

Promoting innovation in gender-based violence prevention

Supporting research through the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Grant and the SVRI and World Bank Group Development Marketplace Awards

With more than 5 000 members, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) is a global network that promotes research on sexual violence and its linkages to other forms of violence to influence policy and practice in low- and middle-income countries. It does this by gathering and sharing information, funding research, holding an international Forum every two years, and building capacity through various workshops and events.

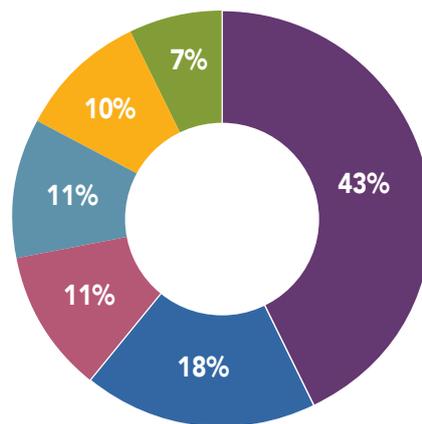
GRANT MECHANISMS

To increase the evidence base on preventing gender-based violence, the SVRI established the SVRI Grant in 2014 to fund research focusing on sexual and intimate partner violence. These grants ranged from \$40 000 to \$150 000 over a two-year period. The Grant's success led the SVRI to partner with the World Bank Group in 2016 on the Development Marketplace for innovation in gender-based violence prevention and response.

To date, these two grant mechanisms have awarded more than \$3.1 million to 28 research projects in 22 countries across the globe. The SVRI directly funds 18 of these projects, seven of which ended in February 2017.

Projects are selected through a rigorous peer review process and those located in and run by researchers in low- and middle-income countries are prioritised.

28 funded projects by region



- Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- East Asia and Pacific
- South Asia
- Europe and Central Asia

Issues covered include education, parenting interventions, the intersections of violence against women and children, cash transfers, sexual harassment and public transport, and violence and mental health.

"This unique award has an incredibly important role in cultivating innovation in violence prevention. Please keep offering this mechanism to keep the field moving!"

– Grantee

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

An estimated one-third of all women are subject to sexual and intimate partner violence and the associated health and development consequences. Violence against women and girls limits their access to education and jobs. It prevents them from participating fully in society.

Evidence-based research on violence prevention is urgently needed to stop violence against women and children in all its forms. Using the best available evidence to develop violence prevention programmes helps ensure that limited resources are efficiently used and people have access to effective services and programmes so that women and children are able to live their lives free from violence.

VALUE OF FUNDING

Evidence base expanded

The projects have positively contributed to the evidence base. The grants allow projects to undertake innovative research focusing on areas that have previously received little attention.

"Our study shows that violence can be prevented, and substantially decreased over a generation. It is the first study of its kind to document changes in a country and to show how integrated and coordinated actions by governments, donors and civil societies can contribute to population-wide change." – Nicaragua study

Partnerships developed

Both grant mechanisms encourage north-south and south-south grantee research partnerships. Through these grants, existing partnerships have been strengthened and new ones established, allowing researchers to learn from each other. Other benefits of these partnerships include extending the reach of the work and encouraging further research on similar topics.

"This grant truly strengthened a collaborative partnership spanning US academic, Thailand academic, and Thailand-based practice partnerships – each partner brings tremendous strength and a desire to learn from the others." – Grantee

Research capacity strengthened

Projects have built capacity by training local partners in research ethics, research methods and data analysis. The SVRI and World Bank Group have strengthened grantees' research capabilities by helping them revise research proposals and develop tools and methodology. They provide technical feedback to grantees on all research products and reports.

Funds leveraged

A number of projects have leveraged additional funds as a result of these

RESEARCH OUTPUTS TO DATE

6

films



8

blogs



3

briefs



6

academic papers



blogs, and policy and learning briefs. The SVRI also disseminates the research on its website, social media platforms and blog.

HOW RESEARCH WILL BE USED

Several grantees plan to use their research to inform policy or develop interventions, while others plan to improve or expand on their research to collect more evidence and thus build the knowledge base on violence prevention. World Bank Group staff are already using the research findings to inform their work on gender-based violence.

WHAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS COULD MEAN FOR GRANTEES

Additional funds would allow the SVRI to provide the following grant support:

- Assess grantees' capacity and provide more comprehensive technical assistance where needed, such as statistical analysis, intervention development and design, and costing and expanding interventions.
- Strengthen research uptake and dissemination and skills for stakeholder engagement.
- Build communities of practice among grantees by hosting regular smaller meetings to share findings and lessons learnt, and support all grantees to attend the SVRI Forum.
- Build relationships with other funders and partners to support the extension or expansion of research projects.

grants. One study received an additional \$115 000, while another received an additional \$2 million to further their research.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

To ensure research findings reach a wide audience, grantees have produced various communication products in addition to using traditional academic channels (research papers and conferences). These include films,

CONCLUSION

There is increased awareness among policy-makers, funders and others that evidence is needed to inform their work. Now is the time to build on this trend to make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of women and children. ■