SVRI Grantmaking In Africa

Selection Of Research Grants From 2014 To 2020
About This Report

This report, SVRI Grantmaking in Africa, is one of a series of regional reports that will be published every three or five years.

It contains an introduction to our organisation and our objectives, and highlights six research projects that we have supported through our grantmaking programme, including those in partnership with the World Bank Group between 2016 and 2020, under the SVRI and World Bank Group Development Marketplace for innovations to prevent gender-based violence in low- and middle-income countries.

The highlighted grants are only a selection of the projects we have supported. In the time under consideration – between 2014 and 2020 – we have made 60 grants globally, 19 in Africa.

A regional report is also available for Latin America and the Caribbean, and others covers East Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, and South East Asia.


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SVRI is a registered non-profit organisation (2019/197466/08).
Contents

Foreword ............................................. 4
Summary ............................................. 5
About SVRI .......................................... 6
Our Approach To Grantmaking .......... 11
How We Build Evidence ....................... 15
Our People .......................................... 28
SVRI In 2021 And Beyond .................... 31
Foreword

Since its establishment in 2003, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) has grown into the largest global network for research on violence against women and violence against children. We address these critical issues by building evidence, strengthening capacity, promoting partnerships and influencing change. And this change isn’t limited to research and policy outcomes: we want to disrupt and decolonise who does this research, and how, to ensure that researchers are diverse and close to affected communities, and that they stay safe and well while doing research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Strategic Goals</th>
<th>Our Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Build evidence</td>
<td>• Feminist and women-centred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Strengthen capacity</td>
<td>• Rights-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Promote partnerships</td>
<td>• Ethical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Influence change</td>
<td>• Innovative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SVRI is committed to supporting research that will make a difference in the lives of women and children, and that is led by researchers in – and from – low- and middle-income countries, rather than developed in and imported from high-income settings. Context matters: including new, diverse voices strengthens knowledge and practice everywhere. We prioritise these voices in our grantmaking process, empowering researchers through grants, technical assistance and other opportunities. This includes showcasing their research on our platforms and helping them network through our Forums.

Beyond SVRI, we hope our work challenges more funders to diversify their own processes and thinking about who to fund and where they operate, and how they make these critical decisions. Building capacity and providing resources to researchers based in low- and middle-income countries enable closer engagement with the communities affected by the research. More broadly, partnering across disciplines allows people within the field to share evidence and knowledge, so that we can build, incrementally, our collective understanding of what works to address violence against women and violence against children in different settings.

These fields – violence against women and violence against children – are frequently traumatic spaces in which to work. Ethical and rigorous research is essential but insufficient: we also need respect and kindness, not just for affected people and communities in which we work, but for ourselves and one another as the practitioners, researchers and funders in these spaces. We are passionate about feminist approaches that prioritise wellbeing and resilience to build sustainable and supportive spaces for debate and learning.

Whether you are a researcher, policymaker, practitioner, funder or activist, we invite you to join our community of diverse global voices committed to addressing violence against women and violence against children. This report highlights some of our recent work in Africa. You can learn more, get in touch or apply for a grant through our website.

Executive Director, SVRI
Summary

SVRI focuses on increasing and strengthening research and its uptake to prevent violence against women and violence against children, and to improve responses to these forms of violence, globally and with a particular focus on low- and middle-income countries.

We do this through a wide range of partnerships, including with funders, members and technical partners. This report focuses on our grantmaking in low- and middle-income countries, who we are, what we do and how we do it in the context of our broader aims for the next five years. It is the first in a series of regional reports highlighting our grantmaking work between 2014 and 2020.

In the long term, we aim to transform the fields of research on violence against women and violence against children, disrupting the existing power structures in favour of inclusive and equitable research.

“We want to centralise empathy and kindness, diversify and decolonise each stage of research, and redistribute influence and power more fairly towards low- and middle-income countries. Our strategic goals and principles support this aim.”

This report outlines our processes and goals, and discusses six of our grants in Africa. These are:

• A Kenyan study looking at how an economic empowerment project reduces violence against women and girls and shows the value of a multisectoral approach.
• Research showing that a scalable psychosocial intervention aimed at men in Uganda reduces intimate partner violence against women with sustained effects over the long term.
• An evaluation of a mobile application to help clinicians preserve documentation of sexual violence – where the project has worked alongside government to meet the requirements of medical and legal systems in Kenya.
• A practical example of an integrated parenting programme, addressing the separate experiences of women and children in Uganda, which has already been scaled up to reach thousands.
• In Uganda, the development of definitions and measuring tools for technology-facilitated gender-based violence – addressing an emerging phenomenon that is under-researched and poses an acute threat to public health and human rights globally.
• A study in Uganda that identified several commonalities between violence against women and violence against children, suggesting potential for integrated programmes that draw on both fields.

Each of the grants is important and provides lessons in how to conduct research and learning for the field. Taken together, they also illustrate our strong commitment to identifying and supporting researchers close to the affected communities in low- and middle-income countries, and to bringing in and empowering new and diverse voices to engage in research. We believe this innovative approach will strengthen the field, supporting the production of research that makes a difference in the lives of women and children.
We design our daily work to achieve these objectives. In addition, we are running two interventions to support our transformation efforts over the next few years: tracking global funding flows for research on violence against women, and developing inclusive agenda-setting processes at the global and regional levels to build a shared understanding of research priorities and progress in the field.

About SVRI

Since 2003, SVRI has supported research for change. In 2014, we began a grantmaking programme, disbursing grants for studies that deepen society’s understanding of violence against women, violence against children, and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality.

The resulting knowledge helps us respond better to survivors while bringing about the necessary systemic change to respond to, prevent — and ultimately end — violence against women and violence against children.

Our grants focus on research conducted in low- and middle-income countries, with preference for research led by low- and middle-income country-based researchers.

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Our Vision
We envision a world free of violence against women, violence against children, and other forms of violence stemming from gender inequality.

Our Mission
We are committed to increasing and strengthening action-orientated research and its uptake to improve and expand efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and violence against children globally.

SVRI Grantmaking History

2003
SVRI Founded and housed at the World Health Organization.

2006
Moved to South Africa as the project of the South African Medical Research Council.

2014
SVRI Research Grant Established
Nine projects were founded between 2014 and 2015.

2016
Joint Development Marketplace Award established with the World Bank Group. We funded 50 projects between 2016 and 2020.

2019
Independent Non-Profit Organisation
SVRI developed into an independent non-profit organisation.

2020
New grantmaking programme launched supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and a major anonymous donor.

Membership
Our membership has grown from under 1,000 in 2007 to more than 6,500 in 2020. We have members from over 151 countries.

SVRI Members

SVRI members receive the weekly SVRI Update containing a summary of opportunities and developments in the field. As part of our goal to develop research capacity and networks, we help our members disseminate their research and connect with other practitioners in the field.

Register HERE to join our international community. Membership is free for both individuals and organisations.
SVRI Strategic Goals And Outcomes
What We Want To Achieve

We are working towards four strategic goals and outcomes for 2021 to 2025.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: BUILD EVIDENCE

SUPPORT RESEARCH
To create change we need to find out what works and what does not work, and turn that knowledge into practical solutions. Our grantmaking supports innovative, priority-driven research that will build the evidence needed to create and improve policies and programmes.

DRIVE INNOVATION AND DECOLONISE KNOWLEDGE
Research helps reveal what we need to do differently or better, and seeks to contribute to new knowledge and trends in the field. We drive innovation by collaboratively developing and sharing research agendas, funding proposals that raise key emerging issues and uncover new methods, and by providing technical support to researchers from low- and middle-income countries, when needed, to help break new ground.

We are working towards decolonising knowledge, making sure we include diverse voices in setting the agenda, doing the research and finding solutions.

You can read more about our grantmaking programme below (pages 15–27).
TARGET LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES
While the greatest burden of violence against both women and children is in low- and middle-income countries, they have the fewest research resources: that is why we funnel support and funding to those countries.

“Research in Africa building evidence” (pages 15 to 27) outlines how six grants for research are building evidence for change in low- and middle-income countries in Africa.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN CAPACITY

STRENGTHEN AND SHARE SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS
Research leadership by local people and institutions should be promoted. The science of research into violence against women and violence against children is relatively new, and so, where needed, we aim to build capacity among researchers from low- and middle-income countries – including young researchers – for ethical, relevant and rigorous research, including capacity in translating research into action.

We strengthen the capacity of researchers by:
- Running medium- to long-term projects that aim to strengthen skills and knowledge in the field.
- Developing and sharing methodologies and tools to guide and support research. (https://www.svri.org/research-methods)
- Holding capacity-strengthening webinars and events.
- Actively mentoring new and emerging researchers.
- Hosting a bi-annual SVRI Forum to share developments in the field and showcase research from low- and middle-income countries.

We also encourage applicants to build capacity-strengthening activities into their grant proposals.

SVRI Forum’s Young Professionals Programme gives young professionals the opportunity to attend SVRI Forum and at the same time strengthen their presentation skills through mentorship from more seasoned researchers.

“It’s not easy for young researchers to meet more senior researchers. The SVRI Young Professionals Programme provided this platform for me.”
– Young Professionals Programme mentee

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS

SVRI FORUM
We hold SVRI Forum (www.svri.org/svri-forum) – the world’s key research conference in this sector – usually every two years, providing a stimulating and safe space for discussion and exchange.
SVRI Forum, held every two years, has grown from 194 delegates in 2009 to over 700 in 2019.

“SVRI Forum plays a unique role. It effectively provides a space where lead thinkers and young researchers from different yet related fields can meet, discuss, compare findings and learn from each other, in an environment characterised by constructive criticism and intellectual rigour.” – SVRI Forum delegate

To ensure we continue our efforts to make SVRI Forum a diverse space, we award a limited number of bursaries for researchers who otherwise would not be able to attend the Forum.

“The organisation, atmosphere and knowledge sharing were second to none. I made wonderful friends and was able to place my research into a broader context of global health.” – Bursary delegate

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGES AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

Institutionally, we aim to build partnerships with actors whose work intersects with ours, where working together can mean we achieve more.

No one individual or organisation can solve complex problems like violence against women and violence against children. We must work in partnership, and so we reach out to other disciplines and groups, including the private sector, to explore multi-component interventions. We foster interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships through our webinar series, our Knowledge Exchange platform and other knowledge products.
STRATEGIC GOAL 4: INFLUENCE CHANGE

We are working systematically to increase our impact between 2021 and 2024. Advocacy and networking with stakeholders have been identified as important areas for growth.

STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE AMONG DONORS AND KEY INFLUENCERS

SVRI aims to strengthen decision-makers’ understanding of why research is critical for policies and programmes. We work to influence policy and practice by building knowledge among donors and other key influencers on how to prevent, and how to improve responses to, violence against women and violence against children using evidence. We also reach out to other actors to jointly address this societal challenge.

WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO IDENTIFY RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

We are highly consultative and work with others – policymakers, programmes, donors, researchers, practitioners and the private sector – to build consensus around research priorities in and across sectors. We do this so that research in our field can develop in a more systematic way, and to ensure that research efforts put limited resources to best use. We feed these priorities back to funders to ensure precious research resources are used on gaps and issues that will advance knowledge, policy and practice. These priorities also guide our own evidence building and capacity-strengthening efforts.

ENGAGE FUNDERS ON ETHICAL FUNDING

Over the next five years, we will actively engage with funders on ethical approaches to funding, to promote good practice for funding research on violence against women and violence against children in low- and middle-income countries. To support both this work and our priority-setting work, we will map who is funding this research on VAW, and strengthen our efforts to highlight inequities and advocate for a shift in resources to priority research identified by the field as important, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

STRENGTHEN RESEARCH UPTAKE SKILLS IN THE FIELD

One of our key criteria for supporting research is that study design considers how the research can be used in policy and practice, right from inception. Where it is appropriate, we broker relationships, linking researchers directly with decision-makers and funding streams. We are also creating an online research uptake course to support researchers beyond our grantees in their research uptake actions.

Our Approach To Grantmaking

When making grants, we consider the global balance of power and resources. We aim to increase the percentage of grants made to projects led by research institutions from low- and middle-income countries. We are committed to supporting and retaining diverse researchers in low- and middle-income countries, which requires a multifaceted approach: it starts with considering the power balance and equity within partnerships in a proposal, which can involve anything from wages for different partners to data and access rights. We aim to help create partnerships between organisations within a context where the research will make a difference, ie it will directly influence policymakers, practitioners, funders and activists, or strengthen research methods and tools for the field overall.

Once a proposal is approved, we continue to provide technical assistance, especially on ethics and research uptake – training researchers to think about the essential audiences for their research and how to present findings – and providing platforms, such as SVRI Forums and our networks, for disseminating research. We also look for opportunities for networking and impactful discussions to ensure that researchers can reach people in power, develop their potential and effect meaningful change.
Ethical and equitable research processes do not begin with the affected communities: a critical component of our approach is to promote wellness, kindness and resilience within the fields of research on violence against women and violence against children. Too often, these fields involve methods and processes that may retraumatise, marginalise and dissuade diverse researchers and practitioners from remaining engaged over many years. Each of us enters the field with our own lived experiences and stories, and we want to empower researchers to strengthen their work with this knowledge.

Read more about our grantmaking [HERE](#).

**RESEARCH PRIORITIES**

Our priorities are published [online](#) in the Global Shared Research Agenda on Violence against Women and Girls. This agenda will guide our grantmaking in the coming years.

We identify research needs based, broadly, on these priorities. Working collaboratively, we draw on scans of major issues, literature reviews, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and discussions with leaders in the field. Key themes emerging from SVRI Forums are reviewed, as well as proposal topics submitted to SVRI and other key stakeholders.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Research supported by SVRI should:

- Adhere to international safety and ethics guidelines.
- Engage the community that is being researched, where relevant.
- Focus on low- and middle-income countries.
- Challenge gender hierarchies and promote gender equity.
- Be conceptualised within a human rights framework.
- Inform policies, programmes and services.
- Strive to be cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary.
- Strengthen access to comprehensive care and support for survivors and prevent violence against women and children.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

What we like to see in proposals:

- A multidisciplinary, multisectoral approach.
- Research led by organisations based in low- and middle-income countries.
- Partnerships between multiple organisations, including academic institutions, where appropriate, clearly outlined.
- An in-depth understanding of the ethical challenges of doing this research in the context of the study.
- Research uptake plans that clearly indicate how the research will be used to inform policies, programmes and services.

Grantees are selected through a rigorous, multi-stage selection process that includes an external international expert review committee, made up of representatives with technical expertise in the fields of research on violence against women and violence against children and/or proposal review experience.

**FUNDING CYCLES AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

SVRI puts out a call for proposals each year. Our website contains useful resources for preparing proposals, along with our principles.
Key Statistics

Total Grants 2014–2020

We will be disbursing up to $1,000,000 in 2021 for innovative research in LMICs through the newly established SVRI Research Grant: Knowledge for Action to End Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children. The grant is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and an anonymous donor.
Since 2014, we have made 19 grants in Africa that have supported innovative research and built evidence for change. This section outlines six of them, namely:

- Examining the effectiveness of a gender-transformative approach in economic empowerment programmes to reduce intimate partner violence, Kenya.
- The Living Peace Initiative: Evaluating the Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Impact of an Intervention with Male Partners of Women Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Rape in the DRC.
- Examining the effectiveness of MediCapt – mobile collection of forensic evidence of sexual violence in Kenya and the DRC.
- The Parenting for Respectability programme in Uganda.
- Development of Standard Measures to Support Gender-Based Cyber Violence Prevention, Uganda.
- Understanding the connection between intimate partner violence and violence against children in families in Kampala, Uganda to inform primary prevention.
Kenya Study Finds Economic Empowerment Reduces Intimate Partner Violence Against Women

Location: Kenya
Year: 2018 to 2019
Grantee and partners
Send A Cow and Global Women’s Institute, George Washington University

Evidence gap addressed
The exact impact of economic empowerment programmes on violence – and particularly on intimate partner violence – is still largely unknown. The study assessed whether Send A Cow’s agriculturally focused economic development programmes, combined with its gender-transformative approach, is a promising mechanism for reducing intimate partner violence.

Methodology
The tools and approaches for the study were developed from an evaluation of data and participatory research on the previously implemented Wealth Creation project (2013 to 2017). Researchers used these insights to evaluate and monitor an ongoing project, Improving Nutrition (2018 to 2021).

Capacity-building within the project
The study also aims to build capacity of Send A Cow staff in Kenya in two key areas: delivery of quality prevention programmes dealing with violence against women and girls; and ethical collection of data on the subject of violence.

Lessons for the future:
- Address gender norms and attitudes in further work to help people understand what is violence and tackle the underlying drivers of intimate partner violence.
- Engage men earlier in the programme to reduce resistance to women’s involvement.
- Partner with other organisations with expertise in violence against women and violence against children/girls.
- Integrate awareness of violence against women and girls into community safeguarding mechanisms.

“The learning from this research project has been profound for Send a Cow, helping staff to gain a better understanding of violence against women and girls within the communities where we work, the number of women impacted, the type of intimate partner violence they experience and the drivers of violence.”
The Kenyan National Statistics Office estimates that 47% of ever-partnered women aged 15 to 49 years old in Kenya have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.

**A Psychosocial Intervention With Men In The Democratic Republic Of The Congo Shows Reduced Intimate Partner Violence With Lasting Effect**

In 2017 an SVRI-funded impact evaluation found evidence that the Living Peace Initiative – a psychosocial intervention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – resulted in reduced violence against women by men.

There is an urgent need for workable solutions, since nearly a quarter of women in DRC have experienced conflict-related sexual violence, and nearly two thirds have experienced violence from a male partner.

Developed and piloted in 2013, with 324 men and their partners, the Living Peace Initiative helps men who had experienced conflict to examine harmful ideas about what it means to be a man, and to begin to use nonviolent coping strategies. Over the 15-week pilot, men participating in the intervention consciously worked towards bringing peace and harmony into their lives and homes. The process enabled them to discuss how war and conflict had influenced the way they define “being a man”, and to explore their pain and trauma.

For the impact evaluation, a team of six local, independent researchers in DRC interviewed former participants, their wives, children and others in the community. In total 191 people were involved in this study, which included 40 former combatants, their spouses, children, family members, neighbours, friends, community leaders and friends (36 individual interviews and 155 individuals in focus group discussions). The researchers found important and sustained change over three years.

Women reported that they feel safer since the intervention and empowered to refuse sex without fear of violence, and that their husbands had apologised for the violence they had used. In addition,
all women who disclosed having been raped revealed that their husbands had begun to fully accept them and the children born from the rape.

“\textit{It was during the teachings of Promundo that one day he came home and said, ‘My wife, you are a person like me, it happened to you against your will. Starting today, I have decided that I will forget all about this and accept you as my legal wife in everything.’ It is from that night until today that we have taken the mood to live well in our home... He has also accepted his daughter and cares for her in everything.”} – Wife of former participant who was rejected after she was raped

“The session about responsibility in the group helped me to realise what I was doing and helped me to accept my wife and the child... In this state of responsibility, I show this child or my wife that I’m on their side to help and protect them.” – Former participant

RESEARCH UPTAKE

Based on perceived success, the initiative had already been scaled up to reach tens of thousands of individuals, additional communities, and even the police, military and former combatants in eastern DRC. There is now strong evidence suggesting lasting impact to support future interventions that are using a gender-specific psychosocial support approach. The methodology has been adapted for use to other traumatised populations with promising results: it was used with adolescents that were taken hostage by Boko Haram in Far North Cameroon; it was applied in school-based programmes for Syrian adolescents in refugee settlements in Lebanon; it is used with youth associated with violent urban gangs in Kinshasa; and currently the method is implemented in communities of high urban violence in Pittsburgh, US. A randomised control trial of the intervention is under way in DRC but has been delayed due to COVID-19-related lockdowns.

OVERALL:
- The violence at home has stopped in 30 out of 40 families since 2013.
- All the men (37) have accepted their wives after they were raped, as well as the children that were born after rape (12).
- 10 families reported relapses of men’s behaviour, primarily due to alcohol abuse or conflict and stress around money/unemployment.
- Women in 10 families with relapses of the husband did not experience physical or sexual violence anymore.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN REPORTED:
- The atmosphere in the house has become more pleasant.
- Men are more positively engaged in household tasks and child care.
- Women have become more involved in household decision-making.
- Families’ socio-economic situations have significantly improved as a result of men’s participation in the intervention.
- Community members, friends and extended family members adopted nonviolent attitudes and reduced alcohol abuse.
Project name: Living Peace Initiative: Evaluating the Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Impact of an Intervention with Male Partners of Women Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Rape in the DRC
Location: DRC
Year: 2016 to 2017
Grantee and partners: Promundo-United States and Living Peace Institute, DRC

Capacity-building within the project
The local research team attended three days of training with the two lead researchers on issues of ethics and confidentiality, and facilitation. For the duration of the project, the team of Congolese researchers and data collectors worked closely with project leaders, gaining invaluable experience in high-quality qualitative research.

Key findings
Psychosocial interventions can facilitate behaviour change among men. Psychosocial improvements have multiplier effects and results in sustained reduction in intimate partner violence over time, family economic gains and improved health and wellbeing for children.

Mobile Collection Of Forensic Evidence Of Sexual Violence In Kenya

A mobile application to help clinicians preserve documentation that can be used as medical evidence in police investigations and criminal trials is being trialled and evaluated in 2020–2021. Sexual violence is widely used as a weapon of war, and it is also a common crime in conflict zones, with women much more likely to be raped than men in conflict and humanitarian settings. However, medical and legal systems still frequently fail rape survivors, with cases that make it to courts often unable to provide proper evidence. Physicians for Human Rights started development of the MediCapt app in 2012, to support survivors’ access to effective investigation.
Security
The app is secure and incorporates purpose-built features to preserve the privacy of survivors – for example, all photographs upload directly to the cloud and are not saved on the clinician’s device.

Co-development
Users have been an important part of the development of the app, which replaces the need for paper forms and allows clinicians to type information into fields on a hand-held device.

The 2019 SVRI and World Bank Group Development Marketplace grant enabled an evaluation of the impact MediCapt is having on clinicians in two hospitals in Kenya. The study compares data from clinicians who are using the app to collect evidence, with data collected from clinicians using paper forms.

“We are conducting a review of medical records to understand how this digital intervention impacts the ability of clinicians who are using the app in Kenya to collect, document and preserve medical evidence of sexual violence. Medical record reviews, when conducted ethically and confidentially, provide insights into the experiences of survivors and what programmatic interventions are working – and not working – to improve access to justice for survivors without risking retraumatising them.” – PHR team

“One thing, the privacy and confidentiality of information is not well observed, because the Post Rape Care form will be just filed and, like in our office, we don’t even have a lockable place so we can’t lock them.” – Research participant

Research Uptake
The early results are promising. The evaluation was still ongoing in February 2021, but, with an award from the Humanitarian Innovation Fund in 2021, Physicians for Human Rights hopes to see use of the app being scaled up and piloted in other countries.

Scaling For Greater Impact
Targeting Parenting To Reduce Violence Against Women And Child Maltreatment In Uganda

In families, violence against children tends to occur alongside violence against women. But these types of violence are often addressed in isolation. As a result, there is limited evidence on prevention measures for both, especially in low- and middle-income countries. The Parenting for Respectability programme is a practical example of integrated programming that addresses the separate experiences of women and children – and the post-project evaluation suggests that it works.

SVRI and the Oak Foundation funded the development and pre-post-evaluation of the Parenting for Respectability programme between 2014 to 2019. With support from SVRI, Oak and other funders this important project aimed to find out if improving the parenting skills of mothers and fathers would contribute to reducing intimate partner violence and violence against children.

Programme participants worked through a 15-week process to address four predictors of gender-based violence and violence against children: lack of parental bonding and attachment; harsh discipline, including corporal punishment; differential gender socialisation (often with girls being raised as unequal to boys); and conflictual relationships, especially violence between spouses.

After an initial pilot and the development of a programme manual, approximately 600 men and women in central Uganda participated in a larger pilot from 2017 to 2018. For the post-project evaluation, baseline data collected from parents and children in 2017 was compared with data collected three months after the programme was completed, in 2018.
The evaluation also provides insight into how men may be effectively mobilised and retained in processes that help them become better partners and fathers – a topic not usually regarded as being of interest to Ugandan men.

“Training is what I needed to change my ways. I used to drink a lot and mistreated my wife and children. I am now a better husband. We now communicate better.” – Participant

“I received a hug for the first time in 15 years.” – Participant.

RESEARCH UPTAKE
Parenting for Respectability is closely aligned with the Ugandan government’s National Strategy on parenting and families and both local NGOs and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development have shown interest in the programme.

“As a project we were able to get more funding to continue with the project, and we have a number of dissemination opportunities for our parenting work through the Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development which is now very interested in home-grown, evidence-based parenting interventions. The most exciting outcome is that Parenting for Respectability is referenced in the National Family Policy, a national document that will run for the next 10 years.” – Researcher

The evaluation showed that there is widespread community interest and endorsement of the programme as a potentially high-impact programme, since parenting was an important concern in this community.
KEY FACTS

**Project name:** Parenting for Respectability  
**Location:** Uganda  
**Years:** 2016 to 2018  
**Grantee and partners:** Makerere University, in collaboration with the Medical Research Council/Chief Scientist Office, Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow and Medical Research Council/Uganda Virus Research Institute) Uganda Research Unit in AIDS; in collaboration with SVRI

**Evidence gap addressed**  
This grant was made available to build evidence on effective and culturally relevant parenting programmes that address both intimate partner violence and child maltreatment.

**Selected findings**  
- Children reported a 30% drop in spousal violence, while parents reported a 22% improvement. Overall, children reported less spousal violence than the adult partners did.  
- Children reported a drop of 27% in harsh parenting, while parents reported this as a 26% drop. Overall, children reported more harsh parenting than the parents did.

**Selected success factors**  
Community members and participants were positive that the programme was framed in a way that would appeal to fathers as well as mothers: as a way of improving child behaviour. The single-sex sessions – the first nine sessions – allowed men to explore non-conventional masculinity without the risk of being ridiculed, and led to a high level of retention of male participants.

**Lessons for the field**  
The Parenting for Respectability programme provided important data on what makes an intervention acceptable and relevant to local communities. The community leaders and participants have spoken positively of the delivery structure, which involves both single-sex and mixed-sex sessions.

“*I have grown in my understanding of research methodology, networking skills and experience in developing parenting intervention to prevent violence against children and women.*” – Researcher
Conceptual Framework Developed In Uganda And India For Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence – which includes everything from threatening social media posts to Zoom-bombing – is a relatively new and under-researched phenomenon. Although it is prevalent, there is no clear way to describe or measure the problem, impeding efforts to prevent, mitigate and respond to it.

From 2017 to 2019, SVRI funded the International Center for Research on Women, to conduct innovative research in Uganda to create a set of measurement tools and a standardised research framework, to understand the prevalence and impact of this new form of global violence.

The study included a comprehensive literature review, interviews with international experts, the formation of a technical advisory group and qualitative field work and analysis. The International Center for Research on Women conducted additional fieldwork in India using the same methodology.

RESEARCH UPTAKE
The framework developed through the SVRI grant has been widely disseminated and used by non-governmental and feminist organisations; universities; government and donor agencies like USAID; and other researchers such as those from the Economist Intelligence Unit and the European Parliament.

The research uncovered that the impacts of technology-facilitated gender-based violence in Uganda and India are far-reaching and often unexpected. For example, the study found that several women who had been running for office in Uganda and experienced technology-facilitated gender-based violence either left politics or scaled back their ambitions.

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<tr>
<th>Experiences</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Identifying information exposed on social media</td>
<td>• Sadness and depression</td>
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<td>• Barrage of repeated, unwanted private messages from strangers</td>
<td>• Self-imposed social isolation and withdrawal</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Misogynistic posts on Facebook and WhatsApp groups</td>
<td>• Lost financial, social and professional opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multiple accounts hacked</td>
<td>• “Walked in fear”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Threats of physical and psychological harm</td>
<td>• Scaled down political ambitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Photos manipulated into pornographic images</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
KEY FACTS

**Project name:** Development of Standard Measures to Support Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Prevention

**Location:** Uganda (with external funding to support complementary work in India)

**Years:** 2017 to 2019

**Grantee and partners:** International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

**Evidence gap addressed:**
This study addressed an emerging phenomenon that is under-researched – particularly in low- and middle-income countries – and poses an acute threat to public health and human rights globally.

**Methodology:**

1. Literature review
2. Key informant interviews with global experts
3. A definition of and draft conceptual framework for technology-facilitated GBV
4. Research in Uganda (and India)
5. Draft measurement approach and final framework for technology-facilitated GBV

**Impact:**
The study was a first step towards creating the evidence needed to build programmes and policies that respond to the problem. Published materials related to the work include two briefs focusing on what is technology-facilitated gender-based violence and how we measure it.

**Lessons for the field:**

- Finding ways to measure experiences of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The breadth and depth of experience is greater than we imagined. The impacts are far-reaching, and long-lasting.
- Deepening understanding. Experiences are not stand-alone, isolated events; they disrupt many aspects of people’s lives. Culture and context matter, but there are commonalities.
Understanding The Junction Between Violence Against Women And Violence Against Children

A mixed-methods study in Uganda, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches, identified several commonalities and intersections between violence against women and violence against children. The results indicate the potential for more streamlined programmes that draw on insights from the research – provided that important differences between women-centred and child-centred programming are also considered. At the time no similar research had been conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Around the world, both violence against women and violence against children occur in the same communities, homes and families. Not much is known about the prevalence, though data (largely from high- and middle-income countries) suggest that these forms of violence occur together in as many as 40% of households. However, most research and programmes address these forms of violence in isolation and there is very little theoretical or practical integration between the two. This study explores why and how violence against women and violence against children often co-occur with the aim of informing new programming to promote healthy, non-violent and just relationships in families.

RESEARCH UPTAKE

Findings were disseminated through diverse platforms including blogs and other social media, webinars and academic papers.

KEY FACTS

Project name: Understanding the connection between intimate partner violence and violence against children in families in Kampala, Uganda to inform primary prevention
Location: Uganda
Year: 2015
Grantee and partners: Raising Voices, Uganda and Columbia University

Methodology:
The aim of the research was to understand perceptions and experiences of intersecting forms of violence in Uganda, while also capturing positive, loving and respectful family dynamics. The study included both a quantitative and a qualitative component.

The quantitative component involved a fresh statistical analysis of the 2014 data from a prior study evaluating the Good School Toolkit in Uganda. While the quantitative findings are compelling, the researchers wanted to deepen understanding about how and why these intersections happen within the family environment. They designed their qualitative research to address these areas of enquiry, using focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and participatory activities.

Selected findings:
1. Quantitative analysis of data from caregiver-child pairs (n=535) indicates that nearly 75% of the pairs reported violence against children and/or violence against women, and one third reported co-occurring violence against children and women in the household. Common contributing factors for co-occurring violence included: low emotional attachment
within intimate partnerships; men’s attitudes accepting violence against children; women’s mental distress; and women’s alcohol use.

2. Qualitative analysis suggests that co-occurring violence against children and violence against women are a common experience in participants’ families, and that patriarchal gender norms, family hierarchies, and an emphasis on disciplining children create an environment that normalises many forms of violence. The research identified four common patterns of intersecting violence, highlighting the following cycles of physical and emotional abuse.

- **Bystander trauma.** Women and children express distress or trauma after witnessing violence against another family member.
- **Role modelling.** Children, especially boys, may adopt abusive behaviour after witnessing intimate partner violence. They could also lose respect for their mother after witnessing violence against her.
- **Protection and further victimisation.** The mother or child tries to stop the husband/father using violence against a family member, often triggering further abuse.
- **Displaced aggression.** Parents intentionally use children to retaliate against each other or women redirect violence against themselves to their children.

**Lessons for the field**

- **Understanding the role of patriarchy.** The patriarchal family structure is a cross-cutting risk that normalises many forms of violence, simultaneously infantilising women and reinforcing their subordination (alongside children).
- **Understanding similarities and differences.** Both adults and children frequently justify the use of violence against women and violence against children. However attitudes justifying violence against children are more deeply entrenched.
- **Understanding how violence against women and violence against children are intertwined.** Violence against women and violence against children not only occur in the same household, they also have the potential to become profoundly intertwined, triggering cycles of abuse.
- **Aspiring for better.** Despite widespread acceptability and frequency of violence, children and adults aspire to violence-free, loving relationships.

**Towards an integrated prevention programme**

While fully integrated approaches may not always be desirable, this innovative research highlights potential entry points for programmes to prevent violence against both women and children, and contributes to growing interest in studies around the intersections. Findings underscore the need to address the patriarchal family structure and consider the different power dynamics between intimate partners compared to parents and children. Additional entry points include:

- **Addressing rigid gender norms and power imbalances between women and men.**
- **Developing strategies to foster positive relationship qualities such as love, respect and empathy.**
- **Encouraging reflection on the harmful effects of direct and indirect experiences of violence in the family.**
- **Deepening communication and shared learning across intimate partner violence and violence against children prevention.**
Our People

Elizabeth Dartnall – Executive Director
Liz is SVRI’s first Executive Director. A health specialist with over 20 years’ research and policy-making experience on health systems, mental health, violence against women and children, she has managed SVRI since 2006. Having worked in government and research positions in several countries, Liz has a deep understanding of using research to inform policy and practice.

Morma Moremi – Administration and Knowledge Manager
Morma is a social worker by training and holds a Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Johannesburg.

Angelica Pino – Grants Manager and Capacity Strengthening Specialist
Angelica is a feminist lawyer with extensive experience in gender-based violence and gender equality. Originally from Chile, she holds an LLB from the University of Chile and an LLM from the University of the Witwatersrand.

Lizle Loots – Partnerships and Forums Officer
Lizle has over 12 years’ experience in the development sector working on violence against women and girls. She holds two Psychology degrees and a Master’s degree in Sociology from the University of Pretoria in South Africa.
Our People

Ayesha Mago – Technical Specialist

Ayesha has worked for over two decades, mostly in India, as a feminist researcher, activist and trainer focusing extensively on the rights of women, children and adolescents in the context of violence, discrimination, sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV and access to justice. Her work has included comprehensive research, analysis and writing on laws. Ayesha holds a Master’s degree from Columbia University in New York and is a trained mediator accredited by the Bar Council of England and the Law Society.

Aník Gevers – Technical Specialist

Currently, Aník’s work focuses on capacity strengthening, research translation, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for multisectoral prevention programming around the globe, including in southern and eastern Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and Arab States. She has a PhD from the University of Cape Town, Master’s degree from the University of Missouri-St Louis, and Bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College in Iowa.

Julienne Corboz – Technical Specialist

Julienne is an independent consultant specialising in gender, the prevention of violence against women and children, and women, peace and security. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Melbourne and has more than 18 years’ experience supporting and leading research, evaluation and capacity-building projects in a range of settings, including in South Asia, South East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and Northern Africa, and Latin America.

Nicole Gonzalez – Technical Specialist

Nicole is passionate about achieving effective gender-based violence prevention, women’s empowerment, and gender equity internationally. She holds a Master’s in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is continuing her work in the prevention of violence against women and children with SVRI.
Our Board

Our board provides overall oversight, as legally mandated in South Africa.

**Dr Chi-Chi Undie**
Dr Chi-Chi Undie is Chairperson of the SVRI Board.

**Nomsa Mokhele**
Nomsa Mokhele is a Chartered Accountant and Managing Director of Molemo Business Solutions.

**Craig Harding**
Craig Harding is a Chartered Accountant and co-director of Insurance Studio Consulting.

**Elizabeth Dartnall**
Elizabeth Dartnall is SVRI’s Executive Director.

Our Leadership Council

SVRI is guided by a Leadership Council of experts on violence against women and violence against children research.

**Dr Chi-Chi Undie (co-chair)**
Dr Chi-Chi Undie is a Senior Associate with the Population Council and provides strategic oversight to regional research programmes, including the Africa Regional SGBV Network.

**Alessandra C Guedes (co-chair)**
Alessandra Guedes is the Manager for Gender and Development Research at UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, based in Florence, Italy.

**Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno (SVRI Forum Chair)**
Dr Garcia-Moreno is a physician from Mexico with a Master’s degree in community medicine from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

**Professor Rachel K Jewkes**
Professor Rachel Jewkes, an A1-rated scientist, is the Executive Scientist for Research Strategy in the Office of the SAMRC President.

**Elizabeth Dartnall**
Elizabeth Dartnall is SVRI’s Executive Director.

**Professor Heidi Stöckl**
Heidi Stöckl is a Professor of Social Epidemiology and Director of the Gender Violence & Health Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Tesmerelna Atsbeha**
Tesmerelna Atsbeha is a Senior Program Officer on the Women’s Rights team at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

**Professor Kumudu Wijewardena**
Professor Emeritus Kumudu Wijewardena is a former co-chairperson of the Gender Equity and Equality Standing Committee of the Universities Grant Commission of Sri Lanka.

**Joanna Włodarczyk**
Joanna Włodarczyk is a researcher at the Empowering Children Foundation in Poland and the local leader for Central and Eastern Europe in the field of violence against children.
OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, WE WILL DEEPEN AND EXPAND OUR WORK AND PARTNERSHIPS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY FOCUSING ON:

• Identifying and empowering researchers in and from low- and middle-income countries: rebalancing resources towards the global south and ensuring that researchers are close to, and ideally reflect, the communities affected by violence against women and violence against children.

• Bringing in new and diverse researcher voices: working to decolonise the field and reflect a range of lived experiences as part of a conscious and deliberate break from a historically exclusionary research environment in the past.

• Sharing evidence, knowledge and research: building an incremental understanding of what does (and doesn’t) work in the fields of violence against women and violence against children.

• Promoting wellness and resilience: protecting researchers and other people working within the fields in order to conduct research with kindness and create sustainable communities that retain researchers.

• Increasing the research resources in low- and middle-income countries: providing more financial support and building capacity for research in these countries for ethical and effective learning.

We’re always looking for funders who share our passion and believe in our objectives. For more information on how you can fund us, click HERE.

Influencing change: Setting research agendas, tracking resource flows and developing guidance for the field

Our daily work – including our grantmaking, support for grantees, and our platforms and spaces for open discussion – is increasingly designed to further the underlying objectives discussed above. In addition, two SVRI interventions/programmes will support our transformation efforts over the next three to five years.

Firstly, we are tracking the global flow of funds for research on violence against women to increase transparency and awareness about the equitable and fair distribution of funding. This will provide a more granular understanding of which organisations are funding research, whose research is funded, and where funding originates and happens, as part of rethinking historical patterns of favouring researchers from high-income countries. Because of the size of its network, SVRI is uniquely well placed to comprehensively follow these flows.

Secondly, we are developing inclusive agenda-setting processes to guide research on violence against women and violence against children over the next few years. We are doing this by collaborating with researchers, practitioners and other partners to identify, review and discuss research priorities. With a shared set of priorities, we can track our progress and build on existing and new research to learn what works.
In the past, this work has been effectively invisible: research agendas were set by relatively privileged insiders who could access funders. Mindful of this, we strive to include new, diverse and historically marginalised voices in the agenda-setting process, facilitating dialogue between people with different perspectives and experiences such as researchers and practitioners, and people from high-income and low- or middle-income countries.

Our work is starting with a global shared research agenda. From there, we will develop regional research agendas, beginning with Latin America and the Caribbean during 2021. We will also consider intersections between the research agendas for violence against women and violence against children. In 2022 and beyond, we will continue to develop regional research agendas for East Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa. Our hope is that this rigorous consultative process can continue so that we evaluate our progress regularly and build on our knowledge in the field.

We are also working with partners in the field to develop guidance on ethical funding for research on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries, along with guidance for adapting interventions for different contexts, age groups and settings.