



## SASA! Activist Approach for Preventing Violence Against Women: Understanding the Revision

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Why did you revise SASA!?*

The field of violence against women (VAW) prevention has evolved incredibly in the past decade, thanks to the efforts of practitioners, donors, academics, and a global community of feminist activists developing and inspiring positive change. We are immensely proud of the work being done by our partners around the world, and the effort put in by our family at Raising Voices to mobilize communities to prevent VAW and create more gender equitable social norms.

We feel it is our ethical responsibility to ensure our programming is as deliberate and effective as possible, safeguarding the rights and agency of women and communities around the world. While we have evidence of SASA!'s ability to transform harmful norms, we are committed to strengthening its content in light of the practice-based learning we've had over the past 10 years.

2. *How different is the revised SASA! from the original SASA!?*

The revised *SASA! Activist Approach for Preventing Violence against Women* is the culmination of 10 years of learning and practice within Raising Voices and among our partners. After conducting surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and consultations over 9 months in 2018, we began the revision process, working again with partners to review and provide input the new strategy and revised materials. We asked what works, what doesn't, what we need to add, and how we can strengthen the work. We engaged funders, global experts, organizations using SASA! and our closest collaborators at the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention. This learning was used to reimagine, revise, and recreate the SASA! Approach.

The revised SASA! Activist Approach retains the four key elements of the SASA! Activist Kit for Preventing VAW and HIV: a benefits-based activism, a gender-power analysis, reaching each circle of influence, and using a phased-in approach.

The revised SASA! is also different in several ways:

- A focus on intimate partner violence against women rather than multiple forms of violence against women.
- New strategies that equally engage all circles of influence: Local Activism, Community Leadership, Institutional Strengthening
- A more integrated and user-friendly Monitoring & Analysis component
- Increased focus on intimate partner violence with new content on sexual decision-making
- Greater emphasis and guidance on mentoring staff, community activists, community leaders and institutional allies





- Stronger focus on skill building particularly on relationship skills
- Increased attention on formalizing and sustaining activism and change in organizations, communities and institutions
- A more robust preparation component including guidance on adaptation, program design and staffing

3. *What if my organization is implementing the SASA! Activist Kit already?*

Great! If you are in Start or Awareness phases, we can work with you to integrate the revised version into your work. If you are in Support or Action phases, we recommend completing with the original SASA! Activist Kit. Please speak to our VAW Prevention Practice team for further guidance or contact us at [info@raisingvoices.org](mailto:info@raisingvoices.org).

4. *Why has the emphasis on HIV been removed?*

At the core of women's vulnerability to a host of sexual and reproductive health challenges is their lack of sexual decision-making and autonomy over their bodies. For some women, this results in HIV infection while for others it results in other STIs, unwanted pregnancy, mental health problems or general ill-health. The revised SASA! tackles challenging issues such as consent, bodily autonomy, pleasure and sexual decision-making. We hope this broader framing will allow for deeper work and allow for wider applicability to organizations and communities across the world. We welcome organizations to weave special topics, including HIV, that are relevant to their context into SASA! materials.

5. *Is this an adaptation of the original SASA!?*

No, this is not an adaptation of SASA! (see more [here](#) on SASA! adaptations). This is a fully revised approach to the SASA! Activist Kit for Preventing VAW and HIV that includes the substantive changes outlined in Question 2.

6. *When will the revised SASA! Activist Approach be available?*

The revised SASA! Activist Approach for Preventing Violence against Women will hopefully be printed and available by August 2019. In the meantime, we are happy to share some of the materials with partner organizations as they are finalized, prior to August.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [info@raisingvoices.org](mailto:info@raisingvoices.org)

