MERCY'S STORY

Part 2

PREVENTIONCOLLABORATIVE

MERCY'S STORY

Mercy and Clinton have been married for many years. She believes he is a good husband. He works as a day labourer to provide for the family, which people say is the most important thing.

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Sometimes, when he gets annoyed, Clinton yells and beats her, but Mercy believes this is just what husbands do. After all, her father used to beat her mother sometimes, too. She remembers crying once when she saw her father beating her mother, but her aunties told her that beating is a sign of love. It's the same for the other women in the neighbourhood. They see beating as a normal part of marriage.

PREVENTIONCOLLABORATIVE

MERCY'S STORY

Market days are the hardest for Mercy. She must wake up early to prepare the food and tea for Clinton and their children. Angel stopped school last year to take care of the other children and help her mother at the market.

Mercy walks with Angel to the market. She does not want her daughter to walk alone because men often make sexual comments at women, and especially at young girls. It is not good for a young girl to walk alone.

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Mercy learned that a neighbour's daughter was raped by a boy when she was walking home. The girl did not tell anyone at first. When she found out that she was pregnant, people said that this boy must now marry the girl. Mercy does not want this to happen to her daughter.

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After market, Mercy gives her earnings to Clinton. Like most men they know, he insists on controlling the household money. He gives Mercy an allowance each week to meet basic household needs. Sometimes he does not understand changes in prices. Even when Mercy needs more money, she tries not to ask him. When she does ask him about money, he gets angry and shouts at her.

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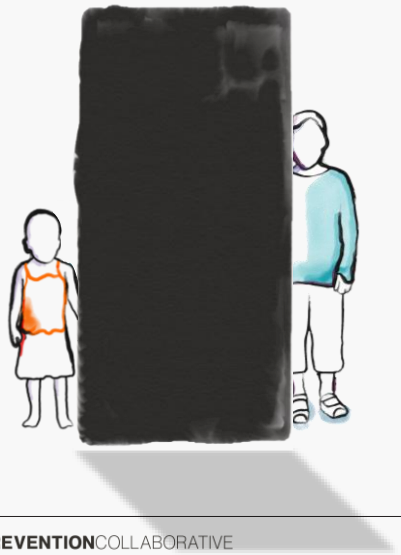

Mercy knows that the kids get scared when they hear Clinton shouting or if they see him beating her, just like she did when she was young. But afterwards, she comforts them and tells them it is nothing to worry about.

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MERCY'S STORY

Mercy is happy to have her family, even though life is hard sometimes.

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