In 2008 we asked communities in Kampala about their relationships, their families and the problems that they face. We learned that...

Almost half (49%) of women who are currently married or have been in the past reported having experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner.

50% of men said they used one or more controlling behaviors with their partners in the past 12 months.

Men thought that to be respected husbands, they had to make all the decisions, not share their worries with their partners, and support the family’s needs single-handedly.

From 2008 - 2012 communities in Rubaga and Makindye Divisions in Kampala were busy! They were talking, sharing, thinking, questioning, engaging, getting involved and taking action... to prevent violence against women and HIV using SASA! with the support of the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP).

What is SASA? SASA! is an approach developed by Raising Voices to help communities create positive change by preventing violence in families and creating better relationships.

Over 400 community activists, leaders, health care providers, police, ssengas, drama activists and others were talking to over 200,000 community members, friends, neighbors, relatives and family members about...

- Respectful relationships
- Violence
- Happy, safe and healthy families
- Balancing power
Women and men in Rubaga and Makindye created **change!**

How do we know?

We asked **2649** community members (1181 women and 1468 men) aged 18-49, **living in 12 parishes** in Rubaga and Makindye **LOTS of questions.**

In **6** parishes, community members and leaders were using SASA! to mobilize their neighbors, friends, relatives and family members.

In **6** parishes, life went on as usual – there was no SASA! in these communities.

Women and men told us their stories, and shared their experiences. To protect their privacy, we didn’t write down their names. Here is what they said:

*SASA! changed what people believe...*

In **SASA! communities** **76%** of women and men no longer believe that physical violence in relationships is OK.

Yet in the other parishes, where there was no SASA!, only **26%** of women and men believe violence is not OK.

“**I have to behave well [and intervene in violence] with the help of your organizations like SASA! and the police, government in general. However, I should be the first person to prevent the violence in the community.”**

(Male community member, Kasubi)

“In the past we would just ignore if a man beat his wife but now I think it is not okay to ignore.”

(Female community member, Mutundwe)
“We talk about bedroom issues. Those days before SASAI when my husband wanted sex it was a must. I had to give it to him, but now if I don’t feel like having sex I will just tell him and he will understand.” (Female community member, Salaama)

“[From attending SASAI activities] I learned that some of the things I used to do were not right at all...for instance I thought that whenever I needed sex I had to have it without her denying me. I thought whenever I wanted sex, she would automatically want it. So whenever she would refuse, I would get so enraged and we would fight.” (Male community member, Makindye 1)

In SASAI communities, **28% more women and men believe it is acceptable for a woman to refuse sex** than women and men in other communities.

SASAI changed how people behave...

After three years, **women’s experience of physical violence from a partner was 52% lower in SASAI communities** than in other communities.

“[When it comes to me] I have changed a lot. I no longer beat her as I used to, I no longer use abusive language on her.” (Male community member, Nakulabye)

“I feel so proud of my marriage at this moment. We have no violence at all compared to how it was in the past. Even now people admire us and our children and I think they take what they see from us. We do not quarrel neither do we use violence against our children.” (Female community member, Kasubi)

Fewer men in SASAI communities had multiple sexual partners than men in other communities

**27% in SASAI communities** vs. **45% in other communities**

“I have another woman outside my home. She is the only one whom I have outside...from the time I watched the SASAI film I decided to leave all the others and remain with only two...I did it out of my own free will for the good of my health and my home.” (Male community member, Kibuye 1)
Community members in SASA! communities are more supportive to women who experience violence.

Women who were involved in SASA! were **3 times more likely to receive helpful support** than women who were not involved in SASA!

“Personally I was going through violence but I did not know what to do and where to go. But when SASA! came, I realized I had support.” (Female community member, Makindye 1)

Many people generously answered our questions. The main thing we learnt from them is that when everyone - **women, men, boys** and **girls** - does something **big** or **small** in their own lives, **violence can be prevented!**

**Relationships can be safer and healthier**

**Next Steps...**

Community members and leaders in SASA! communities will continue to prevent violence and make their relationships and families happy and safe.

Communities in Rubaga and Makindye who were involved in the research but who hadn’t been using SASA! will, with the support of CEDOVIP, now begin to make positive change.

**We can create happier and healthier homes!**

Want to **learn more?**

Want to **get involved?**

Reach out to **community activists, ssengas, council - leaders, drama group members** and others in SASA! communities!

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