

# The power of partnerships – working together to achieve more

Partnerships are central to the work of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) – a global network that aims to increase awareness of and promote research on sexual and other forms of violence against women and children in order to influence policy and practice in low- and middle-income countries.

## DONORS

We rely on funders to help us support innovative research, bridge the research-policy divide and build capacity in the field. We aim to promote critical thinking among donors, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to develop effective interventions and responses to sexual and intimate partner violence.

## SVRI MEMBERS

The SVRI is one of the largest global networks in the field, with more than 5 000 members. Our members actively engage with our work by helping us identify research priorities, providing input on our activities and events, and disseminating resources and publications. We regularly seek input from our members through events, blogs, information requests, online surveys, email, the SVRI Help Desk, and social networking platforms.

## Platforms for partnerships

The SVRI Forum and other interactive communication platforms provide a space for our members, researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders to discuss and share their work, network and form partnerships, as well as support our work and contribute to our success.



## SVRI COORDINATING GROUP

The SVRI Coordinating Group represents one of our most vital partnerships. These experts commit their time on a voluntary basis to ensuring that the SVRI addresses gaps in the field and promotes excellence in research. Sustained relationships with donors have also been fundamental to our success. These relationships promote stability, allowing for innovation, building more partnerships and strengthening the field.

## SVRI AND WORLD BANK GROUP DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE

Partnering with organisations is important – one example of a successful partnership is with the World Bank Group. We established the SVRI Grant in 2014 to increase the evidence base for the primary prevention of gender-based violence in low- and middle-income countries. Following the success of this Grant, we partnered with the World Bank Group in 2016 to create the SVRI and World Bank Group Development Marketplace. This partnership has enabled us to double our funding pool, expand our global reach and increase the number of grantees. To date, we have supported 28 research projects in 22 countries.

## GRANTEE PARTNERSHIPS

Our grant mechanisms give preference to north-south and south-south grantee research partnerships, and multidisciplinary teams. Through the grants, existing partnerships have been strengthened and new ones established, allowing researchers to learn from one another. Other benefits include raising awareness and encouraging further research on similar topics.

These grants have also enabled projects to leverage additional funds

from other donor partners to expand and strengthen their research. One study received an additional \$115 000, while another received an additional \$2 million to further its research.

The SVRI is committed to supporting and growing the next generation of researchers and practitioners in the field, and promoting connections between researchers, donors, policy-makers and practitioners, both within the gender-based violence sector and across sectors. We will continue to champion partnerships to promote innovation in the primary prevention of violence against women and children. ■

Grantees have had the following to say about the importance and benefits of partnering on these research grants:

*“This grant truly strengthened a collaborative partnership spanning US academic, Thailand academic, and Thailand-based practice partnerships – each partner brings tremendous strength and a desire to learn from the others.”*

*“There have been several other efforts from other researchers using similar natural experiments to look at the impacts of education on violence since we began this work.”*



For more information visit [www.svri.org](http://www.svri.org) or email [svri@mrc.ac.za](mailto:svri@mrc.ac.za).

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