8	4.5	2.2	3.5	1.5
n. He prevented you to use contraceptives?	2.6	1.0	2.6	1.0	2.5	0.9	2.4	1.3	2.6	0.7
o. He misbehaved with you or used offensive language against you for giving birth to a girl child?	3.2	0.6	3.3	0.6	2.9	0.6	2.9	0.7	2.9	0.5
p. He misbehaved with you due to complaints from your mother-in- law or sister-in- law or other family members?	28.8	6.8	28.6	6.8	29.3	6.9	26.3	6.7	31.3	7.1
q. He got angry if you argue with him that scare you to give your opin-ion?	35.2	18.9	35.5	19.3	34.5	18.1	29.8	16.2	37.8	19.4
r) He restricts you to use social media (Facebook, Tiktok etc.)	5.0	3.6	4.6	3.4	6.0	4.2	6.6	4.4	5.6	4.0
s. Other (please specify)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

Table A7: Prevalence of specific acts of emotional violence among ever-married women aged 15+, by a current or former husband

Acts of Emotional violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least one act of emotional violence	37.4	17.6	36.6	17.7	39.5	17.2	38.1	17.4	40.5	17.1
a) Insulted you or humiliated you?	26.5	12.2	25.8	12.5	28.2	11.5	27.3	11.7	28.7	11.4
b) Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?	17.0	6.4	16.6	6.4	18.0	6.6	17.4	6.5	18.4	6.7
c) Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose (such as scream at you or smash things)?	14.9	5.4	15.1	5.5	14.6	4.9	11.6	4.2	16.7	5.4
d) Verbally threaten to hurt you or act in a manner by which you were terrified?	14.4	5.7	14.6	5.7	13.9	5.5	12.4	5.4	15.0	5.6
e) Misbehaved with you (or tortured you) for socializing with/ your neighbors or other women?	7.2	3.3	7.2	3.3	7.3	3.3	6.3	3.4	7.9	3.2
f) Threatened you with another marriage?	10.7	2.7	10.5	2.7	11.0	2.7	9.9	2.6	11.8	2.8
g) Threatened to divorce	8.5	2.5	8.2	2.4	9.4	2.8	7.3	2.5	10.8	3.0

Table A8: Prevalence of specific acts of economic violence among ever-married women aged 15+, by a current or former husband

Acts of economic violence	National		Rural		Urban		City Corporation		Urban (excluding CC)	
	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months	Life-time	Last 12 months
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least one act of economic violence	19.6	10.6	19.2	10.5	20.6	10.7	18.7	10.5	22.0	10.9
a) Refused to give money for household expenses, even though he has enough money?	9.7	4.2	9.4	4.2	10.5	4.4	9.7	4.4	11.0	4.3
b) Refused to provide pocket money even though he is capable?	18.7	10.1	18.3	10.1	19.6	10.3	17.8	10.1	20.9	10.4

Table A9: Number of reporting by survivors of intimate partner physical or sexual violence to persons or institutions

Number of Reporting/sharing	National (n=4663)	Rural (n=2041)	Urban (n=2622)
1	41.4	43.5	36.4
2	17.5	18.2	16.0
3	11.2	11.3	11.1
4	13.0	12.7	14.0
5	7.2	6.1	9.8
6	5.9	4.5	9.4
7	2.1	2.2	1.6
8	1.0	1.0	1.0
9	0.4	0.3	0.6
10	0.2	0.2	0.1
11	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A10: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for physical violence

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for physical violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.86	0.137	0.70	1.05
25-29	0.65	<0.001	0.53	0.79
30-34	0.49	<0.001	0.39	0.60
35-39	0.40	<0.001	0.32	0.49
40-44	0.32	<0.001	0.26	0.40
45-49	0.21	<0.001	0.16	0.27
50-54	0.12	<0.001	0.09	0.17
55-59	0.10	<0.001	0.07	0.14
60+	0.10	<0.001	0.07	0.13
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	0.19	<0.001	0.14	0.27
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.11	<0.001	0.08	0.15
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			
More than one	1.37	<0.01	1.15	1.64
Respondents' education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.91	0.194	0.78	1.05
Secondary incomplete	0.88	<0.05	0.77	1.00
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.81	<0.05	0.67	0.98
Higher Secondary (HSC)	0.80	<0.05	0.64	1.00
Bachelor and above	0.81	0.152	0.60	1.08

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for physical violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Partner’s education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.96	0.541	0.84	1.10
Secondary incomplete	0.93	0.284	0.82	1.06
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.93	0.404	0.78	1.11
Higher Secondary (HSC)	0.86	0.170	0.70	1.06
Bachelor and above	0.64	<0.001	0.52	0.81
Earning status (cash income)				
No	RC			
Yes	1.47	<0.001	1.31	1.65
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)				
None	RC			
1	0.80	<0.001	0.72	0.89
2	0.76	<0.001	0.66	0.87
3	0.66	<0.001	0.53	0.82
4+	0.47	<0.001	0.32	0.71
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.75	<0.001	1.59	1.94
Afraid of husband				
Never	RC			
Sometimes	3.57	<0.001	3.17	4.02
Most of the time	10.37	<0.001	8.96	12.01
Always	16.33	<0.001	13.80	19.32
Husband’s extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	2.52	<0.001	2.20	2.90
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.90	<0.001	1.61	2.24
Type of household				
Slum	RC			
Non slum	1.47	<0.01	1.16	1.87
Division				
Barishal	1.50	<0.01	1.19	1.89
Chattogram	1.12	0.289	0.91	1.39
Dhaka	0.98	0.823	0.80	1.20
Khulna	1.16	0.198	0.93	1.46
Mymensingh	RC			
Rajshahi	1.19	0.138	0.95	1.49
Rangpur	1.29	<0.05	1.03	1.61
Sylhet	1.07	0.608	0.83	1.36

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for physical violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Area of residence				
Rural	RC			
Urban	1.07	0.295	0.94	1.22
City Corporation	1.37	<0.001	1.21	1.55
Constant	0.08	<0.001	0.06	0.10
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	5.40		3.79	7.55

RC = Reference Category

Table A11: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for sexual violence

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for sexual violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.75	<0.01	0.61	0.93
25-29	0.68	<0.001	0.55	0.83
30-34	0.61	<0.001	0.49	0.75
35-39	0.48	<0.001	0.39	0.59
40-44	0.37	<0.001	0.30	0.47
45-49	0.24	<0.001	0.19	0.31
50-54	0.20	<0.001	0.15	0.27
55-59	0.13	<0.001	0.09	0.19
60+	0.05	<0.001	0.03	0.08
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	0.23	<0.001	0.16	0.31
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.10	<0.001	0.07	0.14
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			
More than one	1.24	<0.05	1.02	1.49
Partner's education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.97	0.637	0.84	1.11
Secondary incomplete	0.93	0.261	0.82	1.06
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.83	<0.05	0.69	0.99
Higher Secondary (HSC)	0.87	0.160	0.72	1.06
Bachelor and above	0.79	<0.05	0.65	0.95
Wealth quantiles				
Poorest	RC			
Poorer	1.08	0.294	0.93	1.25
Middle	1.14	0.111	0.97	1.34
Richer	1.14	0.136	0.96	1.35

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for sexual violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Richest	1.21	<0.05	0.99	1.49
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)				
None	RC			
1	0.87	<0.05	0.78	0.97
2	0.88	<0.05	0.76	1.01
3	0.89	0.259	0.72	1.09
4+	1.05	0.746	0.77	1.44
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.73	<0.001	1.56	1.92
Functional difficulties				
No or some difficulties	RC			
Moderate or severe difficulties	1.29	<0.01	1.08	1.56
Afraid of husband				
Never	RC			
Sometimes	2.95	<0.001	2.63	3.31
Most of the time	6.33	<0.001	5.46	7.34
Always	10.79	<0.001	9.11	12.77
Husband's extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	1.90	<0.001	1.64	2.20
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.50	<0.001	1.26	1.79
Type of household				
Non slum	RC			
Slum	1.38	<0.05	1.07	1.79
Disaster-prone status				
Disaster-prone	RC			
Non disaster-prone	1.22	0.052	1.00	1.49
Division				
Barishal	2.60	<0.001	1.88	3.60
Chittagong	2.02	<0.001	1.55	2.62
Dhaka	1.32	<0.01	1.05	1.67
Khulna	1.72	<0.001	1.29	2.30
Mymensingh	RC			
Rajshahi	1.16	0.258	0.90	1.50
Rangpur	1.09	0.537	0.84	1.41
Sylhet	1.39	<0.001	1.06	1.83
Area of residence				
Rural	RC			
Urban	1.11	0.168	0.96	1.28

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for sexual violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
City Corporation	1.40	<0.001	1.21	1.62
Constant	0.04	<0.001	0.03	0.06
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	9.3		7.36	11.68

RC = Reference Category

Table A12: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for emotional violence

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for emotional violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.96	0.655	0.78	1.17
25-29	0.87	0.172	0.72	1.06
30-34	0.77	<0.01	0.64	0.94
35-39	0.76	<0.01	0.63	0.92
40-44	0.58	<0.001	0.47	0.72
45-49	0.51	<0.001	0.41	0.63
50-54	0.44	<0.001	0.35	0.55
55-59	0.37	<0.001	0.29	0.47
60+	0.26	<0.001	0.20	0.33
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	0.46	<0.001	0.37	0.57
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.05	<0.001	0.04	0.07
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			
More than one	1.26	<0.01	1.07	1.48
Earning status (cash income)				
No	RC			
Yes	1.49	<0.001	1.35	1.64
Wealth quantiles				
Poorest	RC			
Poorer	0.96	0.553	0.86	1.09
Middle	0.90	0.117	0.79	1.03
Richer	0.83	<0.01	0.73	0.96
Richest	0.85	<0.05	0.73	1.00
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.90	<0.001	1.74	2.07
Functional difficulties				
No or some difficulties	RC			
Moderate or severe difficulties	1.60	<0.001	1.39	1.85

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for emotional violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Afraid of husband				
Never	RC			
Sometimes	3.68	<0.001	3.34	4.06
Most of the time	11.52	<0.001	10.16	13.07
Always	19.11	<0.001	16.38	22.28
Husband's extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	3.49	<0.001	3.06	3.98
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.68	<0.001	1.43	1.98
Type of household				
Non slum	RC			
Slum	1.25	<0.05	0.99	1.59
Disaster-prone status				
Disaster-prone	RC			
Non disaster-prone	1.21	<0.05	1.02	1.45
Division				
Barishal	2.05	<0.001	1.55	2.70
Chattogram	1.37	<0.01	1.11	1.70
Dhaka	1.27	<0.01	1.06	1.52
Khulna	1.57	<0.001	1.24	1.98
Mymensingh	1.07	0.545	0.86	1.33
Rajshahi	RC			
Rangpur	1.31	<0.01	1.07	1.60
Sylhet	1.55	<0.001	1.24	1.93
Area of residence				
Rural	RC			
Urban	1.12	<0.01	0.99	1.27
City Corporation	1.18	<0.05	1.04	1.35
Constant	0.02	<0.001	0.01	0.05
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	8.48		6.93	10.32

RC = Reference Category

Table A13: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for controlling behavior

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for controlling behavior in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.63	<0.001	0.53	0.74
25-29	0.53	<0.001	0.45	0.62
30-34	0.49	<0.001	0.42	0.59
35-39	0.43	<0.001	0.36	0.51
40-44	0.36	<0.001	0.30	0.42
45-49	0.30	<0.001	0.25	0.36
50-54	0.26	<0.001	0.21	0.31
55-59	0.25	<0.001	0.21	0.31
60+	0.20	<0.001	0.17	0.25
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	0.62	<0.001	0.53	0.72
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.04	<0.001	0.03	0.05
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			
More than one	1.35	<0.001	1.17	1.56
Partner's education				
No education/pre-primary	RC			
Primary complete	0.97	0.521	0.87	1.07
Secondary incomplete	0.91	<0.05	0.83	1.00
Secondary complete (SSC)	0.92	0.144	0.82	1.03
Higher Secondary (HSC)	0.90	0.080	0.79	1.01
Bachelor and above	0.71	<0.001	0.64	0.80
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)				
None	RC			
1	1.23	<0.001	1.14	1.33
2	1.22	<0.01	1.11	1.34
3	1.23	<0.001	1.08	1.40
4+	1.33	<0.01	1.09	1.62
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.73	<0.001	1.61	1.87
Functional difficulties				
No or some difficulties	RC			
Moderate or severe difficulties	1.39	<0.001	1.23	1.57
Afraid of husband				
Never	RC			
Sometimes	3.23	<0.001	3.02	3.45
Most of the time	8.00	<0.001	7.10	9.03

Odds ratio of the risk factors from the multilevel logistic regression models for controlling behavior in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Always	10.41	<0.001	8.86	12.22
Husband's extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	1.82	<0.001	1.59	2.08
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.36	<0.001	1.15	1.60
Division				
Barishal	2.21	<0.001	1.79	2.73
Chattogram	1.84	<0.001	1.53	2.21
Dhaka	1.22	<0.05	1.03	1.45
Khulna	1.39	<0.001	1.14	1.70
Mymensingh	1.02	0.886	0.82	1.25
Rajshahi	RC			
Rangpur	1.37	<0.01	1.12	1.67
Sylhet	1.65	<0.001	1.33	2.05
Constant	0.59	<0.001	0.48	0.73
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	12.86		11.4	14.46

RC = Reference Category

Table A14: Multilevel logistic regression analysis of risk factors for economic violence

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for economic violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
Age of the respondents				
15-19	RC			
20-24	0.89	0.328	0.70	1.13
25-29	0.80	0.064	0.64	1.01
30-34	0.78	<0.05	0.62	0.99
35-39	0.85	0.158	0.68	1.07
40-44	0.73	<0.05	0.58	0.94
45-49	0.76	0.034	0.60	0.98
50-54	0.66	<0.01	0.51	0.87
55-59	0.63	<0.01	0.48	0.84
60+	0.36	<0.001	0.27	0.48
Marital status				
Married and living with husband	RC			
Married, living apart from husband	1.06	0.588	0.86	1.31
Divorced, separated and widowed	0.17	<0.001	0.14	0.21
Number of marriages				
Only one	RC			

Odds ratios of risk factors from multilevel logistic regression models for economic violence in the last 12 months				
Risk Factors	Odds Ratio	P-value	[95% Confidence Interval]	
More than one	1.66	<0.001	1.40	1.96
Earning status (cash income)				
No	RC			
Yes	1.32	<0.001	1.17	1.48
Assets owned (land/flat/car/bank saving/ornaments/others)				
None	RC			
1	0.74	<0.001	0.67	0.82
2	0.67	<0.001	0.58	0.76
3	0.55	<0.001	0.45	0.68
4+	0.56	<0.001	0.40	0.76
Marriage on dowry				
No	RC			
Yes	1.95	<0.001	1.77	2.15
Functional difficulties				
No or some difficulties	RC			
Moderate or severe difficulties	1.31	<0.01	1.11	1.53
Afraid of husband				
Never				
Sometimes	2.71	<0.001	2.40	3.04
Most of the time	7.13	<0.001	6.19	8.21
Always	11.27	<0.001	9.59	13.25
Husband's extra-marital relationship				
No	RC			
Yes	2.87	<0.001	2.51	3.29
Husband addicted to drug				
No	RC			
Yes	1.46	<0.001	1.23	1.72
Type of household				
Non slum	RC			
Slum	1.30	<0.05	1.00	1.69
Division				
Barishal	2.35	<0.001	1.85	2.96
Chattogram	2.08	<0.001	1.68	2.56
Dhaka	1.20	<0.05	0.98	1.47
Khulna	1.43	<0.01	1.14	1.80
Mymensingh	1.25	<0.05	0.98	1.60
Rajshahi	RC			
Rangpur	1.83	<0.001	1.47	2.29
Sylhet	1.14	0.331	0.88	1.48
Constant	0.08	<0.001	0.06	0.10
Intra-cluster correlation (ICC) %	8.13		6.30	10.43

RC = Reference Category

APPENDIX 2

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) INDICATORS

The VAW survey provides data for selected SDG 5 indicators. Prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence was calculated using the acts of violence defined by UNSD, referred to in this report as 'UN Acts. For details see guidelines: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/>

Data on psychological violence are derived from reported acts of emotional violence.

SDG 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological (emotional) violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.

Background Characteristics	% women experienced intimate partner violence (physical/sexual/psychological) in the previous 12 months
National	24.4
Residence	
Rural	24.2
Urban	24.8
Division	
Barishal	32.7
Chattogram	25.9
Dhaka	21.9
Khulna	25.3
Mymensingh	23.6
Rajshahi	20.1
Rangpur	28.4
Sylhet	24.4
Age group	
15-49	28.4
Age disaggregation	
15-19	31.9
20-24	29.3
25-29	30.0
30-34	30.0
35-39	28.2
40-44	26.5
45-49	23.0
50+	12.5

SDG 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15+ subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Background Characteristics	% women and girls (15 years and above) experienced sexual violence by the persons other than intimate partner in the previous 12 months
National	0.46
Residence	
Rural	0.45
Urban	0.48

Place of Occurrence	% of Responses	% of Cases
Parents' house	5.2	5.9
Husband's house	15.3	17.4
Workplace	12.1	13.8
Marketplace	2.5	2.9
Crowded place/Solitary or Lonely place/While travelling	16.2	18.4
Educational/Institutions	9.2	10.4
Coaching centre	8.6	9.8
Hospital/Nursing home/Health center	0.8	0.9
Station (Bus, Launch, Train)	3.6	4.1
Vehicles/Transport	6.9	7.9
Roads & streets	10.1	11.5
Own house	5.4	6.1
Other	4.2	4.8
Total	100.00	113.69

*Multiple Responses

SDG 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.

Locality	Percentage of women who make informed decisions regarding sex, contraception and health care
National	47.1
Residence	
Rural	46.3
Urban	48.7
Division	
Barishal	55.1
Chattogram	40.1
Dhaka	51.1
Khulna	49.9
Mymensingh	52.4
Rajshahi	40.1
Rangpur	47.3
Sylhet	43.6

SDG 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months. For physical and sexual violence, the occurrence is considered in case of both the partner and non-partner. (Note: Data is provided only for women population aged 15+)

Locality	Physical	Sexual	Psychological (Emotional)
National	12.1	8.6	17.6
Residence			
Rural	11.7	8.2	17.7
Urban	13.0	9.4	17.2
Division			
Barishal	15.1	12.4	25.3
Chattogram	13.0	10.2	17.3
Dhaka	11.1	7.8	15.5
Khulna	12.4	8.7	18.7
Mymensingh	9.2	6.7	18.3
Rajshahi	11.0	7.5	14.9
Rangpur	15.4	8.5	20.8
Sylhet	10.5	8.9	18.1

SDG 16.1.4 Proportion of population feel safe walking alone after dark around the area they live
(Note: Data is provided only for women population aged 15+).

Locality	% women of age 15+ who feel safe walking alone after dark around the area they live
National	75.2
Residence	
Rural	74.4
Urban	76.9
Division	
Barishal	70.0
Chattogram	77.4
Dhaka	69.4
Khulna	76.7
Mymensingh	72.8
Rajshahi	74.7
Rangpur	85.9
Sylhet	81.3

SDG 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of (a) physical, (b) psychological and/or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms.

(Note: Data is provided only for women population aged 15+).

	% victims taken legal action	
	Partner violence	Non-Partner violence
National	7.4	3.8
Rural	6.5	4.2
Urban	9.5	3.0

APPENDIX 3

COMPOSITION OF PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Designation and Organization	Status in the Committee
01	Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Chairperson
02	Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Member
03	Additional Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
04	Deputy Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Member
05	Representative, NEC-ECNEC and Coordination Wing, Planning Division	Member
06	Representative, Socio Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission	Member
07	Representative, Programming Division, Planning Commission	Member
08	Representative, Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED)	Member
09	Representative, Finance Division	Member
10	Representative, Economic Relations Division	Member
11	Representative, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Member
12	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
13	Project Director, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member
14	Deputy Secretary (Development), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee:

- (i) Ensure proper implementation of the project;
- (ii) Provide policy guideline and decision for smooth implementation of the project;
- (iii) Approve the revision/extension of the project if required; and
- (iv) Any other activities felt necessary according to rules by the committee/authority.

COMPOSITION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Designation and Organization	Status in the Committee
01	Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Chairperson
02	Deputy Secretary (Development), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
03	Representative, NEC-ECNEC and Coordination Wing, Planning Division	Member
04	Representative, Socio Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission	Member
05	Representative, Programming Division, Planning Commission	Member
06	Representative, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)	Member
07	Representative, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Member
08	Representative, Finance Division	Member
09	Representative, Economic Relations Division	Member
10	Joint Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
11	Representative, Department of Women Affairs	Member
12	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
13	Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
14	Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, Dhaka	Member
15	Representative, Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka	Member
16	Cartographer, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member
17	Project Director, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee:

- Ensure proper implementation of the project;
- Provide policy guideline and decision for smooth implementation of the project;
- Approve the revision/extension of the project if required; and
- Any other activities felt necessary according to rules by the committee/authority.

COMPOSITION OF WORKING COMMITTEE

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Designation and Organization	Status in the Committee
01	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Chairperson
02	Deputy Secretary (Development-2), Statistics and Informatics Division	Member
03	Representative, Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka	Member
04	Representative, Department of Women Affairs	Member
05	Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, Dhaka	Member
06	Focal Point Officer, SDG Cell, BBS	Member
07	Focal Point Officer, Gender Statistics Cell, BBS	Member
08	Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
09	Consultant, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member
10	Cartographer, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member
11	Statistical Officer, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member
12	Project Director, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS	Member Secretary

Terms of Reference of the Working Committee:

Prepare and develop annual work plan for the project;

- (i) Help Project Director in furnishing technical and administrative work;
- (ii) Develop the questionnaire and manual for the census;
- (iii) Develop tabulation plan, indicators and reports of the project; and
- (iv) Any other activities felt necessary according to rules by the committee/authority.

REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE, SID

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Designation and Organization	Status in the Committee
01	Additional Secretary, Administration, Statistics and Informatics Division	Convener
02	Joint Secretary, Budget, Financial Management and Audit, SID	Member
03	Joint Secretary, Development -1/2, SID	Member
04	Joint Secretary, Informatics, SID	Member
05	Deputy Secretary, Administration 2/4, SID	Member
06	Deputy Secretary, Development-1/2, SID	Member
07	Deputy Secretary, Planning, SID	Member
08	Deputy Secretary, Informatics-1/3, SID	Member
09	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
10	Senior Assistant Secretary, Informatics-2, SID	Member Secretary

EDITORS' FORUM, BBS

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Designation and Organization	Status in the Committee
01	Deputy Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Convener
02	Director, Agriculture Wing, BBS	Member
03	Director, Computer Wing, BBS	Member
04	Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS	Member
05	Director, Census Wing, BBS	Member
06	Director, Industry and Labour Wing, BBS	Member
07	Director, FA & MIS Wing, BBS	Member
08	Director, National Accounting Wing, BBS	Member
09	Focal Point Officer, SDG Cell, BBS	Member
10	Director, Statistical Staff Training Institute (SSTI), BBS	Member Secretary

VAW EXPERT GROUP

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Name	Designation/Office
01	Professor Syed Shahadat Hossain	Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka
02	Professor Muhammad Shuaib	Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka
03	Dr. Ruchira Tabassum Naved	icddr,b
04	Dr. Muhammad Yunus	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)
05	Dr. Kristine Dimer	University of Melbourne
06	Professor Cathy Vaughan	University of Melbourne

PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

(Not according to seniority)

Sl. No.	Name	Designation/Office
01	Mr. Iftekhairul Karim	Project Director, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS
02	M. Shahidul Islam, PhD	Chief, Demographic Data and Intelligence Unit, UNFPA Bangladesh
03	Shamima Pervin	Programme Specialist and Chief-Gender, UNFPA Bangladesh
04	Jessica Gardner	Technical Lead, Violence against Women (VAW) Data and Research, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office
05	M. Shafiqur Rahman, PhD	Professor, Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), University of Dhaka
06	Mr. A. K. M. Tahidul Islam	Consultant, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS
07	Asma Akhter	Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS
08	Mr. Md. Mahabub Alam	Deputy Director, Demography and Health Wing, BBS
09	Jesmin Ara	Assistant Director, Directorate of Women Affairs, Dhaka
10	Nisath Salsabil Rob	National Consultant, UNFPA Bangladesh
11	Kakoli Biswas	Project Finance & Admin Officer, UNFPA Bangladesh
12	Mr. S. M. Amimul Ehasan	Statistical Officer (Ex), Demography and Health Wing, BBS
13	Mr. Sudipta Datta	Statistical Officer, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS
14	Mr. Md. Faisal Ahmed	Cartographer, Integrating Geospatial Information with Gender and Vital Statistics Project, BBS

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2024

Area Identification

PSU Number:
(Census 2022)
Upazilla (name):

Code

Zila: (Name):

Code

Mouza/Moholla (name):

Code

Union/ Ward: (Name)
Division:

Code
Code

Household Number:

Code

RMO Code: Rural-1, Urban-2 (other than city corp.), City Corp.-3)

Code

Name of Household Head :.....

Name of the Respondent:

Mobile number:

GPS information:

Latitude: N S: Degree..... Decimal degrees.....

Longitude:..... E W: Degree..... Decimal degrees.....

Barishal	10	Mymensingh	45
Chattagram	20	Rajshahi	50
Dhaka	30	Rangpur	55
Khulna	40	Sylhet	60

Identification of Interviewer and Supervisor

Interviewer's Name:

Supervisor's Name:

Position:

Mobile Number:

Office:

Mobile Number:

(All numbers should be written in English)

INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW

Date of interview:	Day Month Year	Starting time	
Z05. Summary of Household Interview		Z06. Summary of the interview for selected interview	
1. Completed 2. No household member at home or no competent respondent at home at the time of visit 3. Entire household is absent for an extended period 4. Refused 5. Dwelling vacant or address not a dwelling 6. Dwelling destroyed 7. Dwelling not found 8. Others (Specify)		1. Completed 2. No eligible woman in the household 3. Selected women not at home 4. The selected woman postponed/refused the interview 5. Selected women incapacitated 6. The respondent does not want to continue (partially completed) 7. The rest of the interview was postponed to the next visit 8. Others (Specify)	

THE PURPOSE OF VISITING THE HOUSEHOLD

Assalamu Alaikum/Namasker/Hello. My name is..... I am here on behalf of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is conducting a survey on “Women Status in Bangladesh 2024”. In this survey, we will ask some questions on the health, cleanliness and livelihood of women. The results of the survey will help the policymakers for taking necessary actions to improve women’s status.

1. Household Module	
1.A	Type of household?
1.B	The type of ownership of the main house of the house-hold? General (non-slum).....1, Slum.....2 Own1 Rent2 Without rent3 Other (Specify)9
2.A	What are the main living room floor materials? (See/observe and record) Soil1 Wood/Bamboo2 Bricks-Cement3 Mosaic/Tiles.....4 Other (Specify)9
2.B	What are the main materials of the living room roof? (See/observe and record) Straw/Bamboo/Polythene/Plastic/Canvas.....1 Tin.....2 Tile.....3 Bricks-Cement.....4 Other (Specify).....9
2.C	What are the main materials of the living room wall? (See/observe and record) Straw/Bamboo/Polythene/Plastic/Canvas.....1 Soil/Raw bricks.....2 Tin.....3 Wood.....4 Bricks-Cement.....5 Other (Specify).....9
3	How many rooms do the household members usually use to sleep in the household? Number of rooms

1. Household Module			
4.A	What are the following things in your household: (Except for electronic/technological staff)	[A] Cot/Chowki.....1 2 [B] Table/Chair.....1 2 [C] Almirah/Wardrobe.....1 2 [D] Sofa set.....1 2 [E] Water filter/Dispenser.....1 2 [F] Sewing machine.....1 2 [G] Others (specify).....1 2	
4.B	What are the following things in your household: (Electronic/technological staff)	[A] Telephone (Land phone) 1 2 [B] Radio 1 2 [C] Television 1 2 [D] Wristwatch/Clock 1 2 [E] Refrigerator/Fridge 1 2 [F] Air conditioner 1 2 [G] Washing machine 1 2 [H] Electric water pump 1 2 [I] Electric fans 1 2 [J] Computer/Laptop 1 2 [K] Tab 1 2 [L] Mobile phones 1 2 [M] Others (Specify) 1 2	
4.C	The following are some of the following things owned by any member of the household: (Vehicle materials)	[A] Bicycles 1 2 [B] Motorcycles/Scooters/ CNG 1 2 [C] The animal's carriage 1 2 [D] Car/Bus/Truck or covered van 1 2 [E] Motorized boats 1 2 [F] Rickshaws/ Rickshaws-Van 1 2 [G] Nasimon/Karimon/Vandalism 1 2 [H] Easybike/Autobikes 1 2 [I] Boat (Without a motor) 1 2 [J] Others (Specify) 1 2	

1. Household Module	
5A	Is there electricity in the house? Yes, Connected to national grid 1 Yes, Without the grid (Solar system) 2 Yes, Without the grid (Generator/Own approach) 3 No. 4
5B	What is the main source of cooking fuel? Wood/Bamboo1, Karosine2, Gas/LPG3, Electricity4, Straw/dry leaf/dry cow dung5, Bio-gas-6, Others (Identify)7
5C	Is there an internet connection in the house? (Facebook, Skype, imo, WhatsApp, email, etc. on any member's mobile phone data/ Wi-Fi should be taken as having an internet connection in the household in last 3 months) Yes1 No.2
6	Is there any arable/crop land owned by any member of this household? Yes1 No.2
6A	What percentage (decimal) of arable/crop land is owned by the members of this khana? Write 000 if less than 1 percent (decimal). Percent (Decimal)_____
7	What is the main source of drinking water for your family members? Tap/Supply01 Tubewells (Tube wells)/Deep tube wells02 Protected wells/Idara03 Unprotected wells/Idara04 Protected showers05 Unprotected shower06 Rainwater collected07 Water Plant to sell (Water kisks)08 Pond09 River, Sinking, Canal10 Bottled water/Tsar11 Other (Specify)96
7A	What is the distance to drinking water? Inside the house- 1, Within 200 meter -2, Above 200 meter-3

1. Household Module	
8.A	What kind of toilets do its members usually use? If “flush” or “flush by pouring water”, verify: Where does the garbage/waste go after the flush? If the type of letrin cannot be confirmed, you should see the system with permission
8.B	Is the above toilet shared with a member of any other family?
8.C	Yes, how many?
8D	What is the distance of the toilet that used by the family members?

- Flush Removal of sewage system through pipe01
- Flush Held in a safe tank02
- Flush In a safe pit (Pete Letrin) Contain03
- Flush Open by doing in the drain Remove04
- Pit with slabs05
- Pete Letrin without slabs/Open pit06
- Composting07
- Open/Hanging08
- Toilet Not/Bushes-Broom/Field95
- Other (Specify)96

- Yes.....1
- No.....2

Numbers (If less than 10)

- If it's more than 10 95
- I don't know 98

- Inside the house- 1,
- Within 200 meter -2,
- Above 200 meter-3

2- Individual Module

11. Line no.	12. Name of household member (list the HH head's name first. Then list the name of his/her spouse. Then list the name/s of their children starting with the youngest unmarried child. If the child is married, list his/her spouse and their children's name after him/her starting from youngest to oldest. Then list HH head's parents and other non-relatives living in the HH who have been living 6 months or more for domestic workers and visitors)	13. Relationship with household head (Use code below)	14. Sex Male - 1 Female - 2 Transgender - 3	15. Age (in year) (write 00 if aged under 1 year; write 99 if aged 99 years and above)	16. Religion Islam-1 Hinduism -2 Buddhism -3 Christianity-4 Other-9	17. Marital Status Unmarried-1 Married - 2 Widow/ Widower-3 Divorcee-4 Separated-5 Abandoned-6 (Instruction: Ask for 10 years and older)	Collect information for household members aged 3 years and above			21. What is your main occupation? (Collect information for anyone aged 10 years and above)	22. Write the line number of eligible selected women.
							18. Can write or read ? Can read & write-1, Can read Only -2, Cannot read & write-3	19. What is the highest class you have completed? (See education code) *	20. Educational stream General-1, Technical/ Vocational-2, Religious -3 Not applicable-4	(a) What do you do for living? (occupation code)	(b) Use BSOC occupation code)
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											

For question 14 please use the code: Household head -1, Spouse -2, Child -3, Father-Mother/ Father-in-law/Mother-in-law-4, Daughter-in-law/ Son-in law-5, Brother/sister/ Brother-in-law/sister in-law-6, Grandson /granddaughter/ grand-children-7, Other Relative -8, Non Relative-9, Domestic worker/ live- in staff-10

Level of Education (For Question no. 19)

Level of Education	Code	Level of Education	Code	Level of Education	Code	Level of Education	Code
Pre school play group Nursery KG	C	lass passed	B	A BSC BSS BBA Fazil Equivalent pass course	D	iploma	
Class passed	C	lass passed	B	A BSC BSS BBA Fazil Equivalent honours	V	ocational Non formal Technical	
Class passed	C	lass passed GSC GDC equivalent	M	A MSC MSS MBA Kamil equivalent	O	ther identify	
Class passed	C	lass passed	P	hd	N	ever attend school	
Class passed	C	lass SSC Dakhil level equivalent	M	BBS BDS		Didn t pass any class	
Class PEC Ebtadia equivalent	H	SC Alim A level equivalent degree		Engineering BSc or above			

Q21 (a): Use the BSOC occupation code.

Q22: Rules and conditions of selecting eligible women

- (A) Special Cases to be considered as the household member: (i) Domestic workers if they have been living in the household for the last 6 months or more
- (ii) Visitors who have been living in the household for the last 6 months or more.
- (B) ELIGIBLE WOMEN: Any woman aged 15 years and above and a member of the household.

MORE THAN ONE ELIGIBLE WOMEN IN HH:

- One eligible woman will be selected randomly for the interview. Random selection will be done in CAPI based on the data from the listing of households in each PSU using the standard statistical function to generate a random number.
- Check the line number of the selected woman from CAPI. Talk to the selected woman. If she is not available or not at home or 'privacy cannot be obtained right at that time' fix a date for the next interview/visit. Record the date and time in the given calendar/form.
- Go through the informed consent procedure and seek consent from the selected woman.

No eligible woman in the HH:-

- Thank you for your assistance and say "Sorry, I cannot continue because I can only interview a woman aged 15 or above."

SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Assalamu Alaikum/Namaskar/Hello. My name is.....I am here on behalf of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. We are conducting a survey to know the situation of women in the family and in the society. I would like to ask you a few questions as part of this survey. Please respond correctly.

There will be various questions regarding your health and well-being, your life as a woman in Bangladesh, your relationship with your family members/ husband and children, etc.

Informed Consent¹

Why are we inviting you to participate in the study?

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is conducting the "Survey on Women's Status 2024" to know women's status and their life experiences. Women have been selected for this survey so that they can provide the required information on their status and life experiences.

What is expected from the participants of the Survey?

If you agree to participate in this survey, we would like to interview you in a private setting of your choice, where you will feel comfortable to talk to us. During the interview, you will be asked questions about yourself, your husband, and your family. We will also ask you questions related to your life experiences and services that you receive/d. Every person has both good and bad moments in their lives. We would like to talk about both kinds of experiences that you had. The interview will take about an hour or an hour and a half. With your consent, I will write the answers to the questionnaire. We want to present your information accurately.

Benefits

If you agree to participate in the survey, there is no direct benefit to you for participating in the study, however, it would help the policy makers understand the status of women and their life experiences in our country, how to improve your lives, and how to make your life experiences positive. Unless we talk to women like you, we would not be able to do this.

Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality

We want to assure you that all of your answers and your name and address will be kept strictly confidential. Your name or any identification will not appear on any documents related to the study. The interviews document will be kept in a safe place in the server with password protected and will be used for survey purpose only by BBS.

Right not to participate and withdraw

Participation in this survey depends completely on your willingness. You are free not to give the interview. But if you agree, you still have the right to stop the interview at any time, or to skip any questions that you don't want to answer. However, most of the participants in similar studies around the world appreciated the opportunity to talk about such experiences. If you have any questions about this survey, then feel free to ask now. Do you agree to be interviewed?
Put ✓ mark, where applicable in the following box.

☐ If the woman doesn't agree then end by thanking her.

☐ If she agrees, thank her then start the interview.

I, the undersigned, have taken consent after explaining the objectives and procedures to be followed as well as the privacy, risks, and benefits of the survey involving the interviewee.

Interviewer's signature

Date

1. Informed Consent for participation in this survey is voluntary and it is given without any direct/indirect pressure or incentive. Generally informed consent is given based on adequate briefing to the participants about the details of the objective, procedure, privacy, risks and benefits of the survey.

Selected Women Interview Time

1st visit

		:		
--	--	---	--	--

2nd visit

		:		
--	--	---	--	--

3rd visit

		:		
--	--	---	--	--

Starting time

MODULE D: FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTIES

You will ask you some questions about difficulties you may have doing certain activities during your daily life.
Line number of the selected woman:

		(Readout the below part with options to the respondent)	
D01	Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	
D02	Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	
D03	Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	
D04	Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	
D05	Do you have difficulty with self-care (such as washing all over or dressing)?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	
D06	Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example, understanding or being understood?	NO – NO DIFFICULTY 1 YES – SOME DIFFICULTY 2 YES – A LOT OF DIFFICULTY 3 CANNOT DO AT ALL 4 REFUSED/NO ANSWER 9	

MODULE- R: WOMEN'S MARITAL STATUS

Line number of selected woman:

(Read out the text below)

Now, I would like to ask some questions about some important aspects of your life. There are particular issues that we generally we do not get an opportunity to discuss. We are not always able to provide necessary assistance to every person. Many women felt relieved having an opportunity to talk about these issues. I want to talk with you privately, we can talk here or any other place where you will feel comfortable.

R01	What is your current marital status?	Married, and living with husband -----1 Married, living apart from husband-----2 Abandoned/ Separated-----3 Divorced-----4 Widow-----5 Never married-----6 Married but never live with husband---7	If R01=6 ➡ R05
R01a	How old were you the first time you were married or lived together with a man?	Age (years) [] [] Don't know/Don't remember.....98 Refused/No answer.....99	
R01b	Did you give consent to the first marriage?	Yes, I gave consent-----1 Yes, but I was not agreed-----2 No, I didn't give consent-----3	
R02	Were you married previously (apart from your current marriage)?	Previously married, lived with husband -----1 Previously married, lived apart from husband-----2 Never Married except the current marriage-----3	If R02=3 and R01=2,3,7 ➡ R03A. If R02=3 and R01=3,4,5 ➡ R04
R03	Why/how did your previous marriage end? (in case of multiple marriage, consider immediate last marriage)	Divorced -----1 Death of husband/widowed-----2 Others (specify) ----- 3	
R03A	Why do you live apart from your current husband?	For work -----1 For study -----2 Illness (Husband/wife) -----3 Husband lives in abroad -----4 Others (please specify)-----9	

R04	How many times have you been married? (Including the current marriage. Count each marriage once).	a)! Number of times married: b)! Currently, does your husband have any other wives? Yes-----1, No-----2, Don't know--9 c)! How many wives does/did he have (including yourself)?..... Don't know--9 d)! Are you the first or second or third or fourth wife of your husband? <table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr></table>				1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4						
R05	Have you ever been pregnant?	Yes --- 1 No ---- 2 Refused to answer---3	If 2 or 3 ➡ R06						
R05a	If yes, how many times did you conceive (including current pregnancy, any miscarriages and still birth)?	Number:							
R05b	How many alive children do you have?	Number:							
R06	CHECK QR01&R02	R01 Response code is 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 7 (single marriage) ➡V01-V16e R02 Response code is 1 (multiple marriage)..... ➡V01-V42d R01 Response code is 6 (never married)..... ➡N01							

MODULE- V: CURRENT/MOST RECENT HUSBAND

Current Husband							
V01	a) Name of your current Husband.....	b) Age..... (In case of husband is deceased, write down the age of husband if he would be alive at this time)	c) Religion Islam-1, Hinduism-2, Buddism-3, Christianity-4, others-9	d) Education (follow the education Code).....	e) Occupation (follow the occupation profession code).....	f) Residence: where does he used to live? within HH ---1 Within country ---2 Abroad---3 Not applicable---4 Don't know---5	g) Monthly Income (Approximately) ------(000) thousands If V01g is not known, enter '777'

Read out the part below: I would now like to ask you some questions about your current husband. We know when two people marry, they usually share both good and bad moments, Now I would like to ask some questions about how your current husband treated you. During our conversation if anyone interrupts us we will change the topic.						
V02	Thinking about your current/ most recent husband, would you say that	A) In Lifetime			B) Only ask if 'yes' in V02A: Has this event happen in the past 12 months?	
		Yes--1	No/ Not applicable--2	No answer--3		Yes --1
	a) He tried to keep you from seeing your friends?	1	2	3	1	2
	b) He tried to restrict contact with your family of birth?	1	2	3	1	2
	c) He insisted on knowing what are you doing and where you are at all times?	1	2	3	1	2
	d) He ignored you and treated you indifferently?	1	2	3	1	2
	e) He got angry if you spoke with your relative and non-relative male?	1	2	3	1	2
	f) He was often suspicious that you are unfaithful?	1	2	3	1	2
	g) He expected you to ask his permission before seeking health care for yourself?	1	2	3	1	2
	h) He forced you to maintain veil/hijab (Parda)-- only for Muslim woman	1	2	3	1	2
	i) He restricted/stop your study? (if married during study)	1	2	3	1	2
	j) He restricted/stop you to work/job? (if you wish to do job)	1	2	3	1	2
	k) He restricted you from going out of home for recreation??	1	2	3	1	2

	l) He used degrading/humiliating/disrespectful words against your parents?	1	2	3	1	2
	m) He forced you to use contraceptives.	1	2	3	1	2
	n) He prevented you to use contraceptives?	1	2	3	1	2
	o) He misbehaved with you or used offensive language against you for giving birth to a girl child?	1	2	3	1	2
	p) He misbehaved with you due to complain from your mother-in-law or sister-in-law or other family members?	1	2	3	1	2
	q) He got angry if you argue with him that scare you to give your opinion?	1	2	3	1	2
	r) He restricts you to use social media (Facebook, TikTok etc.)	1	2	3	1	2
	s) Other (please specify)	1	2	3	1	2
V02C	Are you a Voter?	Yes--1	No --2	No Answer---3	If answer is 'Yes' skip to ⇒ V02D, If answer is 'No' or 'No Answer' skip to ⇒ V02E	
V02D	Could you cast your vote according to your own choice?	Yes--1	No --2	No Answer---3	V02D1. If the answer is 'no' then ask why not? Pressure from husband---1 Pressure from family-----2 Social pressure-----3 Other (please specify)-----9	
V02E	Who usually makes decision about healthcare for yourself?	Respondent's self decision-----1 Husband/partner-----2 Respondents and Husband/partner jointly---3 Someone else-----4 Others---9				

V03	Has your current/ most recent husband ever:	A) In lifetime				B) Only ask if 'Yes' in V03A. Has this happened in the last 12 months?
		Yes--1	No/ Not applicable--2	No answer--3	Yes --1	No---2
V03C	(a) Refused to give money for household expenses, even though he has enough money?					
	b) Refused to provide pocket money even though he is capable?	1	2	3	1	2
	c) Was your current marriage conditional upon giving the marital family cash/goods/assets (dowry)?	1	2	3	If answer 2, or 3, go to V03e	
	d) Had you or your parent family paid all the dowry (assets as agreed before)	Yes, Partially--1	Yes, fully--2	No --3	Yes--1	No--2
	e) Does your husband pressurize you to bring money or other things from your natal family?	1	2	3	1	2
V03C	Has your current husband paid the dower (denmohor) money? (For Muslims only)	Yes, Partially--1	Yes, fully--2	No -3, Not applicable--4, Requested waiver--5, No answer --6		
V03D	(1) Do/did you own the followings? (individually or jointly)	Yes- 1	No-2	No answer-3	(2) Only ask if answer is 'Yes' in V03D (1). What is the source of this asset/ How do you own this asset? (Mark all that apply).	
	a) Land	1	2	3	Inherited from father -A Inherited from mother- B Received from husband--C Owned/earned - D Other (please specify) - X	
	b) House/Flat	1	2	3	Inherited from father -A Inherited from mother- B Received from husband--C Owned/earned - D Other (please specify) - X	

V03F	Do you earn any income?	Yes--1	No--2 No answer--3	If answer is yes go to Q V03F1 and if answer is 'no' or 'no answer' go to V03N.	V03F1. If answer is 'Yes' to V03F , what kind of job you did or what's the source of income? School-1, College/University-2, Govt. Office-3, Private Office-4, Business-5, Health center/Clinic-6, Day labor/ worker-7, Garments-8, Agriculture or livestock-9, Chatal-10, Domestic workers-11, other informal sector-12 and other (please specify)---99
V03G	What is your current husband's reaction about your income earning?	Good--1, Bad---2, So-so---3, No Response--4, Other (please specify) ----9			
V03H	Can you spend the money that you earn as your wish?	Yes -- 1	No--2	No Response--3 ; If answer is Yes, go to V03J If answer is No, go to V03I	
V03I	Has your current husband ever taken your earnings against your will?	Yes---1	No--2	No answer--3	V03I.1 If Answer to V03I is Yes, Check the appropriate answer given below: Partial---1 Full---2
V03J	Due to the job (work outside home) does he question about your character or make bad comments about your character or how you dress, or has he ever misbehaved with you due to your work?	Yes--1	No--2	No Answer--3	
V03K	Did he misbehave with you if you could not return home on time after work?	Yes--1	No--2	No Answer--3	
V03 L	Did he misbehave with you if household chores were hampered due to your work?	Yes--1	No--2	No Answer--3	
V03N	Has your current husband ever deprived you form the property that you lawfully inherited or obtained yourself?	Yes--1	No--2	No Answer--3	Not Applicable--4
V03O		Yes--1	No--2	No answer--3	V03O.1. If Answer of V03O is yes, ask what type of gift ? (Mark all that apply. Probe: any other gift? Don't read out, mention the name of one of the assets and then ask)

	e) Misbehaved with you (or tortured you) for socializing with/your neighbors or other women?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	f) Threatened you with another marriage?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	g)! Threatened to divorce you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V04E	Has your current husband misbehaved with you (or tortured you) for maintaining relationship e.g., visiting, speaking or communicating with your natal family any other way?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V05	Has your current husband ever -	D) Did this happen before the past 12 months? IF YES, would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?										
	a) Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown something at you that could hurt you (i.e., which injured you)?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No-2	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3	No--0	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3
	b) Pushed you or shoved you or pulled your hair?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	c) Threw acid intentionally?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	d) Kicked you, dragged you or beat you up?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	e) Choked you on purpose?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	f) Burnt you on purpose? (say, burnt you using hot spoon,	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

V08	In your current relationship - is Yes continue with B. If answer is No skip to next item.)	A) In lifetime (If answer is Yes continue with B. If answer is No skip to next item.)		B) Has this happened in the past 12 months? (If YES ask C and D. If No ask D only.)		C) In the past 12 months would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?				D) Did this happen before the past 12 months? IF YES would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?			
		Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No-2	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5 + times)--3	No--0	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5 + times)--3	
		1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
	a) Did your husband ever force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
	b) Did you ever have sexual intercourse with your current husband you did not want to because you were afraid of what he might do?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
	c) Did your he ever forced you to do something else sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
	d) Others: Has he ever made you or tried to make you do any other sexual act against your will (specify)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
V08E	Did your current husband use any contraceptive method during sexual intercourse that hurts you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
Check R05, if answer NO → V08K													
V08F	During any of your pregnancy, did your current husband ever force you to have sexual intercourse against your will even if the doctor forbade?	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	
V08G	Has your current husband ever force you to have intercourse after child birth (within 4 weeks) when you did not want to?	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	

V08I	Has your current husband ever forced you to have abortion?	1	2	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	3	
V08I1	If "Yes" to V08I, what was the reason for it?	Due to having a daughter---1 Due to dowry-----2 Non-response-----3 Not applicable-----4 Other (specify)-----9										
V08J	Did your current husband force you to become pregnant?	1	2	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	3	
V11	Verify whether answered Yes to any question on physical violence, See Question V05 column A. At least one '1' in column A	Yes -----1 No -----2										
V12	Verify whether answered YES to any question on Sexual violence, See Question V08 column A. At least one '1' in column A	Yes -----1 No -----2										
V13	If 'Yes' to V11 Or V12 1 ⇨ V14 If 'NO' TO Both V11 And V12 2 ⇨ V15j											

V14	As a result of what your current husband did to you?	A) In lifetime (If the answer is yes then go to B, If not then go to the next question)		B) Only ask for responses Marked 'Yes' in 14A: Did this happen in the past 12 months?	
	a)! Have you ever had cuts, scratches, bruises or severe aches?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2
	b) Have you ever had injuries to eye or ear, dislocations, sprains or burns?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2
	c) Have you ever had internal or external deep wounds, or broken bones, broken teeth or any other similar injuries??	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2
	d) Have you ever had a miscarriage?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2
	e) Were you ever injured in such a way that you could not perform daily activities or were unable to move?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2

	f) Did you lose any organ (e.g. hand, leg, nose, ear, eye etc.)??	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2			
	g) Other physical damages (please specify)	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No--2			
V14C	If the answer is yes to V14d, what was the reason behind that?	Because the child was a girl -----1 Dowry -----2 Natural miscarriage -----3 Being accidentally injured -----4 Unknown reason -----5 Did not answer -----6 Not applicable -----7 Other (please specify) -----9						
V15	Would you say that your current husband's behaviour towards you has affected your physical or mental well-being? (Refer to specific acts of Physical or Sexual Violence she described earlier.)	No Effect-----1 A Little-----2 A Lot -----3 Don't know/ Don't Remember - -----4 No Answer -----5	If Answer to QV15 is Code 2 or 3 then go V15a. otherwise go to V15b.					
V15a	If there was any effect on your physical or mental health then what was it?	Mental illness/depression ----1 Addiction to drugs -----2 Attempted to suicide-----3 Loss of appetite-----4 Sleep disorder-----5 Miscarriage -----6 Other(Please specify) -----9						
V15b	Have you ever told anyone about your current husband's behavior?	If answer is yes, ask who was the person (Mark all that apply) V15b1 Parents A Father in law/Mother in law..... B Brother/Sister.....C Brother in law/Sister in law..... D Other relatives..... E Friends..... F Neighbors..... G Police..... H Doctor/health workers.....I Religious Leader..... J NGO..... K						
	(Multiple responses may apply. Do not read out the response options. Probe to find out if there is anyone else)	Yes-----1	No-----2					

				Local Leader/Member/Chairman.....L Colleague.....M Other (please specify).....X
V15c	If the answer is "NO" to Q15b, why did not you tell anyone about this?	Afraid of husbandA Afraid of other family members B Fear of more violence....C Fear of divorce.... D Fear of public disgrace.... E Fear of society... F Fear of losing family honor G Considered disclosure unnecessary H Considered violence unimportant I Didn't understand the importance of disclosure.... J Not Applicable..... 88 Other (please specify)---X		
V15d	Did you take any legal action for your current husband's behavior?	Yes---1, No---2	If V15d is Yes, V15d.1 Was that taken in last 12 months? Yes---1, No---2	If answer of V15d is NO go to V15e, if answer is "no" go to V15i
V15e	What type of legal action did you take? (multiple responses)	General Diary (GD) -----A, First Information Report (FIR) /Police CaseB Court CaseC NeighborD Mediation.....E Other (please specify)-----X		
V15f	Where did you go for taking legal action? (multiple responses)	Police / Thana---A, Villagel Court---B, Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality---C, Court---D, Government Agency---E, One Stop Crisis Center-F, NGO/private organization---G, local leader---H, Others (please specify)---X		
V15g	What was the outcome of your legal action?	Good or punishable---1, roughly/partial---2, bad or no conviction---3, ongoing case ---4,		
V15h	Which organization or institute supported you to take legal action?	Self/Personally---1, Police / Police Station ---2 Village Court -- 3- Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality ---4, Court ---5, Government Agencies/legal aid -6, One Stop Crisis Center --7, NGO/private organization--8, Others (please specify)9		
V15i	If answer to QV15d is "no", why you did not took any legal action? (multiple answer)	Fear of husband----- A Fear of other family members----- B Husband has the right to abuse wife----C Considering children's future ----- D Husband prohibited----- E		

		Considering family honor -----F Financial inability----- G Lack of knowledge of Govt/NGO service providers-----H Lack of trust in the legal system----- I Considerd unnecessary -----J Other (please specify)-----X								
V15j	Do you know where one should go for reporting/lodging complaint for such incidents (incidence of violence)?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes--1</td><td>No--2</td></tr> </table> If Answer is Yes then go to QV15k, If Answer is No then go to QV15l	Yes--1	No--2						
Yes--1	No--2									
V15k	In general, where one should report or lodge complaint? (Multiple Response)	Police / Thana---A, Villagel Court---B, Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality---C, Court---D, Government Agency--E, One Stop Crisis Center-F, NGO/private organization---G, Local leaders or Salish---H, Others (please specify)---X								
V16	Were you ever afraid of your current husband? If yes, how often?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Never-----1,</td><td>Sometimes-----2</td><td>Most of the time-----3</td><td>Often ----- 4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Always-----5</td><td>No answer-----6</td><td>Other (please specify) ----- 9</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Never-----1,	Sometimes-----2	Most of the time-----3	Often ----- 4	Always-----5	No answer-----6	Other (please specify) ----- 9	
Never-----1,	Sometimes-----2	Most of the time-----3	Often ----- 4							
Always-----5	No answer-----6	Other (please specify) ----- 9								
V16a	Did your current husband had any relationship with other women, while he was with you" or "during the marriage, not before?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes -----1</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr> <tr> <td>No-----2</td></tr> <tr> <td>No answer-----3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Don't know--4</td></tr> </table> If yes, go to V16b, otherwise go to V16c	Yes -----1		No-----2	No answer-----3	Don't know--4			
Yes -----1										
No-----2										
No answer-----3										
Don't know--4										
V16b	How did you get to know about the relationship?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have seen -----1</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr> <tr> <td>Suspicion originating from his behavior -----2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Heard from others----- 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other (please specify)-----9</td></tr> </table>	Have seen -----1		Suspicion originating from his behavior -----2	Heard from others----- 3	Other (please specify)-----9			
Have seen -----1										
Suspicion originating from his behavior -----2										
Heard from others----- 3										
Other (please specify)-----9										
V16c	Does your husband take any kind of drugs?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes----1</td><td>no---2, No answer -----3</td><td>Don't know--4</td></tr> </table> If yes go to V16d, otherwise go to V16e.	Yes----1	no---2, No answer -----3	Don't know--4					
Yes----1	no---2, No answer -----3	Don't know--4								
V16d	If yes, what kind of drugs does he consume?	Alcohol-----A, Marijuana smoking (gaanja)-----B, Yaba-----C, Heroin-----D, Phencydyl---E, Other (specify) ---X								
V16e	Check answer of the question number R04a (married more than once)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Married only once....</td><td>Go to QN01</td></tr> <tr> <td>Married more than once.....</td><td>Go to QV17</td></tr> </table>	Married only once....	Go to QN01	Married more than once.....	Go to QV17				
Married only once....	Go to QN01									
Married more than once.....	Go to QV17									

Previous Husbands							
V17	a) Name of your previous Husband.....	b)Age..... (write down the current age of previous husband)	c) Religion Islam-1, Hinduism-2, Buddism-3, Christianity-4, others-9	d)Education (follow the education Code).....	e) Occupation (follow the occupation profession code).....	f) Residence: where does he used to live? Within HH ---1 Abroad---3 Not applicable--4 Don't know--5	g) Monthly Income (Approximately) ------(000) thousands if answer to V17g is not known, enter '777'
Read out the part below: I would now like to ask you some questions about your previous husband. We know when two people marry, they usually share both good and bad moments, Now I would like to ask some questions about how your previous husband treated you. During our conversation if anyone interrupts us we will change the topic.							
V18	Thinking about your previous husband, would you say that	A) In Lifetime			B) Only ask if 'yes' in V18A: Has this event happen in the past 12 months?		
		Yes--1	No/ Not applicable--2	No answer--3	Yes --1	No---2	
	a) He tried to keep you from seeing your friends?	1	2	3	1	2	
	b) He tried to restrict contact with your family of birth?	1	2	3	1	2	
	c) He insisted on knowing a What are you doing and where you are at all times?	1	2	3	1	2	
	d) He ignored you and treated you indifferently?	1	2	3	1	2	
	e) He got angry if you spoke with another man?	1	2	3	1	2	

f) He was often suspicious that you are unfaithful?	1	2	3	1	2
g) He expected you to ask his permission before seeking health care for yourself?	1	2	3	1	2
h) He forced you to maintain veil/hijab (Parda)? <i>Only for Muslim woman</i>	1	2	3	1	2
i) He restricted your study?	1	2	3	1	2
j) He restricted you to work/job?	1	2	3	1	2
k) He restricted you from going out of home for recreation??	1	2	3	1	2
l) He used degrading/humiliating/disrespectful words against your parents?	1	2	3	1	2
m) He forced you to use contraceptives?	1	2	3	1	2
n) He prevented you to use contraceptives?	1	2	3	1	2
o) He misbehaved with you or used offensive language against you for giving birth to a girl child?	1	2	3	1	2
p) He misbehaved with you due to complain from your mother-in-law or sister-in-law or other family members?	1	2	3	1	2
q) He got angry if you argue with him that scare you to give your opinion?	1	2	3	1	2

	r) He restricts you to use social media (Facebook, TikTok etc.)	(	2	3	1	2
	s) Other (please specify)	(	2	3	1	2
V18C	Were you a Voter?	Yes ---1	No ---2	No Answer---3	If 'Yes' skip to ⇒ V18D, If 'No' or 'No answer' skip to ⇒ V21	
V18D	Could you cast your vote according to your own choice?	Yes --1	No --2	No Answer--3	V18D.1 If the answer is 'no' then ask why not? Pressure from husband---1 Pressure from family-----2 Social pressure-----3 Other (please specify)-----9	

V21	Has your previous husband ever:	A) In lifetime			B) Only ask if 'Yes' in V21A. Has this happened in the last 12 months?	
	a) Refused to give money for household expenses, even though he has enough money?	Yes--1	No/ Not applicable--2	No answer--3	Yes --1	No---2
	b) Refused to provide pocket money even though he is capable?	1	2	3	1	2
	c) Was your previous marriage conditional upon giving the marital family cash/goods/assets (dowry)?	Yes---1 NO---2, No answer--3			If V21C= 2 or 3 ⇒ V21e	
	d) Has you or your parent family paid all the dowry (assets as agreed before)	Yes, Partially--1	Yes, fully--2	No --3	1	2
	e) Did your husband pressurize you to bring money or other things from your natal family?	1	2	3	1	2

V21C	Has your previous husband paid the dower (denmohor) money? (For Muslims only)	Yes, partially - 1, Yes, fully - 2, No - 3, Not applicable - 4, Requested waiver - 5, No answer - 6			
V21D	1) Do/did you own the followings? (individually or jointly)	Yes - 1	No - 2	No answer - 3	2) Only ask if answer is 'Yes' in V21D. What is the source of this asset/ How do you own this asset? (Mark all that apply).
	a) Land	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	b) House/Flat	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	c) Car	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	d) Bank Account	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	e) Savings certificate, Share, fixed deposit, co-operative deposit, insurance	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	f) Ornaments (Gold)	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B Received from husband - C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
	g) Others (describe)	1	2	3	Inherited from father - A Inherited from mother - B

						Received from husband--C Owned/earned - D Other(please specify) - X
V21E	Who was the main income earner in your Household?					
		a) Husband - 1 b) Herself - 2 c) Other (please specify) - 3				
V21F	Did you earn any income?	Yes - 1 No - 2 No answer - 3	If answer is yes go to QV21F1 and if answer is 'no' or 'no answer' go to V21N.	V21F1. If answer is 'Yes', what kind of job you did or what's the source of income? School-1, College/ University-2, Govt. Office-3, Private Office-4, Business-5, Health center/Clinic-6 Day Labor/ Worker-7, Garments-8, Agriculture or livestock-9, Chatal-10, Domestic workers-11, other informal sector-12 and other (please specify) -99		
V21G	What was your husband's reaction about your income earning?	Good -1, Bad - 2, So-so -3, No Response - 4, Other (please specify) - 9				
V21H	Were you able to spend the money that you earn as your wish?	Yes - 1	No - 2	No answer - 3; If answer is Yes, go to V21J If answer is No, go to V21I		
V21 I	Has your husband ever taken your earnings against your will?	Yes - 1	No - 2	No answer - 3	V21I.1 If Answer is 'yes' to V21I, Check the appropriate box Partial - 1 Full - 2	
V21J	Due to the job (work outside home) does he question about your character or make bad comments about your character or how you dress, or has he ever misbehaved with you due to your work?	Yes - 1	No - 2	No Answer - 3		
V21K	Did he misbehave with you if you could not return home on time after work?	Yes - 1	No - 2	No Answer - 3		
V21L	Did he misbehave with you if household chores were hampered due to your work?	Yes - 1	No - 2	No Answer - 3		

V21N	Has your husband ever deprived you from the property that you lawfully inherited or obtained yourself?	Yes--1	No--2	No Answer--3	
V21O	Has your husband ever deprived you from any gifts that you receive during wedding?	Yes--1	No--2	No answer--3 Not Applicable -4	V21O.1. If Answer is yes, ask what type of gift ? (Mark all that apply. Probe: any other gift?) Cash..... A , Ornaments.....B, Furniture.....C, Dress.....D Things that you use daily E , Others (please specify)X
V21P	Has your husband forcibly ever transferred or sold any of your movable or immovable properties without your permission?	Yes--1	No--2	No answer--3 Not Applicable -4	V21P.1. If Answer is yes, ask what kind of property? (Mark all that apply. Probe: any other property?) Land.....A, House/Flat.....B, Car/Motor bike.....C, Valuable wealth/Ornaments/Cash.....D, Fixed deposit/Savings certificate/Share.....E Other-(please specify) X

V24												
Has your previous husband ever -		A) In lifetime (If answer is Yes continue with B. If answer is No skip to next item.)		B) Has this happened in the past 12 months? (If YES ask C and D. If No ask D only.)		C) In the past 12 months would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?			D) Did this happen before the past 12 months? IF YES would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?			
		Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No-2	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3	No--0	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3
a)	Insulted you or humiliated you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b)	Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c)	Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose (such as scream at you or smash things)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

	d) Verbally threaten to hurt you or act in a manner by which you were terrified?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
	e) Misbehaved with you (or tortured you) for socializing with/visiting your neighbors or other women?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
	f) Threatened you with another marriage?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
	h)! Threatened to divorce you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
V24E	Has your previous husband misbehaved with you for maintaining relationship e.g., visiting, speaking or communicating with your natal family any other way?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3		
V27	Has your previous husband ever -	D) Did this happen before the past 12 months? IF YES would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?												
		A) In lifetime (If answer is Yes continue with B. If answer is No skip to next item.)		B) Has this happened in the past 12 months? (If YES ask C and D. If No ask D only.)		C) In the past 12 months would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?		Many (5+ times)--3		No--0		Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3
	a) Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown something at you that could hurt you?	Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No-2	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3	0	1	2	3	2	3
	b) Pushed you or shoved you or pulled your hair?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	3
	c) Threw acid intentionally?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	3
	d) Kicked you, dragged you or beat you up?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	3

V32	In your previous relationship -	A) In lifetime (If answer is Yes continue with B. If answer is No skip to next item.)		B) Has this happened in the past 12 months? (If YES ask C and D. If No ask D only.)		C) In the past 12 months would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?			D) Did this happen before the past 12 months? IF YES would you say that this has happened once, a few times or many times?			
		Yes--1	No--2	Yes--1	No-2	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3	No--0	Once--1	Few (2-5 times)--2	Many (5+ times)--3
	b)! Did your previous husband ever force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	b) Did you ever have sexual intercourse with your previous husband you did not want to because you were afraid of what he might do?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	c) Did your husband ever forced you to do something else sexual that you found degrading or humiliating??	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	d) Others: Has he ever made you or tried to make you do any other sexual act against your will?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V32E	Did your husband use any contraceptive method during sexual intercourse that hurts you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	Check R05, if answer “no” →V32J											
V32F	During any of your pregnancy, did your previous husband ever force you to have sexual intercourse against your will even if the doctor forbade?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V32G	Has your husband ever force you to have intercourse after childbirth (within 4 weeks)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

V32I	Has your husband ever forced you to have abortion?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V32I1	If "Yes" to V32I, what was the reason for it?	Because the child was a girl ---1 Dowry-----2 Natural miscarriage--3 Being accidentally injured---4, Unknown reason----5 Did not answer---6 Not applicable- --7 Other (please specify)---9										
V32H	Did your husband force you to become pregnant?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
V37	Verify whether answered YES to any question on physical violence, See Question V27 column A. At least one '1' in column A	Yes -----1 No -----2										
V38	Verify whether answered YES to any question on Sexual violence, See Question V32 column A. At least one '1' in column A	Yes ----- 1 No -----2										
V39	If 'Yes' to V37 Or V38 ⇨V40 IF 'NO' TO Both V37 And V38 ⇨V42											

V40	As a result of what your previous husband did to you?	A) In lifetime (If the answer is yes then go to B, If not then go to the next question) Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2		B) Only ask for responses Marked 'Yes' in 40A: Did this happen in the past 12 months? Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2 Yes--1 No--2
V41	a) Have you ever had cuts, scratches, bruises or severe aches?? b) Have you ever had injuries to eye or ear, dislocations, sprains or burns? c) Have you ever had internal or external deep wounds, or broken bones, broken teeth or any other similar injuries?? d) Have you ever had a miscarriage? e) Were you ever injured in such a way that you could not perform daily activities or were unable to move? f) Did you lose any organ (e.g. hand, leg, nose, ear, eye etc)?? g) Other physical damages (please specify)	No Effect-----1 A Little-----2 A Lot ----3 Don't know/ Don't Remember -----4 No Answer-----5		If the Answer to QV41 is Code 2 or 3 then go V41a otherwise go V41b
V41a	Would you say that your previous husband's behaviour towards you has affected your physical or mental well-being? (Refer to specific acts of Physical or Sexual Violence she described earlier.) If there was any effect on your physical or mental health then what was it?	Mental illness/depression ----- 1 Addiction to drugs ----- 2 Attempted to suicide-----3 Loss of appetite-----4 Sleep disorder -----5 Miscarriage -----6 Other (Please specify) -----9		
V41b		V41b.1	If answer is yes, ask who was the person (Mark all that apply)	

	Have you ever told anyone about your previous husband's behavior/abuse? (Multiple responses may apply. Do not read out the response options. Probe to find out if there is anyone else)	Yes---1 No-----2	ParentsA Father-in-law/Mother-in-law.....B Brother/Sister.....C Brother-in-law/Sister-in-law.....D Other relatives.....E Friends..... F Neighbors..... G Police.....H. Doctor/health workers.....I Religious Leader.....J NGO.....K Local Leader/Member/Chairman.....L Colleague.....M Other (please specify).....X
V41c	If the answer is "no" to Q41b, why did not you tell anyone about this? (Multiple response)	Fear of husband----- A Fear of other family members----- B Husband has the right to abuse wife-----C Considering children's future ----- D Husband prohibited----- E Considering family honor -----F Considerd unnecessary ----- G Financial inability---- H Lack of knowledge of free services-----I Lack of trust in the legal system----- J Not applicable.....K Other (please specify)..... X	
V41d	Did you take any legal action for your previous husband's behavior/abuse?	Yes---1 No---2	If V41d is Yes, V41d.1. Was that taken in last 12 months? Yes---1, No---2
V41e	What type of legal action did you take? (Multiple responses)	General Diary (GD) -----A, First Information Report (FIR) /Police CaseB NeighborD , Other (please specify)-----X	If V41d answer is Yes, go to V41e, if V41d answer is "no" go to V41i Court CaseC

V41f	Where did you go for taking legal action? (Multiple responses)	Police / Thana---A, Village Court---B, Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality---C, Court---D, Government Agency---E, One Stop Crisis Center-F, NGO/private organization---G, Local leader---H, Others (please specify)---X
V41g	What was the outcome of your legal action?	Good or punishable---1, roughly/partial---2, bad or no conviction---3, ongoing case---4,
V41h	Which organization or institute supported you to take legal action?	Self/Personally---1, Police / Police Station ---2 Village Court --- 3- Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality ---4 , Court ---5, Government Agencies/legal aid --- 6, One Stop Crisis Center ---7, NGO/private organization---8, Others (please specify).....9
V41i	If answer to QV41d is No, why you did not take any legal action? (Multiple responses)	Fear of husband----- A Fear of other family members----- B Husband has the right to abuse wife-----C Considering children's future ----- D Husband prohibited----- E Considering family honor -----F Financial inability----- G Lack of knowledge of Govt/NGO service providers-----H Lack of trust in the legal system----- I Considerd unnecessary ----- J Other (please specify)..... X
V42	Were you ever afraid of your previous husband? If yes, how often?	Never-----1, Sometimes-----2 Most of the time-----3 Often4 Always-----5 No answer-----6 Other (please specify).....9
V42a	Did your previous husband had any relationship with other women, while he was with you" or "during the marriage, not before?	Yes -----1 No answer ----- If answer of Q42a is '2' '3' or '4' go to VN01. No-----2 --3 Don't know----- --4
V42b	How did you get to know about the relationship?	Have seen -----1 , Suspicion originating from his behavior -----2
V42c	Does your husband take any kind of drugs?	Heard from others----- 3 Other (please specify)-----9 Yes---1, No---2, No answer---3, Do not know---4 If answer to V42c is 2 or 3 or 4, go to N01
V42d	If yes, what kind of drugs does he consume? (Multiple)	Alcohol-----A, Marijuana smoking (gaanja)-----B, Yaba-----C, Heroin-----D, Phencydyl-----E, Other (specify) ----X

MODULE-N: OTHER (NON-PARTNER) FOR ALL WOMEN (MARRIED/UNMARRIED)

N01	READ TO RESPONDENT In their lives, many women experience different forms of maltreatment and unwanted incidence from men or other women such as relatives, other known persons and/or strangers. If you don't mind, I would like to briefly ask you about some of these situations. Everything that you say will be kept confidential. I will first ask about what has happened to you since you were aged 15, and thereafter about incidents during the past 12 months.				
N02	[if married or previously married] Apart from your husband, has anyone ever: (All other women who have never been married) Has anyone ever	A) Throughout lifetime (since you were aged 15) (If yes, go to B and C.) If not, check age: if age year, go to C, otherwise move on to the next question.)	B) If yes, did it happen once, several times, or many times?	(C) Has it happened in the last 12 months? (If the answer is yes, go to D.) If the answer is no, move on the next question.)	D) This has happened once, several times, or many times in the last 12 months?
		Yes--1 No--2	Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)--2 Many times (more than 5)--3	Yes--1 No--2	No---0 Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)--2 Many times (more than 5)--3
	a) Slapped, hit with fist, punched or thrown something at you that could hurt you?				
	b) Pushed or shoved you or pulled/ shoved your hair?				
	c) Choked you on purpose?				

	d) Threatened with or used a gun, knife or weapon against you?				
	e) Threw acid?				
	f) Touched you with bad intension?				
	g) Kicked you, dragged you?				
	h) Hit you with a stick or any heavy things?				
	i) Burnt you on purpose (threw hot water/ oil/ milk/ peas/ congee or any other hot liquid or burnt you using hot spoon, cooking spud, utensil etc.)?				
N02E	Anyone who misbehaved with you for not becoming pregnant after marriage? (applicable for married women)	Yes-1, No-2, Not applicable --3			
N02F	If yes, who did it? (Multiple response)	Husband-----A Father/mother-in Law---B Sister-in-laws/Brother-in-law---C Other members of the family----D Neighbour-----E Others (specify).....X			
	Check: If the answer to any one of N02's up to (a-i) is "yes", go to question N03 and if all (a-i) are "no" go to N06.				

N03	a) Who did this to you? (May have multiple response)	A) Throughout life (since you were aged 15)	B) In the last 12 months
	Father	A	A
	Uncle/(paternal)maternal/in-law)	B	B
	Mother	C	C
	Mother-in-law	D	D
	Brother-in-law/Sister-in-law (Nanad/Jaa/Bhai-bau))	E	E
	Other Male member of family (Brother/ Brother-in-law/ Father-in-law/ Step Father)	F	F
	Other Female member of family	G	G
	Someone at work - Male	H	H
	Someone at work- Female	I	I
	Male Friend	J	J
	Female Friend	K	K
	Recent acquaintance - Male	L	L
	Recent acquaintance- Female	M	M
	Unknown - Male	N	N
	Unknown - Female	O	O
	Teacher- Male	P	P
	Teacher- Female	Q	Q
	Doctor/Health workers- Male	R	R
	Doctor/Health workers- Female	S	S
	Religious leader/ fatuabaj Male	T	T
	Religious leader/ fatwabaj - Female	U	U
	Member of law Enforcing agency - Male	V	V
	Member of law Enforcing agency - Female	W	W
	Public harasser	X	X
	Stepmother	Y	Y
	Fiancé / Boyfriend	Z	Z

N04	Indicate below the codes for the perpetrators that were mentioned above. If more than 3 perpetrators have been mentioned ask which 3 were the most harmful and indicate appropriate code from above list here(Letters A, B, etc.): ----- Perpetrator 1. [] ----- Perpetrator 2. [] ----- Perpetrator 3. []	ASK N05 A, B, and C first for perpetrator 1, and then for 2 & the next, etc. if no more perpetrators, go to N06.			
N05!	Due to these acts by others have:				
	a) You had cuts, scratches, bruises or severe aches?	Yes---1 No----2			
	b) You had injuries, bruises to eye or ear or burns?	Yes---1 No----2			
	c) You had internal or external deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth or any other similar injury?	Yes---1 No----2			
	d) You had such injuries that made you unable to perform daily activities or unable to move?	Yes---1 No----2			
	e) Did you lose any organ (e.g. hand, leg, nose, ear, eyes etc)	Yes---1 No----2			
N06	Did any family members or any other men push you to do any of the following throughout of your life? If answer to all questions in N06 is “no”, go to N10A.	A) Throughout lifetime (since you were aged 15) (If yes, go to B and C.) If not, check age: if age year, go to C, otherwise move on to the next question.)	B) If yes, did it happen once, several times, or many times?	C) Has it happened in the last 12 months? (If the answer is yes, go to D.) If the answer is no, move on the next question.)	D) This has happened once, several times, or many times in the last 12 months?
		Yes--1 No--2	Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3	Yes--1 No--2	No--0 Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3
	a) Physically forced to have sex and succeeded				
	b) Tried to have sex against your will but did not succeed				
	c) Touched your private parts with bad intention				
	d) Forced you to touch their private parts against your will				
N06E	If answer is YES to QN06a, did you become pregnant from this forced sex?	Yes---1 No---2			

N06F	The answer to any question N02 (a-i) and N06 (a-d) is "yes", where did the above event happen? (Multiple Response)	Parents' house -----A Husband's house -----B Workplace -----C Market -----D Crowded place/ Solitary/lonely place/ while travelling ---E Educational Institutions -----F Coaching Centre -----G Hospital/Nursing Home/ Health Center ---H Station (Bus, Launch, Train) -----I Vehicles/Transport -----J Roads & streets -----K Own house -----L Other (Please specify)-----X	
N07	a) Who did this to you? Mark all Mentioned (Answer can be multiple)	A) Throughout your life (since you were aged 15)	B) Ask questions in the last 12 months.
	Stepfather	A	A
	Uncle/(paternal)maternal/in-law	B	B
	Other male family member	C	C
	Someone at work (Male)	D	D
	Friend (Male)	E	E
	Recent acquaintance (Male)	F	F
	Unknown (Male)	G	G
	Teacher (Male)	H	H
	Doctor/Health worker (Male)	I	I
	Religious leader/ fatuabaj (Male)	J	J
	Member of law Enforcing (Male)	K	K
	Public harasser	L	L
	Father-in-law	M	M
	Brother	L	L
	Others--Specify	b	b

N08	Do you use any electronic device?	Yes ---1 No---2 If 'No' go to QN09	A) If Yes, what type of device it? Mobile---A Mobile with internet---B Computer---C Computer with internet---D Tab -----E Tab with internet ----F Others (Specify)-----X		
N09	Have you ever received private electronic messages with sexual content (such as comments, proposals, photos) that were harmful to you or made you feel uncomfortable? For example, via Facebook, cellphone, e-mail, excluding spam	A) Throughout lifetime (since you were aged 15) (If yes, go to B and C.) If not, check age: if age year, go to C, otherwise move on to the next question N10.) Yes--1 No--2	B) If yes, did it happen once, several times, or many times? Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3	C) Has it happened in the last 12 months? (If the answer is yes, go to D.) If the answer is no, move on the next question.) Yes--1 No--2	D) This has happened once, several times, or many times in the last 12 months No---0 Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3
N10	Have you ever been harassed/blackmailed with sexual content (your personal messages/audio clips/video clips/pictures, etc.) via mobile phones/internet?	A) Throughout lifetime (since you were aged 15) (If yes, go to B and C.) If not, check age: if age year, go to C, otherwise move on to the next question N13.) Yes--1 No--2	B) If yes, did it happen once, several times, or many times? Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3	c) Has it happened in the last 12 months? (If the answer is yes, go to D.) If the answer is no, move on the next question.) Yes--1 No--2	D) This has happened once, several times, or many times in the last 12 months No---0 Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)-2 Many times (more than 5)--3

N11	What kind of content have you been harassed/blackmailed by? (There may be more than one answer.)	A) Throughout your life (since you were aged 15)	B) Ask questions in the last 12 months.
	The message	A	A
	Information	B	B
	Audio clip	C	C
	Video clip	D	D
	Still image/ image	E	E
	Other (specify)	X	X
N12	Who have you been harassed/blackmailed by? (There may be more than one answer.)	A) Throughout your life (since you were aged 15)	B) Ask questions in the last 12 months.
	Current husband	A	A
	Ex-husband	B	B
	Friend (male)	C	C
	Friend (woman)	D	D
	Classmates	E	E
	Uncle/Uncle/Aunt/Aunty	F	F
	Step father	G	G
	Any other male member of the family	H	H
	Someone in the workplace (male)	I	I
	Someone (woman) in the workplace	J	J
	Recently known person (male)	K	K
	Complete stranger (male)	L	L
	Teacher (male)	M	M
	Doctor/Health Worker (Male)	N	N
	Religious leader (male)	O	O
	Law Enforcement Member (Male)	P	P
	Public harasser	Q	Q
	Cousin	R	R
	Boy friend	S	S
	Fiancée	T	T
	Other (specify)	X	X

N13	Has anyone shared anything about you through digital media (social media, internet, Facebook, IMO, etc.), without your permission and which made you feel embarrassed or shamed (this could be photos, personal messages, recordings)?	A) Throughout lifetime (since you were aged 15) (If yes, go to B and C.) If not, check age: if age year, go to C, otherwise move on to the next question N16.) Yes--1 No--2	B) If yes, did it happen once, several times, or many times? Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)--2 Many times (more than 5)--3	C) Has it happened in the last 12 months? (If the answer is yes, go to D.) If the answer is no, move on to the next question.) Yes--1 No--2	D) This has happened once, several times, or many times in the last 12 months No---0 Once--1 A few times (2-5 times)--2 Many times (more than 5)--3
------------	--	--	---	---	---

N14	What kind of content have you been embarrassed or shamed by? (There may be more than one answer.)	A) Throughout your life (since you were aged 15)	(B)Ask questions in the last 12 months.
	The message	A	A
	Information	B	B
	Audio clip	C	C
	Video clip	D	D
	Still image/ image	E	E
	Other (specify)	X	X
N15	Who have you been embarrassed or shamed by? (There may be more than one answer.) "	A) Throughout your life (since you were aged 15)	(B)Ask questions in the last 12 months.
	Current husband	A	A
	Ex-husband	B	B
	Friend (male)	C	C
	Friend (woman)	D	D
	Classmates	E	E
	Uncle/Uncle/Aunt/Aunt	F	F
	Step father	G	G
	Any other male member of the family	H	H
	Someone in the workplace (male)	I	I
	Someone (woman) in the workplace	J	J
	Recently known person (male)	K	K
	Complete stranger (male)	L	L
	Teacher (male)	M	M
	Doctor/Health Worker (Male)	N	N
	Religious leader (male)	O	O
	Law Enforcement Member (Male)	P	P
	Public harasser	Q	Q
	Cousin	R	R
	Boy friend	S	S
	Fiancée	T	T
Other (specify)	X	X	

N16	Check QN02, N06, N09, N10, and N13; if any of them reported “yes”, put 1, if all are “no” put “2”	yes--1 No--2	If No go to N18	
N17	Questions N02, N06, and N08: If the answer was yes, were you able to take any legal action for the abuse/violence? (Example-General diary to thana, Lodge Police case, FIR, Arbitration etc.)	Yes --1 No --2	N17a. If Q N17 yes, Has it happened in the last 12 months? Yes---1, No---2	If Q17 “No” go to QN17f
N17b	If the answer is yes to Q17, what kind of legal action did you take? (multiple answer)	General Diary--A, First Information Report (FIR)---B, Police Case---C, Court Case---D, Mediation--E, Investigation--F, Other (mention)---X		
N17c	Where did the Legal Action took place? (check the appropriate answer)”	Police / Thana---A, Villagel Court---B, Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality---C, Court---D, Government Agency--E, One Stop Crisis Center-F, NGO/private organization---G, Others (please specify)---X		
N17d	What the result of legal Action? (check the appropriate answer)	Good or punishable--1, roughly/partial---2, bad or no conviction---3, ongoing case --4,		
N17e	Who/Which organization/institute supported you to take legal action? (check the appropriate answer)	Self/Personally---1, Police / Police Station ---2 Village Court -- 3- Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality --4, Court ---5, Government Agencies/legal aid --6, One Stop Crisis Center --7, NGO/private organization--8, Others (please specify).....9		
N17f	If the answer is NO to QN17, why did not you take legal action?	Threatens/fear-- A Afraid of other family members---B Thinking of family/own honor --- C Due to financial Inability --- D Lack of knowledge about the Govt./NGO service providers-----E Lack of trust in the legal system----- F Did not feel it necessary ---- G Other (please specify) X		
N18	Do you know where one should go for reporting/lodging complain such incidences (incidence of violence)? (Answer of QN02, N06, N09, N10, and N13)	Yes----1 No-----2	If answer is “no” or “NA” , go to question N19	
N18a	Generally where one should report or lodge complain? (multiple responses)	Police / Thana---A, Villagel Court---B, Union / Upazila Parishad / Municipality---C, Court---D, Government Agency--E, One Stop Crisis Center-F, NGO/private organization---G, Village leader/-Mediator-----H, Others (please specify)---X		

N19	Do you know about the governments' 24 hours toll free help line no. 109?	(a) 109: Yes-- 1, No --2	(b) 999: Yes--1; No --2
N20	Have you ever attempted or committed suicide because of physical/ emotional/sexual abuse?	N20a. If answer is yes , how long ago (in month).....	
N21	Are you or any of your female household members been a victim of trafficking?	Yes---1, No---2	N21a. If the answer is yes, mention how long ago (months) ----- If not answered, go to question N22
N21b	Who was the person and how old was she? (Multiple Answer)	N21b1. Who was she? N21b2. how old was she then? Own self ---A Age Niece ----B Age..... Sister in law (nanad) ---C Age..... Grand daughterD Age..... DaughterE Age SisterF Age..... Sister in law(jaa) ---G Age Other (specify) -----X Age.....	
N22	Are you/ any of your female household members been abducted/kidnapped?	Yes----1, no----2	N22a. If the answer is yes, mention how long (month)..... If not answered, go to question N23
N22b	Who was the person and how old was she? (Answer can be Multiple. Probe to know anyone else)	N22b1. Who was she? N22b2. how old was she then? Own self ---A Age Niece ----B Age..... Sister in law(nanad) ---C Age..... Grand daughterD Age..... DaughterE Age SisterF Age..... Sister in law(jaa) ---G Age Other (specify) -----X Age.....	
N23	Has any of your family members deprived you from or forcefully possessed your lawfully inherited or obtained property?	Yes-- 1, No --2 , Not applicable--3	
N24	Has any of your family members ever transferred or sold your movable or immovable property without your permission?	Yes-- 1, No --2 , Not applicable--3	

N25	Can you spend the money that you earn as your wish?	Yes-1, No -- 2, Not applicable--3
N26	How safe do you feel while walking alone in your area after dark? (all types of unusual acts)	Very much safe---1, Safe---2, unsafe to some extent---3 very much unsafe---4, never waling alone at night---5, Don't know---9

MODULE C: COST RELATED TO MALTREATMENT AND UNWANTED INCIDENT

C00	Check if the respondent reported any form of act by both partner or non-partner in the last 12 months (the enumerator will do it, particularly in case of physical/mental/sexual violence) Please Check V02B, V04B, V05B, V08B, V14B, V15d1, V18B, V24B, V27B, V32B, N02, N05, N06B, N17a)	Yes---1 No---2 (if “no” go to Z01)
C01	If yes, in the past 12 months, did you receive any treatment for any kind of health problems (e.g., injury/injuries, mental) due to the unwanted acts you experienced?	Yes -----1 No -----2
C01a	If yes, for which type of act you have taken treatment? (multiple answer)	A=Physical B=Sexual C=Emotional/mental
C02	What was the type of treatment?	Medical/Allopathic- --A , Kabiraji/Traditional--- B, Ayurvedik---C , Homio-pathik ----D, Counselling ---E, Religious treatment---F Other (please specify)- ---X
C03	From where did you receive treatment? (Multiple answer)	Doctor (chamber/practice/private)-----A Clinic-----B Govt. Hospital -----C Private Hospital-----D Pharmacy/Drug seller shop-----E Other (Please specify)-----X
C04	Who took you for treatment? (Multiple answer)	Self..... A Husband.....B Other marital family member.....C Paternal family member.....D Neighbor.....E NGO representative.....F

		Other(Please specify)-----X
C05	Who paid for treatment? (Multiple answer)	Self..... A Husband.....B Other marital family member....C Paternal family member..... D Neighbor..... E NGO representative.....F Other(Please specify)-----X
C06	In the past 12 months how much money in total was spent (by you and accompanying) to receive health care on fees, laboratory tests, medicines, transport? For Self: Count cost for item 1-4, even if you have taken treatment outdoor or in-hospital/clinic. For accompanying: Other cost (food, transportation except night stay)	1..FEES..... [] [] 2.LABORATORY TESTS.....[] [] 3.MEDICINES.....[] [] 4.TRANSPORT.....[] [] 5. Others (specify).....[]. [] 6. All expenses together (if not possible to say separately for the above items).....[]. []
C07	In the past 12 months, have you had to spend any nights in a hospital for this treatment?	REFUSED/NO ANSWER 999 YES.....1 NO.....2 If answer is “no” go to C12.
C08	How many nights did you have to spend in the hospital due to the injury/injuries? (MORE OR LESS)	NUMBER OF NIGHTS IN HOSPITAL [] [] DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER..... 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER.....999
C09	In the past 12 months, how much expense was incurred for all the nights stayed you in the hospital? (IF EXACT AMOUNT NOT KNOWN, PROBE ESTIMATE)	EXPENSE.....[] [] NONE 00 DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER..... 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER999
C10	In the past 12 months, any other expenses was incurred for a) food, b) family member staying at hospital, c) transport cost for family members, d) other for your treatment.	1.FOOD..... [] [] 2.COST FAMILY MEMBER STAY.[] [] 3.TRANSPORT COST FOR 4. FAMILY MEMBERS.....[] [] 5. OTHER:.....[] []
C11	IF EXACT AMOUNT NOT KNOWN, PROBE ESTIMATE What was the reason for not seeking treatment?	Afraid of Husband-----A Afraid of family members----- B

		Husband did not allow----- C Threaten by people other than family member-----D Afraid of social prestige----- E Service is far away-----F Natural disaster (flood/cyclone etc.) -----G Hard to reach to access the treatment---H Treatment was not needed ----- I Financial inability----- J Not applicable..... K Other (please specify)-----X
C12	If you took any legal action for the abuse/violence in last 12 months, please state the expenses? (Example- General diary to thana, Lodge Police case, FIR, Arbitration etc.) (CHECK with the previous answer V15d1,, V41d1, N17a)	If yes, please tell the cost: a)! Fees for lodging Police case/FIR----- b)! Fees for lawyer c)! Transportation..... d)! Others (mention)..... If no, write 000 for all (a-d).
C13	How many days of work (or of total income) have you lost in the last 12 months because of your husband / partner's /non-partner' behaviour? PROBE: More or less (count number of days and multiply it by per day wage to get approx. total taka)	i)! NUMBER OF DAYS [] [] . ii) Approximate total Tk:..... DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999 Not applicable.....997 i)NUMBER OF DAYS [] [] []
C14	How many days of household work were you unable to do in the 12 months because of your husband/partner's/non/partner behavior?	DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999
C15	How many days of work and total money/earning did your husband lost in the past 12 months because of this act? (Only for married women) PROBE: More or less (count number of days and multiply it by per day wage to get approx. total taka)	i)NUMBER OF DAYS [] [] . ii) Approximate total Tk:..... DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999
C16	Did this behaviour/act result in destruction of property such as broken utensils, furniture, TV, mobile, scooter etc. in your household in 12 months?	YES..... 1 NO..... 2 DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999

C17	How much money was spent to replace those? PROBE: MORE OR LESS	AMOUNT..... [] [] [] NOTHING REPLACED 000 DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER..... 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999	
C18	Did you leave household, even if only overnight, because of any of the reported acts in the past 12 months? IF YES: How many times? (MORE OR LESS)	NUMBER OF TIMES LEFT [] [] NEVER 00 Never return..... 97 DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 98 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 99	If C18=00 or 97 go to Z01.
C19	How long did you stay away in the past 12 months? RECORD NUMBER OF DAYS OR MONTHS	NUMBER OF DAYS (IF LESS THAN 1 MONTH)..... [] [] .. 1 NUMBER OF MONTHS (IF 1 MONTH OR MORE) [] [] .. 2 LEFT HUSBAND/PARTNER / DID NOT RETURN/ 3	
C20	How much was spent for accommodation and food while you were away in last 12 months?	ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD [] [] DID NOT SPEND ANYTHING 000 DON'T KNOW/DON'T REMEMBER 998 REFUSED/NO ANSWER..... 999	

MODULE Z. COMPLETION OF INTERVIEW

Z01	We have finished the interview. Do you have any comments? Is there anything else you would like to add?											
Z02	I have asked you many difficult and sensitive questions. How has talking about these things made you feel?						Better --1 Good ---2 Neither good or worse---3 Worse----4 Bad-----5					
Z03	I would like to thank you very much for helping me. I realize that these questions may have been difficult and sensitive for you to answer, but only hearing from women themselves we can really understand about their experiences of experience. From what you have told, I can tell that you have had some very difficult times in your life. However, I understand that in your life you faced very difficult situations strongly and you survived through some difficult circumstances. If you or someone around you needs assistance, you can call the necessary number provided at any convenient time. Thank you very much for taking the time to talk to me. I understand that these questions are not easy to answer, but without talking to you, we cannot understand these women's life experiences and health issues. Thank you for helping us.											
Z04	Interviewer's observation (Check the questionnaire for any omissions. Note below reasons for refusing interview. Please note down any other observation.).											

Acknowledgment: Thank you very much for your time.



BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS (BBS)
STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS DIVISION (SID)
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

