The TARA (Take Action Reach All) Trial

Scientific title: Community interventions to prevent violence against women and girls in informal settlements in Mumbai: the SNEHA-TARA pragmatic cluster randomized controlled trial

TARA Trial is a parallel group, phased randomised trial with 48 urban informal settlement clusters of 500 households.

We are testing the effects of community mobilization through groups and volunteers to prevent violence against women and girls. Our community intervention has been developed over 16 years of programmatic experience and two years of preparatory research. Our understanding of its effects is encapsulated in the theory of change. We will be comparing 48 areas. 24 areas receiving support services, community groups and volunteer activities. Other 24 areas will receive only support services primarily in terms of effects on occurrence of intimate partner violence and domestic violence.

We are also examining disclosure of violence to support services, community attitude to violence, bystander intervention, gender equality, and occurrence of non-partner sexual violence. Backed by public engagement, advocacy, and open publication, our vision is of a replicable community-led intervention to address the public health burden of violence against women and girls.

The trial has finished the baseline survey and the intervention has been rolled out in all intervention clusters in four phases at Wadala and Kurla.