

SVRI Grantmaking In Latin America And The Caribbean



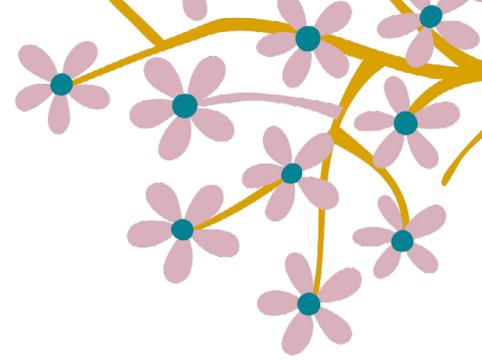
**Selection Of Research
Grants From 2014 To 2020**



SVRI sexual
violence
research
initiative



About This Report



This report, SVRI Grantmaking In Latin America And The Caribbean, 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 four research projects that we have supported through our grantmaking programme, including those in partnership with the World Bank Group between 2016 and 2020, under 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, 13 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A regional report is also available for Africa, and others cover East Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, along with South East Asia.

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.

Connect With Us



www.SVRI.org



Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)



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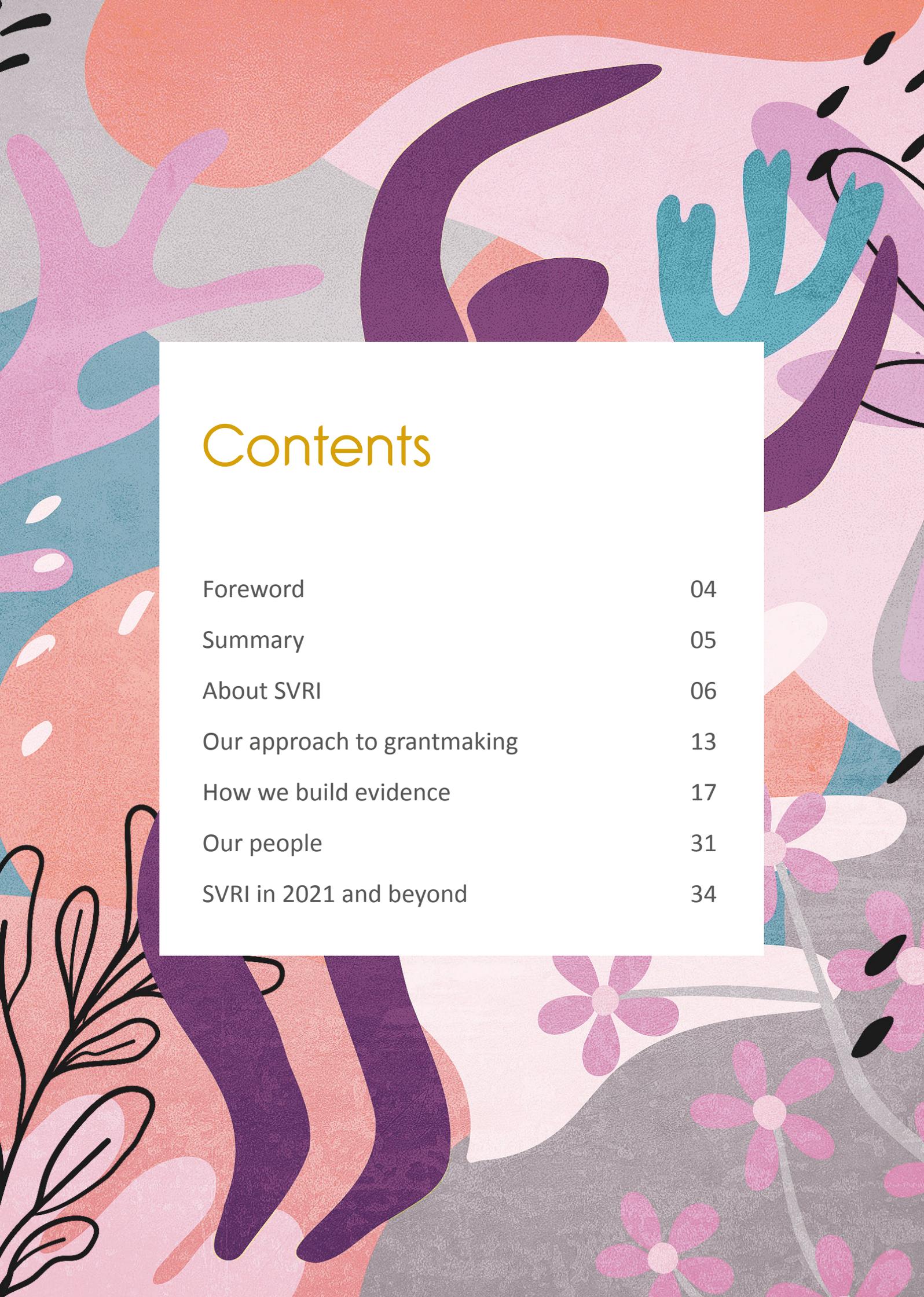


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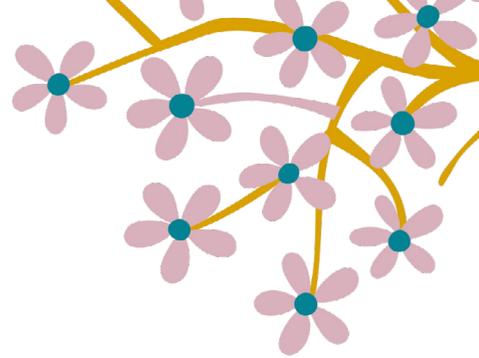
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SVRI is a registered non-profit organisation (2019/197466/08).



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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.

Our Strategic Goals

1. Build evidence
2. Strengthen capacity
3. Promote partnerships
4. Influence change

Our Principles

- Feminist and women-centred
- Collaborative
- Rights-based
- Equitable
- Ethical
- Innovative

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.

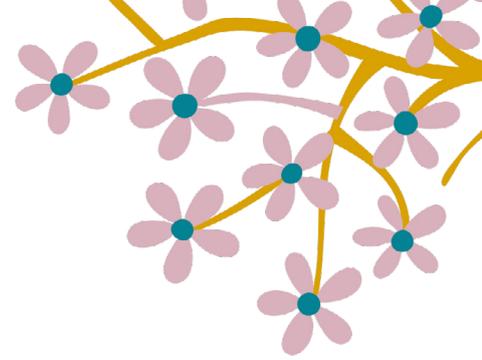
These fields – violence against women and violence against children – are frequently traumatic spaces in which to work. **Ethical and rigorous research is essential but insufficient: we also need respect and kindness, not just for affected people and communities in which we work, but for ourselves and 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.

SVRI is a community of diverse global voices committed to addressing violence against women and violence against children. Our commitment to provide resources for research in low- and middle-income settings has been translated in the provision of 13 grants to LAC countries in the period under review, representing 22% of our fund's allocation, a number second only to grants in Africa. We invite you – whether you are a researcher, policymaker, practitioner, funder or activist – to work with us for change and learn from the experiences of our LAC grantees. You can learn more, get in touch and 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 four of our grants in Latin America.

These are:

- An evaluation of a comprehensive sexuality education programme for intimate partner violence prevention among young people in Mexico City.
- An innovative youth-centred phone app, ZonaSegura, that offers solutions to teen dating violence prevention in Honduras.
- A community-centred programme in the Amazon of Peru that uses participatory action research for gender-based violence prevention – and offers insights for future studies in other contexts.
- An evaluation of the long-term impact of strategies to prevent violence against women and girls in León, Nicaragua. This is the first-ever study to research the impact, over 20 years, of interventions to create this kind of change.

Each of the grants is important, and provides lessons on 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.

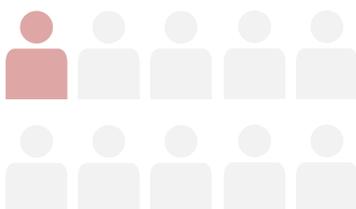
We design our daily work to achieve these objectives. In addition, we are running two interventions to support our transformation efforts over the next few years: tracking global funding flows for research on violence against women, and developing inclusive agenda-setting processes at the global and 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 lifetime¹.



1 in 10

1 in 10 girl children experiences sexual violence in their lifetime².

In a study of population-based intimate partner violence estimates from 1998 to 2017 in the Americas, women reported ever having experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at rates that ranged from 14% to 17% of women to over one half (58.5%)³.

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.

1. WHO (2013). Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence.

2. United Nations (1993). Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

3. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO (2019)). Intimate partner violence in the Americas: a systematic review and reanalysis of national prevalence estimates. Available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/50485>. Accessed 10 June 2021.

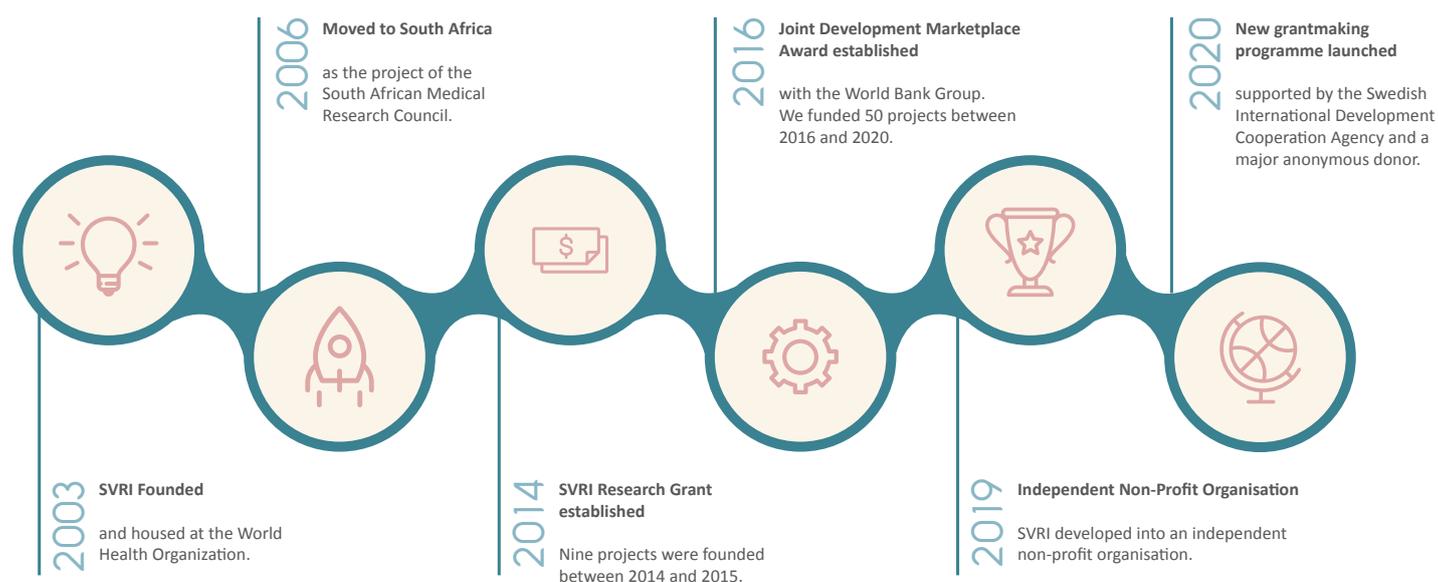
Our Vision

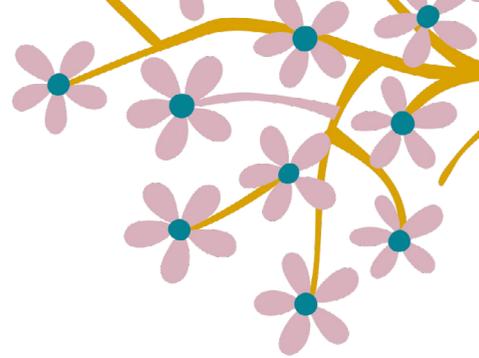
We envision a world free of violence against women, violence against children, and other forms of violence stemming from gender inequality.

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

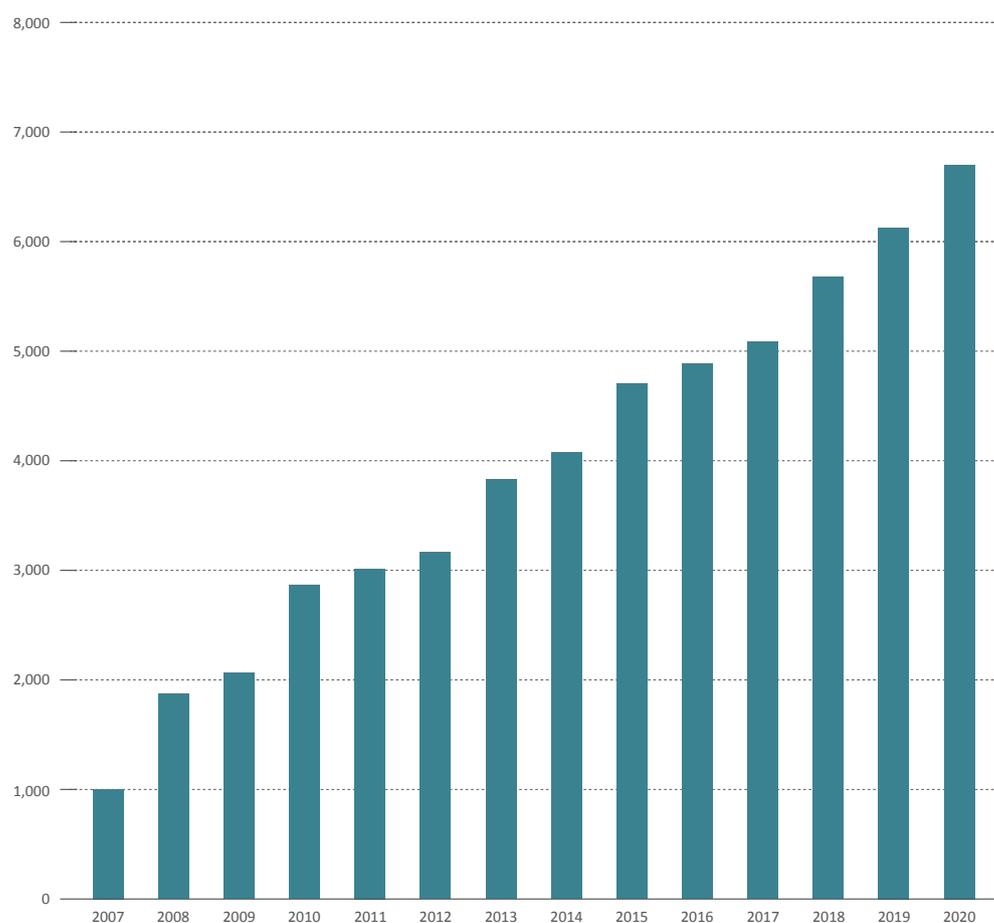




Membership

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

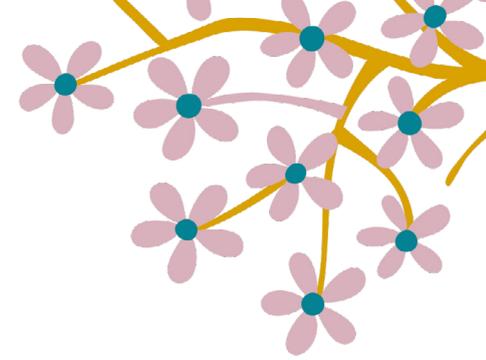
SVRI Members



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

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).

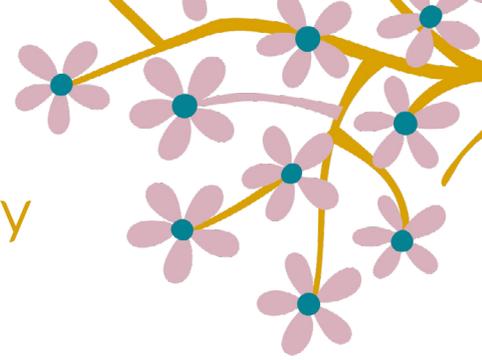
Target low- and middle-income countries

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 Latin America And The Caribbean Building Evidence”

(pg 17 to 30) outlines how four grants for research are building evidence for change in low- and middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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.

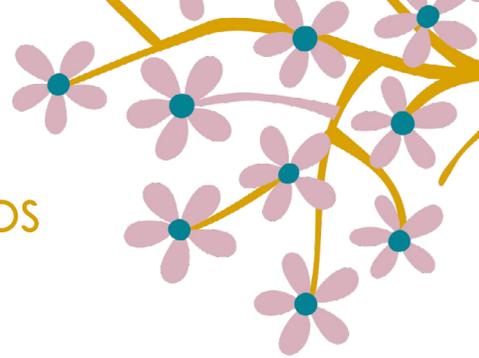
We also encourage applicants to build capacity-strengthening activities into their grant proposals.

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

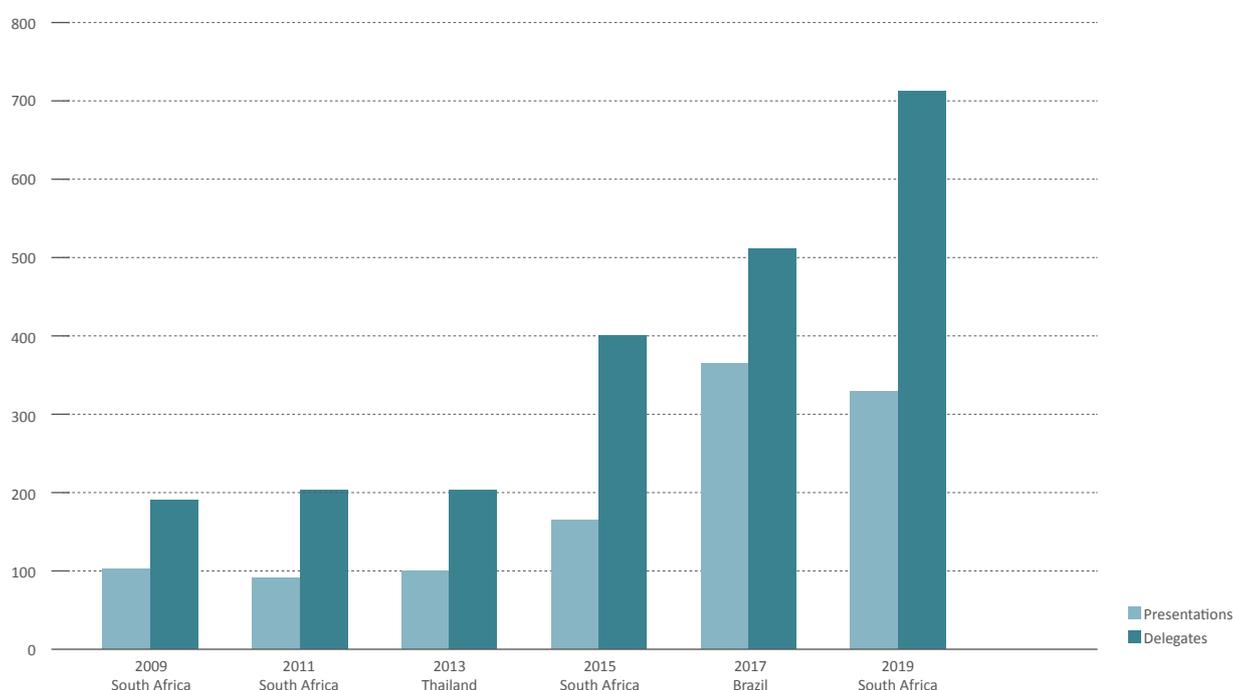


Strategic Goal 3 – Promote Partnerships

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.



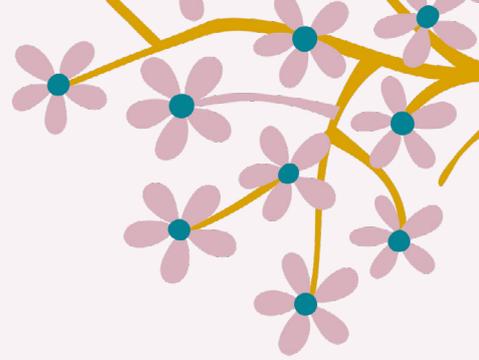
SVRI Forum plays a unique role. It effectively provides a space where lead thinkers and young researchers from different yet related fields can meet, discuss, compare findings and learn from each other, in an environment characterised by constructive criticism and intellectual rigour.”

– SVRI Forum delegate

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.

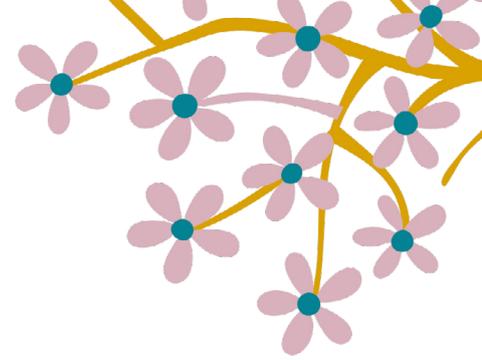
Engage funders on ethical funding

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 designs 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

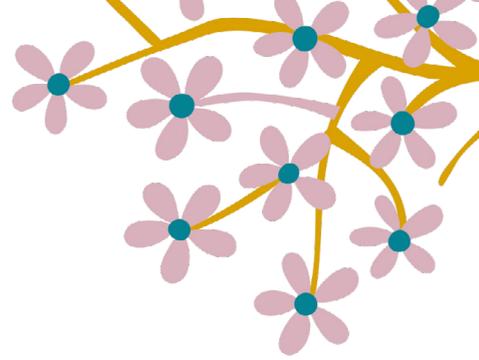


When making grants, we consider the global balance of power and resources. We aim to increase the percentage of grants made to projects led by research institutions from low- and middle-income countries. We are committed to supporting and retaining diverse researchers in low- and middle-income countries, 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

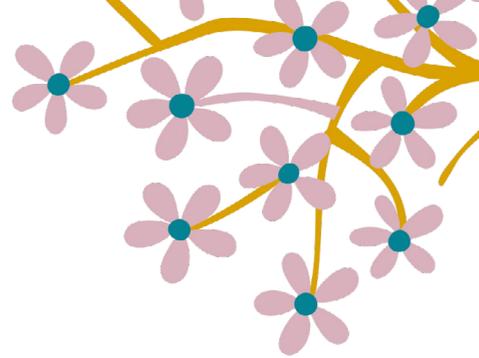
What we like to see in proposals:

- 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.

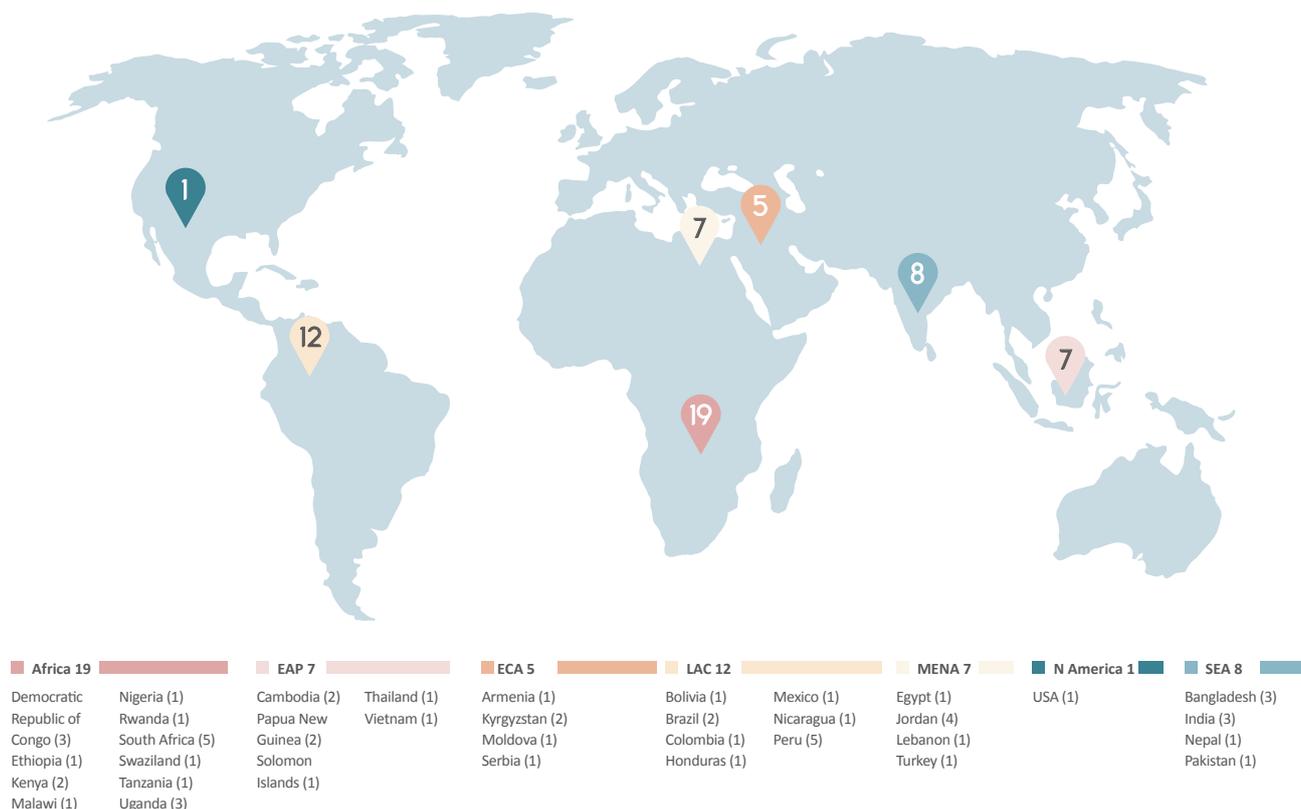
Funding Cycles And The Application Process

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

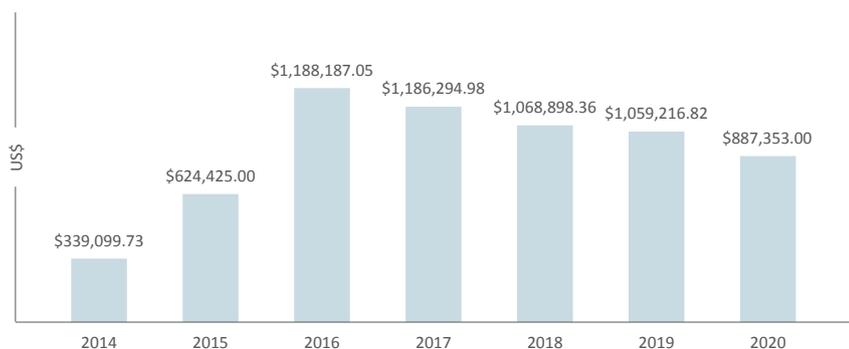


Key Statistics

Total Grants 2014–2020



Value Of Disbursements Since Inception



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.

Research In Latin America And The Caribbean Building Evidence



Between 2014 and 2020, we have awarded 13 grants in Latin America and the Caribbean to support innovative research and build evidence for change. 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 four of them, namely:

- ZonaSegura: A trauma-informed, youth-centred innovative solution to teen dating violence prevention in Honduras.
- Examining the potential of comprehensive sexuality education for intimate partner violence prevention among young people in Mexico City, Mexico.
- Gender-based violence prevention in the Amazon of Peru (GAP) Project.
- Candies in Hell +20: A mixed-methods study on the prevention of violence against women and girls in León, Nicaragua.

SVRI Supporting Research For Change

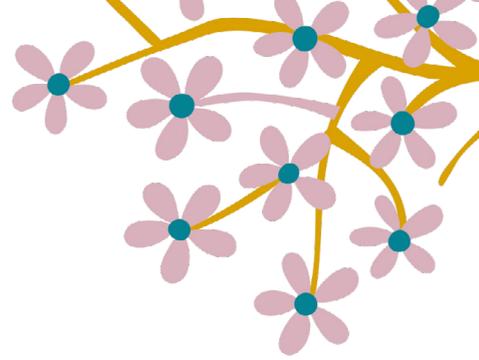
SVRI PROVIDES

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



Mobile App Offers An Innovative Solution To Prevent Teen Dating Violence In Honduras

A mobile app to support youth at risk of dating violence in Honduras has been developed and tested with girls and boys ages 14 to 19 living in Tegucigalpa. The project uses the youth-friendly ZonaSegura mobile app and WhatsApp messaging campaign to provide information to help prevent dating violence. It also aims to create awareness of gender equality and healthy relationships, and to address issues of masculinity among young men and boys.

Preparatory research showed that although teen dating violence is a significant issue in Honduras, young people there do not have easy access to prevention information.



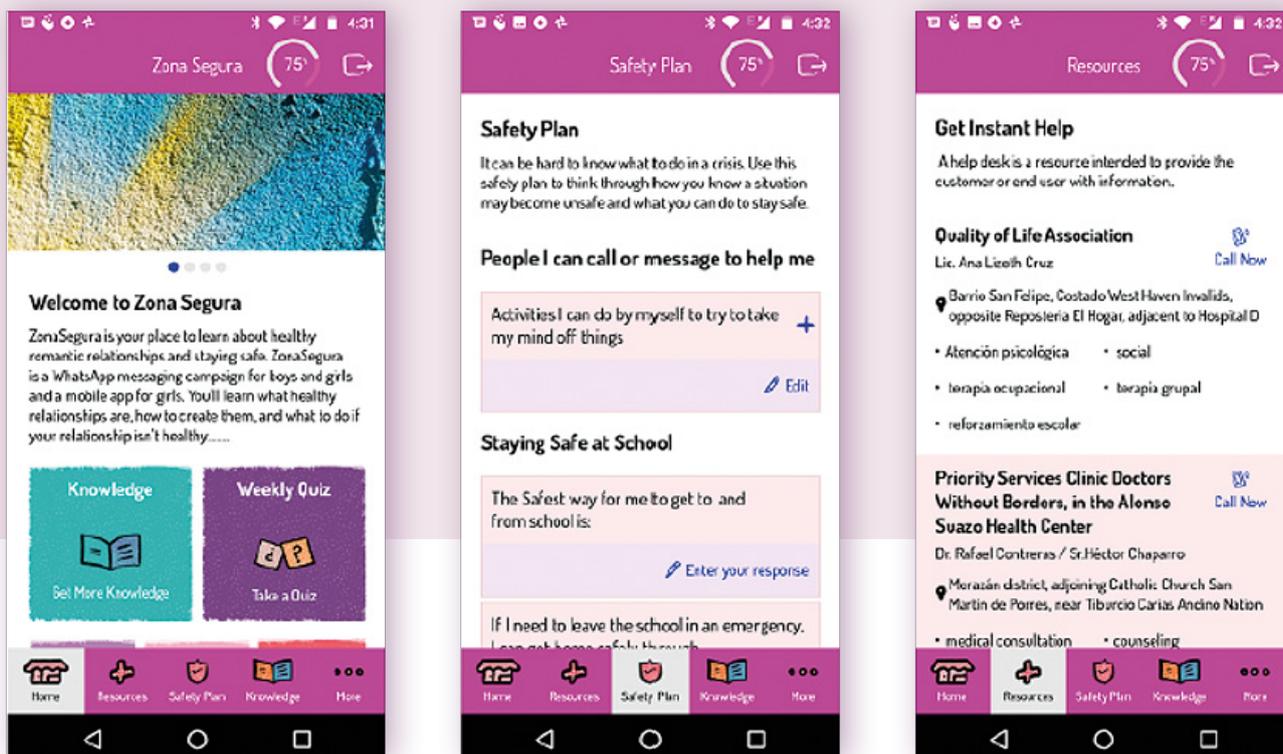
Almost a third of 15- to 19-year-olds in Honduras who have ever been married report having experienced some type of abuse (psychological, physical or sexual) at the hands of their partner in the past year. (In 2016, 22% of urban 15- to 19-year-olds had been married, with the number increasing to 33% in rural areas⁴.)

Despite the pandemic hampering follow-up data collection, the response to the app has been enthusiastic. As one female study participant explained, she wanted to keep using the ZonaSegura app “because I received very interesting data and information”.

The ZonaSegura app is intended to leverage the high rates of mobile phone usage among teenagers in Honduras, to overcome barriers to information and services about teen dating violence. This approach seems to have proved itself: a female participant specifically said that she spent a lot of time on her mobile phone, so she thought it was an excellent way to access information.

The application was designed and tested through interactive workshops with youth, where participants shared ideas on what worked best for them. “Co-designing with youth ensures that we benefit from the resilience, wisdom and creativity of young people and design solutions that are truly youth-centred and more likely to succeed,” said Bhupendra Sheoran, Managing Director for the Youth Tech Health Initiative at ETR.

4. Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Women in Honduras. (2016). Available at: <https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/sexual-and-reproductive-health-young-women-honduras>. Accessed 15 March 2021.



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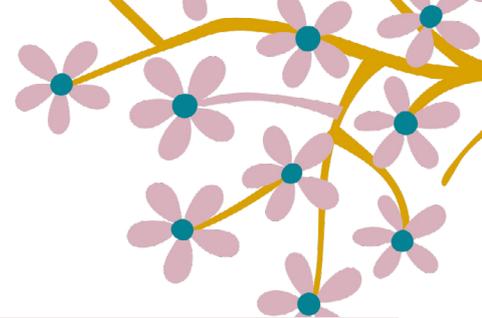
A key finding coming out of the workshops was that the app needed to be very secure; its content should not be too obvious and there should be easy ways for the user to quickly exit the app.”

With support from Twilio.org, the ZonaSegura team has built Eli, the first and only trauma-informed, English and Spanish-language chatbot co-designed by youth to address teen dating violence. Accessed via WhatsApp or the ZonaSegura website, Eli offers rights-based and gender-sensitive violence prevention information, location-based suggestions for youth-friendly medical, emotional, legal and housing resources, and a direct referral to live crisis response services.

Research Uptake

The team had originally proposed to scale ZonaSegura nationally at the completion of the study, but, as of April 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had interrupted this plan. The project team intends to source additional resources to develop this intervention in other areas in Honduras, as well as to undertake a more robust evaluation. It has also begun identifying opportunities to expand the reach of ZonaSegura across and beyond Latin America, with a greater focus on crisis response.

Key Facts



Project name: ZonaSegura: A trauma-informed, youth-centred innovative solution to teen dating violence prevention in Honduras

Location: Honduras

Years: 2018 to 2020

Grantee and partners: YTH Initiative at ETR, in partnership with GOJoven Honduras and the GOJoven International Program of the Public Health Institute

Evidence gap addressed

An important part of the study was developing the app using trauma-informed youth-centred health design.

The study also evaluated the impact of ZonaSegura on youth access to teen dating violence information, teen dating violence knowledge and attitudes, and self-efficacy in violence prevention.

Methodology

Key Milestones In The Study



App development began in October 2018 with three design workshops (with 34 youth participants) and six interviews with experts on teen dating violence and youth health.



The initial content for the mobile app and messaging campaign was created by December 2018. Findings from the design workshop were critical in development.



The prototype app was completed in January 2019.



The team tested and made improvements to the app between February and March 2019. It was tested with five young women who shared insights into how they felt about the prototype and its usability. They concluded it was youth-friendly and could be useful in preventing teen dating violence.



The team held in-country partner meetings with six Honduran organisations including Spotlight Initiative, Centro De Derechos de Mujeres, the United Nations Population Fund and the Ministry of Health.



By December 2019, 228 participants were recruited into the study; all completed the baseline survey, which included questions on attitudes to teen dating violence.

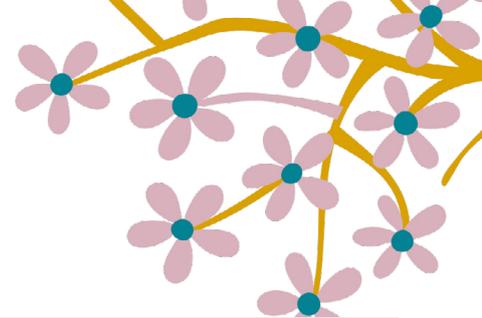


Between January and April 2020, participants were encouraged to complete follow-up surveys. However, the pandemic had a substantial impact on the researchers' ability to engage with participants, and only 26 study participants responded.



In May 2020, the researchers conducted in-depth telephone interviews with 16 study participants. This was done to supplement the low response figures.

Key Facts



Findings

The research team originally planned both baseline and follow-up surveys to measure change over time among participants. COVID-19 had a dramatic impact on the team's ability to collect data, despite many attempts to contact the participants using multiple channels.

ZonaSegura study participants reported an overwhelmingly positive user experience. Female participants shared more details about what they

specifically liked about the ZonaSegura app in the in-depth interviews. Overall, they felt it was easy to navigate and understand, very attractive and colourful and had very readable content. They appreciated that it was not data-heavy, so it did not need much space on a phone. Overall, they would recommend it to their friends.

The interviews and surveys confirmed that using the app had changed attitudes to teen dating violence.



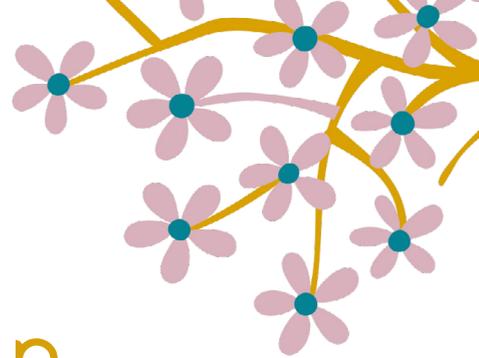
After participating in the ZonaSegura study, many female participants shared that they now know the negative impact of a toxic relationship, so they can question harmful behaviours that they observe in their own lives and the lives of their family and friends. Male participants found the topic a bit harder to engage with at first, due to gendered stereotypes that reinforce that men do not talk about these topics. Some of this difficulty persisted, even after they increased their knowledge on the topic, due to fear of being judged.” – Researcher



The truth has helped me a lot to differentiate many things that perhaps before looked normal or were not so bad, when really it was bad.” – Female participant



I like the way you see how to treat women better, treat them well and the fact that you send me messages about masculinity and now I know what really makes you a man.” – Male participant



Using Sexual Education Among Young People In Mexico City To Prevent Intimate Partner Violence

Researchers have learnt more about what works to prevent intimate partner violence among adolescents in Mexico, through a study of comprehensive sexuality education for 14- to 17-year-old students at a state-run technical secondary school in Mexico City.

Intimate partner violence in Mexico

According to a 2016 national survey in Mexico, 43.9% of women aged 15 and older reported experiencing intimate partner violence with a current or past partner and 25.6% said they experienced intimate partner violence in the past 12 months.

The 20-hour school curriculum targeted in the study, and implemented by Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar (Mexfam), covers a comprehensive set of sexual and reproductive health and rights topics. This participatory course is delivered by young trained health educators.

The curriculum includes an empowerment approach that promotes critical thinking around power dynamics within relationships, and aims to transform the way youth think about gender norms. Gender is a cross-cutting theme, and topics include sexuality, sexually transmitted infections, violence in romantic relationships, unintended pregnancies and relationship skills, as well as information on accessing health services.

The findings of the study suggest that participants gained new skills and insights: they reflected on gender roles and norms, and learnt to identify types of violence within relationships. They also learnt how to support each other to address intimate partner violence, began to address harmful behaviours in their own relationships and became more prepared to seek information and support.

The findings reinforce the importance of schools for violence prevention, and have implications for educational policy regarding sexuality education. The results suggest that this intervention should be considered as a school-based strategy to prevent and respond to partner violence.

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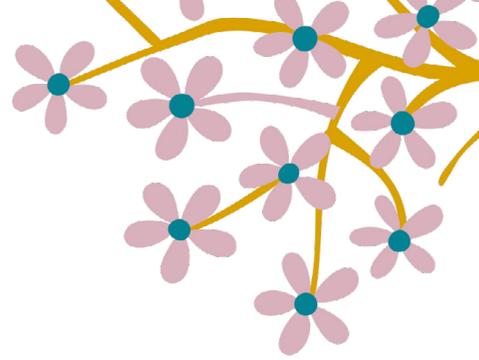
[A classmate] began to change his way of thinking... He opened up a lot, a lot to this topic, to the point of saying, ‘OK, well I am wrong, but I can improve.’... He has changed a lot. We all tell him that, like, he is no longer machista [having strong or aggressive masculine pride].”

– Female participant, 15

“

[A friend] told us... she wanted to leave her boyfriend but... he didn't let her... He told her that if she left him, he was going to kill himself. And we told her that she should leave him, and talk with his mother or another adult who could look after him... Because of the [comprehensive sexuality education] course I knew how to help her [my friend].”

– Female participant, 15



Research Uptake

The research findings were used as the evidence base for a “Manual of strengthening gender-based violence care during the implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Course” aimed at teachers and educational public actors in San Luis Potosí, Morelia, Huajuapán de León, Ixtaltepec, San Luis de la Paz, Tepeji del Río, Naranjos, Tlalpan, Villa, Revolución, State of Mexico and Xola. The manual has also been adopted by the Belize Family Life Association.

Findings have supported regional initiatives aimed at strengthening training on gender-sensitive competencies for educators. These initiatives are led by the research team’s partners in Peru, Ecuador, Guyana and Bolivia who work advocating for comprehensive sexuality education in their countries.

Key Facts

Project name: Examining the potential of comprehensive sexuality education for intimate partner violence prevention among young people in Mexico City

Location: Mexico City

Year: 2019

Grantee and partners: International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region, together with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Mexfam.

Evidence gap addressed

Few evaluations of school sexuality education interventions have measured partner violence or changes to violence-related attitudes and social norms.

Lessons for the field

- Test theory in local contexts. Research on violence prevention interventions should be theory-based and adapted to local contexts.
- Work with skilled educators. When comprehensive sexuality education is implemented by highly skilled health educators, it is a feasible strategy for preventing and responding to partner violence among adolescents.

Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative components were used. The intervention group and the comparison group were randomly selected, with the comparison group receiving sexuality education only after the study concluded. The data collection methods used included:

- Observation of comprehensive sexuality education sessions.
 - Baseline and end line questionnaires.
 - Repeat interviews with nine intervention students throughout and after the intervention.
 - One-time in-depth interviews two to three months after the intervention.
 - Focus group discussions.
-
- Address power imbalances and social norms in sexuality education. Comprehensive sexuality education that seeks to prevent intimate partner violence should aim to address power imbalances and harmful social norms. It should incorporate and address the issues of violence, gender inequalities, and sexual and reproductive rights.



Innovations In Participatory Action Research To Prevent Gender-Based Violence In The Amazon Of Peru

Twenty-five communities in the Lower Napo River of the Amazon River basin, worked with researchers to conceptualise a community mobilisation project to address gender-based violence in the basin. This is the first community mobilisation project of its kind in Peru. The communities worked with researchers in a year-long process, to uncover strategies within the community to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

The project offers many firsts: it is the first primary prevention intervention for gender-based violence in the region. And, to the best of available knowledge, it is the first to use a participatory action research approach that promotes local insights and mobilises local resources for gender-based violence prevention in a low-resource, isolated rural setting, working with indigenous men and women.

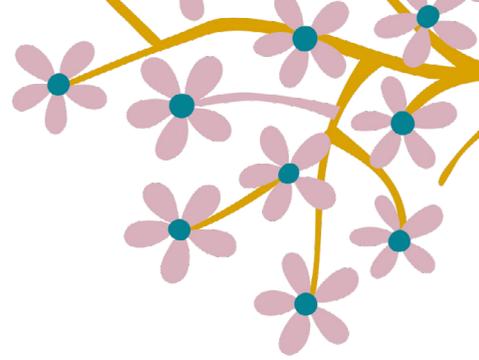
Definition: Participatory action research is a collaborative approach to studying a locally identified problem and creating sustainable social change by promoting democratic, equitable participation of practitioners and/or community members in the research process through iteratively reflecting on, planning, acting on and evaluating potential solutions to the problem.

Recent figures for the Amazon basin of Peru show that 79% of women between the ages of 18 and 29 report experiencing sexual violence at some point in their life. However, according to the research team, it is difficult to access gender-based violence prevention or response services here. Government services are limited or absent – and “mainstream” prevention and response strategies do not address pressing community needs.

The research approach was that primary prevention must work towards uncovering and mobilising local resources and building community responses: in these remote river

communities, public and private life are often intertwined and community identity is very important. Because relationship networks are complex and intimate, traditional approaches that focus on individual autonomy without awareness of communal interest were not appropriate.

To root the research in the community, the process began with workshops to introduce the project and design local ethical guidelines for community engagement. At the end of the pilot year, the same communities came together to reflect on the process and evaluate the potential of the strategy for future use.



Research Uptake

The research has implications for other remote rural communities both regionally and internationally. The process for engaging communities in designing their own intervention has been adopted as part of a larger international project, to develop evidence on how to conduct research on violence against women and girls in small communities where violence is both prevalent and seen as normal.

The project has developed new understandings of community participation as a primary strategy to prevent gender-based violence in these settings. The lessons learnt can inform future programmes for resource-poor, rural communities that involve communities in the development of primary prevention activities and rely only minimally on external financing, technology and expertise.

Key Facts

Project name: Gender-based violence prevention in the Amazon of Peru (GAP) Project

Location: Peru

Years: 2017 to 2020

Grantee and partners: University College London and DB Peru.

Evidence gap addressed

The aim of the GAP Project is to develop a context-relevant, community-based intervention to prevent gender-based violence in the Amazon Basin of Peru through participatory action research, with a particular focus on reducing violence against women and girls. The objectives included collaboratively identifying risk factors for gender-based violence and mechanisms for its prevention; co-designing and implementing the intervention; and collaboratively assessing its potential to achieve the primary aim of reducing violence against women and girls.

Findings

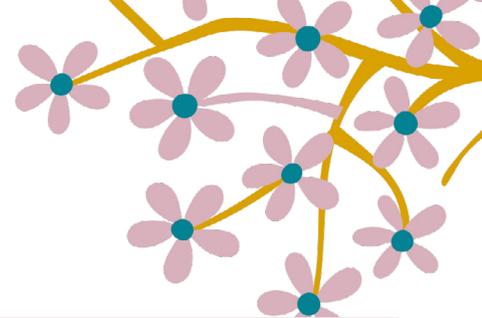
The evaluation of the project was divided into process and outcomes indicators, though the project had an explicit focus on understanding the process of the intervention. The project was also evaluated both by the promotores (community leaders) and the research team. At the end of the pilot year, the promotores declared it a success. The team used a number of approaches to reflect on the impact of the

project, including community mapping and qualitative interviews. Overall, the community leaders felt that the GAP Project added value to each of the communities, enhanced knowledge about violence, improved communication between partners, reduced harmful alcohol use and helped support community cohesion.

Impacts

- The project has been sustained by the local communities after the end of the pilot year. The long-term sustainability of the participatory action research process is evident in the fact that promotores have continued awareness-raising activities, household visits and meetings with local government officials with minimal financial support.
- Community discussions resulting from the pilot project highlighted a shift in awareness and understanding of violence against women and girls as a problem in the Lower Napo River communities. This represented a shift in awareness of the problem from something that concerned only women to something that concerned the community and required community intervention.
- The participatory community-led intervention development approach developed by the promotores is now the basis for two new case studies of the potential for communities to design their own primary prevention intervention in the Peruvian Andes and Samoa.

Project Highlights



Engagement and ethics

- Promotores were actively engaged in the design of local ethical guidelines for community engagement, using a critical bioethics approach. This is one of the most innovative outcomes of the project.
- Promotores worked with project leaders to map the realities of gender-based violence in their communities. The mapping was followed by whole-community meetings to present the project and request input.

Definition: A critical bioethics approach actively incorporates critical thinking into positions on bioethical issues (ethical issues linked to medicine and biology).

Planning

- Promotores developed ideas and consulted with community leaders to define potential activities and build networks of support.

Capacity building

- Promotores received training over 20 days. Participants also visited a local town for training by relevant government departments (social services, police and health).

Action

- Promotores ran 57 activities in ten communities, including community meetings, household visits, hosting local government officials, local advocacy, developing posters and visual messaging, and creative engagement such as participatory theatre and film screenings.

Reflections and evaluation

- At the end of the project, a workshop was held with promotores to reflect on the pilot year and discuss future plans. There were also community engagement sessions to reflect on the process and gather suggestions on how to improve the work.



Candies In Hell +20: Finding Out What Works Over The Long Term To Prevent Violence Against Women And Girls

Twenty-one years after the first prevalence study on violence against women and girls in Central America, a follow-up study has seen what has changed for a new generation of women in León, Nicaragua. This is a world first: no previous study has examined long-term change in gender-based violence in a specific location.

And there are real signs of hope and progress: the research team found a significant reduction in the levels of intimate partner violence experienced by women, and interviews with affected women suggest that intimate partner violence is now less acceptable among individuals, communities and civil society.

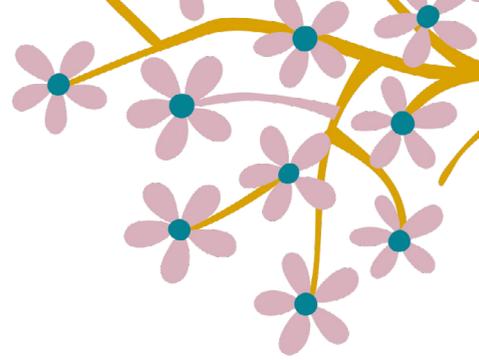
The 1995 study on violence against women and girls in Central America, titled Candies in Hell, showed that one in two women had been beaten or raped by a partner and one in four had experienced violence in the 12 months prior to the interview. It was conducted by the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in León, Umeå University in Sweden and Nicaraguan women's rights activists.

“

After he beat me, he would court me and buy me clothes, but my grandmother said to me, ‘Child, what are you going to do with Candies in Hell?’” – Ana Cristina, Candies in Hell, 1995

The Candies in Hell study findings were widely circulated, and the research team engaged with policymakers, health workers and community activists across Nicaragua, resulting in real impact. As a result of the study, the Nicaraguan government passed a landmark reform to the Nicaraguan Penal Code that criminalised domestic violence, including psychological injuries, and provided new protections for women. A ministerial decree increased support for survivors of violence, making it mandatory that they receive compassionate care.

Other government strategies implemented between 1995 and 2015 to reduce the prevalence of violence, included introducing women's police stations throughout the country and passing the Comprehensive Law on Violence Against Women in 2012.



Women's rights organisations, spearheaded by the National Network of Women Against Violence, played a critical role in advocating for these reforms. The network and other non-governmental organisations also carried out social communication campaigns to create awareness of the new laws and change the prevailing social norms that support men's right to use violence against women. They also provided direct support through crisis centres, shelters, and medical and legal advice for survivors.

The 2016 follow-up study, which used a similar sampling frame, questionnaire and methods, aimed to find out if these strategies – a combination of social activism, policy and legal reforms – had worked. Fieldworkers conducted 1,400 interviews with women aged 15 to 64 in León. They also conducted qualitative interviews and focus groups with communities, service providers, government officials and women's rights activists in León and Managua.

Research Uptake

The findings⁵ are being widely disseminated among local, national and international stakeholders to promote evidence-based policy changes that prevent violence against women and girls in Nicaragua. New interventions and research activities will use the findings of the 2016 study to continue to reduce violence against women and girls.

Key Facts

Project name: Candies in Hell +20: A mixed-methods study on the prevention of violence against women and girls in León, Nicaragua

Location: Nicaragua

Year: 2016

Grantee and partners: Global Women's Institute, the George Washington University (USA), the Global Women's Institute, the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua in León and Intercambios, a local non-profit organisation.

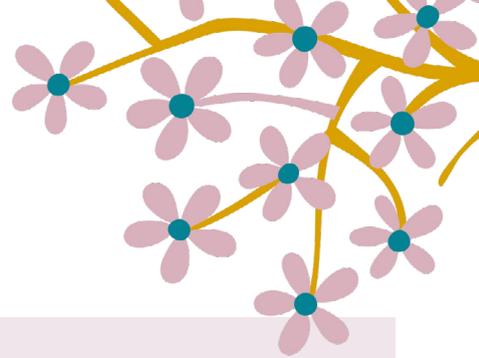
Methodology

The 2016 study interviewed 846 ever-partnered women aged 15 to 49 regarding experiences of physical, sexual and emotional intimate partner violence. These findings were analysed together with comparable data collected from 354 women in 1995.

Evidence gap addressed

This study is the first to measure large-scale population-level change in the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV). Although intimate partner violence affects an estimated one out of three women globally, evidence on violence prevention is still scarce. No studies have measured long-term change in larger populations over a prolonged period. In addition, it explored how different social and political forces may influence levels of violence. It was undertaken in León, Nicaragua, over a 20-year period between 1995 and 2016.

5. Ellsberg M, Ugarte W, Ovince J, et al. (2020). Long-Term Change in the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence: A 20-Year Follow-Up Study in León, Nicaragua, 1995–2016. *BMJ Global Health*. Available at: <https://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/5/4/e002339.full.pdf>. Accessed 24 May 2021.



Key Facts

Findings

An important part of the study was developing the app using trauma-informed, youth-centred health design. The study also evaluated the impact of ZonaSegura on youth access to teen dating violence information, teen dating violence knowledge and attitudes, and self-efficacy in violence prevention.

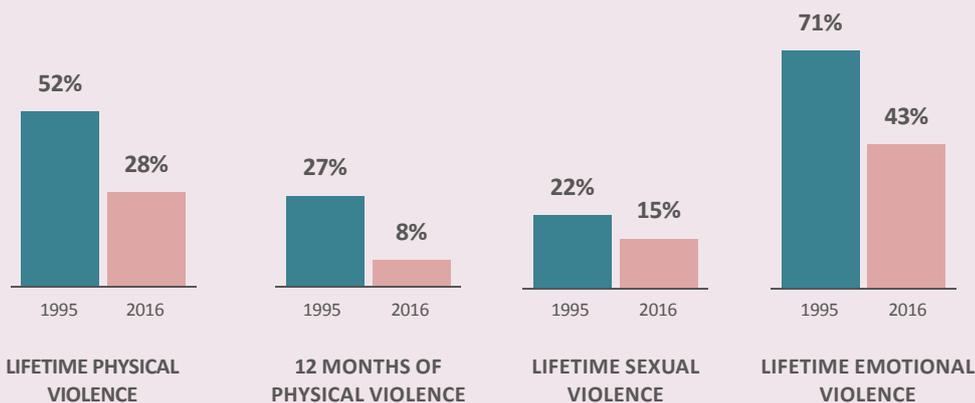
IPV Was Reduced By Nearly Half In 20 Years

1995

Everyone told me, "He is the father of your children, you have to stay..."

2016

My neighbour told me, "You know that men can't lay a hand on a woman. That's not allowed".

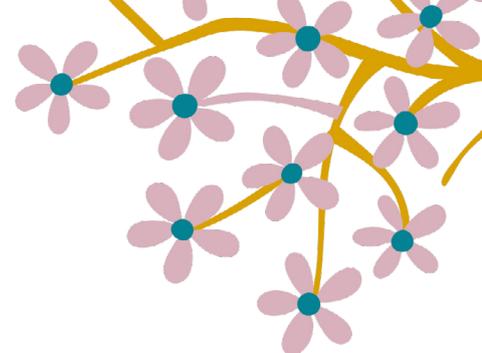


Lessons for the field

- Work multisectorally and structurally. The findings show that violence against women may be prevented on a large scale through multisectoral structural interventions. Data analysis showed that the changes in León were not simply due to demographic shifts over time. The transformations in laws and policies, as well as widespread awareness campaigns and programmes to transform social norms led by the broad-based women's movement, have contributed to the decrease in violence over the period.
- Find out what works to scale up. Future research and practice should focus on scaling successful programmes; in particular, multisectoral programmes that combine community mobilisation and rights-based strategies with sector-based prevention programmes.

This study is significant, because the researchers conclude that violence against women and girls is **preventable** with large-scale, structural interventions undertaken by advocacy groups, civil society organisations, the government international and other sectors.

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

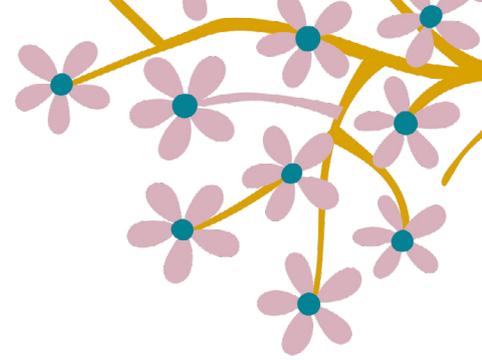
Angelica is a feminist lawyer with extensive experience in gender-based violence and gender equality. Originally from Chile, she holds an LLB from the University of Chile and an LLM from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Lize Loots – Partnerships and Forums Officer

Lize 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

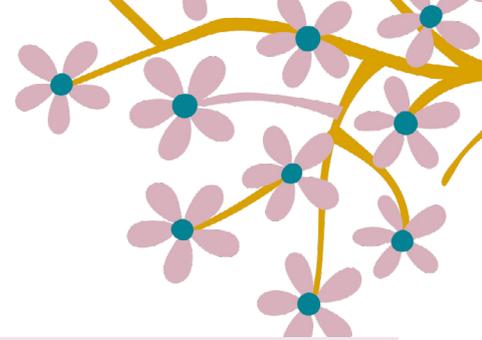
Julienne is an independent consultant specialising in gender, the prevention of violence against women and children, and women, peace and security. She obtained her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Melbourne and has more than 18 years' experience supporting and leading research, evaluation 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.

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](#).

SVRI 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.

SVRI Grantmaking In Latin America And The Caribbean



**Selection Of Research
Grants From 2014 To 2020**



SVRI sexual
violence
research
initiative

