



**WORLD BANK GROUP**

**Award Application Guidelines**  
**Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the World Bank Group's 2020**  
**Development Marketplace Award for Innovation in the prevention and**  
**response of gender-based violence**  
(In memory of Hannah Graham)

**General Introduction**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the greatest social, economic and development challenges facing the world today. At least one-third of women across the globe experience GBV and the health and development consequences that this violence brings. The costs of violence are substantial. Violence against women and girls impedes full participation in society, limits access to education, labor force participation and ownership of assets, to name a few. For intimate partner violence alone, selected country estimates suggest that out-of-pocket expenditures, lost income and reduced productivity can amount to up to 3.7% of GDP—more than what many governments spend on primary education<sup>1</sup>. Effective GBV prevention and response is an area of work for multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, governments, companies and NGOs, with an increasing body of interventions based on research and evidence contributing to the field's knowledge about what works to stem the cycle of violence. Capitalizing on this momentum to achieve broader and more sustainable change requires tapping the creative energy of emerging leaders and solution-makers. It also requires documenting our successes and failures to ensure that we continue to advance the field by investing limited resources towards the most effective strategies. To contribute to this global effort, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) in partnership with the World Bank Group (WBG) have created the **Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the World Bank Group's Development Marketplace for Innovation in the prevention and response of gender-based violence in low and middle income settings.**<sup>2</sup>

The SVRI and the WBG are requesting proposals for innovative research and interventions or related activities that will contribute to improved responses and prevention of gender-based violence in low and middle income countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Klugman, J., Hanmer, L., Twigg, S., Hasan, T., McCleary-Sills, J., & Santamaria, J. (2014). *Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> Find a list of all current low-middle income economies on:

<https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

## **Eligibility of Applications**

Applications for support under this award should be affiliated with a recognized, legally constituted research institution or organization with existing research or programming capacity on violence against women and girls.

A maximum of two proposals will be considered for funding per applicant. Only one award through this mechanism may be held by an applicant until the project has been completed. Award applications that are proposing work on behalf of UN Agencies and the World Bank Group will not be considered. Previous award winners will not be considered as principal applicants.

To be eligible for funding proposals must have at least one partner from a low or middle income country, with preference given to projects led by organizations based in low or middle income countries. The partnership must be reflected in the proposal and budget allocation. Partnerships between multiple organizations are encouraged, for example, a local NGO and an academic institution, or north-south academic partnerships or local government and an NGO or an academic institution. Where appropriate, these partnerships should have as an objective building the research capacity of the implementing agency.

Due to high levels of competition and limited funds available, the quality of the proposal submitted will determine success in receiving the award.

## **Nature of Supported Projects**

All projects under this call should focus on GBV prevention and response in low and middle income countries.

Types of projects that may be supported through this call for proposals include:

- Piloting, adaptation, testing and/or scale up of new or promising interventions, including formative research that will contribute to the design of GBV prevention interventions or evaluations of effective scale up and adaptation;
- Qualitative studies that explore the effectiveness and process of creating change with innovative GBV prevention interventions or the acceptability, impact, and process of change created by interventions that support and assist survivors of GBV;
- “Integration projects” that test the integration of GBV prevention or prevention and response components or activities in an intervention with a primary objective other than reducing GBV, like those in other development sectors, including large infrastructural projects;
- Self-contained intervention research projects that are either stand alone or fit within a larger project which will build on, or support GBV prevention or response intervention learning, including formative research studies, pilot or feasibility studies;
- Costing studies on promising/effective GBV interventions to assess value for money;
- Adding a new component/arm to an already funded intervention that can provide additional insight into the effectiveness of intervention components;
- Secondary analysis of existing data that will provide insights into addressing VAW more effectively and sustainably.

- Studies to measure ripple/spillover effects of women’s economic empowerment or political participation programming on GBV.
- Research on the role of the private sector in GBV prevention and response, what effective strategies can they deploy within organizations and the communities they work with.

If the funds are sought for scale up or dissemination activities, the application must provide sufficient information to enable the scientific quality of the original study to be assessed as well as a description of the activities for which funds are requested.

### **Project Length and Duration**

The activities supported under this award should be for a maximum of 24 months duration, with the expectation that the award will cover all, or the majority of, the costs of the activities specified. The common characteristic of these awards is the provision of limited funding for a short period of time with a clear measurable outcome. Awards of up to \$100,000 are available. Any applications with requests exceeding USD100,000 will not be considered.

## **Guiding Principles for SVRI and World Bank Group’s Development Marketplace Award for Innovation in GBV prevention and response**

Projects supported by the SVRI and the World Bank Group should:

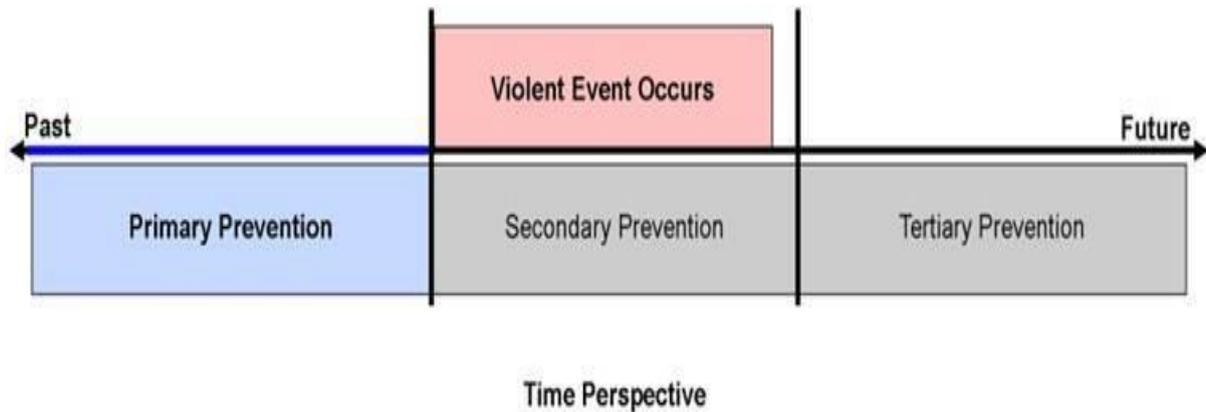
- Adhere to international safety and ethical guidelines
- Focus on low and middle income-settings
- Be conceptualized within a human rights framework
- Strive to be cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary
- Where relevant and appropriate endeavor to engage the community that is being researched
- Challenge the gender hierarchy that contributes to GBV in order to promote gender equality
- Inform policy, programs and services and serve to strengthen access to comprehensive care and support for survivors

### **Types of Violence**

Gender-based violence can include but is not limited to, intimate partner violence, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, harmful practices such as early and forced marriage, so called “honor” killings, and female genital mutilation/cutting.

### **Understanding Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention**

The following graphic provides an overview of the different levels of prevention. This award funds prevention and response activities. Response is a term that refers to activities that qualify as secondary and tertiary prevention.



(Source: WHO Intimate partner and sexual violence prevention course - [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/capacitybuilding/courses/intimate\\_partner\\_violence/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/capacitybuilding/courses/intimate_partner_violence/en/))

Using this framework, primary prevention interventions aim to address underlying causal factors or drivers of GBV, such as gender inequality, problematic social constructions of gender, and a prevailing “culture of violence” (or the normative use of interpersonal violence), in an effort to prevent the violence before it starts. For more information on SVRI’s work on primary prevention visit: <http://www.svri.org/primaryprevention.htm>. Primary prevention strategies should be deployed where services for survivors are available. Primary prevention includes private sector efforts to reduce the likelihood of GBV occurring at the workplace.

Secondary prevention addresses the immediate needs of survivors after experiencing a violent incident and actively seeks to provide the survivor the necessary services to contribute to the violence from re-occurring. Tertiary prevention refers to programs that help minimize the long-term consequences faced by survivors of violence, including those that focus on rehabilitation and reintegration.<sup>3</sup>

### Eligible Countries and Organisations

- **Low and Middle Income Countries:** All organisations based in low and middle income countries (as classified by the [World Bank](#)), and organisations not based in low and middle income countries but working in such countries with at least one partner from a low or middle income setting are eligible to apply.
- **Track Record/Experience:** Priority will be given to organisations/companies with a track record of research and intervention development for the prevention of or response to gender-based violence in low and middle income countries.
- **Institutions Only:** Awards will only be made to institutions, and not to individuals. All organisations are eligible to apply, including academic, research and NGOs.
- **Number of Proposals:** An organization may submit a maximum of two applications but no organisation will receive more than one award.

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. (2010). Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO

## Application Process, Review and Assessment of Proposals

**Application process:** The SVRI and the World Bank Group will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting colleagues to apply for funding. Applicants should apply after they have considered the above requirements and assessed whether their proposal is suitable for support under this call.

All applications must be submitted via the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Awards online system, and reach us by midnight (**South African time**) on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Only applications submitted via the online system before the given closing date and time will be considered.

Please try and submit well before the deadline. The SVRI, World Bank Group, SAMRC and Proposal Central cannot be held responsible for delays and problems with internet connectivity.

### Registering your institution:

If you are a first time user of proposalCENTRAL you must first register, before you can proceed with your application. To do so you must:

- Go to <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>
- Select “First Time Users – Register”
- Complete the registration page.
- Create your own Username, password and challenge question for your user account.
- Click “SAVE” when done
- The registration confirmation screen will confirm your new account has been created. For security purposes, you will receive a confirmation number by e-mail which you must enter when you log in the first time.

Contact Proposal Central at [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) if you experience any difficulties with this process.

### Filling in the online form:

- **Graphics and tables:** The online application form cannot accept graphics and tables. Any graphics and tables must be uploaded as attachments.
- **CVs of Key Personnel:** Please provide CVs of all personnel who will be working on this project using the CV template provided.
- **Project Plan:** A project plan must accompany the application. Again, please use the template provided.
- **Budget:** Applicants should provide budget for up to 24months in USD using the online application form. The budget should be a definitive line-item budget for all direct costs, and administrative or indirect costs, and must exclude capital expenditure; general operating support; U.S.-based activities; and any lobbying activities.

Overhead should be no more than 15% of total costs and the total cost of the proposal should not exceed award limit including overhead). **Proposals requesting more than the stipulated maximum will be rejected at point of receipt.**

The extent of individual cost items should match the scope of the project, reflect real or estimated cost burdens, and not be padded.

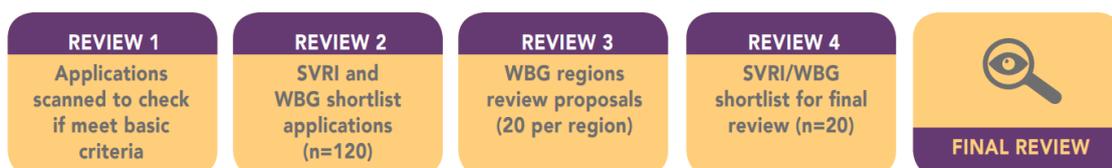
Please use the following guidelines to calculate personnel costs:

- Personnel (employee): calculate the employee daily rate using the person’s annual salary inclusive of fringe benefits (e.g. pension, medical aid etc.) divided by 260.
- Personnel (consultant): the daily cost of the consultant to your institution.

**The budget must be accompanied by a budget narrative.** More details on how to fill in the budget and budget narrative are provided on the online form.

- **Capacity statement:** This statement provides the SVRI and the World Bank Group with details on the extent to which applicants have the relevant expertise / experience to manage / complete the project successfully.
- **Saving your work:** Please remember to save your work before moving on to the next page. Also note that you cannot edit in print format. Any changes made whilst you are in print view will not be saved.
- **Submitting your proposal:** Please note, your proposal has not been submitted if you do not receive a confirmation email from proposal central confirming you have submitted your proposal. Please check with Proposal Central if you are uncertain if your proposal has been submitted.
- **Assistance with your online application:** Your questions and concerns can be directed to proposal Central Customer Service by email to [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com). Follow-up questions can be directed to proposal Central’s customer service line 800 875 2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International).

**Review process:** Award winners will be selected through a rigorous, multi-layered selection process. Once the deadline has closed, all proposals are scanned/reviewed by internal SVRI and WBG staff. Proposals that do not fulfil basic eligibility criteria will be excluded at this stage. i.e. applications that are off topic; not based within a low and middle income country; exceed project time frames or budget requirements; submitted late; not submitted via the online application system; do not meet the basic administrative application requirements.



The SVRI Secretariat and WBG will then shortlist eligible applications for review by WBG regional operational staff. Guided by the regional review, SVRI and WBG will jointly prepare a shortlist

of up to 20 proposals found eligible and technically solid for final review by a small external expert panel. The small external international expert review committee will consist of up to 6 members, made up of representatives with technical expertise in the field of GBV and / or proposal review experience. Participation in the expert panel is done on a voluntary basis. Members of all review committees must adhere to the SVRI and World Bank Development Marketplace Conflict of Interest Policy. The results of the review process will be sent within 4-5 months of application.

Read: [http://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2017-07-20/SVRI\\_SB\\_GrantMechanism\\_LR.pdf](http://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2017-07-20/SVRI_SB_GrantMechanism_LR.pdf) for more information on the award approval process.

**Review criteria and scoring of proposals:** SVRI staff, WBG staff and peer reviewers are asked to evaluate proposals according to a set criteria as well as specific questions under each criterion. In submitting a proposal for funding, applicants should make every effort to ensure that the proposal address these aspects. The criteria and questions are outlined below.

Criterion	What reviewer has to comment on
<b>Overall merit</b>	Will the project build the evidence for GBV prevention and response in low and middle income countries? If it is an intervention, is the intervention likely to succeed with respect to the qualifications of the project team, the institution within which the project is housed?
<b>Research / project design and methods</b>	Is the design / method sound, feasible and relevant to the questions being asked? Is the approach proposed appropriate and likely to accomplish the project goal and outcomes? Are potential problems recognized and addressed with alternative approaches? Does the project include a thorough proposal for capturing lessons learned during design and implementation?
<b>Significance of the proposed project</b>	Will the project build GBV research capacity, technical skill and knowledge? Will the project advance basic theoretical concepts, improve or enhance policy and practice in the field of GBV prevention and response? Does the application build on current knowledge in the field? Does it challenge and seek to shift current research or approaches to policy and practice by utilising sound theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or interventions? If relevant to the project - does the project provide a clear theory of change? Will the project contribute to solving barriers to progress in the field? Is the project replicable?
<b>Project manager / team</b>	Is the training and experience of the project manager and team appropriate for the project or activity? Is there sufficient expertise and level of accomplishments within the team / institution to generate confidence in success? Is the project led by or include a partner from a low or middle income setting? Is there a partnership between multiple organisations? E.g. a local NGO and an academic institution, north-south or south-south academic partnerships. Does the research partnership have building research capacity as an objective?

<b>Ethical considerations</b>	Are the research participants appropriately protected from potential research risk? Will the project be conducted in a professional manner, in accordance with the applicable industry standards, and ethical guidelines, including but not limited to: <a href="#">Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women</a> , Department of Gender and Women's Health Family and Community Health. World Health Organization. 1999; <a href="#">Researching Violence against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists</a> . World Health Organization and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) 2005; <a href="#">Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Perpetration of Sexual Violence</a> . Jewkes R, Dartnall E and Sikweyiya Y. SVRI and Medical Research Council South Africa, 2012; and <a href="#">Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women</a> . RTI and WHO 2016.
<b>Budget</b>	Is the budget credible and aligned with the project methodology? Are all budget tables detailed and complete and demonstrate that all activities/components are integrated into the budget? Does the budget narrative talk to the budget tables? Are all project costs (resources/goods etc) appropriately budgeted for to ensure the project will achieve its outputs in the most cost-effective way?

Upon consideration of the above criteria and specific questions, reviewers will score the quality of the proposal and make recommendations on fundability.

## Overall Timeline for Processing Proposals for Funding

Steps or actions	Timeline
<b>Call / request for proposals</b>	8 July 2019
<b>Closing date for applications</b>	13 September 2019
<b>Regional review</b>	14-October– 1 Nov. 2019
<b>External review</b>	18 November - 10 December 2019
<b>Communication of outcomes to the research committee</b>	Dec 2019
<b>Notification and acceptance of awards by awardees</b>	Jan -Feb 2020
<b>Individual Project timeframes</b>	June 2020 – May 2022 (up to 24months)

### Application Checklist (incomplete applications will not be considered)

- Completed online application (including project outcomes and budget)
- Completed and signed SVRI and WBG DM Award Approval Form
- CVs of key personnel using the template provided
- Project Plan using template provided
- References
- Appendices (if required)

### Award Information Summary

- *Level of award:* \$100,000USD
- *Period of award:* awards are tenable for up to 24 months.
- *Closing date for applications:* 13th September 2019
- *Further information:* email [svri@mrc.ac.za](mailto:svri@mrc.ac.za) or [vawg@worldbank.org](mailto:vawg@worldbank.org)
- *Method of application:* Applications must be submitted online [here](#) (Select Award Maker: Sexual Violence Research Initiative and World Bank Group).
- *Language of application:* Applications in English, French and Spanish will be accepted.