



# “Voices from the South”

Engaging men & boys and Starting young

Contributing to the production of evidence on VAW and VAC

11 NOVEMBER 2021  
4-5 PM SAST / 9-10 AM EDT



# HOUSE KEEPING



Launch : **60min**

Session is being recorded

Webinar participants are muted

Please introduce yourself in the chat & put questions in the Q&A box

Wordly translation services are available

Share materials via email and on: [www.svri.org](http://www.svri.org)



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*Q&A Moderated by Diana Arango, World Bank Group*

*Thanks, and session is closed: Elizabeth Dartnall, SVRI* brts presentation, 2021

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# What is the evidence telling us on what works in engaging men and boys in interventions to prevent VAW?

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Prof. Rachel Jewkes

Executive Scientist for Research Strategy

South African Medical Research Council



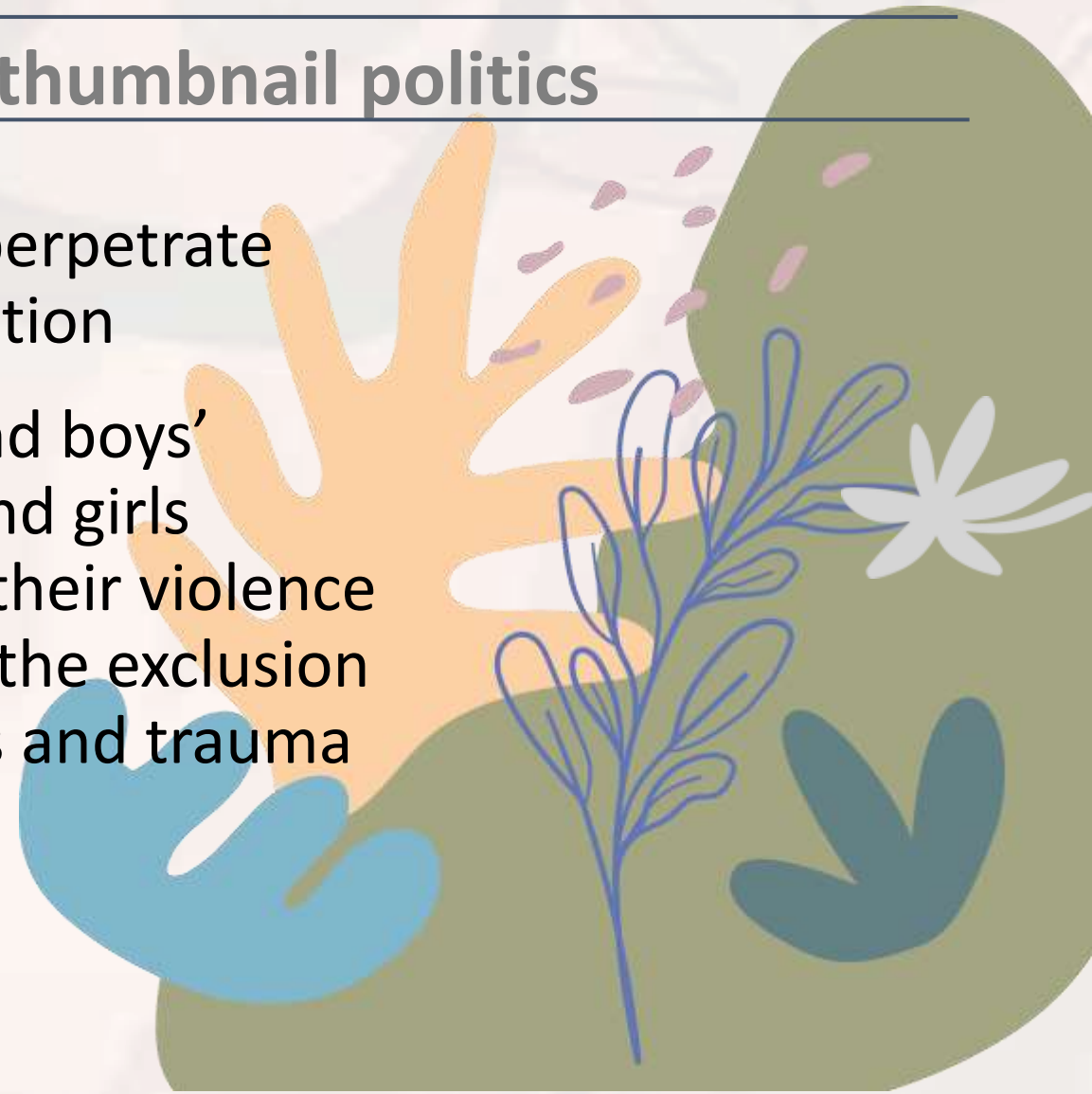


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## Engage men and boys: thumbnail politics

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- Based on the premise that those who perpetrate violence should be central to its prevention
- However, investing in ‘engaging men and boys’ without centrally positioning women and girls enables men to have a dialogue about their violence without any restitution – perpetuating the exclusion of women and girls and their narratives and trauma

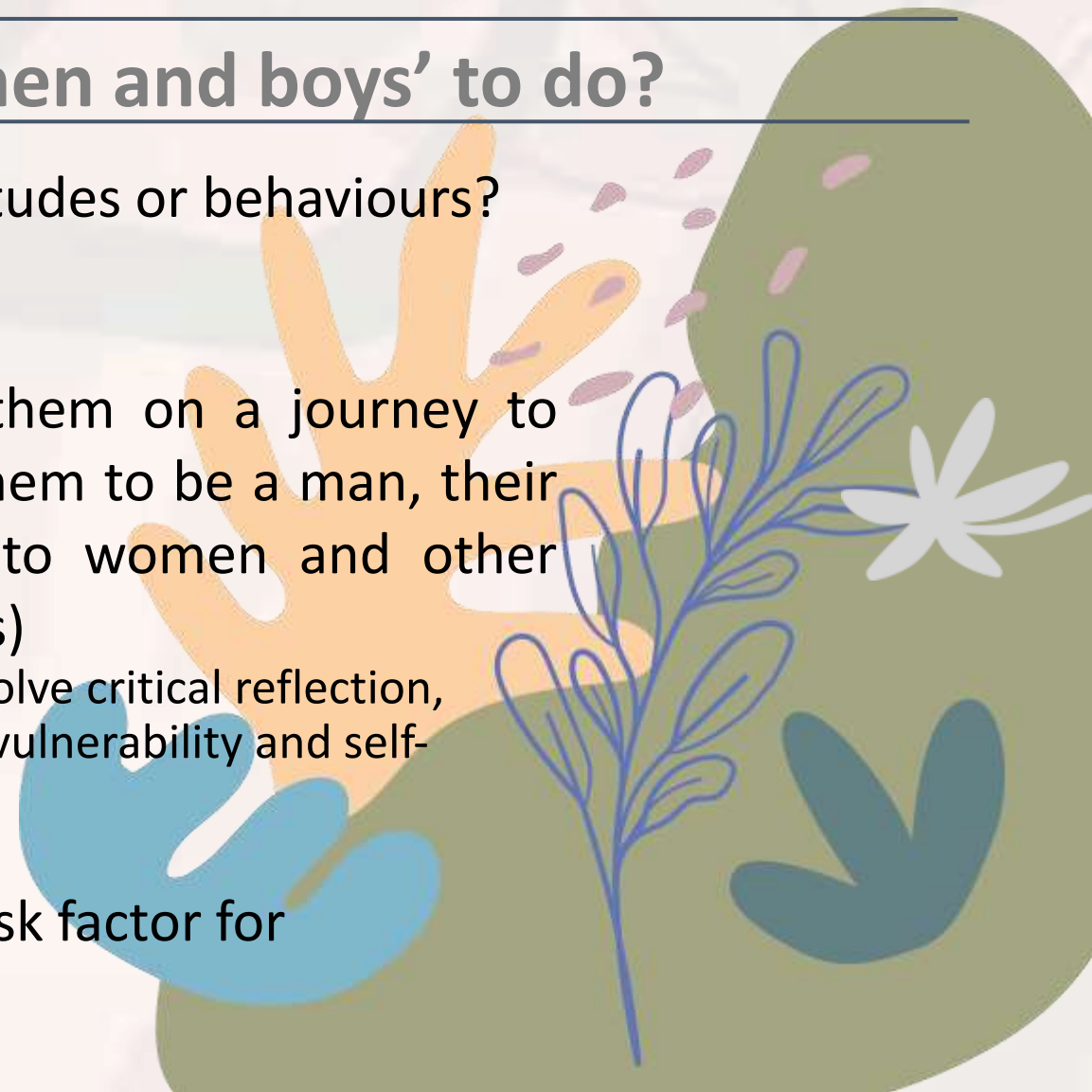


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## What are we 'engaging men and boys' to do?

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- Is it engagement to avoid/correct certain attitudes or behaviours?
- *Or*
- Are they being engaged in order to take them on a journey to fundamentally question what it means for them to be a man, their power and position and how they relate to women and other genders? (gender transformative approaches)
  - NB Gender transformative approaches always involve critical reflection, participatory approaches, reflecting on ones own vulnerability and self-awareness in relation to others
- Or else – engaging them to address a major risk factor for perpetration seems to be effective – alcohol



# Gender transformative programming at the point of new fatherhood

- In parenting programmes to reduce IPV and prevent child maltreatment e.g Bandebereho (Rwanda) have been very effective
- Introduced at a life stage when men seem more open to reflect on their identity as men

## SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE

3  
interventions

**3 interventions from global evidence review:** REAL (Uganda); Family Foundations (US), Bandebereho (Rwanda).

2 Africa

0 Central and South Asia

3  
RCT/quasi-  
experimental  
studies

**2 with positive impact on VAWG:** Participatory, small group sessions of critical reflection and dialogue ('Bandebereho') with expectant/current fathers in Rwanda (Doyle et al., 2018); a nine-session transition-to-parenthood intervention ('Family Foundations') in the US (Feinberg et al, 2016).

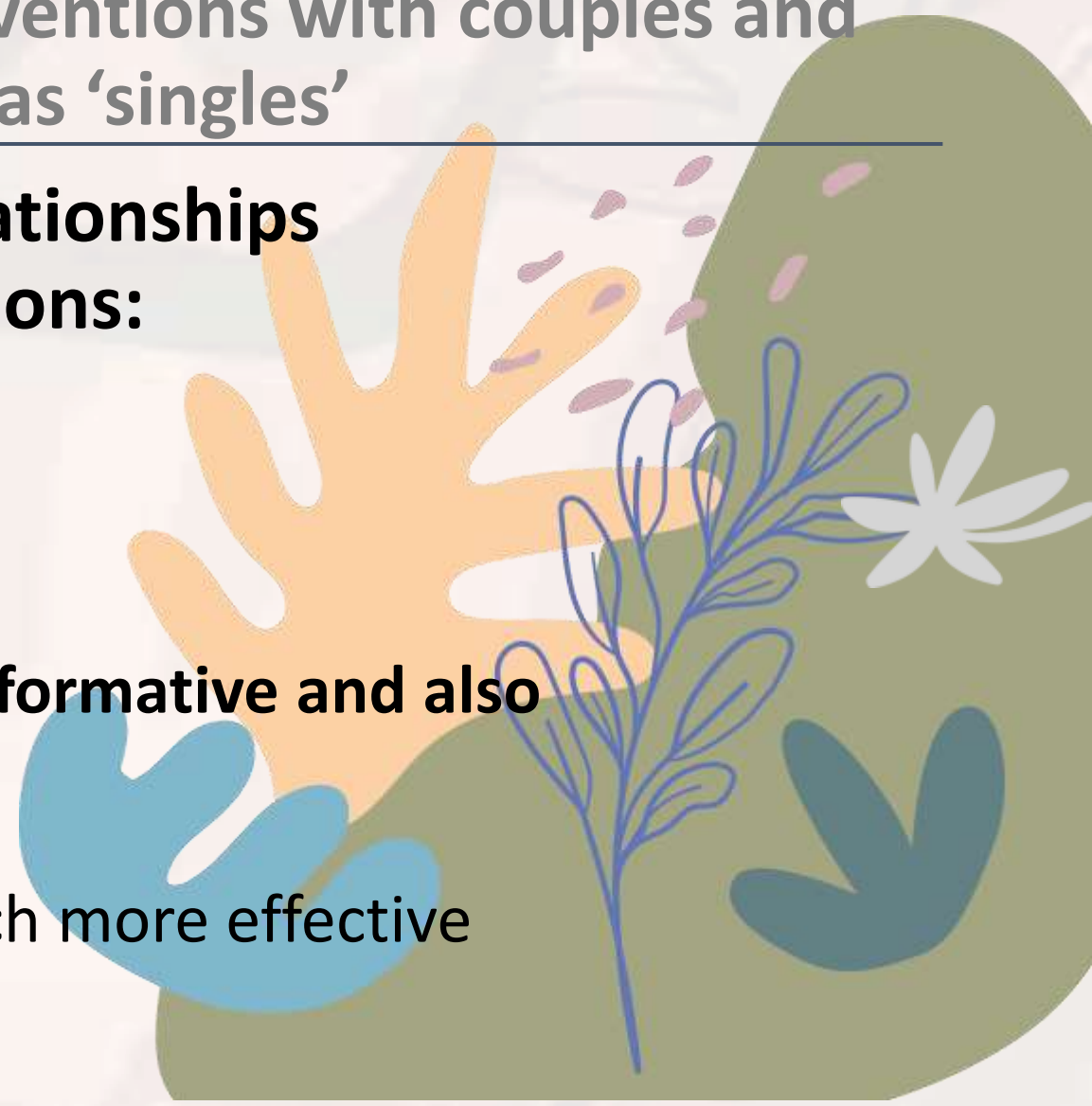
**1 with promising impact on VAWG:** REAL fathers in northern Uganda (Ashburn, Kerner, Ojamuge, & Lundgren, 2017).

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# Relationship strengthening interventions with couples and men and women as 'singles'

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- **Strong evidence comes from relationships strengthening couples interventions:**
  - Indashyikirwa in Rwanda
  - Stepping Stones in Gambia
- **These interventions are gender transformative and also build relationship skills**
- Stepping Stones in South Africa – much more effective for men





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## Engaging men and boys in social norms change interventions

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- Required for the intervention type as whole community engagement is essential

### **Examples of very good results – where relationships are strengthened:**

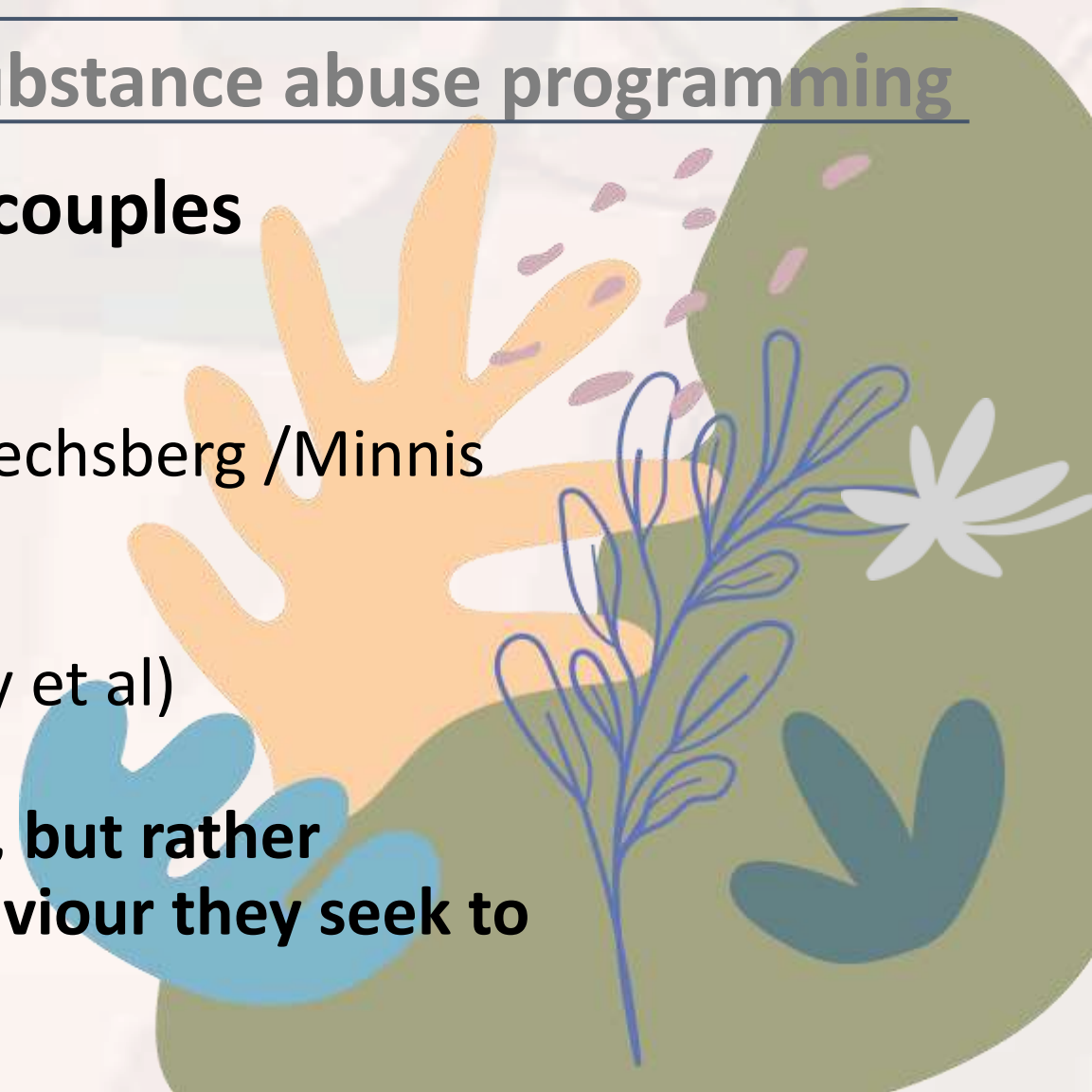
- E.g. SASA! Evaluation in Uganda (NB qual evaluation)
- Transforming Masculinities in DRC – couples workshops provided alongside work with clergy, pop-up engagement and survivor support
- Interventions with other emphases not been successful – One Man Can / Sonke Change intervention
  - Also issues of intervention design and implementation

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## Couples interventions in IPV and substance abuse programming

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- **Strongest evidence comes from couples interventions:**
- The Couples Co-op in South Africa (Wechsberg /Minnis et al)
- VATU Intervention in Zambia (Murray et al)
- **These are not gender transformative, but rather programme with couples as the behaviour they seek to change is reinforced in the couple**

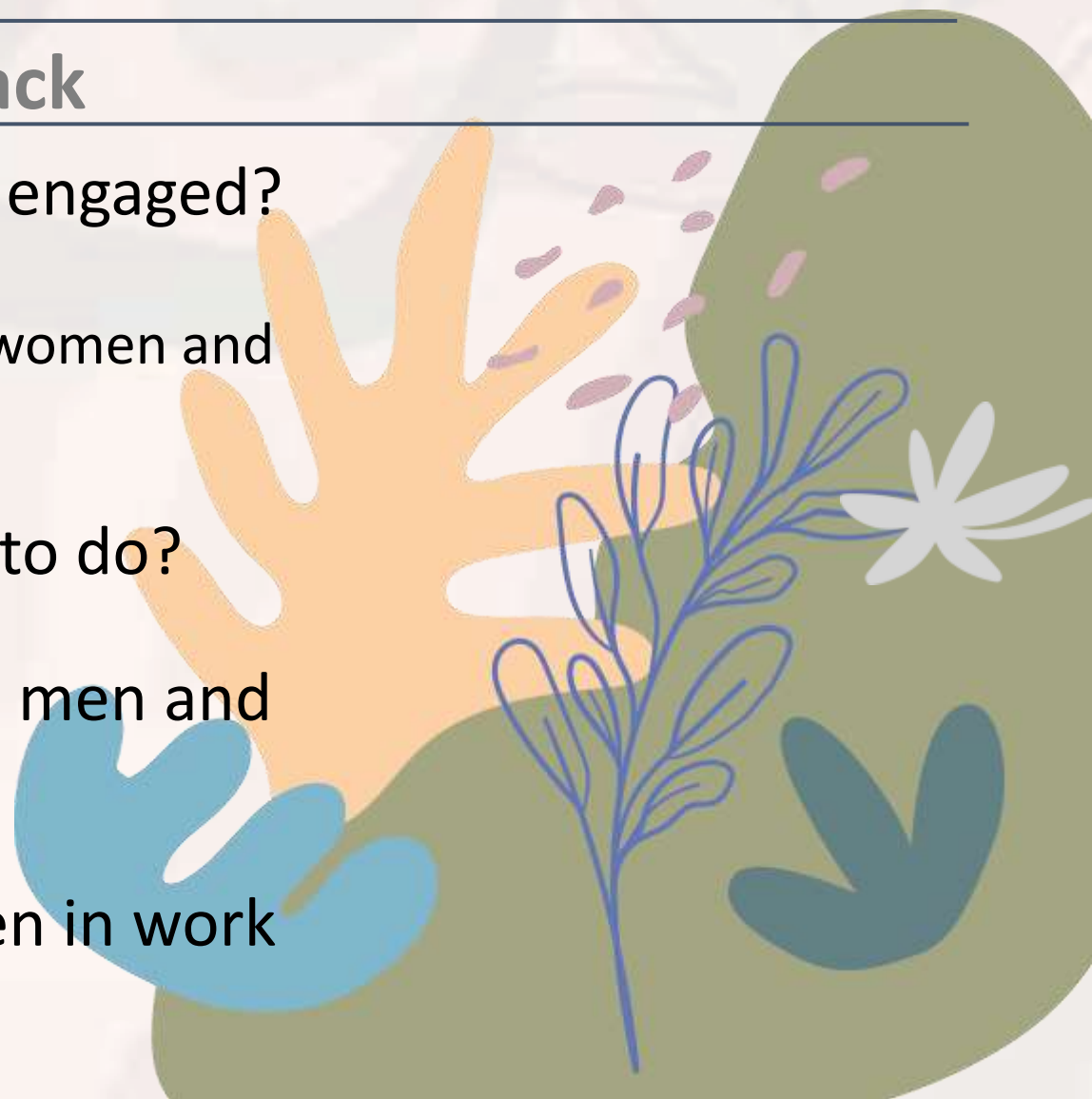


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## Circling back

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- Critical question: **how** are men and boys engaged?
  - Is this only working with men and boys? *Or*
  - Working with men and boys as well as with women and girls?
- Critical question: **what** are they engaged to do?
- Key challenge: How do we avoid teaching men and boys the talk without the walk?
- Answer lies in centrally positioning women in work with men

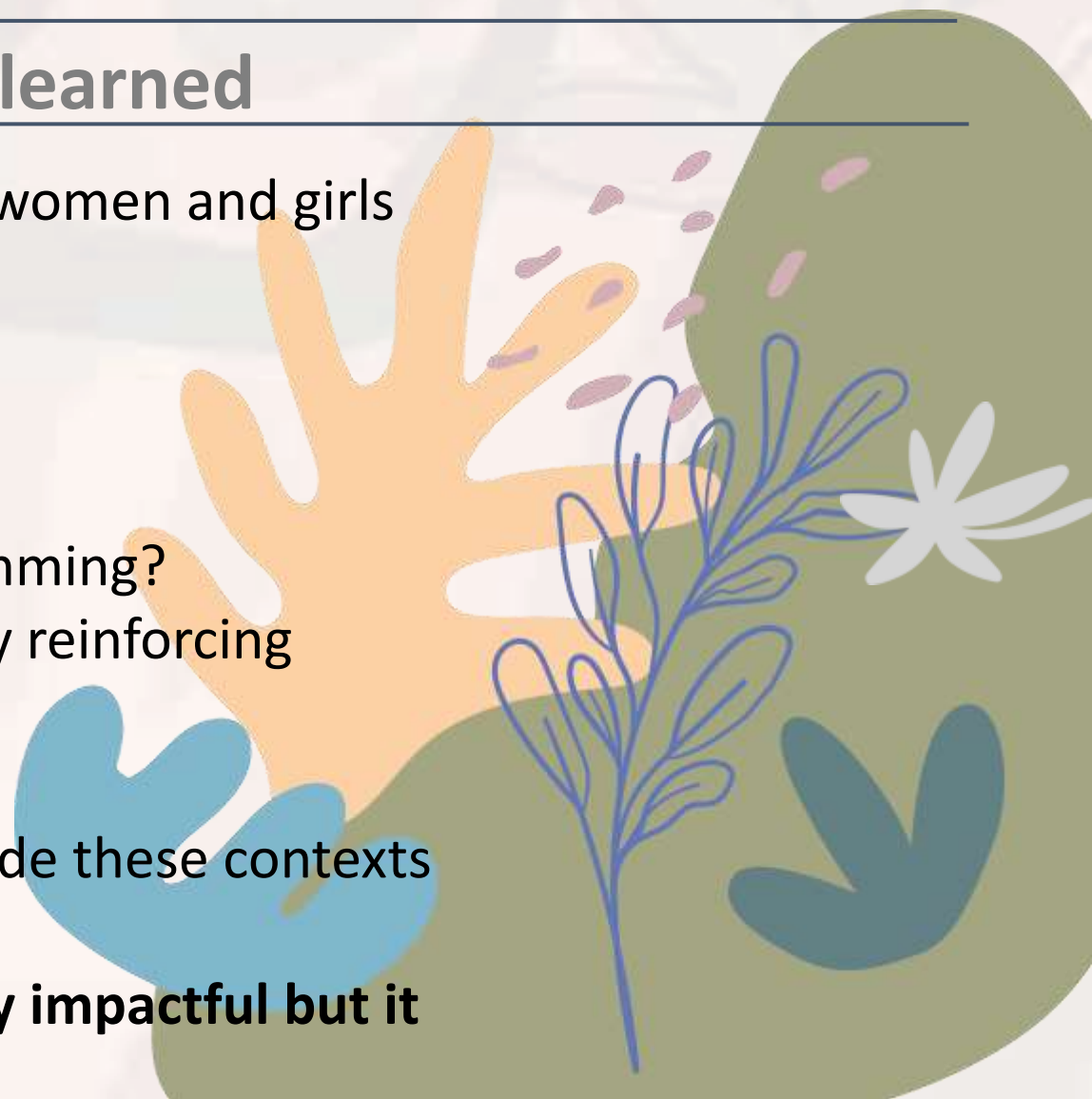


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## What have we learned

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- Involving men and boys in interventions with women and girls can be very successful
- Key questions about how and why it is done?
- Is the focus on gender transformative programming? relationship strengthening? changing mutually reinforcing behaviour?
- Or
- Changing men's behaviour and attitudes outside these contexts
- **Working with men and boys can be incredibly impactful but it requires thoughtful programming**





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# Our grant-making programme

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## Research led by local people and institutions:

- helps to identify relevant issues
- promotes democratic participation in the research process
- enables closer engagement with the communities affected.

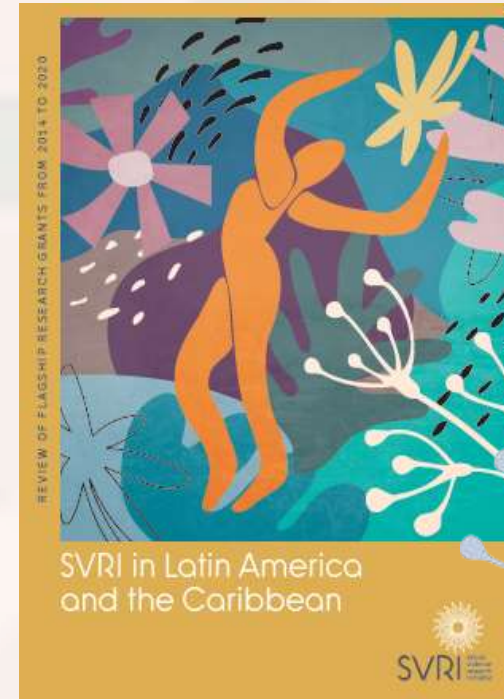
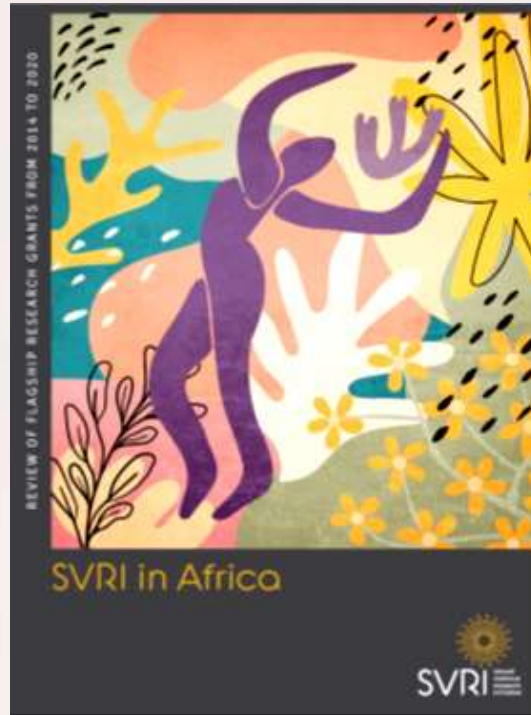
## Our grant programme:

- Started in 2014 and calls for proposals each year
- Supports researchers in and from LMICs
- In the period 2014 – 2020 funded 60 projects with over USD 5 million
- Up to date, has funded 68 research programs in 36 countries with over \$7 million

## TOTAL GRANTS 2014-2020

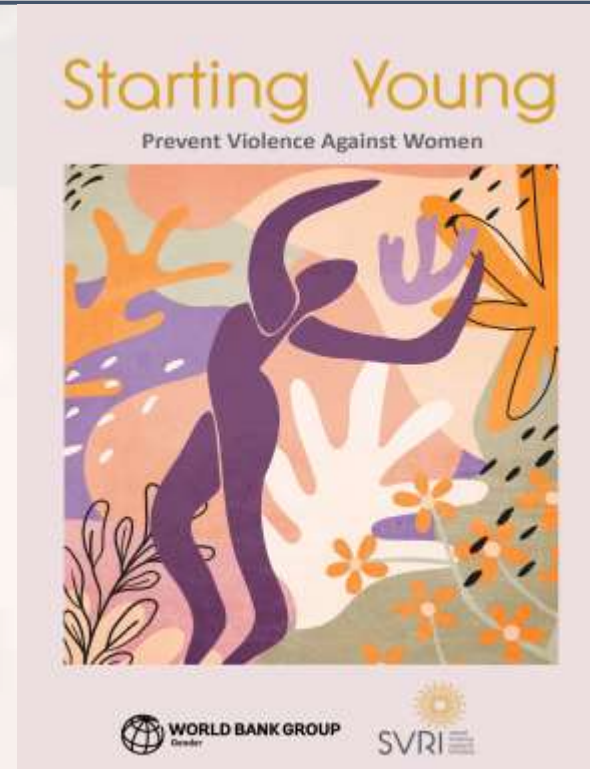
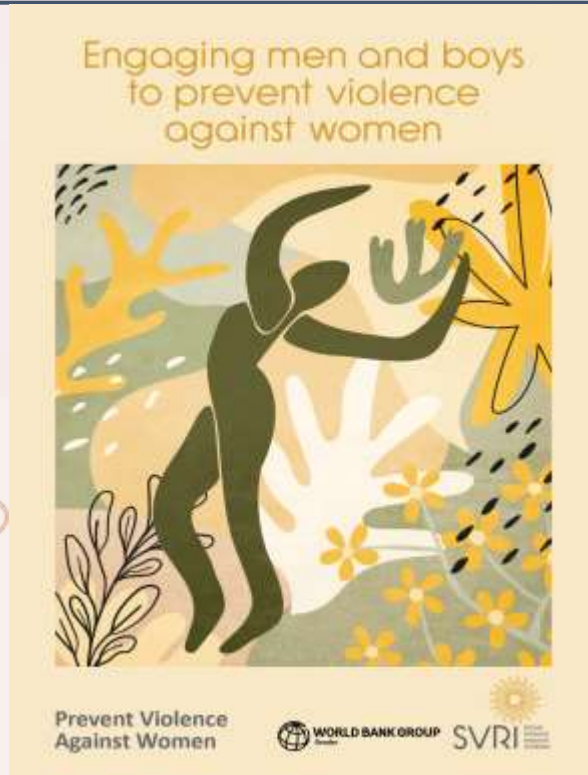


# Regional reports



- Reports launched and available online

# Thematic briefs



- Showcase selected research projects in different regions
- Summarise scope, results and impact of work
- Share evidence created in partnerships including researchers in low- and middle-income countries



# Parenting for Respectability - Uganda



- Targeting parenting in Uganda (Wakiso, central Uganda)
- A 15-week programme targeted parents to reduce partner violence and violence against children.

## KEY FINDINGS:

- **30%** drop in spousal violence
- **27%** drop in harsh parenting

Community members and participants were positive about the programme and its delivery structure, showing the importance of designing interventions for local communities.



# Living Peace in the DRC: An impact evaluation of an intervention with male partners of women survivors of conflict-related rape and IPV



- The violence at home has stopped in 30 out of 40 families since 2013
- Men (37) have accepted their wives after they were raped, as well as the children that were born after rape (12)

- 10 families reported relapses of men's behaviour, primarily due to alcohol abuse or conflict and stress around money/unemployment
- Women in 10 families with relapses of the husband did not experience physical or sexual violence anymore.

The **methodology has been adapted:** adolescents taken hostage by Boko Haram in Far north Cameroon; school-based programmes for Syrian adolescents in refugee settlements in Lebanon; youth associated with violent urban gangs in Kinshasa; communities of high urban violence in Pittsburgh, US.



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## School Action Groups programmes to prevent VAWG in Papua New Guinea

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- The research project aimed to improve the design and activities of the programme through a participatory process that included interviews with students. New set of activities and materials developed
- **Schools became more open to facilitating School Action Groups clubs** because they saw positive changes in the way students engage with one another and become positive peer role models

# Evaluating the potential of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for prevention of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among young people in Mexico City: Data analysis, dissemination, and translation of research to practice



- 2 hours curriculum on SRHR and GBV – well trained health educators
- Participants gained new skills and insights: reflected on gender roles and norms and learnt to identify types of violence within relationships; how to support each other to address intimate partner violence; began to address harmful behaviours in their own relationships; more prepared to seek information and support
- Study results reinforce the importance of schools as a spaces for violence prevention and have implications for educational policies on sex education
- The findings have also supported regional initiatives in Peru, Ecuador, Guyana and Bolivia, aimed at strengthening gender-sensitive training for educators



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# The SVRI Podcast on Engaging Men

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- Listen to the first Sexual Violence Podcast by the SVRI  
<https://anchor.fm/svri/episodes/1-Engaging-Men-e19n58r>



# Q & A



SVRI sexual  
violence  
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