ABBREVIATIONS

CSA  Child Sexual Abuse
DGMT  DG Murray Trust
GSRA  Global Shared Research Agenda
IPASA  Independent Philanthropic Association of South Africa
LAC  Latin America and the Caribbean
LMIC  Low- and middle-income countries
PTRI  Pathways to Research Impact
SDG  Sustainable Development Goals
SVRI  Sexual Violence Research Initiative
VAC  Violence against Children
VAW  Violence against Women
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What we write and how we write it will bear the watermarks of those we listen to and how we listen and what we do with what we’ve heard.

Virginia Woolf

Connect. Share. Learn. This theme of our five-day SVRI Forum 2022 could, in fact, serve as a motto by which we live our personal and professional lives.

After two years of elbow bumps and Zoom calls, it was wonderful to connect, in person, at the biggest global event focusing on violence against women and violence against children research. Against the backdrop of the azure waters of Cancún, Mexico, over 1,000 delegates from 99 countries came together under the umbrella of one collective learning vision – how to end violence against women and violence against children.

We shared deeply, vastly, passionately, our research and learning, and their affirming, surprising or frustrating outcomes. In dedicated spaces we also shared emotional truths and stories of trauma.

The things we learned were naturally numerous. But one of my key takeaways is this: there must be intention and collaboration to ensure researchers in low-and middle-income countries are sufficiently funded and adequately capacitated to conduct feminist, rigorous and impactful research on VAW and VAC, all the while incorporating a component of self-care and wellbeing.

While the Forum was the most anticipated and involved activity of 2022, it was book-ended by many other opportunities for connecting, sharing and learning. We’ve made great strides in our agenda setting work, using our global framework to inform the regional priority setting for Latin America and Caribbean. I’m thrilled that 2022 also saw us laying the foundation for VAW research agenda setting in Africa, along with priority setting efforts on the intersections of VAC and VAW, and tech facilitated GBV.

This is a reminder that global processes are important in so far as they offer a way to distil towards specificity. Women and children don’t live at the global level, nor at the regional level. We live in countries and most specifically, in communities. Therefore, our job is to use the wisdom contained in the higher-level frameworks to filter and drill down into the spaces where women and children live, work, play, learn and love, spaces impacted and sometimes scarred by violence.

As we enter a new financial year, I reflect on the fact that we are hurtling towards 2030, fully aware that we (as a globe, region, country) are unlikely to attain SDG 5: Gender Equality. The sense of urgency is palpable. The call to use the global SDG platform to fuel action at a local level confirms our position. It mirrors our belief that the litmus test of success is not only in the creation of high-level agendas but supporting evidence building that will make real changes in the lives and realities of women and children marked by violence, particularly those on the margins of society.

Elizabeth Dartnall
SVRI Executive Director
Applications received for the SVRI Research Grant 2023

- 312

Research Grants awarded for 2023/2024

- 9

Online events and webinars

- 15

Questions received as part of research priority setting for the intersections of VAC and VAW

- 463

Registrations for our 3 new online courses

- 2755

Presentations made at the SVRI Forum 2022

- 341

SVRI members who receive the monthly SVRI Update, a roundup of resources on VAW and VAC

- 8398

Delegate-to-delegate exchanges on the Whova App at the SVRI Forum 2022

- 14619

SVRI members who receive the monthly SVRI Update, a roundup of resources on VAW and VAC

- 11533

Countries represented at the SVRI Forum 2022

- 99

New board member joining the SVRI family

- 1

Total downloads of The SVRI Podcast

- 4579

Exhibition stands at the SVRI Forum 2022

- 26
THE 4WS AND 1H OF OUR STORY

WHO WE ARE:
The largest network on research on violence against women and violence against children consisting of over 8,000 members including researchers, practitioners, donors, activists, and policy makers across the globe.

WHERE WE DO IT:
The majority of our members are in Africa, followed by North America, Europe and Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa. SVRI’s operational centre is in South Africa. SVRI intentionally and unapologetically supports research led by researchers in LMICs.

WHAT WE DO:
We support, gather, develop, distil and disseminate knowledge for improving practice, and we facilitate knowledge exchange to develop innovations to strengthen prevention of and response to violence against women and violence against children in low- and middle income countries.

WHY WE DO IT:
Violence against women and violence against children undermine the fundamental human rights of women and children, can cause irreparable physical and emotional harm – even death – and impacts individuals and communities over generations. Existing literature indicates that, despite the prevalence of violence against women, it is often deprioritised as a funding issue. Researchers in LMICs receive disproportionately less resources to address research priorities on violence against women and violence against children at a country level.

HOW WE DO IT:
We are committed to building the field by providing research grants along with bespoke training, technical accompaniment and facilitating knowledge exchanges between grantees and other stakeholders; hosting the SVRI Forum every two-three years; providing multiple platforms for networking, support, information and technical guidance to practitioners/researchers in the field; convening meetings and facilitating collaboration between researchers, practitioners, donors, policy makers and other key decision makers, and developing tools and methods that challenge currently accepted ways of doing research.

Reflecting on our achievements and learnings in 2022 means we explore our actions and their impact in four strategic areas:

1. **GOAL** Building Evidence
2. **GOAL** Strengthening Capacity
3. **GOAL** Promoting Partnerships and Collaboration
4. **GOAL** Influencing Change
THE FAR REACH OF THE SVRI RESEARCH GRANT

Our goal is an increase in innovations tested by strong research designs for improved violence against women and violence against children response and prevention. We adopt several approaches towards making this a reality and the SVRI Research Grant remains a popular and highly effective funding opportunity for researchers in LMICs to deepen and expand research on VAW and VAC. In 2022 we received 312 applications for our Research Grant 2023, which covers a maximum implementation period of 18 months (ending June 2024) and a maximum amount of USD150,000.

In response to this call, we received applications from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South-east Asia, East-Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Europe and Central Asia, as well as research on VAW and VAC across more than one region. After two rounds of reviews from the expert panel, 25 proposals were shortlisted and eventually nine grants were awarded. All due diligence processes have been completed and we look forward to the contributions these new and exciting research projects will make to better understanding and responding to VAW.

As always, we recognise that the level of support during the request for proposal stage can determine the quality of the application and therefore the result. In our commitment to ensure that research organisations in LMICs are better equipped to utilise funding opportunities, we hosted information sessions in English and Spanish, as well as tips on writing winning proposals. Attendees found these resources very useful.

Our 2022 grantees, who were officially recognised and celebrated in a webinar in March 2022, participated in a series of capacity strengthening workshops between June and July. The virtual seminars provided an opportunity for a larger number of grantee team members to understand the grant-making process and troubleshoot any potential issues. It covered topics such as grantees’ science pitches, grant management, research ethics, research methods and tools, research for impact and feminist research. Grantees found the workshops highly valuable and enriching to their grant-related and research processes.

The impact of receiving a research grant from the SVRI was made visible fairly early. Through SVRI brokering, a 2022 grantee, the Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica, was approached by a US-based academic institution to potentially become a partner on an already funded research project on child sexual abuse in Mexico. This type of leveraging is really heartening and we are confident we will see many more similar good-news stories from our other grantees.

Throughout 2022, we continued to support grantees of the SVRI Research Grant 2021, especially as the majority of them were impacted by new waves of Covid-19. We are proud of them since they found ways to conduct most of their planned activities. Where necessary, no-cost-extensions were granted.
IDENTIFYING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES

We continue to disseminate and build on the results of the 2021 Global Shared Research Agenda (GSRA) which represents evidence-informed VAW research priorities for the next five years in LMICs.

GSRA: TOP 5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What types of interventions can effectively prevent multiple forms of violence and why?

2. What types of interventions are most effective for preventing intimate partner violence?

3. How are new feminist social movements positively or negatively influencing individual, social and policy perspectives related to the experience and perpetration of violence?

4. What interventions work to prevent sexual harassment in institutional settings (in-person or online), including in the workplace and educational settings, and why?

5. What are the impacts (including disability-related impacts) of under-researched forms of IPV on women and girls, including emotional and economic IPV, revenge porn and honour-based violence?

The GSRA process has revealed that there are still major research gaps in the VAW field. We are committed to ensuring that the GSRA does not remain simply a document but rather a living guide that informs decisions on VAW research in LMICs. The GSRA must be used for it to be effective. To this end, in addition to the GSRA guiding our own research investments, we are working with the University of Stellenbosch to set a baseline for the GSRA by comparing the agenda with abstracts submitted for presentation at SVRI Forums. We will track this over time to see how what is presented at Forums begins to map onto the research identified by the field as priorities.

With the global level process now complete, we have drawn from this experience to expand research priority setting on VAW at the regional level, taking into account specific regional needs as determined by political, social, economic, cultural and gendered realities. We completed the first regional priority setting for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in May 2022. As part of this process, we undertook a scoping review to help ground the LAC regional priority setting activities in current evidence.
There are few studies on the perpetration of violence. VAW related to sexual and reproductive health or political violence are, thematically, important forms of violence in the region. However, there is a large gap in measuring these forms of violence through primary research methods. 

LAC Research Gaps Report

The same process has begun for Africa; we are working with UN Women East and Southern Africa Regional Office and the West and Central Africa Regional Office to co-create a shared research agenda for VAW in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Advisory Group met multiple times in 2022 and substantial groundwork has been completed. We are adapting our approach to ensure learnings (such as the value of running participatory processes alongside implementing surveys) are incorporated.

The SVRI, UNICEF-Innocenti and WHO are working with the field to generate research priorities for the intersections of VAC and VAW. Holding true to the methodology, 493 persons working in VAC/VAW signed up to be part of the process and were invited to submit key questions. As a result, 463 questions were received from 86 respondents. Using some lessons learned from the GRSA, the questions were thematically grouped, scored, analysed and ranked.

In developing research priorities for VAC and VAW intersections, we learned the top-ranked question to be tackled is - *What are the essential elements of effective integrated programmes to address violence against women and violence against children?* This means a prioritisation of intervention rather than epidemiological research.

In our highly technological environment, understanding how online violence manifests and proliferates, and developing effective responses are all increasingly important. We began a scoping review for a research priority setting process on tech-facilitated gender based violence. We are excited to be partnering with UN Women, the Association for Progressive Communications and the Global Partnership for Action on Gender Based Online Harassment and Abuse on this work.
WIDER, DEEPER, BETTER: STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH IN LMICS

**OUR GOAL:**

Our goal is to see an increase in LMIC-based researchers leading rigorous, impactful, innovative research on violence against women and violence against children. For this to happen, in addition to more and better funding, we all need greater access to tools and materials and opportunities for training and networking.

**DEVELOPING MATERIALS FOR THE FIELD**

Together with our partners and grantees, we’ve developed and published a range of resources. Our publication on the exploration of best practices on feminist research on VAW in development and humanitarian settings, highlights the importance of examining one’s own bias, preconceived ideas and positional power. Feminist research recognises emotions as a source of knowledge and the importance of self- and collective care and wellness within the research process. There must be a focus on promoting human rights principles, better funding, and adhering to ethical guidelines for research in development and humanitarian settings.

“A common theme in our participants’ conception of feminist research methods is that they are participatory in nature, seek to subvert power dynamics, and strive to create meaningful ways of participant engagement.” Denbow, C., & Watson, J. (2023). Feminist research on violence against women in humanitarian and development settings: A snapshot of best practices and challenges, Sexual Violence Research Initiative and COFEM.

Our work on VAC and child sexual abuse (CSA) has reached an exciting stage as we’ve completed a project and report that collated information from a series of processes and dialogues held over 12-18 months, including a review of SVRI’s work on the subject. Complimenting this is the finalisation of a brief scoping review of CSA studies published over the past 10 years in LMICs. The latter revealed no cohesive body of evidence and little connection between, for example, epidemiological research and intervention research. These reports are being used as advocacy and fundraising tools. We are thrilled to have received additional support from the Oak Foundation for CSA-themed work in 2023, and to be joining the University of Edinburgh, Together for Girls and We All Protect Alliance to find solutions in partnership with practitioners to end childhood sexual violence. This project - the Childhood Sexual Violence Solutions Hub – will steward the creation of a dynamic practitioner-centred platform to build, transform and mobilise knowledge to end childhood sexual violence globally.

In partnership with the Equality Insights Lab the IPV-ADAPT+ FRAMEWORK: Guidance for Ethical & Effective IPV Prevention Programme Adaptations was published and disseminated. And with Innovations for Poverty Action, WHO and the South African Medical Research Council we also began work to update existing research ethics and safety guidelines.

The SVRI Blog continues to be a great way for members to share their research, writings, and reflections on violence, including those related to the Forum 2022.
SKILLING FOR THE FIELD: ONLINE TRAINING

We developed an online training platform to pilot the SVRI Pathways to Research Impact (PTRI) online course. There was substantial input from our grantees in relation to the course content and we received close to 400 expressions of interest to participate in the course piloting. A webinar to launch the course was held in September.

In addition, 2022 saw the launching of a number of exciting new courses certain to complement the VAW and VAC research field. Our Violence against children measurement course was piloted in April and launched in September. It examines key issues related to the measurement of violence against children in research studies.

Our Self and Collective Care course, a self-paced online course designed for people who work to prevent and address violence against women and violence against children, was piloted in April and launched in July.

Together with We All Count, we are developing a curriculum for a Data Equity course with the purpose of understanding issues related to the equitable and ethical use of data and mastering the ability to distill the human dimension and meaning from numbers with a focus on violence against women research. We anticipate a high level of interest in this course which will run later in 2023.

GOING IT TOGETHER: PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Our goal is to actively help to build a collaborative and nurturing field where knowledge is shared, and people collaborate with and support each other. Since we thrive on building partnerships, we consistently devise ways to connect key stakeholders in the field, digitally and in person.

THE SVRI FORUM 2022

The five-day SVRI Forum 2022 was undoubtedly one of the most anticipated highlights of the year. After the long shadow of uncertainty, loss, financial hardship and professional turmoil cast by the pandemic, it was wonderful to be able to meet in person again at one of the most popular global events in the VAW and VAC research space. The decision to host the Forum in Mexico was informed by partnerships, costs, accessibility, visa and immigration considerations, among others. A location near to the ocean, with many activities and spaces for reflection was a choice made with well-being in mind. It provided a serene setting with breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea to balance the intensity and painful nature of the conference topics.
A monumental event for the field
It was clear that interest in the Forum was monumental as by March, we had received 1181 abstracts. Forum 2022 was our biggest and most diverse conference to date with:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>1021 delegates</th>
<th>1021 delegates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99 countries</td>
<td>(71% from low- and middle-income countries)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 donors</td>
<td>21 partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 bursaries</td>
<td>225 oral presentations &amp; 116 five-minute presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 workshops</td>
<td>99 countries (16 Spanish speaking countries)</td>
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<tr>
<td>42 participant driven events</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 exhibition stands (a record number)</td>
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Partnership in practice
It was a major accomplishment to have hosted 18 workshops facilitated by SVRI and SVRI’s incredible partners. Hours of work and resources were devoted to preparing and delivering these workshops – provided pro bono – as a service to building capacity in the VAW and VAC field.

“Forum space is changing – we have more activist voices, shifting power, shifting narratives around issues of decolonisation, what constitutes knowledge, whose knowledge, and whose voices are included in the conversation, and we are seeing a real appetite for change. There are more funders engaging in the space and a gap identified is the need for more policymakers. Forum 2022 Attendee”
Accessibility
As always, we made efforts to increase the accessibility of Forum 2022 to those in LMICs and those needing financial assistance. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and partners, out of the 164 applications received, we were able to support 65 bursaries (86% from LMICs)

I received a full bursary to attend the SVRI Forum 2022 to present my PhD research; complemented with an additional bursary for someone to accompany me... SVRI 2019 was accessible, but the 2022 Forum takes the cake. Which conference provides a wheelchair service?! ...This enabled me to experience the full benefit of the conference. What an amazing act of inclusion!
Forum 2022 Bursary recipient

Accessibility also meant ensuring that the Forum was a multilingual space where all delegates could be heard and where translations were intentionally feminist, antiracist, nonbinary and trauma informed. This was important for building partnerships, creating a safe environment, and facilitating robust and honest discussions. We were able to provide interpretation in English, Spanish, and French in the plenary room and English and Spanish in the parallel rooms.

Networking at the Forum
Many Forum participants held internal project or strategy meetings, launched new products, celebrated achievements, and established new initiatives and collaborations. Some Forum funding-related highlights are below:

SVRI Forum 2022 Highlights: Funder and funding related events
The SVRI and the African Women’s Development fund hosted a session “Working towards ethical funding for VAW evidence and practice: a call to action” which highlighted funders’ journeys toward decolonised and ethical funding. This event convened funders, researchers and practitioners and explored principles and politics underpinning ethical funding journeys, key enablers and constraints, and the future of more equitable and ethical funding practice.

The Accelerator for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention hosted an event “What counts? Measuring progress for ‘more and better’ funding and policy to prevent GBV” building on their work to create a shared understanding of what policy and programming should look like to prevent VAW and ensuring it gets the funding it needs.

Centro Las Libres de Información en Salud Sexual hosted a closed event in Spanish looking at critiques and proposals for the prevention of violence against women in Mexico and looking more broadly, the Pan American Development Foundation convened donors, researchers and activists to discuss research and funding practices that have been unintentionally harmful to reimagining funding streams for gender-based violence in Latin America.

On the last day of the conference, the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund hosted a GBV Funder Forum to promote collective action to end gender-based violence through learning and sharing.
With 14,619 delegate-to-delegate exchanges, 46 meet-ups organised, 529 photos shared, and 423 business cards exchanged, the Whova App was an essential networking tool for Forum delegates this year.

Supporting the new generation
The SVRI aims to equip the next generation of researchers and practitioners to undertake high quality research and programming on VAW and VAC. Key to this is our **Young Professionals Programme** which provides mentorship and feedback to new and emerging researchers from LMICs on their conference presentations prior to the Forum. In 2022, we enrolled nine young people into the programme, two of whom received SVRI Forum Awards for their excellent presentations at the event.

Wellbeing at the Forum
As part of our wellbeing strategy, trauma counselling and the SVRI Forum's Brave Room are established elements of each Forum and a service that accounts for the wellbeing of all delegates, conference staff, and vendors. Forum 2022 expanded its care, kindness, and well-being activities at the conference to include activities such as yoga, meditation, dialogue circles, brief chair massages, arts and crafts, dancing, and a “wall of hope.”

I thought the whole event was so trauma-informed and I think that is a huge strength. I really appreciated the support and focus on fun and joy as much as talking about difficult things. **Forum 2022 Attendee**

**FORUM LEARNINGS**

Connection
The single largest learning from the SVRI Forum 2022 was the importance of connecting, in person, with others. The COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation that followed was a rupture, one that invited us to rethink what matters. Many delegates expressed how important it was to be in a collaborative space with others. Connection precipitates moments of discovery, of renewal, of reimagining. Feedback from Forum 2022 was that this convening was particularly special. It brought with it the reconnection to what we had lost: the ability to be together, physically, in spaces in which we generate and share knowledge about how to create a more equitable world. It is in connection with others that we draw the energy needed to fuel our agency and our ability to advocate with tenacity.

Forms of violence
Forum 2022 was an opportunity to reflect deeply, in nuanced ways, about how violence manifests, as well as its effects on people and societies. It created space for thinking about the intersections between violence with different identity markers, such as race, gender identity, spatial location, and physical and mental ability. Research is often a conduit for storytelling, for showing us how the individual ‘story’ of one person is connected to the stories of others.

Forum 2022 helped us think about the interconnectedness of different forms of violence such as the ways in which intimate partner violence is inextricably linked to violence against children. We reflected on how reproductive coercion is woven into the fabric of intimate partner violence, that the violence experienced by a woman with a disability can be deeply connected to economic violence. We saw that as internet access has branched out to reach more people, so have experiences of technology facilitated and online VAW and VAC, bringing with it an impetus to think about what effective online prevention and response should look like.

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1 Used generically here to cover all kinds of data that helps us makes sense of VAW and VAC
In this context, we locate our work in the harsh reminder that femicide is the ultimate form of IPV and that unless we understand the interconnectedness of the ways in which violence presents in the world, we will not respond to VAW and VAC in multi-faceted, layered, and nuanced ways.

**How we do research**

Forum 2022 not only engaged with the question of what we need to do, it also created space for conversation about how we should do it. The ultimate goal that we are working towards is to end violence. In doing so, we have to manage the contestation and conflict that happens as a by-product of this process. We also have to analyse the power dynamics within which we operate. Pivotal to this, were conversations about decolonising knowledge production. Research on VAW and VAC is about changing people’s lives and we have to hold the people whose lives we want to change in front of us. We have to honour the fact that they have thoughts, ideas and contributions to make – that they must make – for knowledge generation to have value.

We also have a responsibility to think about how resources flow, either in ways that perpetuate existing inequities or in ways that seek to transform. Ethically, we have to put much greater effort into changing research practices so that they are participatory, driven by indigenous researchers, and conducted in ways that are culturally competent, respectful, and build trust with local communities.

The role and importance of practice-based knowledge is increasingly being recognised and incorporated into evidence-informed approaches where it provides an additional layer of context, analysis, and intersectionality. It is also increasingly being formalised in projects and used as a key source in knowledge sharing. Yet, there is still much to be done to capture, analyse, and share practice-based knowledge. Identifying and exploring its limitations and strengths, as well as appreciating how it can complement other sources of knowledge and research, are key to integrating this vast source of knowledge.

**Prevention**

Forum 2022 brought to the fore new and exciting work in the field of prevention studies. Research contributions on prevention evidence building and programming added texture to thinking about the risk factors that underpin VAW and VAC. We engaged with thought leadership on VAW and VAC and its links to intergenerational violence, social and community norms, economic stress, family dynamics, substance abuse, the lack of institutional responses, and weak legislative and policy frameworks. We learnt about the work done in humanitarian and displacement settings, illustrating the intricacies of engaging with prevention in the absence of infrastructure and in the presence of deep-seated trauma.

Part of the pathway that we must travel in doing effective prevention is in thinking about how to measure social change, which by its nature, is long-term. What are we measuring? How do we see that which cannot be measured? How do we work with and around this? How do we pin down a problem that is vast and expansive? How do we generate knowledge that is targeted and specific and takes into account the situatedness of knowledge, that accounts for local lived realities?

We engaged with research on how effective programming can contribute to significantly enhancing quality of life. Linked to this, is the need for ongoing research that documents this body of work, which engages with questions of scale and adds colour to thinking about how to do effective impact assessments. Forum 2022 was an opportunity for thinking about prevention holistically. We heard how, for example, unconditional cash transfers linked to community-based case management can contribute to a dynamic process of extrication from experiences of violence and that gender transformative livelihoods, agriculture and skill building can significantly enhance VAW and VAC prevention. Similarly, we saw how work on VAC and VAW in education systems and how parenting interventions are integral to effective community prevention practice. Forum 2022 also got us thinking creatively about programme adaptation and how to design programme interventions that are flexible enough to be adapted to local contexts.
Response
At the centre of a VAW/VAC experience is the woman/child who survived to tell the tale. Effective response services that centre survivors must be properly planned and budgeted for and delivered in ways that are sensitive to avoiding secondary trauma. Survivors of gendered violence encounter a number of barriers in accessing quality services – such as a fragmented referral system that reproduces inequities, the unavailability of services in rural areas, and limited financial resources to leave abusive situations. Many have limited knowledge about legislation and policies and the responsibilities of the professionals who are tasked with their care. Often, professionals provide services in a way that causes harm and can escape accountability.

Local level coordination is important in ensuring a community-responsive action plan to strengthen violence prevention and response. The criminal justice, health and psychosocial support systems play a pivotal role in potentially containing the trauma a survivor experiences or in etching it in indelibly. Similarly, a lack of integration between services can re-ignite, magnify, and entrench a survivor’s sense of trauma. Response services must speak to the elemental forces of care that prevents additional loss and grief. Forum 2022 had much to offer in getting us to think about the territory we seek in effective response services and, importantly, the terrain we wish to avoid.

Working with stakeholders
Forum 2022 gave mind-space to thinking about how different role-players in the VAW and VAC landscape contribute towards social change. It engaged with ways of thinking strategically about building alliances, whether it is with policy makers, with feminist movements, or with men or those working with men. Forum 2022 fired up our imaginations in how we crisscross our paths with others. In thinking about social change as both a long-term project as well as offering possibilities in opening sudden and immediate opportunities. Through Forum we are building a community through which we can build collective action for powerful change. Read the SVRI Forum 2022 Conference Report here.

COLLABORATIVE IMPACT: SVRI’S 2022 EVENTS
Throughout 2022, SVRI, in collaboration with partners hosted a series of online events providing a platform for networking, learning, and advancing solutions to address VAW and VAC. The following list highlights the events hosted by SVRI in 2022, reflecting the diversity and depth of its contributions to the field:

- **Pathways to research impact**: SVRI launched an online course exploring systems approaches for enhancing research uptake and impact in the field of violence against women and children.

- **Leadership, self, and collective care**: This thought-provoking webinar explored the benefits and challenges of integrating collective care into leadership.

- **Decolonising wellness and self-care**: This lively webinar discussed the importance of moving away from individualistic, Western notions of care and wellbeing.

- **Learning series on violence against children**: SVRI hosted an interactive discussion on child participation in research, sharing practical insights from panellists’ experiences. The last of two webinars was hosted during 2022.

- **Learning series: Building bridges and advancing learning on VAW and VAC intersections**: This series included 3 webinars in the build up to SVRI Forum 2022.
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

Over 8,300 SVRI members from all global regions, receive the monthly SVRI Update, a roundup of resources on violence against women and violence against children. The SVRI Help Desk is a platform for queries and requests for information including those emanating from the SVRI Update, as well as partnerships requests, information requests, contacts for colleagues in the field, and internship opportunities. During 2022, the number of requests per month ranged from 64 in March to 285 in July.

We’ve spent much of 2022 developing the SVRI Knowledge Hub, an innovative portal created to house our substantial number of resources and facilitate sharing of information between partners and stakeholders. Our designer has been hard at work refining the new website with fresh images and updated content, and ensuring the various pages facilitate a user-friendly experience. We will launch the new website in 2023.

We continue to share information through our various social media platforms and in the last 12 months, we’ve seen a notable increase in the number of followers on these networking platforms. As of February 2023, our social media following stood at:

- LinkedIn: 11533
- Instagram: 991
- Facebook: 7986
- Twitter: 8300

All our videos can be viewed on the SVRI YouTube Channel: SVRI - Sexual Violence Research Initiative

INFLUENCING CHANGE

OUR GOAL:

Our goal is for increased resources to be mobilised and used effectively for violence against women and violence against children research and evidence-based practice in LMICs.

ENGAGING FUNDERS ON GOOD PRACTICE FOR FUNDING

At SVRI we have co-developed multiple resources that we use as an advocacy toolkit to help inform donor practices and decisions. These resources highlight the inequities, and power imbalances in how research is conceived, conducted and resourced and allow us to advocate for rebalancing power and
shifting resources, in better ways, to LMICs and LMIC-based researchers. These are:

- **Tracking funding** for research on VAW in LMICs that examines who is funding VAW research, and by how much; and,
- **Global Shared Research Agenda (GSRA)**, which details research questions identified by the field as key knowledge gaps;
- **Ethical funding guidelines** that look at how to fund research on VAW and VAC in LMICs.

In 2022, we shared the above resources with the Independent Philanthropic Association of South Africa (IPASA) and participated in the IPASA Symposium presenting on a panel on shifting funding practices to be equitable and rooted in trust-based philanthropy.

We also participated in the Human Rights Funders Network meeting (HRFN) in Oaxaca, Mexico and co-facilitated a session on decolonising research and funding with Fondo Semillas, a national women’s fund in Mexico.

In both cases we were able to demonstrate, using evidence, the importance of supporting researchers in LMICs to identify and lead research projects relevant to the country and community context. Sadly, promoting this approach to research requires ongoing advocacy – something the SVRI remains vocal about and committed to.

**PROMOTING RESEARCH UPTAKE**

The SVRI Podcast examines issues on violence driven by gender inequality. Through the podcast, we present various perspectives on the many components that make up research and evidence building on VAW and VAC. Some of our episodes have included issues relating to religion, power and ethics in research, the women’s movement, engaging men and boys, decolonising funding, and technology and VAW and VAC, among others. Season 2 began in July 2022.

The podcast is proving increasingly popular and by February 2023, we had over 4,500 total downloads (an average of 131 plays per episode), on three major apps (Apple 53.1%; Spotify 26.2%; and Anchor 10.7%) and across several geographical locations (21% USA; 11% UK; 5% South Africa; and 5% Germany).

We have been approached by several organisations who are interested in working with us and have a similar vision for creating a digital space for discussions around VAW. Considering that the Commission on the Status of Women 2023’s priority theme is ‘Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’, we are deepening our footprint into a very relevant space.

Our services to the field of VAW and VAC research are multi-pronged and demonstrated through, among others, contributions to research papers and publications.
THE (GROWING) SVRI FAMILY

STAFF CHEERS

SVRI staff members have made use of wonderful capacity strengthening opportunities in the last year. Morma Moremi, SVRI’s Administration and Knowledge Manager, completed her 12-month DG Murray Trust (DGMT) Fellowship for Organisational Innovation. As a programme to unlock the talent and leadership potential of young people, Morma is a strengthened position to help SVRI make even more organisational impact. Morma was invited for an interview by the SABC News to share her personal experience of the DGMT.

SVRI staff also participated in the kNOwVAWdata online course, a four-module professional development course on measuring the prevalence of violence against women, including mentoring and technical support, as well as the online course on Research Impact run by UK based Different Angles. As part of ongoing mentoring, Lizle Loots, SVRI’s Partnerships Specialist, attended the Violence Prevention Forum’s Facilitation Course.

Since our mid-term review, generously supported by Sida, we have strengthened our focus on Monitoring and Evaluation within the organisation.

OUR BOARD

Our board members continue to provide sterling guidance, prudent budgetary insight, and assistance to the Executive Team as we commit to creating the best workplace environment and remuneration options for our staff. A big welcome to new board member, Yvonne Themba. As an HR strategist, Yvonne brings a wealth of knowledge and board experience in both the non-profit and private sectors.

Dr Chi-Chi Undie:
Board Chairperson

Nomsa Mokhele:
SVRI’s Operations Director

Craig Harding:
Chartered Accountant and co-director of Insurance Studio Consulting

Yvonne Themba:
Human Resources & Talent Management Professional

Elizabeth Dartnall:
SVRI’s Executive Director
OUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our Leadership Council is instrumental in helping us to make sound strategic and programmatic decisions. Their support before, during and after Forum sessions was invaluable.

**Dr Chi-Chi Undie**
(LC Co-chair; Board Chair)
Senior Associate, Reproductive Health Program, Population Council, Kenya

**Alessandra C Guedes**
(LC Co-chair)
Manager, Gender and Development Research, UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, Italy

**Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno**
(SVRI Scientific Forum Chair)
Team Lead, Gender, Reproductive Rights and Sexual Health, World Health Organisation, Geneva

**Professor Rachel K Jewkes**
Executive Scientist, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa

**Elizabeth Dartnall**
Executive Director, SVRI, South Africa

**Professor Heidi Stöeckl**
Professor of Public Health Evaluation, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany

**Tesmerelna Atsbeha**
Senior Program Officer, Women’s Rights Team, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, USA

**Professor Kumudu Wijewardena**
Emeritus Professor of Community Medicine, University Sri Jaywardeanpura, Sri Lanka

**Joanna Włodarczyk**
Head of Research, Empowering Children Foundation

SVRI TEAM

**Elizabeth Dartnall**
Executive Director

**Nomsa Mokhele**
Operations Director

**Morma Moremi**
Administration and Knowledge Manager

**Lizle Loots**
Global Partnerships and Network Manager

**Julienne Corboz**
Technical Specialist

**Anik Gevers**
Technical Specialist

**Ayesha Mago**
Global Advocacy Director

**Amy Riley-Powell**
Technical Specialist

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

SVRI core and project funding partners:

- [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)](https://www.sida.se)
- [Wellspring Philanthropic Fund](https://www.wellspring.org)
- [Ford Foundation](https://www.fordfoundation.org)
- [USAID Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV)](https://www.usaid.gov)
- [Co-Impact](https://co-impact.org)

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- [Co-Impact](https://co-impact.org)

- [Spotlight Initiative](https://www.spotlightinitiative.org)
- [UNFPA](https://www.unfpa.org)
- [UN Women](https://www.unwomen.org)
- [Jhpiego](https://www.jhpiego.org)
- [Australian Volunteers](https://www.australianvolunteers.org)
- [Womenkind Worldwide](https://www.womenkindworldwide.org)
- [Frontiers in Reproductive Health](https://www.frontiersin.org)