



# Terms of Reference: Child Sexual Violence Outcome Measurement Evidence Review

## 1. Background

Child sexual violence (CSV) remains a major global challenge with serious consequences for children’s wellbeing, safety, and rights. Although the evidence base on CSV prevention and response interventions has expanded over the past two decades, the field continues to face significant challenges in how outcomes are measured.

A [rapid review on CSV outcome measurement](#) conducted by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) with support from Oak Foundation found that many CSV interventions rely on author-designed tools or adapted measures with limited contextual validation, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The review also highlighted that most studies focus on proximal outcomes such as knowledge and attitudes, while behavioural outcomes including reductions in victimization and perpetration are measured far less frequently. This limits the field’s ability to determine whether interventions ultimately reduce CSV.

In response, SVRI seeks to commission a comprehensive evidence review that synthesises existing knowledge on CSV outcome measurement, critically assesses current measurement approaches, and identifies priorities for strengthening the science and practice of outcome measurement in CSV prevention. This work will contribute to ongoing efforts to improve CSV outcome measurement and inform future field-wide guidance and methodological alignment.

The review and resulting outputs will also contribute to discussions at the SVRI Forum in October 2026 and support longer-term efforts toward the development of tools including a compendium of measures and guidance on best practices for measurement for researchers, practitioners, funders, and policymakers working on CSV prevention globally.





## 2. Purpose of the Assignment

The assignment aims to produce a comprehensive evidence review and background paper to strengthen understanding and practice of outcome measurement in CSV prevention.

Specifically, it will:

- Synthesise evidence on primary and secondary outcome measures used in CSV prevention and response interventions
- Assess how victimisation, perpetration, and proxy CSV related outcomes are measured
- Identify strengths, gaps, and emerging approaches in measurement practice
- Critically evaluate what constructs are measured by current tools
- Identify priorities for improving measurement science, including tool adaptation and refinement
- Partner with SVRI to share learnings and validate the priority areas using online focus group discussions
- Develop practical guidance on high-quality and contextually appropriate measurement
- Explore the use of innovative approaches, including AI-supported evidence synthesis

The review should consider studies from 2016 onwards when the INSPIRE guidance was launched to ensure comprehensive coverage of the evolution of CSV outcome measurement approaches.

## 3. Scope of Work

The consultant(s) will undertake the following:

### Review and Synthesis of Existing Evidence

Conduct a comprehensive review of peer-reviewed and grey literature from 2016 onwards., drawing on academic and other databases,

The review will map:





- Primary and secondary CSV outcomes (victimisation, perpetration, and proxy measures), outcome domains and constructs
- Tools, instruments, and frameworks used

### **Assessment of Measurement Quality and Approaches**

Assess:

- Conceptual and methodological quality of measures
- Contextual adaptation and validation practices
- Ethical and survivor-centred approaches
- Child and youth participation in measurement development
- Overall strengths and limitations of current approaches.

With emphasis on:

- Proximal vs behavioural outcome distinctions depending on intervention and proposed pathways of change
- Measurement of actual CSV reduction
- Perpetration-focused measurement gaps
- Emerging challenges (e.g. technology-facilitated CSV).

### **Guidance for the Field**

Based on the evidence review, develop practical guidance and recommendations in the report for:

- Selecting and applying high-quality CSV outcome measures
- Adapting and validating instruments across contexts
- Improving methodological rigour and comparability across studies
- Strengthening behavioural outcome measurement





- Integrating community knowledge systems and participatory approaches
- Identifying priority areas for future methodological development and investment.

This section can also identify opportunities to strengthen the field’s capacity to use emerging tools and technologies, including AI-supported evidence synthesis platforms such as Elicit, where relevant and appropriate.

### Identification of Opportunities for Future Measurement Testing

Provide recommendations for embedding testing of measurement approaches in a CSV evaluation study based on the results of the review.

### Stakeholder Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

The consultant(s) may be expected to participate in selected consultation meetings with SVRI and relevant partners during the review process. Findings from the review may inform discussions at the SVRI Forum in October 2026 and future collaborative efforts toward strengthening CSV measurement guidance globally.

## 4. Deliverables

The consultant(s) will be expected to deliver:

### 1. Inception Paper

Including detailed methodology, review approach, proposed timeline, and data extraction framework.

### 2. Evidence Review and Background Paper (Draft)

A draft paper (approximately 10-20 pages excluding annexes) including:

- Executive summary
- Methodology
- Findings from the evidence review
- Analysis of measurement approaches and gaps





- Recommendations and guidance for the field
- Relevant annexes

### 3. **Measurement Mapping Matrix and Supporting Database**

A structured database or matrix documenting:

- Outcome domains
- Constructs measured
- Tools/instruments used
- Validation/adaptation approaches; and
- Key methodological notes.

### 4. **Final Evidence Review and Background Paper**

Incorporating feedback from SVRI, consultation with the field, and selected reviewers.

### 5. **Presentation Slide Deck**

A concise presentation summarising key findings, gaps, and recommendations.

### 6. **Research Brief**

A short discussion-oriented brief summarising key findings and recommendations.

## 5. **Timeframe**

The assignment is expected to commence in August 2026 and be completed by March 2027. The first draft of the report should be submitted by February 2027. A detailed workplan and timeline will be agreed upon during the inception phase.

## 6. **Qualifications and Experience**

The ideal consultant(s) or team will have:

- Advanced degree in public health, social sciences, evaluation, or a related field





- Demonstrated expertise in child sexual violence prevention research and/or outcome measurement
- Strong experience conducting systematic reviews, evidence syntheses, or methodological reviews
- Familiarity with ethical and survivor-centred approaches to research involving children
- Experience working in LMIC contexts
- Strong analytical writing and synthesis skills
- Experience producing high-quality policy, methodological, or research guidance documents; and
- Familiarity with emerging evidence synthesis or AI-supported review tools is an advantage.

Partnerships or collaborations involving LMIC-based researchers or institutions are strongly encouraged.

## 7. Management and Oversight

The consultant(s) will work closely with the SVRI Research Director, Child Sexual Violence Researcher and Executive Director. Regular check-ins will be scheduled throughout the assignment to review progress, provide technical guidance, and support alignment with broader SVRI CSV measurement initiatives.

## 8. Application Process

Interested consultants or firms should submit:

- A brief proposal (maximum 5 pages) outlining:
  - Understanding of the assignment
  - Proposed methodology and approach
  - Relevant expertise and experience





- Proposed timeline
- CV(s) of lead consultant(s) and key team members
- Proposed budget-up to \$100k
- At least two relevant work samples (e.g., systematic review, methodological paper, or evidence synthesis)
- A brief description of any LMIC partnerships or collaborations involved in the proposed work.

Applications should be submitted by **15 July 2026**, to [svri@svri.org](mailto:svri@svri.org) with the subject line:  
**Application – CSV Outcome Measurement Evidence Review**

### **Diversity Statement**

SVRI is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and diverse research environment. We strongly encourage applications from individuals and organisations based in LMICs and from historically underrepresented groups. We value collaborative, ethical, and contextually grounded approaches to knowledge production and prioritise psychological safety and wellbeing in our partnerships and ways of working. Successful applicants will be required to sign the SVRI Code of Conduct and any other relevant documentation as part of the onboarding process.

