Terms of Reference Consultancy

Tracking the monies - Funding for Research on Violence Against Women (VAW) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

Background

The SVRI is the world’s largest network on research on violence against women and violence against children, providing a space where global role players in the field connect with one another, share and promote their research, work to influence policies and improve the lives of those who have experienced gender-based violence. We do this through funding research, strengthening research capacity, promoting partnerships and influencing change. In line with the SDGs 2030 and the aim to ensure that no one is left behind, there is increased awareness among policy-makers, funders, and others that evidence is needed to inform their work to prevent and respond to VAW. Research on VAW is not a luxury, especially during times of economic hardships such as the ones the world is experiencing right now in the face of COVID, and when we have witnessed an increase in VAW.1

The SVRI promotes the leadership of LMIC-based researchers and builds the capacity of global research institutions in these countries. Through our grant-making, we strive to balance research resources and power between high, low- and middle-income countries. This is not an easy task, as the available data on where knowledge in broader terms is currently being produced, by who and for who shows. The most recent UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030 shows that - although some LMICs have increased their investment in research – the gaps at global level are still huge: ‘The ‘Big Five’ – US, European Union, China, Japan and the Russian Federation still account for 72% of all researchers. Researchers from lower income countries are still pursuing career opportunities abroad but their destination of choice is widening’. A recent report from the French Development Agency on international funding for research in Africa states that: ‘In 2013, Africa had 169 researchers per million inhabitants: 4.6 times less than Asia and 24 times less than France, which had 4,125 researchers per million inhabitants’. The limited available data in our field also shows that many of the research programmes in the field of VAW are favouring researchers from high-income countries or researchers from LMICs who end up pursuing careers in HICs, with the consequent scarcity of knowledge production emanating from LMICs.

Although there have been some reports mapping the availability – or lack thereof – of resources to address VAW, they have focused on funding for programmes and have focused on specific situations or areas of intervention, such as VAW prevention and humanitarian settings.2 Information on the funding streams at global level, amounts, focus and recipients of funding for research in our field in LMICs is extremely limited and what is available is not easily accessible with the information scattered across multiple sources and information sites.

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2 See resources at the end of the document.
The SVRI, in partnership with the Equality Institute and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund is in the process of updating our global research agenda on violence against women. To accompany the process, we have identified the need to map and understand the current streams and gaps in funding, in order to develop and promote an effective strategy that will ultimately provide ethical, sufficient and sustainable funding for the new research agenda.

Through this process, we aim to contribute to the development of sound, independent and actionable research agendas led by researchers, activists, programme implementers and policy makers in low- and middle-income countries.

**Audience and use**
The research will be used for advocacy purposes around research in the field with multi-lateral, bi-lateral, independent foundations, international non-governmental organisations, philanthropists, key government departments and research foundations in LMICs, activists and programme implementers in LMICs.

**Research objectives**

**Main goal**
Provide an overview of the status of funding for research on VAW in LMICs, highlight inequitable distribution of resources and propose possible strategies to overcome the unequal access to funding for research in the field.

**Specific objectives**

- Provide an overview of the funding flows for research in the field of VAW in LMICs from key international donors in the field, vis-à-vis funding for researchers and research institutions based in high-income countries. This would include an analysis of funding for research in the framework of broad programmes in LMICs aimed mainly to addressing VAW from a programmatic point of view.
- Provide an overview of the extent to which national governments in LMICs – through key government departments and research foundations – are supporting research on VAW and the related budgetary allocations.
- Provide an overview of the research on VAW undertaken by academic institutions in LMICs and the funding sources for the research.
- Provide an overview of the key areas in the field for which research funding is being provided by donors and national governments in LMICs. i.e.: whether the focus is on prevention or response.
- Propose possible strategies to improve the access to funding for research on VAW in LMICs through partnerships and cooperation between donors, governments, researchers and practitioners.

**Methodology**
The consultant is expected to use both quantitative and qualitative methods and a combination of primary and secondary sources. The methodology should outline ways to:

- Review existing literature, including grey literature on funding for VAW research in LMICs.
- Review programmes/initiatives and annual reports of key donors in the field, including: ODA agencies; multilateral agencies; foundations/charities/trusts; research institutes; NGOs, including partnerships and joint initiatives.
➢ Analyse annual reports of academic and research institutions conducting research on VAW in LMICs.
➢ Analyse budgetary allocations for research institutions and programmes on VAW of key government departments in LMICs.
➢ Identify informants that have funded or are currently funding research on VAW in LMICs for one on one interviews.
➢ Undertake online surveys.

Specific tasks and deliverables
➢ Elaborate the methodology of the research in accordance with the objectives of the consultancy. The data sets to be delivered to the SVRI should include: database of participants included in the research together with contact details, quantitative data received through surveys/questionnaires, qualitative data received through interviews (recordings/transcripts if available in English).
➢ Conduct desk and field research in accordance with the agreed methodology.
➢ Produce a draft report to be presented to the SVRI staff and the SVRI Leadership Council and board.
➢ After receiving comments from the SVRI structures, draft a final report with proposals on a strategy to raise awareness on the funding gaps in the field, the need for improved accountability from donors and possible coordinating mechanisms to improve access to funding for researchers in LMICs.

Proposal
In the proposal address / include the following:
➢ Research plan and methodology which should include: process and criteria for selecting interviewees; sample size, full methodological approach taking into consideration the objective of the consultancy, timeline for implementing the agreed methodology – plus a research uptake plan including various non peer reviewed products.
➢ Creative methods to accessing the information.
➢ Ethical issues of undertaking this research.
➢ The involvement of the private sector as research funding partners and the extent to which it is feasible to include this sector in the current review.
➢ The inclusion of funding for VAW research during COVID – should this be included or excluded?
➢ Budget.

Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission of applications</td>
<td>29th September 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection of consultant/team of consultants</td>
<td>7th October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalisation of contracting process (including discussion on scope and methodology)</td>
<td>14th October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of research</td>
<td>22nd January 2021</td>
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<td>Submission of draft report</td>
<td>10th February 2021</td>
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<td>Comments from SVRI to draft report</td>
<td>17th February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of final report</td>
<td>1st March 2021</td>
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<td>Research Uptake activities</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
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Required skills and competencies

➢ Minimum of 5 years research experience on issues related to VAW globally. Experience on research on funding for the sector would be an added advantage.
➢ Experience of working in multicultural contexts.
➢ Very good knowledge of key research and funding organisations in LMICs.
➢ Excellent interpersonal skills.
➢ Excellent planning skills and ability to work under tight deadlines.
➢ Ability to adapt the research plan to challenges and opportunities emerging during the research.
➢ Proficiency in English.
➢ Demonstrable working knowledge of Spanish and French.
➢ Preference will be given to consultants/teams from LMICs.

Application Process
The application process consists of two stages:

1. Interested candidates must send a proposal by email to Angelica Pino at angelica@svri.org no later than 29 September 2020 (midnight South African time) attaching: CVs; motivation letter; two samples of research reports on VAW issues; research plan (including detailed methodology, a calendar of activities and identification of roles and responsibilities in case of a team of experts); and budget specifying the daily rate of the consultant(s) and the total number of days allocated to each activity in the research plan.
2. Interview: the SVRI will virtually interview shortlisted candidates between 2nd to 6th October 2020. The successful candidate will be notified on the 7th October 2020.

Budget
The assignment will be conducted virtually, hence there are no travel or accommodation expenses to be considered. Unless the consultant/s are based in South Africa, the budget should be provided in USD.

Useful Resources