SVRI Grantmaking In Asia

Selection Of Research Grants From 2014 To 2020
This report, SVRI Grantmaking in Asia, 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, 27 in East Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, along with South East Asia.

A regional report is also available for Africa, and another covers Latin America and the Caribbean.

The World Bank Group partnered with SVRI in 2016 in recognition of SVRI’s global leadership and continued commitment to working to address gender-based violence in low- and middle-income settings. The World Bank Group alongside SVRI invested in growing the evidence base on effective prevention and response programming, targeting violence against women and violence against girls, by providing much-needed funding for the development of scalable, sustainable programmes. Funding of innovative solutions to the global pandemic of violence against women and violence against girls in low- and middle-income settings could then inform World Bank Group investments with client governments across multiple sectors.

- Diana J Arango, Senior Gender-Based Violence and Development Specialist, The World Bank Group

About This Report

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www.SVRI.org  Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)  @TheSVRI  thesvri  @TheSVRI

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

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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 enables 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.

As you read about some of our recent work in Asia, profiled in this report, please consider joining our community. Our diverse membership includes researchers, policymakers, practitioners, funders and activists committed to addressing violence against women and violence against children. You can learn more, get in touch or apply for a grant through our website.

Executive Director, SVRI
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 Asia. These are:

- A pilot intervention to encourage women to seek assistance from the police in Madhya Pradesh, India. In the first-of-its-kind collaboration, researchers worked directly with the state police to evaluate the effectiveness of Women’s Help Desks.
- A study to understand more about how gender norms change at the community level in Nepal, which offers insights for programmes targeting norms change to prevent gender-based violence.
- Evaluation of the Australian government supported “Safe Families” programme in Solomon Islands, which provides solid analysis that can apply to policy and future programming. This project also resulted in new insights for practitioners globally working in resource-constrained, post-conflict settings where communities are remote and the prevalence of violence is high.
- Adaptation, implementation and evaluation of an intervention for trauma-informed, community-engaged violence for female sex workers in Thailand, which shows promise for scaling and use elsewhere.
- A study into whether behaviour change communication within a transfer programme in rural Bangladesh had implications for intimate partner violence after the programme ended.
- A study that looks at school action groups aimed at growing teen support for ending violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea.

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.
Next steps

Over the next five years, in our grantmaking we are particularly focused on:

- Identifying and empowering researchers in and from low- and middle-income countries.
- Bringing in new and diverse researcher voices.
- Sharing evidence, knowledge and research.
- Promoting wellness and resilience.
- Increasing the resources for research conducted in low- and middle-income countries.

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

1 in 3
1 in 3 women experiences physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

1 in 10
1 in 10 in girl children experiences sexual violence in their lifetime.

In Asia and the Pacific, violence against women and girls remains unacceptably high and severe. Over 37% of women in South Asia, 40% of women in South East Asia and 68% of women in the Pacific have experienced violence at the hands of their partners.

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 Programme 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 funded 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 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

01 BUILD EVIDENCE
An increase in innovations tested by strong research designs for improved responses to and prevention of violence against women and violence against children.

02 STRENGTHEN CAPACITY
An increase in the number of researchers from low- and middle-income countries leading rigorous, impactful and innovative research on violence against women and violence against children in low- and middle-income countries.

03 PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS
A co-operative and nurturing field where knowledge is shared and people collaborate and support each other.

04 INFLUENCE CHANGE
More resources mobilised and used effectively for research on violence against women and violence against children and evidence-based practice in low- and middle-income countries.

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, where 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 13–16).

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 Asia Building Evidence” (pg 17 to 19) outlines how six grants for research are building evidence for change in low- and middle-income countries in East Asia and the Pacific, and South East Asia.
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 In Numbers

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
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 (https://www.svri.org/documents/svri-knowledge-exchange) 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 designs consider 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.

To ensure we continue our efforts to make SVRI Forum a diverse space, we award a limited number of bursaries for researchers who would otherwise 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
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.
- 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.

Selection Criteria

What we like to see in proposals:

- 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.
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.
Key Statistics

Grants Per Region

Asia

- **SOUTH EAST ASIA**
  - 37% Bangladesh
    - International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), BRAC University
  - 37% India
    - Institute for Human Development, Anusandhan Trust, Institute for Financial Management and Research
  - 13% Nepal
    - Equal Access International
  - 13% Pakistan
    - The Urban Institute

- **EAST & THE PACIFIC**
  - 29% Cambodia
    - Hana Center for Population Health Research, Monash University
  - 29% Papua New Guinea
    - Equal Playing Field Oxfam Ireland
  - 14% Solomon Islands
    - Oxfam Australia
  - 14% Thailand
    - Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
  - 14% Vietnam
    - Monash University

- **EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA**
  - 20% Armenia
    - Enterprise Incubator Foundation
  - 20% Serbia
    - V Standard Association
  - 40% Kyrgyzstan
    - American University of Central Asia, Arizona State University School of Social Work, Office of Gender-based Violence
  - 20% Moldova
    - International Center for Women Rights Protection and Promotion “La Strada”

- **MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA**
  - 57% Jordan
    - Jordan Forum for Business and Professional Women; and Naseeha for Educational Programs President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health Try Center for Training and Education Information and Research Center - King Hussein Foundation
  - 15% Egypt
    - The American University in Cairo
  - 14% Lebanon
    - Queen’s University at Kingston
  - 14% Turkey
    - Women and Health Alliance International

**Notes:**
- LAC 12
  - Bolivia (1)
  - Brazil (2)
  - Colombia (1)
  - Honduras (1)
- GAP 7
  - Cambodia (2)
  - Papua New Guinea (2)
  - Solomon Islands (1)
- Mena 7
  - Egypt (1)
  - Jordan (4)
  - Lebanon (1)
  - Turkey (1)
- SEA 8
  - Bangladesh (3)
  - India (3)
  - Nepal (1)
  - Pakistan (1)
Between 2014 and 2020 we awarded 27 grants to support innovative research and build evidence for change in the regions of South East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Middle East and North Africa. (Grants between 2016 and 2020 were made in partnership with the World Bank Group, under the SVRI and World Bank Group Development Marketplace.) This section outlines six of them, namely:

- Engendering policing: Evaluating reforms to increase women’s access to security and justice in India.
- Diffusion of gender norms change at the community level in Nepal.
- Building the evidence base for “Safe Families” – a comprehensive community-led model for violence prevention in Solomon Islands.
- The effects of transfers and behaviour change communication on intimate partner violence: Evidence from rural Bangladesh.
- Adapting and scaling up Respectful Relationships and School Action Group programs to prevent violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea.

SVRI Supporting Research For Change

SVRI PROVIDES

Bespoke training, ongoing technical support and linking to global research network

Uptake in policy and practice – networking and dissemination

Systematic and collaborative agenda setting

Innovative, priority driven research led local teams
Researchers Work With State Police To Make Police Services More Accessible And Responsive To Women In Madhya Pradesh, India

Recent crime statistics for India showed that although a woman is raped every 13 minutes⁴, under-reporting is rife⁵. In the state of Madhya Pradesh, a recent report showed that while 13% of women had reported intimate partner violence in 2015, only 1% of them reported it to the police⁶.

In response, a pilot intervention to encourage women to seek assistance from the police was undertaken between 2019 and 2020 in Madhya Pradesh. In the first-of-its-kind collaboration, researchers worked directly with the state police to evaluate the effectiveness of Women’s Help Desks as they were being established at 120 police stations. The Women’s Help Desks were set up across 12 districts representing a population of 23 million, with training for officers on standard operating procedures also provided – about 300 police training programmes were conducted. To embed the Women’s Help Desks in the community, they were all required to reach out to local women’s networks and approximately 900 community outreach events took place. About half the desks were randomly selected to be assigned female police staff, allowing the trial to test whether the presence of female officers improved responsiveness to women and improved crime reporting.

The idea is that if women respond positively to these desks, the state might see more women seeking assistance from the police, and eventually an increase in the official recording of crimes against women. Since once a crime is recorded, the police are obliged to act, the recording of crime should lead to increased action taken by the police, which should serve as a deterrent to future crimes against women and eventually reduce gender-based violence.” – Research team

This research is the first large-scale randomised control trial of a gender initiative by police in India. While the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted plans for collecting endline data from March 2020, the researchers adapted, switching to remote collection methods. These results have now been analysed – with positive indications.

On the basis of the evaluation, the Madhya Pradesh state police have announced that the Women’s Help Desks will be introduced in another 700 police stations in all 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh. The ultimate objective of the project was to inform the design of policy that addresses gender-based violence. The intervention is directly relevant to other states in northern India, as well as other similar countries in South Asia and beyond.

**Uptake**

The evaluation was designed to involve a baseline survey, followed by two rounds of intervention monitoring, and an endline survey. To assess the impact of the desks, the researchers planned to examine five sets of primary outcomes:

- Citizen perceptions, including satisfaction with and trust in the police.
- Women contacting the police.
- Crimes registered – where increased reporting is indicative of more effective policing.
- Action taken on these crimes.
- Police officer perceptions and reported actions.

The baseline and endline surveys included surveys of police officers, surveys of adult citizens, footage from police station closed-circuit television feeds, Crime and Criminals Tracking and Networking System data (crime records that the police hold), and data from the state’s Dial100 emergency response system.

**Findings**

As at May 2021, the authors were analysing the data and the peer-reviewed results were anticipated.

**Key Facts**

**Project name**: Engendering policing: Evaluating reforms to increase women’s access to security and justice

**Location**: Madhya Pradesh, India

**Year**: 2019 to 2020

**Grantee and partners**: The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia at the Institute for Financial Management and Research

**Evidence gap addressed**

The evaluation is the first in India to work directly with state police to assess a large-scale intervention to make police more accessible and responsive to women.

**Methodology**

There were three groups: a control group and two treatment groups. The control group was made up of 60 police stations with no Women’s Help Desk. The “regular” treatment groups had 61 regular Women’s Help Desks. The “full” treatment groups had 59 female-run Women’s Help Desks. The police stations were randomly assigned to the control and treatment groups.

**Standard Operating Procedures**

- Creating Physical Spaces
- Community Outreach
- SOPs And Training
- Allocating Female Officers
How Gender Norms Change At The Community Level In Nepal Offers Insights For Future Programmes

A study in rural Nepal has tracked shifts in norms and behaviours that perpetuate intimate partner violence between married couples. The study, which builds on a 2015 to 2017 social and behaviour change project, “Change Starts at Home” (Change), aimed to find out how far the change has really spread – and how it spread.

The follow-up study, from 2018 to 2019, was designed to more intensively measure diffusion in one of the original intervention sites. This included further analyses of the original trial findings with an emphasis on diffusion, developing a curriculum of sessions focused on diffusion and movement building for communities, and measuring shifts in social norms – rules that prescribe what behaviour is expected, allowed or sanctioned in particular circumstances.

To record this change visually, the researchers asked each household that declared itself to be violence-free and in support of gender equality to display a special flag. As a result of four months of organised diffusion activities, 90% of the 455 households in the community publicly pledged to be violence-free and raised a flag in front of their homes. Seven months later, 98% of community members could recall the public pledges and 44% reported an increase awareness of intimate partner violence at the community level.

The Change project worked specifically with married couples in three districts of Nepal to address power imbalances and improve relationships between intimate partners, creating opportunities for transformative change in the lives of women and men. At the end of the original project, the data showed reduction in physical and sexual intimate partner violence, increased communication, and shifts in gender norms and roles among group members, as well as the beginnings of the diffusion of ideas into the wider community.
I feel very proud to have that flag in my house. I get to announce to my whole community that my house is violence-free.” – Participating female community member

As soon as I heard about [the flag campaign], I liked the idea... I found it to be a very innovative and symbolic way of showing support against gender-based violence. I discussed it with my wife and family members. Everyone liked the idea, so we decided to hoist the flag at our home.” – Participating male community member

In rural Nepal, over half of young married women report violence by an intimate partner7.”

For the study, two groups of ten couples from the community of Jimirebhar, who originally took part in the Change project, participated in eight group sessions focused on recapping what had been discovered in the Change project and sharing ideas on how to create related community interventions.

The interventions included both “splash” and “dive” activities. Splash activities reached out to many people with basic information on the campaign, encouraging attendance and promoting the deep-dive activities. A big town hall meeting was followed by sessions with community groups. The intervention ended with a public closing ceremony in April 2019.

At the same time, the households in the targeted community – beginning with the ten couples in the group – were encouraged to put up the orange campaign flag. To be eligible to fly the flag, the household head was asked to pledge that they would ensure gender equality, fair sharing of household chores among family members and zero tolerance of violence within the household.

Overall, this study provides evidence that the Change project effectively diffused into the community and began to promote changes around intimate partner violence norms, especially among relationships that were socially and spatially close.

Findings suggest that the ways in which social position influence change may differ by gender, suggesting women’s networks serve as a driving force in transforming norms surrounding intimate partner violence, at least within this household-based campaign.

Research Uptake

The findings from the diffusion study were published as collaborative papers looking at the importance of organised diffusion for primary prevention programming for intimate partner violence.

Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name: Diffusion of gender norms change at the community level in Nepal</th>
<th>Grantee and partners: Equal Access International and Emory University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: Nepal</td>
<td>Evidence gap addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years: 2018 to 2020</td>
<td>The project offered an opportunity to map how norms have changed among participants and how these changes spread within the wider community.</td>
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Methodology

The project investigated a previous norms-change intervention, the Change project. Existing data was analysed to identify what factors or characteristics supported the spread of ideas (diffusion).

After baseline data collection, the researchers launched a six-month “booster intervention” over eight two-hour group sessions. Data was then collected at the end of the intervention.

The study also mapped the diffusion of ideas, attitudes and practices over time through participatory research and GPS mapping of violence-free households, with the flags identifying the households where change had taken place.

Preliminary findings

Analysis of the baseline data yielded the following findings:

• The target group (the two groups of ten couples) engaged most with neighbours, followed by friends and then spouses, in terms of the dispersal of ideas.

• Factors that promoted spreading ideas around positive gender norms included confidence, social proximity, time, and using radio content as a prompt for further discussion.

The endline data was analysed to examine pathways of diffusion through the community:

• Monitoring data, including flag-tracking, showed that 90% of the total households put the flag up on their roof or outside their home.

• Diffusion was most effective in communities with lower baseline levels of gender equity, defined as equal sharing of power and responsibilities in a marriage.

• Households with less household wealth, more gender-equitable attitudes and more centrality to their social network were more likely to raise the flag early.

Capacity building

Two female and two male local researchers were selected to work as community action researchers for the study and were trained on research tools and approaches by Equal Access International. A session on ethics and safety was included in their training.

Lessons for the field

• Encourage men’s involvement. A key challenge faced during the intervention was to meaningfully engage men. For this reason, many activities were organised in the early mornings or at weekends, with multiple follow-ups to ensure their attendance and support. Working closely with the ward office and local influencers also helped to promote the campaign among men.

• Reinforce the intervention. During the project design it was expected that the positive norms would diffuse into the community organically once the campaign was launched. However, it was observed that multiple efforts and reinforcement were required for the messages to be internalised. Researchers need to involve more people from the same community to make sure community engagement activities are adequately planned and promoted.

• Work with local government authorities. Close co-ordination with the local ward and municipal offices ensured not only smooth implementation but also the longer-term sustainability of the intervention.

• Target diffusion methods to create change. The preliminary findings and anecdotal evidence suggest that there is considerable value in understanding, measuring and strategically targeting diffusion to enhance the impact of social norms interventions.
Searching For Evidence Of What Works To Stop Violence Against Women Before It Starts—The Safe Families Programme In Solomon Islands

An evaluation of a programme in Solomon Islands to shift harmful gender norms and prevent both family violence and intimate partner violence has generated vital insights for future interventions. Despite very high rates of violence against women in the Pacific region, there is little evidence of what works to stop violence before it starts. This research explored specific elements of the Safe Families programme, including its collaborative approach, to find out how shifts occur in harmful social attitudes related to gender inequality.

Solomon Islands is a resource-constrained, post-conflict setting where communities are remote and the prevalence of violence is high. The findings have wider implications for practitioners seeking to improve their work in similar communities.

Solomon Islands is made up of over 900 islands and atolls which are spread across 28 400 square kilometres of the South Pacific. The country has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the Pacific region, with two out of three women aged 15 to 45 having experienced intimate partner violence and over a third of young women aged 14 to 29 reporting that their first sexual encounter was forced.8

Safe Families is the first long-term, intensive, locally developed community-based violence prevention programme to be implemented in Solomon Islands.

This aid initiative was initially implemented by Oxfam on behalf of the Australian government between 2015 and 2018. It aimed to shift local beliefs, attitudes and norms so that family violence would no longer be considered acceptable and tolerated. It did this through:

- Mobilising communities to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence.
- Enabling and resourcing collective action by community groups or coalitions.
- Building the evidence base through research and evaluation.
- Strengthening national women’s institutions, laws and policies.


Over 70 hours of audio recordings were collected during interviews and focus group discussions with community members and programme staff. The initial findings indicate that the programme has contributed to social transformation at both personal and community levels. The analysis confirms that violence against women and girls is driven by gender norms that normalise violence and affirm that men have a right to control women.

“When I joined this Safe Families programme... I started to see [beneficial] changes gradually happening in my personal life... I changed my negative attitudes [related to harmful gender norms] and started to accept these changes. The more I got involved, the effects of my changing life also affected the people around me, which really helped to show other people that this is the kind of life we should live with one another in our communities. I realise that this is the course of life central to the purpose of the programme.” – Community engagement facilitator

Project researchers said the research uncovered complex themes. “For example, the concept of ‘bride price’, though not a driver of violence, is central to understanding the circumstances in which violence is justified. It is intricately tied to several other issues, such as what makes an ‘honourable’ woman or the specific conditions in which it is acceptable for a woman to leave a violent relationship.”

“Yes of course, [talking] is a good thing, we need to know about it because before we were just ‘blind’ and didn’t know about anything. So it’s good, and if some of the families don’t hear about it, we will tell them, ‘Well, this is what we learned in the session.’ Yes, it’s a good thing.” – Female respondent in Malaita, discussing community conversations

A research report was produced and the findings will be applied in Phase 2 of the Safe Families programme. The report proposed that the findings on bride price and gender norms should be woven into key messaging to communities and that there should be increased targeting of youth. Recommendations for research ethics from this report will be incorporated into the baseline study methodology.

In addition, a policy brief was developed, providing evidence-based advice for policymakers and programme designers to transform harmful gender norms and eliminate violence against women. This policy brief was launched in Solomon Islands in collaboration with the Australian government while implementing the current phase of the Safe Families project.

### Key Facts

**Project name:** Building the evidence base for “Safe Families” – a comprehensive community-led model for violence prevention in Solomon Islands  

**Location:** Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea  

**Year:** 2017 to 2019  

**Grantee and partners:** Oxfam Australia, Equality Institute (EQI) and Monash University

**Evidence gap addressed**

There is still very little evidence of what actually works to reduce violence against women and girls. This research contributes to the evidence base by exploring specific elements of the Safe Families programme to find out how shifts in harmful social norms relating to gender inequality happen. It also advances understanding of how to conduct research on violence against women that is ethical, safe and rigorous in small, geographically disparate communities where violence is relatively normalised.

**Methodology**

An ecological model approach to gender was used in this study. It conceptualises violence as the outcome of interaction at four levels: individual, relationship, community and societal. This in-depth qualitative study included:

- A thorough review of all monitoring data from Safe Families.
- Participant observation, including observation of community conversations.
- In-depth interviews and key informant interviews.
- Focus group discussions to understand specific social norms contributing to and driving family and sexual violence in Solomon Islands, with women and men segregated when appropriate.
Capacity building

- Ten local researchers were trained in gender equality, the root causes of family violence and research techniques. They played a key role in adapting the research tools to the local context and translating the tools into Pijin.

Findings

The findings are discussed in depth in the research report, which looks at:

- Gender norms, for example ideas about “good” and “bad” women, and community understanding of cases of violence.
- Promising results of the Safe Families programme, such as changes in awareness, attitudes and behaviour, and possible signs of a reduction in family violence. An unintended result of the programme was strengthened local response services to family violence, perhaps because of the involvement of police, churches, hospitals, welfare offices, women’s organisations and local government.
- Effective and less effective elements of the Safe Families programme.
- Establishing pathways to effective change, for example working with youth.

Lessons for the field

- **Set contextually relevant research standards.** Different research standards apply to small, isolated communities with a high prevalence of violence, and research standards for ethical and rigorous research into violence against women and girls should be living documents.

- **Create research guidelines for those settings.** It is important to develop sets of guidelines for these specific settings to supplement the WHO guidelines and to support the capacity development of research ethics boards.

- **Build a community of practice.** Practitioners who work in those settings benefit from building a community of practice of researchers. This should happen alongside greater engagement, valuing and capacity development of local, in-country researchers.
Leveraging Outreach Workers To Integrate Violence Prevention With HIV Risk Reduction For Female Sex Workers In Thailand

Female sex workers in Thailand have responded positively to the integration of topics about violence within ongoing HIV-related outreach. This integration has also received a favourable response from key stakeholders, including outreach workers and police volunteers in Pattaya, Thailand, who took part in developing and implementing the intervention.

Globally, female sex workers face unique risks of gender-based violence, from clients, partners, police and other perpetrators. Violence is severe – the homicide rate for female sex workers is estimated to be 17 times higher than it is for women in the general population. In Thailand, severe physical and sexual violence and mistreatment have been documented, with perpetrators including intimate partners, police and clients. Prevalence estimates vary; the investigative team’s past research found that 15% of female sex workers in Thailand had experienced physical or sexual violence over the past week, rising to 20% of women in urban Bangkok and 29% among those working outside the relative safety of venues.

Violence is a human rights violation in and of itself; moreover, the health implications of this violence include poor sexual and reproductive health and increased risk of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV.

“Women must believe that their safety and rights are worth defending – even when the odds feel stacked against them for involvement in sex work. Clients and police need these messages too. We must change the climate that tolerates violence with impunity, and instead create an environment that is clear that women do not deserve to be abused, that their safety and wellbeing are valued,” says Michele R Decker of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The SWING (Service Workers IN Group) trauma-informed outreach intervention was developed using an approach that was found feasible and valuable with sex workers in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. For the study in Thailand, the community-partnered team involved local sex workers, police and non-governmental organisations in adapting the approach to local priorities.

The project engaged outreach workers and provided training in trauma-informed, brief messaging on violence prevention and response. The specially trained outreach workers implemented the intervention, which reached an estimated 655 female sex workers over four months. During routine outreach visits, the team led short, semi-structured conversations with other sex workers on violence-related topics, including client condom refusal, handling alcohol in the workplace, physical and sexual violence and mistreatment, and resources for support following instances of violence. Police volunteers were trained alongside the outreach volunteers to raise awareness about human rights for sex workers and strengthen the connection between support services and access to justice for this often-stigmatised population.

Evaluation results suggest that sex workers who participated in the intervention improved their knowledge of their human rights, violence resources, alcohol-related safety behaviour and harmful alcohol use. This is important because safety behaviours and human rights recognition are significant steps in violence prevention. Integrating violence prevention and rights promotion within HIV-related outreach for sex workers holds the promise of addressing the dual epidemics of violence and HIV in this high-risk population.
Research Uptake

Outputs include a research brief in English and Thai to communicate intervention activities, baseline characteristics and evaluation results, and ongoing evidence-based community advocacy to continue to address the issues of violence, mistreatment and access to justice in this population. Scholarly publications are under way.

Key Facts

**Project name:** Trauma-informed, community-engaged violence prevention for female sex workers in Thailand

**Location:** Thailand

**Years:** 2016 to 2018

**Grantee and partners:** Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Mahidol University, SWING (Service Workers IN Group)

**Evidence gap addressed**

Female sex workers remain underserved by traditional violence prevention and support programmes, and have little access to justice in places where sex work is stigmatised, marginalised and even criminalised. Given this profile, trauma-informed care – which anticipates and responds to violence and trauma in highly affected populations – is key for female sex workers. This study contributes to understanding how to reduce violence and thus improve health and human rights for this group.

**Methodology**

- The project conducted a community engagement process to determine feasibility and to adapt the format and content of the intervention. Female sex workers, outreach workers and representatives from related organisations participated in these intervention development meetings.

- The evaluation design was a quasi-experimental study, with baseline data collected in both the intervention and control districts prior to the launch of the intervention. Follow-up data was collected four months after baseline.

- Follow-up qualitative interviews were conducted with 20 women and with two focus groups of five outreach volunteers and four police volunteers.

- Analysis included a comparison of changes in the intervention and control groups from baseline to follow-up.

**Capacity building**

- The training process included a two-day workshop for 26 female sex workers to build community capacity and identify potential outreach volunteers. Nine of them demonstrated an interest in and capacity for serving as outreach volunteers.

- A one-day workshop for 21 police volunteers and two former officers was presented jointly by city leaders and SWING. Training included sensitisation, and emphasised cooperation and shared vision for safety goals between the police and SWING. After this training, nine police volunteers were engaged for ongoing collaboration with SWING.
In many parts of the world, development programming includes cash transfers, which evidence shows to be a promising platform to create change around gender-based violence. This study in Bangladesh explored the post-programme effects on intimate partner violence of specific components of a transfer programme implemented in 500 villages in rural Bangladesh between 2012 and 2014.

The research set out to answer two questions: what happens to women after the programme ends, and did the behaviour change components of the programme have an impact on levels of intimate partner violence after the intervention?

In this transfer programme, groups of mothers with children under two years old were randomly assigned to receive either monthly cash transfers (1,500 Bangladeshi taka/$18 per household) or food transfers (rice, lentils and fortified oil) alongside nutrition behaviour change communication through weekly group training, home visits and meetings with community leaders. Other groups of mothers were randomly assigned to receive the transfers without the nutrition communication, or to receive neither transfers nor the communication.

The research showed that when the programme included behaviour change communication, intimate partner violence was reduced months after the end of the programme. When only cash or food transfers were provided, there were no effects on intimate partner violence after the programme ended.

The researchers identified three possible reasons why transfers combined with behaviour change communication sustainably reduced intimate partner violence: “First, food or cash transfers linked to behaviour change communication caused sustained increases in women’s bargaining power, more so than transfers alone. Women were more empowered due to increased social interaction and knowledge gained from transfers combined with behaviour change communication (which likely persisted after the programme ended), making them less willing to accept violent behaviour.”

A second possibility is that physical violence became more visible when the women increased their social interaction, making it more likely that men inflicting violence would face social disapproval, increasing the “social costs” to those men.

The researchers also suggest a third possibility – that there were greater long-term improvements in household economic wellbeing when transfers were combined with communication. Because poverty-related stress is a trigger for violence, this improvement could have reduced levels of violence.

72.6% of married women in Bangladesh reported experiencing violence at the hands of their husbands, according to a 2015 survey.


Although the behaviour change communication component was not explicitly about gender or violence, it was engaging and well attended. It included weekly group meetings and bi-monthly visits by nutrition workers to the women’s homes. Based on anecdotal evidence it appears the women found it to be an opportunity for social interaction – they often arrived early and stayed late to talk with other group members14.”

Key Facts

Project name: The effects of transfers and behaviour change communication on intimate partner violence: Evidence from rural Bangladesh

Location: Bangladesh

Years: 2016 to 2018

Grantee and partners: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Evidence gap addressed

Past studies have shown that food or cash transfers to women can reduce intimate partner violence. However, these studies do not explore what happens to intimate partner violence after the programmes end, and they do not examine which specific components of the transfer programme – such as training and conditions linked to transfers – contribute to reducing intimate partner violence. Previous studies also draw mostly from Latin America, where gender norms differ from those in South Asia.

Methodology

• IFPRI analysed data from the Transfer Modality Research Initiative, a pilot safety net programme implemented by the World Food Programme in rural Bangladesh. The data on participating women, their children and their households was collected from 2012 to 2014 and used to analyse programme impacts on food security and child nutrition.

• To assess post-programme impacts on intimate partner violence, IFPRI conducted another survey six to ten months after the programme ended. This survey included questions on emotional and physical violence drawn from the internationally validated intimate partner violence modules of the WHO Violence Against Women questionnaire.

Findings

• Women who received cash or food transfers with behaviour change communication experienced a 26% drop in violence six to ten months after the programme ended, as compared to the control group, which received no cash, food or behaviour change communication.

• However, there was no impact on intimate partner violence for those receiving transfers only (with no behaviour change communication) six to ten months after the programme ended.

Lessons for the field

These findings have important implications for cash and food transfers, which are widely used as policy tools in the developing world and are often considered to be potential platforms for reducing intimate partner violence. This research shows that integrating such transfer programmes with complementary activities that improve women’s status in their households and their communities beyond the end of the programme, may contribute to sustainable reductions in intimate partner violence.

What We Can Learn From School Action Group Programmes To Prevent Violence Against Women And Girls In Papua New Guinea

An innovative programme to get boys and girls working together in School Action Groups to end gender inequality in Papua New Guinea has been evaluated and redesigned by Equal Playing Field, which facilitates the intervention, and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology research team.

A registered charity, Equal Playing Field aims to prevent violence against women by promoting gender equality among young people. It implements an eight-week curriculum among early adolescents, built around a mixed gender sports competition that combines games with education and skills development. The curriculum focuses on healthy relationships, respectful behaviours and gender equity.

The School Action Groups aim to build the advocacy and leadership potential of students aged 13 to 16 years who have completed the eight-week course. Young people who join the fun learn about gender equality, ending violence against women, and building skills around advocacy and campaigning. The groups are run by volunteers trained by Equal Playing Field.

The young people participating in these groups could, in the future, drive social, structural and systemic change in Papua New Guinea, which has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the world.

“Yeah, I was not confident at that time. Maybe not being so confident, like standing up for my rights or standing up for what is right for me. But when I joined Equal Playing Field, I was much more confident. We started respecting each other, stopped bullying, swearing.” – Female School Action Group member, 2018
The research project aimed to improve the design and activities of the programme through a participatory process that included interviews with students. By the end of 2018, a new toolkit – a set of activities and materials – had been developed.

These were tested with four groups of students in late 2018 and early 2019. Across 2018 and 2019 a total of 75 student leaders successfully completed all four phases of the toolkit and a total of 110 new students pledged to join a School Action Group.

The researchers estimated that over and above these students, the intervention reached about 5,500 children indirectly, through a Universal Children’s Fun Day, a local radio interview with students, YouTube videos and other media.

Another highlight was a School Action Group “Showcase” event. More than 70 learners from the four schools gathered to learn about creative methods of raising awareness through dance, song and art.

The impacts of the changes to the project, including the toolkit, were evaluated in June 2019 by the researchers. The toolkit, lesson workbook, and activity book were redeveloped based on learnings that were gleaned from discussions with the facilitators. School Action Group facilitators agreed that the intervention was valuable.

“The evaluation allowed me to see the programme from another lens. The evaluation gave us the opportunity to ask and answer questions – opened up a thought process we didn’t have before. I learned how other people see the programme – I learned how everyone saw it – including the children.” – Jacqui Joseph, CEO of Equal Playing Field

“Together, we (the evaluators and the School Action Groups team) developed the three core principles of the SAGs... The principles provide a clear path for why we do what we do, I am not just implementing activities, I am thinking about how they fit with our principles... The tools that the evaluation team developed for us were helpful. I now have a document that represents what was in my head. It is something physical I can give to people to explain: ‘Have a read of this, and see if it makes sense to you.’” – Alicia Sion, Program Manager
**Project name:** Adapting and scaling up Respectful Relationships and School Action Group programs to prevent violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea

**Location:** Papua New Guinea

**Year:** 2018

**Grantee and partners:** Equal Playing Field and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

**Methodology**

- Participatory planning: Workshops were held with Equal Playing Field volunteers, staff and students to redesign School Action Groups, design the curriculum and create a simple monitoring framework to assess implementation.
- Testing School Action Groups: Equal Playing Field staff and volunteers tested the redesign of the School Action Groups at four schools in Port Moresby.
- Reflection and redesign: A participatory workshop was held with students and Equal Playing Field volunteers and staff to reflect on what has worked well and what could be improved.

**Findings**

- The level of participation in the School Action Groups activities increased, indicating that students find this platform engaging.
- Parental support suggests that the activities are seen to be improving the students’ attitudes and behaviours.
- Schools became more open to facilitating School Action Groups clubs because they saw positive changes in the way students engage with one another and become positive peer role models.

**Lessons for the field**

- **Incorporate projects into a whole-school approach.** For Equal Playing Field this is being addressed through the Safe Schools Framework programme, which involves eight standards that the schools need to work through to become a child-safe school.
- **Align with government policies.** Alignment with Papua New Guinea government policies would make it more likely that school administration and school bodies would accept the intervention and host clubs at their school.
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 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 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 Rachel K Jewkes**
Professor Rachel Jewkes, an A1-rated scientist, is the Executive Scientist for Research Strategy in the Office of the SAMRC President.

**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.
SVRI In 2021 And Beyond

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.
In 2021 And Beyond

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.