



# The SVRI Research Grant 2022

Grant  
Application  
Guidelines



**SVRI** sexual  
violence  
research  
initiative

# THE SVRI RESEARCH GRANT

## KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN<sup>1</sup>

This document is designed to assist organisations conducting research on violence against women (VAW), violence against children (VAC) and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality to assess their eligibility for grants made annually by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) and to submit proposals in accordance with the required procedures.

<sup>1</sup>Available evidence highlights the need to create synergies in research and programming to address the multiple linkages between VAW and VAC as our understanding of the intersections increase. The SVRI will consider proposals on innovative approaches to conduct intersectional or integrative research and programming that will address VAW and VAC together, or VAW and/or VAC within other sectoral work.

## Background

Violence against women and violence against children are global epidemics. At least one-third of women across the globe experience VAW and the health and development consequences that this violence brings. VAW and VAC cause great harm and cost to individuals, families, communities and governments, including multiple and long-lasting consequences for rights, health, education, productivity and participation in public spheres. 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>2</sup> A 2016 global prevalence study estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year.<sup>3</sup> Experiencing violence in childhood impacts lifelong health and well-being.<sup>4</sup>

VAW and VAC are driven by gender inequality, social norms and entrenched structural inequities and laws. Research and uptake of research findings are essential for understanding the drivers of VAW and VAC and the contexts within which they flourish to help identify ways in which we can bring about sustained social change to end violence against women and VAC.

We know more about how to prevent and respond to VAW and VAC than ever before. In terms of prevention, the handful of tested prevention

programmes we once had, have expanded, including several adaptations. Even still, few interventions have been sustainably taken to scale to fundamentally transform social norms, promote gender equitable societies and reduce violence. Knowledge is still limited on the long-term effects of these interventions and what specific mechanisms are driving the changes observed so far. Further, we know very little about how to integrate violence prevention and response efforts into large infrastructural development programmes. Additionally, although we know about innovative research, quality program implementation and rigorous evaluation clusters in high income countries, knowledge sharing platforms for researchers in low and middle-income settings remain limited and their contributions to the field have been largely overlooked.

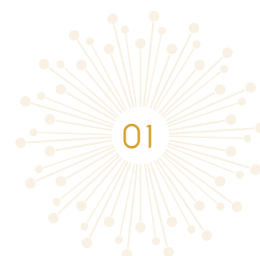
Effective VAW and VAC prevention and response is an area of work for civil society, companies, governments, NGOs and research institutions. Capitalizing on this momentum to achieve broader and more sustainable change requires tapping the creative energy of emerging leaders and solution-makers. It also requires documenting our successes and failures to ensure that we continue to advance the field by investing limited resources towards the most effective strategies.

<sup>2</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>3</sup>Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum

estimates. Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. Pediatrics 2016; 137(3): e20154079.

<sup>4</sup><https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-children>



# The Grant Programme

One of the goals of the 2020-2024 SVRI **strategic plan** is to strengthen the evidence base to improve policies and programmes to respond to and prevent VAW and VAC in low and middle income countries (LMICs). The SVRI will achieve this goal by continuing to support and fund innovative research on VAW and VAC in LMICs and to encourage debate in the field.

The SVRI - on its own since 2014 and in partnership with the World Bank Group since 2016 - has supported and funded **68** innovative research projects in **37** countries, infusing more than \$7 million USD into the field of VAW

<sup>3</sup><https://svri.org/grant-database>

and VAC research. Furthermore, a partnership with the OAK Foundation has provided funding for regional projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda for an amount of \$340,000. The SVRI, in partnership with our funding partners including Sida and an anonymous donor, is proud to issue grants to unique projects that might not otherwise have received funding, such as secondary data analysis, enhancing qualitative components or adding an additional arm to a study or research on methods. In funding a broad range of methodologies, the SVRI is contributing to the technical development of the field of VAW and VAC research.<sup>5</sup>

The SVRI is inviting proposals for action-oriented, policy relevant research that will serve to improve and expand VAW, VAC and other forms of GBV prevention and response efforts in LMICs.

## Eligibility Criteria



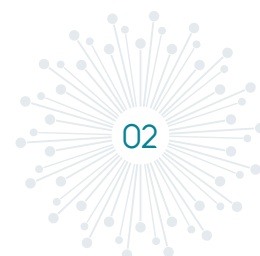
### Applications for support under this award should:

- Be affiliated with a recognised, legally constituted research institution or organisation with existing research or programming capacity on VAW and VAC. Grants will only be made to institutions and not to individuals.
- Where appropriate, involve partnerships between multiple organisations, for example, a local NGO, practice based agency and an academic institution, or local government and an NGO or an academic institution. Preference will be given to academic/researcher – practitioner partnerships. **The partnership arrangement must be clearly outlined and reflected in the proposal and budget allocation.**
- Preference will be given to proposals submitted and led by organisations based in LMICs.
- Where appropriate, have as an objective strengthening the research capacity of the implementing agency.

### Other eligibility considerations to note:

- Organisations or consortiums can submit up to two proposals, but only one proposal will be funded.
- Previous grantees will not be considered as principal applicants.
- Institutions who have an active SVRI grant may not apply.
- Grant applications that are proposing work on behalf of UN Agencies, the World Bank Group or other multi-lateral agencies will not be considered.
- All projects under this call should focus on VAW and VAC prevention and/or response in LMICs.
- 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.

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



# Nature of Supported Projects

## Types of projects that may be supported under this grant include:

- Research projects that are either standalone projects or a component of a larger project that will guide efforts to effectively address or prevent VAW and VAC.
- Qualitative studies that explore the effectiveness and process of creating change with innovative VAW and VAC prevention interventions or the acceptability, impact, and process of change created by interventions that support and assist survivors of VAW and VAC.
- Projects that seek to address VAW and VAC prevention and response together or simultaneously or in one intervention with distinct elements.
- Projects that work to understand how to integrate VAW and/or VAC programming into other sectoral work, for instance, infrastructure development programmes.
- Those that develop innovative methods and tools for VAW and/or VAC research.
- Those that evaluate how to effectively expand tested VAW and VAC prevention and response interventions.
- Secondary analysis of existing data that will provide insights into addressing VAW and VAC more effectively and sustainably.
- Research on violence across diverse populations in situations of vulnerability, including persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, LGBTQI, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.
- Research on the impact of Covid – 19 on VAW and the VAW / VAC intersections, including: conducting research and programming during times of widespread instability and anxiety; ethical and safe use of remote data collection; support services for survivors under restrictive regulatory environments.

## What We Like to See in Proposals

- Research that will help advance the knowledge on VAW and VAC prevention and response in LMICs.
- Consortium led research that, for example, involves researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.
- South-south (LMICs) or southern led research partnerships with roles and responsibilities outlined.
- Research guided by local project advisory boards.
- Proposals that are informed by current evidence, a clear research question supported by sound methodology and that have policy potential.
- Ethical issues thoughtfully considered and ethical approval has been or is being sought.
- Clear research uptake plans with different products for different stakeholders. See guidance template in the application portal.
- Well-written, concise abstract that properly represents the research project.
- Logical and clear budget accompanied with a sound budget justification.

# Guiding Principles

## Projects supported by the SVRI should:

- Apply feminist and women-centred principles and partnerships.
- Be conceptualized within a human rights framework.
- Adhere to international safety and ethical guidelines.
- Strive for innovation in ideas, new methodologies and partnerships, while building on evidence.
- Strive to be collaborative, cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary
- Promote equitable participation and bring diverse voices from LMICs (researchers, survivors, marginalised groups) to the field.
- Where relevant and appropriate, endeavor to engage the community where the research will take place.
- Challenge the gender hierarchy that contributes to VAW and VAC in order to promote gender equality.
- Inform policy, programs and services and serve to strengthen access to comprehensive care and support for survivors.

<sup>6</sup><https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup><https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

# Types of Violence

The United Nations defines violence VAW as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.<sup>6</sup>

VAW can include but is not limited to: intimate partner violence, including emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse; sexual violence; reproductive coercion; trafficking; honor killings; sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>7</sup>

VAC – as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child – includes “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”.<sup>8</sup>

VAC can include but is not limited to: abuse and neglect in the family, incest, sexual abuse, infanticide; bullying and other forms of violence in the school; corporal punishment; psychological aggression; child trafficking, sale of children, child sexual exploitation and other commercial sexual exploitation of children; child labour; various forms of cyber and online violence; recruitment as child soldiers, children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and many others.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup><https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/crime-prevention-criminal-justice/module-12/key-issues/1--the-many-forms-of-violence-against-children.html>

# Grant Length and Duration

Applicants can apply for grants between \$40,000 to \$200,000 no longer than 24 months in length.

The common characteristic is the provision of funding for a limited period of time with clear measurable outcomes.

# Application Process Review and Assessment of Proposals

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The SVRI 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 **ProposalCENTRAL** online system and reach us by midnight (South African time) on the **2nd August 2021**.

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 and ProposalCENTRAL 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 ProposalCENTRAL 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:** Using the CV template provided online, provide short CVs of all personnel who will be working on this project.
- **Project Plan:** A project plan must accompany the application. Please use the template available online.
- **Budget:** Applicants should provide a budget for 12 to 24 months 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 and general operating support.

Indirect costs are permitted but may not exceed 15% of total costs. The total cost of the proposal should not exceed the grant limit including indirect costs. Indirect costs are expected to cover items such as office rental, electricity, internet access, computer programmes, financial management costs and these are not expected to be itemised separately in addition to a 15% 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 with details on the extent to which applicants have the relevant expertise / experience to manage / complete the project successfully, and the roles and responsibilities of consortium members.

- **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 ProposalCENTRAL confirming you have submitted your proposal. Please check with ProposalCENTRAL if you are uncertain if your proposal has been submitted.
- **Assistance with your online application:** Your questions and concerns can be directed to ProposalCENTRAL Customer Service by email to [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com). Follow-up questions can be directed to ProposalCENTRAL's customer service line 800 875 2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada) or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International).

## REVIEW PROCESS

Grantees will be selected through a rigorous, multi-layered selection process. Once the deadline has closed, all proposals are scanned/reviewed by internal SVRI 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. Please note, providing reviewers with a clear, well structured abstract is important for this stage of the review process.

### REVIEW

1

Applications scanned and checked to ensure they meet the basic criteria

### REVIEW

2

SVRI and core partners develop a shortlist of proposals

### REVIEW

3

Independent panel of experts review shortlisted proposals and make recommendations

4

Final selection

The SVRI staff along with a technical team will undertake a more thorough review of applications using criteria provided in the following table below. A shortlist of between 20-30 proposals found eligible and technically solid will be prepared 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 fields of VAW and VAC and / or proposal review experience. Participation in the expert panel is on a voluntary basis. Members of all review committees must adhere to the SVRI Conflict of Interest Policy. The results of the review process will be sent within 4-5 months of application.

## REVIEW CRITERIA AND SCORING OF PROPOSALS

SVRI 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 VAW and/or VAW/VAC intersections prevention and response in LMICs? If it is an intervention, is the intervention likely to succeed with respect to the qualifications of the project team and the institution within which the project is housed? Does the proposal abstract clearly and concisely summarise the significance of the work, the major objectives of the project, the methodology to be followed, the potential impact of the research and its dissemination plan?
<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 and sharing lessons learned during design and implementation? Does the proposal take into account the impact of Covid – 19 and has it made provisions to adhere to public health guidelines?
<b>Significance of the proposed project</b>	Will the project advance basic theoretical concepts, improve or enhance policy and practice in the field of VAW and/or VAC 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? 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? Will the project strengthen VAW and VAC research capacity, technical skill and knowledge?
<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 LMIC setting? Is there a partnership between multiple organisations established and if yes, is it established on equitable basis and explicitly following feminist principles? I.e. 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? Are the roles and responsibilities of all project partners clearly outlined in the proposal?



CRITERION	WHAT REVIEWER HAS TO COMMENT ON
<b>Ethical considerations</b>	<p>Are the research participants appropriately protected from potential research risk? Does the project include and budget for staff care activities, including addressing potential vicarious trauma? Will the project be conducted in a professional manner, in accordance with the applicable international and ethical guidelines, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Putting Women First:</b> Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women, Department of Gender and Women's Health Family and Community Health. World Health Organization. 1999;</li> <li>• <b>Researching Violence against Women:</b> A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists. World Health Organization and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). 2005;</li> <li>• <b>Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Perpetration of Sexual Violence:</b> Jewkes R, Dartnall E and Sikweyiya Y. SVRI and Medical Research Council South Africa. 2012;</li> <li>• <b>Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women:</b> RTI and WHO. 2016;</li> <li>• <b>Ethical standards for research during public health emergencies:</b> distilling existing guidance to support Covid - 19 R&amp;D, WHO. 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<p>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?</p>

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
Call / request for proposals	17 May 2021
Closing date for applications	2 August 2021
External review	6 October-30 October 2021
Communication of outcomes to the research committee	November 2021
Notification and acceptance of grants by awardees	November-December 2021
Attendance of grantees to an inception and capacity building meeting	February/March 2022
Individual Project timeframes	January 2022-December 2023/4 (Upto 24 months)



## APPLICATION CHECKLIST (INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED)

- Completed online application (including project outcomes and budget)
- Completed and signed SVRI Grant Approval Form
- CVs of key personnel using the template (available online)
- Project Plan using template provided (available online)
- References for evidence used to inform the research goals and objectives
- Appendices (if required).

## GRANT INFORMATION SUMMARY

- Level of award: between \$40,000 to \$200,000
- Period of award: 12-24 months in length
- Closing date for applications: **2 August 2021**
- Further information: email [svri@svri.org](mailto:svri@svri.org)
- Method of application: Applications must be submitted online **here** (Select Award Maker: Sexual Violence Research Initiative)
- Language of application: Applications in English, French and Spanish will be accepted.

## Acknowledgements

The SVRI would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of our funding partners in supporting this grant, including Sida, an anonymous donor and other in kind contributions from key experts in the field. Without your support this important funding mechanism for building evidence in the field would not be possible. Thank you.