

Co-created evidence can help build a world free from VAC and VAW

WHY RESEARCH MATTERS!

Research is essential to ensure that:

- We create contextually relevant, evidence-based solutions to reduce violence against women and children
- Presented solutions are effective in improving programmes and services and reducing levels of violence experienced by women and children
- Presented solutions can be cost effectively implemented with efficacy to scale
- We don't do harm through our interventions

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T: INDASHYIKIRWA

Between 2014-2018- CARE Rwanda, Rwanda Men's Resource Centre and the Rwanda Women's Network, funded by FCDO (formerly DFID) collaborated on the development of **Indashyikirwa** – a couples-based intervention which aims to reduce IPV.

Indashyikirwa was externally evaluated through a community-level randomized controlled trial (RCT) led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council under the What Works to Prevent VAWG FCDO funded programme.

Indashyikirwa was found to REDUCE IPV BY 55%. All types of IPV were reduced among couples recruited from village savings and loan associations. Other benefits included improved relationship quality, household food security and reduced depression.

BUT

A RCT evaluation of a modified version of Indashyikirwa implemented by different partners found the opposite- IPV risk among couples increased and a worsening of the well-being of couples. Follow up research was critical to interrogate the discrepancies and ensure that future adaptations of this intervention did not do harm. Critical findings from these evaluations have shown that differences in project design, duration, management, and implementation largely accounted for differential outcomes. **We now know that program fidelity-specifically quality of implementation is key!**¹

LOCALLY CONCEPTUALISED, LOCALLY LED RESEARCH DONE IN PARTNERSHIP = IMPACT!

A Peru based SVRI Grantee, GRADE- Group of Analysis of Development, partnered with the Peruvian National Police and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to assess the impact of a nationally funded *Home Visits Programme* on intimate partner violence (IPV), after the crime has been reported to the police.²

- The project included a small-scale local validation of a risk assessment tool that the police can use when engaging with women who report IPV.
- UNDP-Peru provided supplementary funding to validate the risk tool at national level and extended the study to include Women's Emergency Centres.
- The validation exercise was concluded in seven months and the Ministry of Women approved the use of the tool in all police stations across the country.
- A key success factor for this project was the integral involvement and partnerships of key local actors early in the project- researchers, funders, the police, and a national ministry – who all saw the potential for innovation, scale up and impact.

The Impact: An improved, evidence-based risk assessment tool that is now mandatory in all police stations to assist in the prevention of further victimisation of thousands of women reporting IPV in police stations across Peru.



TO DO IT WELL - WE NEED MORE RESOURCES GIVEN IN BETTER WAYS.

What are we up against?

Research funding that does exist, is tiny compared to what is required and is largely clustered in high income countries or given to projects run by researchers based in high income countries. Funding for research is often fragmented, project-based, inflexible, short term and donor driven.³

Meanwhile:

Gender restrictive groups- our opponents- are supported in very different ways, receiving large, long term – up to 50 year-and flexible grants. Funding in this way allows these groups to take risks and develop long term strategies and adapt quickly to political and social events.⁴

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The SVRI Advocacy toolkit includes the **Tracking Funding Study**⁵, the **Global Shared Research Agenda**⁶, plus other agenda setting processes and the **Funding Ethically Guide**.⁷ Together these documents address *where* the funding is going, *what* should be funded and *how* to fund better.

The toolkit can be used to advocate for increased and enhanced funding for VAW and VAC research in LMICs - leading to less duplication, better value for money, contextually relevant research, policy, and practice that is evidence informed, and research that is conceptualised and led by researchers in LMICs – building a more equitable and sustainable field to end VAW and VAC.

TRACKING FUNDING

- **Where is the funding going?**
- Less than one percent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA), globally, goes to violence against women programming with even less-0.05% of ODA going to research to understand what works and what doesn't.

GLOBAL SHARED RESEARCH AGENDA

- **What needs to be funded?**
- SVRI and EQI facilitated the co-creation of a Global Shared Research Agenda (GSRA) for VAW that establishes research priorities for the next five years through a consultative process that harnessed multiple and diverse voices in the field, including over 500 researchers, practitioners, funders and activists.

FUNDING ETHICALLY

- **How can funding be better?**
- We need to advocate for a shift towards funding for research that is grounded in feminist principles and supports equitable and accessible processes for LMIC researchers. Looks at how these principles can be converted to practice at each stage of the research process.

Our call to action: We need more funding and better funding that is grounded in feminist principles, acknowledges, and addresses power dynamics, involves honest, transformative relationships between donors and grantees and creates accessible and equitable processes that support priority-driven and impactful research leading to relevant and effective solutions for women's and children's lives!

¹ Comparative Review Insights. Adaptation of Indashyikirwa in Rwanda to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence. SVRI 2022.
² GRADE. Narrative Report to SVRI. 2022.
³ SVRI (2022). 'Tracking the Funding Flows: Funding for Research on Violence Against Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries'. Sexual Violence Research Initiative. Pretoria, South Africa. <https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2022-03-15/Trackingfunding.pdf>
⁴ Martinez, J. et al. Manufacturing Moral Panic: Weaponizing Children to Undermine Gender Justice and Human Rights. 2021. Elevate Children Funders Group and Global Philanthropy Project.
⁵ SVRI (2022). 'Tracking the Funding Flows: Funding for Research on Violence Against Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries'. Sexual Violence Research Initiative. Pretoria, South Africa. <https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2021-09-15/GSRA%20VAWG%20ExecSum%20Sept%202021.pdf>
⁶ SVRI & EQI (2021). Global shared research agenda for research on violence against women in low and middle-income countries. Sexual Violence Research Initiative, Pretoria. <https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2021-09-15/GSRA%20VAWG%20ExecSum%20Sept%202021.pdf>
⁷ Mago, A. & Dartnall, E. (2021). Funding Ethically: Better funding for Violence against Women and Violence against Children Research in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries. Sexual Violence Research Initiative. Pretoria, South Africa.