



Early Career Fellowships

15 January 2026



Agenda



- Opening remarks: Sorrel Lucas, Kering Foundation
- Overview of SVRI's vision for fellowship: Elizabeth Dartnall
- Intersections of VAW & VAC research: Dr. Avni Amin, WHO
- Fellowship details: Sangeeta Chatterji & Priti Prabhughate, SVRI

The SVRI

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.



Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina and her team at the Centre for Research on Children and Families/Canadian Consortium on Child & Youth Trauma



McGill



Intersections between Violence Against Children & Violence Against Women: Global research priorities

15 Jan 2026



World Health
Organization



Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI) method

“**For too long research agendas have been set by too few, often the loudest, most senior in the room.**

- Considers the views of multiple stakeholders, not just technical experts
- Treats judgements and views from different members of priority setting groups equally
- Draws from the wisdom of the crowd through ‘crowd sourcing’
- Cancels out or dilutes personal biases

Advisory Structures

Coordinating
Group

WHO

UNICEF Innocenti

SVRI

Stellenbosch

University

Advisory Group

12 global experts

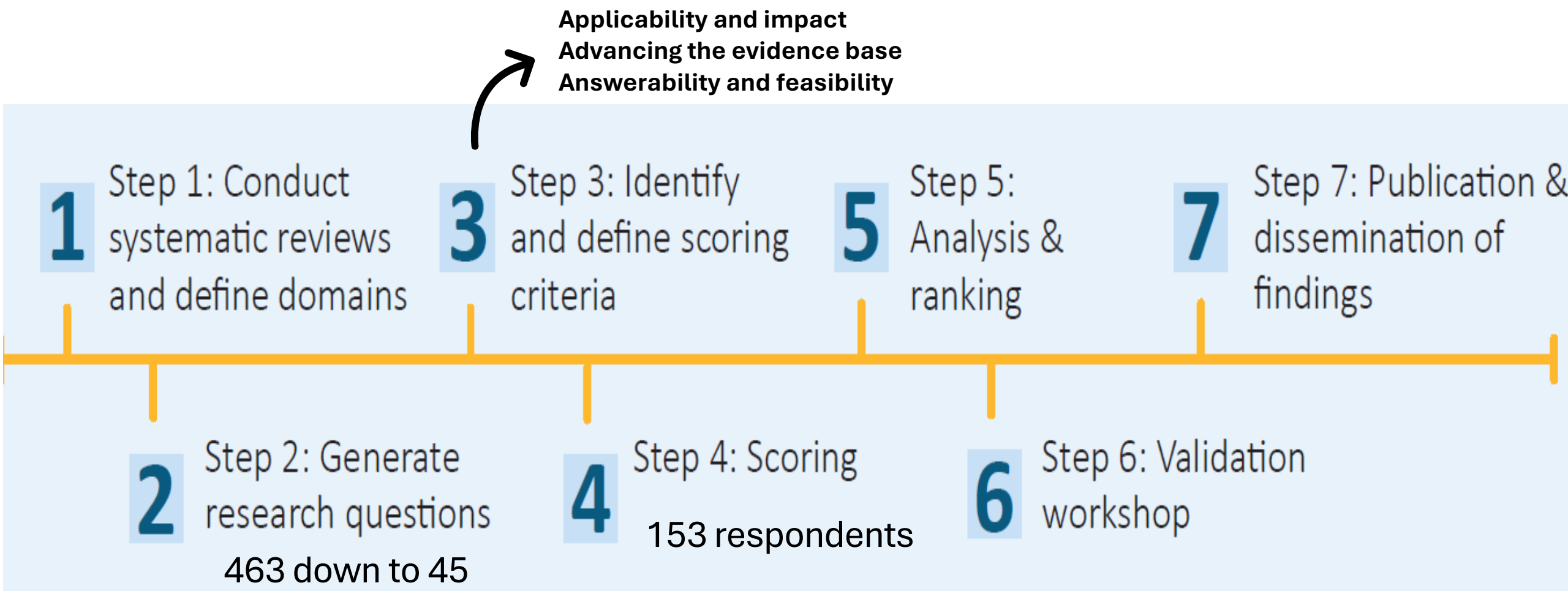
Practitioners and
researchers

Global
Stakeholder
Group

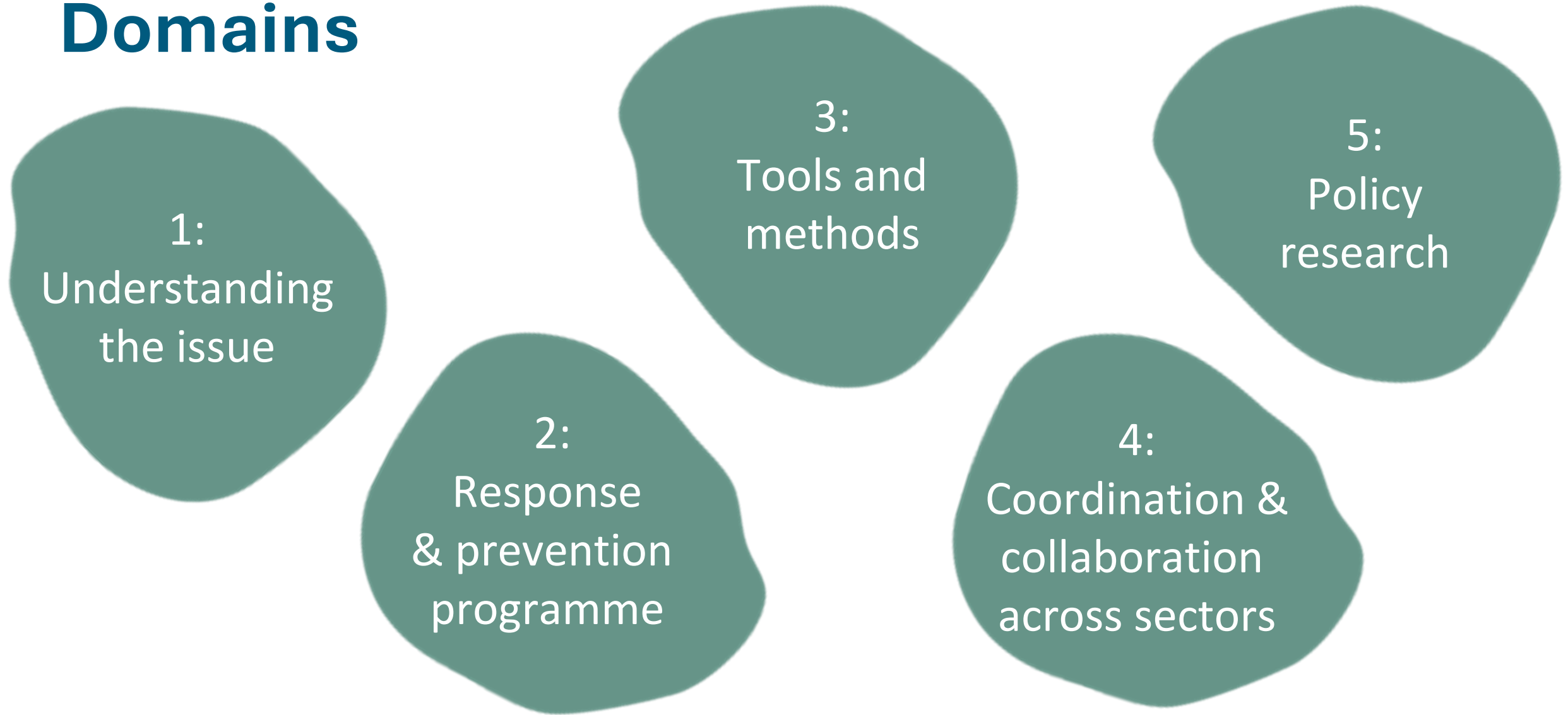
510 researchers,
practitioners,
funders and policy-
makers



Steps in the research priority setting process



Domains



Reviews: Pearson I, , et al. The co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and violence against children: a systematic review on associated factors in low- and middle-income countries. Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380221082943> ; Bacchus, L and Colombini M.; Interventions that prevent or respond to intimate partner violence against women and violence against children: a systematic review. The Lancet Public Health. Forthcoming.



Diversity, equity and inclusion

- Using the advisory structures to reach out to their networks and act as ambassadors for the project.
- Monitoring responses and actively responding to gaps.
- Regular touch points with advisory structures & the field through webinars, use of online platforms and communication efforts.
- Ensuring the survey tools were user friendly.
- Available in multiple languages – Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.






Findings





Key characteristics of respondents (n=153)


82% female



44% practitioners/ service providers/
programme managers
41% researchers
<2% donors, policy-makers (each)

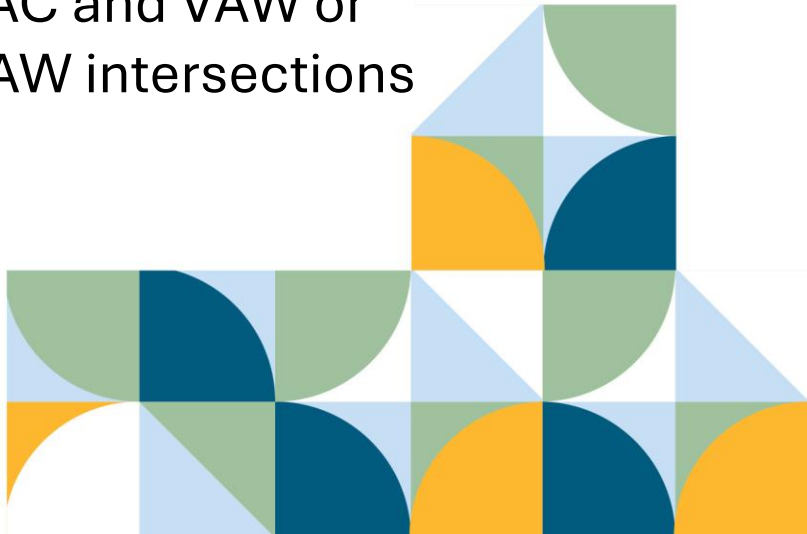


59% from low- and middle-
income countries

- 
- 9% LGBTQI+
 - 14% minoritized racial or ethnic groups
 - 10% indigenous people
 - 9% people with disability

**self-identified*

59% primarily work on
both VAC and VAW or
VAC-VAW intersections



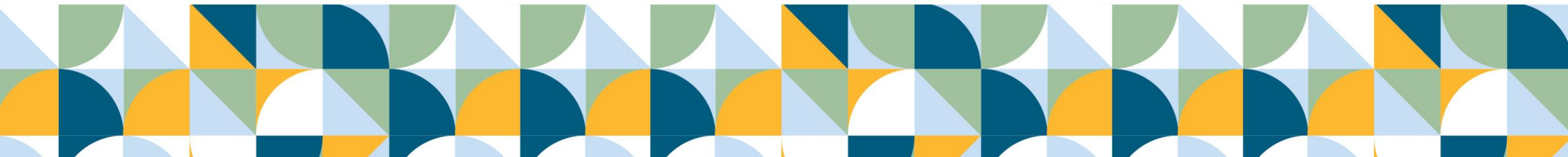
Top-ranked questions

RANK	QUESTION	SCORE	DOMAIN
1	What are the essential elements of effective integrated programmes to address violence against women and violence against children?	94,94	2
2	How can effective parenting programs be adapted to effectively prevent multiple forms of VAC and VAW?	91,93	2
3	What are innovative and valid measures for VAW-VAC that have been developed and tested in low resource settings via participatory approaches?	91,79	3
4	How can we use the evidence of the VAC-VAW intersections to develop common language and a shared framework for effective coordination and collaboration?	91,61	4
5	What are the policies which address VAW and VAC together?	91,59	5



Top-ranked questions

RANK	QUESTION	SCORE	DOMAIN
6	At global, regional, national, and local levels, what are the key barriers to effective collaboration across VAC and VAW sectors and what are the main opportunities for driving forward a joint agenda (e.g., investment in positive parenting programmes)?	91,27	4
7	How do effective VAW-VAC prevention interventions achieve change?	91,02	2
8	What forms of VAC and VAW do adolescents experience, including in the digital sphere?	90,55	1
9	How are adolescent girls adequately addressed in policies that address VAC, VAW and their intersections?	89,93	5
10	How do we evaluate primary prevention interventions of VAW and VAC?	89,68	3



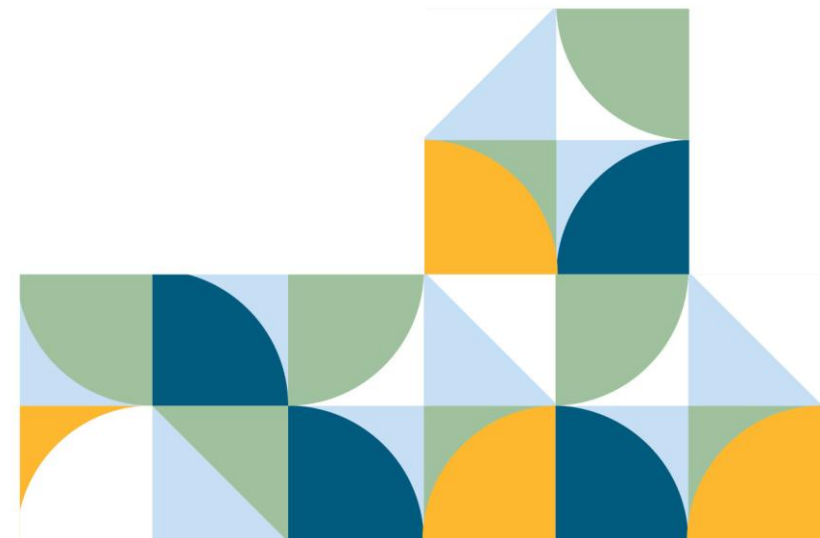


Analyses by participants' characteristics

- **Area of expertise:** VAC, VAW or VAC/VAW intersections
- **Region of work:** high-income countries or low-and middle-income countries
- **Type of work:** researcher/academic, practitioner/service provider/ donor/funder, activist, policy-maker or other
- **Marginalized voices:** LGBTQI+, racial/ethnic minority/ indigenous people or people with disability

Findings:

- Overall agreement across groups, with minor differences
- Those working on VAC ranked parenting their top priority while those working on VAC and VAW ranked it third
- Overall agreement across HICs and LMICs on top priority, but LMICs prioritized intervention research while HICs also included policy
- Variation across various marginalized groups, highlighting need for more nuanced understanding



Some reflections

- Applying a life course perspective to addressing VAC and VAW – focus on critical and sensitive periods – e.g. early childhood and adolescence, pregnancy
- The role of digital, social media, AI – misuse and use?
- Addressing the mental health of children, adolescence and women exposed to violence?
- Addressing perpetration of VAC and VAW – common drivers



Taking action: WHO/HRP

Research priority 1:	Addressing mental health of children exposed to IPV, mental health of adolescents and pregnant women and mothers exposed to IPV
Research priorities 4 and 6:	Synergizing implementation of clinical guidelines for VAC and VAW & Roll out of RESPECT 2.0 and INSPIRE 2.0, addressing perpetration
Research priorities 3 and 8:	Measurement and estimation work on violence against adolescent girls, including in digital spaces
Research priority 9:	Unpacking how adolescents understanding of consent, sexuality is shaped online



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of these shared research priorities:

Authors / coordinating group:

Elizabeth Dartnall (Sexual Violence Research Initiative, South Africa)

Shanice Eksteen (Institute for Life Course Health Research, Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Claudia García-Moreno (Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), WHO, Switzerland)

Floriza Gennari (UNICEF Innocenti, Italy)

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Advisory group:

Clara Aleman (Argentina/USA)

Maha Al Muneef (Saudi Arabia)

Loraine Bacchus (United Kingdom)

Nisreen Bushieyeh (Palestine)

Manuela Colombini (United Kingdom)

Lina Digolo (Uganda)

Asvini Fernando (Sri Lanka)

Santi Kusumaningrum (Indonesia)

Shanaaz Mathews (South Africa)

Sophie Namy (USA/Spain)

Isabelle Pearson (United Kingdom)

Arturo Harker Roa (Colombia)

Global stakeholders and participants in the survey and validation workshop:

Over **150** colleagues representing over **50** countries

Additional data analysis:

Julienne Corboz (Spain) and **Amy Powell** (United Kingdom)



Fellowship Objectives



- Strengthen the evidence base on the intersections of VAW and VAC
- Build leadership and research capacity among early career researchers in LMICs
- Support the publication and dissemination of locally generated knowledge
- Foster regional and global networks of feminist, equity-driven researchers

Fellowships



- **Doctoral** and **postdoctoral**
- Number of awards: Two each
- Duration: Up to two years
- Amount:
 - Doctoral: Up to \$17,000 per year
 - Postdoctoral: Up to \$20,500 per year

Eligibility Criteria



- National of a [low- or middle-income country](#) (LMIC)
- Enrolled full-time at an in-person, accredited academic institution in an LMIC
- **Undertaking PhD dissertation or postdoctoral research focused on the intersection of VAW and VAC**

Eligibility Criteria



- **PhD applicants:** Have a defended or institutionally approved dissertation proposal
- **Postdoc applicants:** Completed PhD within the last three years (Jan 31, 2023, onwards)

Eligibility Criteria- Preference



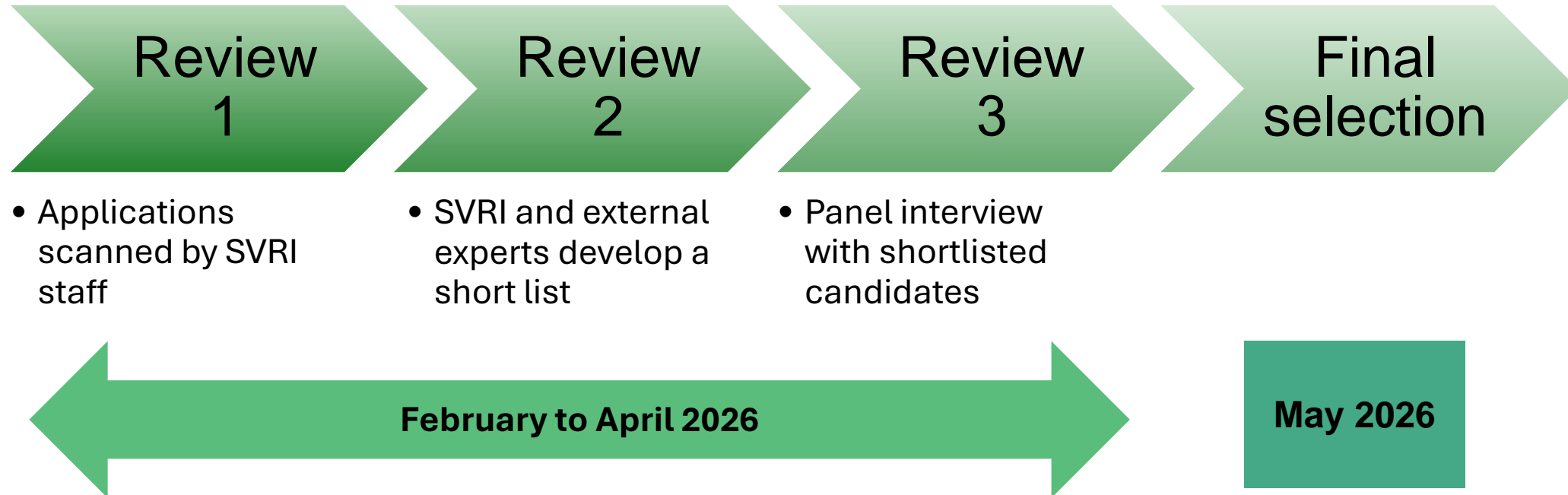
- Are from underrepresented regions or groups
- Demonstrate a long-term commitment to advancing the rights and wellbeing of women and girls

Review criteria



- Contribution to the state of knowledge on the intersections between VAW and VAC
- Research design and methodology
- Ethical considerations
- Budget

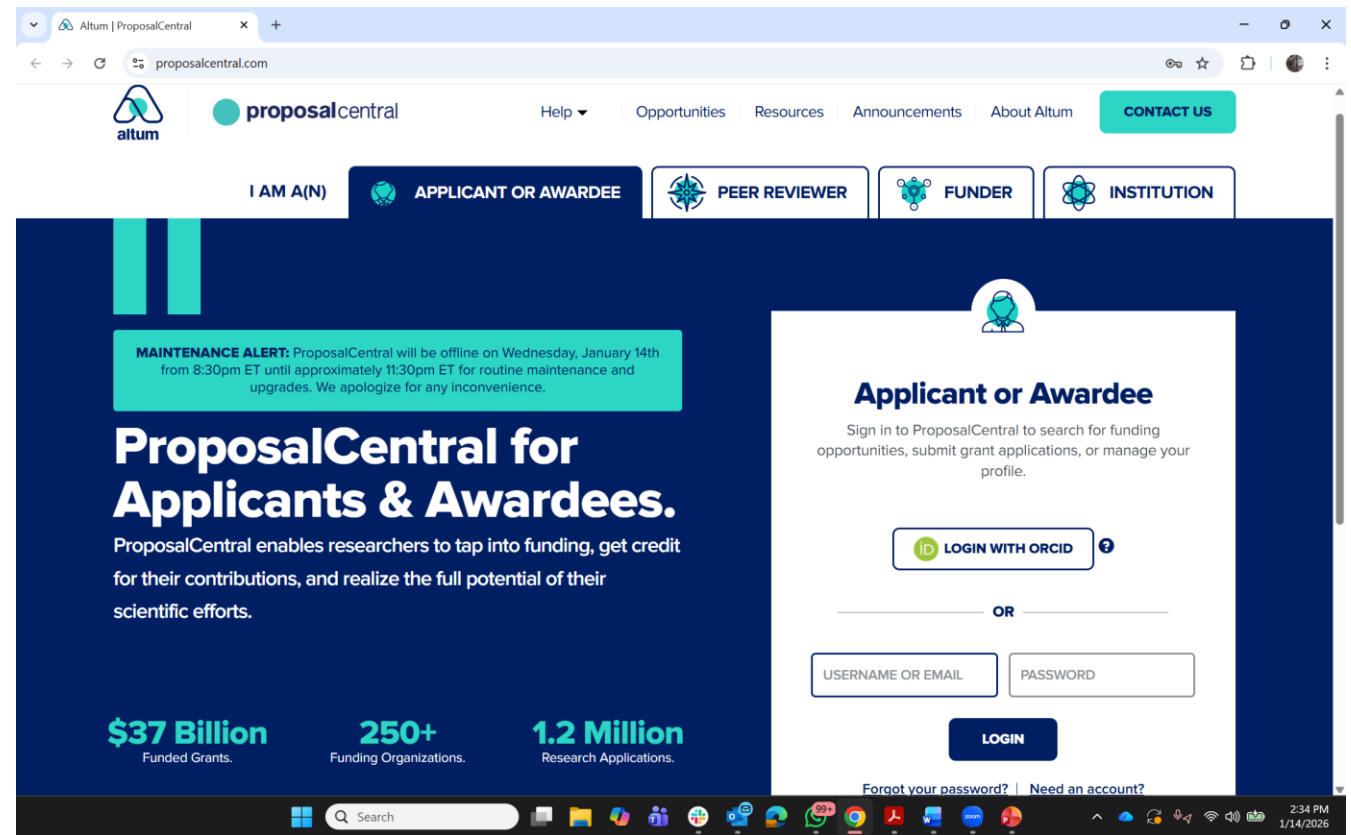
Review process



How to apply



STEP 1: Create a log in on Proposal Central on <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>



How to apply



Submit in any three languages:

- English
 - French
 - Spanish
-
- **Submission Deadline: 31 January 2026, 11:59 pm South African Time**



Application Requirements



Online application form:

- Career Objectives
- Community Impact Statement
- Research Proposal (Online template on Proposal Central)

Upload Required Documents:

- Letter from academic institution verifying academic status and nationality
- Academic transcripts (past 2 years)
- Two reference letters (one from your academic advisor)





Useful links

- [SVRI Early Career Research Fellowships](#)
- [Intersections Between VAW and VAC: Global Shared Research Priorities - SVRI](#)
- Questions about eligibility criteria or application content: svri@svri.org
- Online submission platform: <https://proposalcentral.com/>
- Submission queries: pcsupport@altum.com

Q&A

KERING
FOUNDATION



SVRI
sexual
violence
research
initiative

