

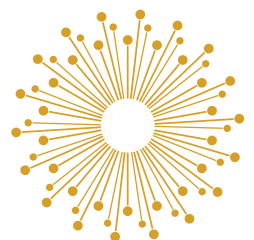
The SVRI Research Grant 2024

Knowledge for Action to End Violence Against
Women and Violence Against Children

Grant Application Guidelines



Wellspring
Philanthropic Fund



SVRI sexual
violence
research
initiative

General Introduction

This document is designed to assist organisations conducting research on violence against women (VAW), violence against children (VAC)¹ and other forms of violence driven by gender inequality to assess their eligibility for grants made annually by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) and to submit proposals in accordance with the required procedures.

Background

Violence against women and violence against children are global epidemics. At least one-third of women across the globe experience VAW and the health and development consequences that this violence brings. VAW and VAC cause great harm and cost to individuals, families, communities and governments, including multiple and long-lasting consequences for rights, health, education, productivity and participation in public spheres. For intimate partner violence alone, selected country estimates suggest that out-of-pocket expenditures, lost income and reduced productivity can amount to up to 3.7% of GDP – more than what many governments spend on primary education.² A 2016 global prevalence study estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year.³ Experiencing violence in childhood impacts on lifelong health and well-being.⁴

VAW and VAC are driven by gender inequality, social norms and entrenched structural inequities and laws. Research and its uptake is essential for understanding the drivers of VAW and VAC and the contexts within which they flourish to help identify ways in which we can bring about sustained social change to end violence against women and children.

We know more about how to prevent and respond to VAW and VAC than ever before. In terms of prevention, the handful of tested prevention programmes we once had, have expanded, including several adaptations. Even still, few interventions have been sustainably taken to scale to fundamentally transform social norms, promote gender equitable societies and reduce violence. Knowledge is still limited on the long-term effects of these interventions and what specific mechanisms are driving the changes observed so far. Further, we know very little about how to integrate violence prevention and response efforts into large infrastructural development programmes.

¹ Available evidence highlights the need to create synergies in research and programming to address the multiple linkages between VAW and VAC as our understanding of the intersections increase. The SVRI will consider proposals on innovative approaches to conduct intersectional or integrative research and programming that will address VAW and VAC together, or VAW and/or VAC within other sectoral work.

² Klugman, J., Hanmer, L., Twigg, S., Hasan, T., McCleary-Sills, J., & Santamaria, J. (2014). *Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

³ Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum estimates. Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. *Pediatrics* 2016; 137(3): e20154079.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-children>.

⁵ [Issue-brief-COVID-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf \(unwomen.org\)](#).



Additionally, although we know about innovative research, quality programme implementation and rigorous evaluation clusters in high income countries, knowledge sharing platforms for researchers in low and middle-income settings remain limited and their contributions to the field have been largely overlooked. The power imbalance is also manifested in the language choice for most academic dissemination, with English being the preferred language among the academic community.⁶

Effective VAW and VAC prevention and response is an area of work for civil society, companies, governments, NGOs and research institutions. Capitalising on this momentum to achieve broader and more sustainable change requires tapping the creative energy of emerging leaders and solution-makers. It also requires documenting our successes and failures to ensure that we continue to advance the field by investing limited resources towards the most effective strategies.

The Grant Programme

One of the goals of the 2020-2024 SVRI [strategic plan](#) is to strengthen the evidence base to improve policies and programmes to respond to and prevent VAW and VAC in low and middle income countries (LMICs). The SVRI will achieve this goal by continuing to support and fund innovative research on VAW and VAC in LMICs and to encourage debate in the field.

In collaboration with our funding partners, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, the SVRI takes pride in providing grants to unique projects that might otherwise go unfunded. These projects may include secondary data analysis, enhancing qualitative components, extending a study with an additional arm, or research on methods. By funding a broad range of methodologies, the SVRI is actively contributing to the technical advancement of research in the VAW and VAC field.⁷

The SVRI is inviting proposals for action-oriented, policy relevant research that will serve to improve and expand VAW, VAC and other forms of GBV prevention and response efforts in LMICs.



Eligibility Criteria

Important considerations for applications for support under this award:

- Preference will be given to proposals submitted and led by organisations based in LMICs.
- Be affiliated with a recognised, legally constituted research institution or organisation with existing research or programming capacity on VAW and VAC. **Grants will only be made to institutions and not to individuals.**
- Where appropriate, involve partnerships between multiple organisations, for example: a local NGO, practice-based agency and an academic institution; or local government and an NGO or an academic institution. Preference will be given to academic/researcher – practitioner partnerships. **The partnership arrangement, including a detailed description of roles and responsibilities of team members, must be clearly outlined and reflected in the proposal and budget allocation.**

Other eligibility considerations to note:

- Organisations or consortiums can submit up to two proposals, but only one proposal will be funded.
- Previous grantees will not be considered as principal applicants.
- Institutions who have an active SVRI grant may not apply.

⁶ Why English as the Universal Language of Science Is a Problem for Research - The Atlantic.

⁷ <https://svri.org/grant-database>.



- Grant applications that are proposing work on behalf of UN Agencies, the World Bank Group or other multi-lateral agencies will not be considered.
- All projects under this call should focus on VAW and VAC prevention and/or response in LMICs.
- If funds are being sought for scale-up or dissemination activities, the application must provide sufficient information to enable assessment of the scientific quality of the original study, as well as a description of the specific activities for which funds are being requested.

The success of receiving a grant is determined by the quality of the proposal submitted, due to the high levels of competition and limited availability of funds.

Nature of Supported Projects

Types of projects that may be supported under this grant include:

- Research projects that are either stand-alone projects or a component of a larger project that will guide efforts to effectively address or prevent VAW and VAC.
- Qualitative studies that explore the effectiveness and process of creating change with innovative VAW and VAC prevention interventions, or the acceptability, impact, and process of change created by interventions that support and assist survivors of VAW and VAC.
- Projects that seek to address prevention and response to VAW and VAC together, simultaneously, or in a single intervention with distinct elements.
- Projects that aim to understand how to integrate programming for VAW and/or VAC into other sectoral work or large infrastructure development programmes.
- Projects that develop innovative methods and tools for VAW and/or VAC research.
- Projects that evaluate how to effectively expand tested interventions for preventing and responding to VAW and VAC.
- Secondary analysis of existing data that will provide insights into addressing VAW and VAC more effectively and sustainably.
- Research on violence across diverse populations in situations of vulnerability, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, LGBTQI+ people, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.
- Projects that enhance our understanding of sexual violence against children or adolescents, including research on interventions to prevent such violence and/or support child and adolescent survivors of such violence.

The Global Shared Research Agenda (GRSA) is a valuable tool for providing guidance on research priorities identified by the field. There may be other relevant research themes in different contexts, so please use the [GRSA](#) a general guidance tool.

What We Like to See in Proposals

- Research that advances knowledge on VAW and VAC prevention and response in LMICs.⁸
- Proposals that are informed by current evidence, present a clear research question supported by sound methodology, and have policy potential.
- South-South (LMICs) or Southern-led research partnerships with roles and responsibilities outlined.
- Consortium-led research that includes, for example, activists, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers.
- Consortia that take note of power inequities in research partnerships.⁹
- Research guided by local project advisory boards.
- Thoughtful consideration of ethical issues, and ethical approval that has been or is being sought.
- Clear plans for research impact, with different products for different stakeholders.
- A well-written, concise abstract that accurately represents the research project.
- A logical and clear budget, accompanied with a sound budget justification.

⁸ New World Bank country classifications by income level: 2021-2022

⁹ Learning together - A guide for feminist practice in violence against women and girls research collaborations | Sexual Violence Research Initiative (svri.org)



Guiding Principles

Projects supported by the SVRI should:

- Challenge the gender hierarchy that contributes to VAW and VAC in order to promote gender equality.
- Be conceptualised within a human rights framework.
- Adhere to international safety standards and ethical guidelines.
- Strive for innovation in ideas, new methodologies, and partnerships while building on evidence.
- Apply feminist and women-centred principles and partnerships.
- Emphasise collaboration, cross-sectoral approaches and multi-disciplinary perspectives.
- Promote equitable participation and bring diverse voices from LMICs (including researchers, survivors, marginalised groups) to the field.
- Endeavour, where relevant and appropriate, to engage the community where the research will take place.
- Inform policy, programmes and services and contribute to comprehensive care and support for survivors.

Grant Length and Duration

Applicants can apply for **grants between \$40,000 to \$150,000** no longer than 18 months in length.

The common characteristic is the provision of funding for a limited period of time, with clear measurable outcomes.

Types of Violence

The United Nations defines violence VAW as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".¹⁰

VAW can include but is not limited to: intimate partner violence, including emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse; sexual violence; reproductive coercion; trafficking; honor killings; sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.¹¹ **SVRI understands violence against women as including all women in all of their diversity.**

VAC – as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child – includes "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child".¹²

VAC can include but is not limited to: abuse and neglect in the family, incest, sexual abuse, infanticide; bullying and other forms of violence in the school; corporal punishment; psychological aggression; child trafficking, sale of children, child sexual exploitation and other commercial sexual exploitation of children; child labour; various forms of cyber and online violence; recruitment as child soldiers, children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and many others.¹³

¹⁰ <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>.

¹³ <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/crime-prevention-criminal-justice/module-12/key-issues/1--the-many-forms-of-violence-against-children.html>.



Application Process, Review and Assessment of Proposals

Application Process

The SVRI will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting colleagues to apply for funding. Applicants should apply after they have considered the above requirements and assessed whether their proposal is suitable for support under this call.

All applications must be submitted via the Proposal Central online system, and reach us by midnight **(South African time)** on **6 July 2023**.

Only applications submitted via the online system before the given closing date and time will be considered.

Please try and submit well before the deadline. The SVRI and Proposal Central cannot be held responsible for delays and problems with internet connectivity.

Registering Your Institution

If you are a first time user of Proposal Central you must first register, before you can proceed with your application. To do so you must:

- Go to <https://proposalcentral.altum.com>
- Select “First Time Users – Register”
- Complete the registration page.
- Create your own Username, password and challenge question for your user account.
- Click “SAVE” when done.
- The registration confirmation screen will confirm your new account has been created.
- For security purposes, you will receive a confirmation number by e-mail which you must enter when you log in the first time.

Contact Proposal Central at pcsupport@altum.com if you experience any difficulties with this process.

Filling in the Online Form

- **Graphics and tables:** The online application form cannot accept graphics and tables. All graphics and tables must be uploaded as attachments.
- **CVs of key personnel:** Using the CV template provided online, provide short CVs of all personnel who will be working on this project.
- **Project plan:** A project plan must accompany the application. Please use the template provided online.
- **Budget:** Applicants should provide a budget for a period between 12 to 18 months in USD using the online application form. The budget should be a definitive line-item budget for all direct costs, and administrative or indirect costs, and must exclude capital expenditure and general operating support. **Please note that South African applicants must submit their budgets in South African Rands. Proposals submitted by South African applicants with budgets in USD will be rejected at the point of receipt.**
Indirect costs are permitted in proposals but may not exceed 15% of total costs. The total cost, including indirect costs, should not exceed the grant limit. Indirect costs are expected to cover items such as office rental, electricity, internet access, computer programmes, and financial management costs. These costs are not expected to be itemised separately in addition to a 15% overhead. **Proposals that request more than the stipulated maximum will be rejected at point of receipt.**



The extent of individual cost items should match the scope of the project, reflect real or estimated cost burdens, and not be padded.

Please use the following guidelines to calculate personnel costs:

- Personnel (employee): calculate the employee daily rate using the person's annual salary inclusive of fringe benefits (e.g. pension, medical aid etc.) divided by 260.
- Personnel (consultant): the daily cost of the consultant to your institution.

A budget narrative must accompany the budget. Additional guidance on how to complete the budget and budget narrative can be found in the online form.

- **Capacity statement:** This statement provides the SVRI with details on the extent to which applicants have the relevant expertise / experience to manage / complete the project successfully, and the roles and responsibilities of consortium members.
- **Saving your work:** Please remember to save your work before moving on to the next page. Also note that you cannot edit in print format. Any changes made whilst you are in print view will not be saved.
- **Submitting your proposal:** Please note, your proposal has not been submitted if you do not receive a confirmation email from Proposal Central confirming you have submitted your proposal. Please check with Proposal Central if you are uncertain if your proposal has been submitted.
- **Assistance with your online application:** Your questions and concerns can be directed to proposal Central Customer Service by email to pcsupport@altum.com. Follow-up questions can be directed to proposal Central's customer service line 800 875 2562 (Toll- free U.S. and Canada) or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International).

Review Process

A rigorous, multi-layered selection process is used to select grantees. After the deadline has passed, all proposals are scanned/reviewed by internal SVRI staff. Proposals that do not meet basic eligibility criteria are excluded at this stage, including those that are off topic, not based within a low- and middle-income country, exceed project time frames or budget requirements, submitted late, not submitted via the online application system, or do not meet basic administrative application requirements. It is important to provide reviewers with a clear, well-structured abstract for this stage of the review process.

1

Review 1: Applications scanned and checked to ensure they meet the basic application criteria.

2

Review 2: SVRI and core partners develop a shortlist of proposals.

3

Review 3: Independent panel of experts review shortlisted proposals and make recommendations.

4

Review 4: Final selection.



A more thorough review of applications will be conducted by SVRI staff and a technical team using the criteria provided in the table below. A shortlist of 20-30 proposals that are found to be eligible and technically sound will be prepared for final review by a small external expert panel. The international expert panel will consist of up to 6 members, who have technical expertise in the field of VAW and VAC and/or experience in reviewing proposals. Participation in the expert panel is voluntary, and all members of the review committees must adhere to the SVRI Conflict of Interest Policy. **The results of the review process will be communicated within 5-6 months of application.**

Review Criteria and Scoring of Proposals

To evaluate proposals, SVRI staff and peer reviewers use a set of criteria and specific questions under each criterion. Applicants should make every effort to ensure that their proposals address these aspects. The criteria and questions are outlined below.

CRITERION	WHAT REVIEWER HAS TO COMMENT ON
OVERALL MERIT	Will the project build the evidence for VAW and/or VAW/VAC intersections prevention and response in LMICs? If it is an intervention, is the intervention likely to succeed with respect to the qualifications of the project team, the institution within which the project is housed? Does the proposal abstract clearly and concisely summarise the significance of the work, the major objectives of the project, the methodology to be followed, the potential impact of the research and its dissemination plan?
RESEARCH / PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODS	Is the design / method sound, feasible and relevant to the questions being asked? Is the approach proposed appropriate and likely to accomplish the project goal and outcomes? Are potential problems recognised and addressed with alternative approaches? Does the project include a thorough proposal for capturing and sharing lessons learned during design and implementation?
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT	Will the project advance basic theoretical concepts, improve or enhance policy and practice in the field of VAW and/or VAC prevention and response? Does the application build on current knowledge in the field? Does it challenge and seek to shift current research or approaches to policy and practice by utilising sound theoretical concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or interventions? Does the project provide a clear theory of change? Will the project contribute to solving barriers to progress in the field? Is the project replicable? Will the project strengthen VAW and VAC research capacity, technical skill and knowledge?
PROJECT MANAGER/ TEAM	Is the training and experience of the project manager and team appropriate for the project or activity? Is there sufficient expertise and level of accomplishments within the team / institution to generate confidence in success? Is the project led by or include a partner from a LMIC setting? Is there a partnership between multiple organisations established and if yes, is it established on equitable basis and explicitly following feminist principles? E.g. a local NGO and an academic institution, North-South or South-South academic partnerships. If identify as a need, does the research partnership have building research capacity as an objective? Are the roles and responsibilities of all project partners clearly outlined in the proposal?



<p>ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p>Are the research participants appropriately protected from potential research risk? Does the project include and budget for staff care activities, including addressing potential vicarious trauma? Will the project be conducted in a professional manner, in accordance with the applicable international and ethical guidelines, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting Women First: Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Domestic Violence Against Women, Department of Gender and Women's Health Family and Community Health. World Health Organization 1999; • Researching Violence against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists. World Health Organization and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) 2005; • Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Perpetration of Sexual Violence. Jewkes R, Dartnall E and Sikweyiya Y. SVRI and Medical Research Council South Africa 2012; • Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Intervention Research on Violence against Women, RTI and WHO 2016; • Ethical Standards for Research during Public Health Emergencies: distilling existing guidance to support Covid - 19 R&D WHO 2020; • Funding Ethically Better Funding for Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children Research in Lower and Middle Income Countries. Mago A, Dartnall E. SVRI 2022.
<p>BUDGET</p>	<p>Is the budget credible and aligned with the project methodology? Are all budget tables detailed and complete and demonstrate that all activities/components are integrated into the budget? Does the budget narrative talk to the budget tables? Are all project costs (resources/goods, etc.) appropriately budgeted for to ensure the project will achieve its outputs in the most cost-effective way?</p>

Finally, SVRI strives to ensure all global regions are represented in the final selection of winning grants.

Upon consideration of the above criteria, global representation and specific questions, reviewers score the quality of the proposal and make recommendations on fundability.

Overall Timeline for Processing Proposals for Funding

STEPS OR ACTIONS	TIMELINE
Call / request for proposals	4 May 2023
Closing date for applications	6 July 2023
External review	September – October 2023
Communication of outcomes to all applicants	December 2023
Notification and acceptance of grants by awardees	October - December 2023
Individual Project timeframes	January 2024 – June 2025 (up to 18 months)

Application Checklist (incomplete applications will not be considered)

- Completed online application (including project outcomes and budget).
- Completed and signed SVRI Grant Approval Form.
- CVs of key personnel using the template (available online).
- Project Plan using template provided (available online).
- References for evidence used to inform the research goals and objectives.
- Appendices (if required).

Grant Information Summary

- Level of award: \$40,000 to \$150,000.
- Period of award: 12-18 months in length.
- Closing date for applications: 6 July 2023.
- Further information: email svri@svri.org.
- Method of application: Applications must be submitted online [here](#) (Select Award Maker: Sexual Violence Research Initiative).
- Language of application: Applications in English, French and Spanish will be accepted.

Acknowledgements

The SVRI would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of our funding partners in supporting this grant, including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and other in kind contributions from key experts in the field. Without your support this important funding mechanism for building evidence in the field would not be possible. Thank you.

