African Shared Research Agenda
Regional Expert Group Meeting

6 December 2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00-14:10</td>
<td>Opening and Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:10-14:15</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:15-14:35</td>
<td>Developing an African Shared Research Agenda: Our approach and process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:35-14:50</td>
<td>How to Generate Research Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:50-15:10</td>
<td>Discussion/ Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:10-15:15</td>
<td>Next Steps, Appreciation and Closing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For too long research agendas have been set by too few, often the loudest, most senior in the room.
Why a shared research agenda?

1. **Identify** evidence gaps
2. **Assist** research planning and fundraising
3. **Serve** as an advocacy tool
4. **Serve** as a monitoring tool
5. **Guide** SVRI grant-making
Child Health Nutrition Research Initiative – CHNRI

A methodology for systematic priority setting
CHNRI Approach

- Define domains
- Define boundaries in space (e.g., Global or LMIC)
- Define boundaries in time (e.g., next ten years)
- Define population of interest (e.g., adolescents/all)
- Define research interest (e.g., sexual violence)
- Use technical experts to assess likelihood of desired outcomes within this context
Definition of Priority Criteria

Answerability
(answerable, ethical, existing research capacity, wide approval?)

Relevance / Usefulness
(effective, deliverable, affordable, sustainable, addressing critical gap?)
Criteria Will Vary

Answerability?  Attractiveness?  Novelty?
Effectiveness?  Potential for translation?
Public opinion?  Affordability and cost?
Ethical aspects?  Sustainability?
Equity?  Maximum potential impact on burden?
Feasibility?  Community involvement?
Local research capacity?  Generating patents?
CHNRI Method: Scoring

- Answers a) yes (1 points), b) no (0 point) or c) I don’t know (0.5 points)
- Not enough knowledge – leave blank
- Sum of scored divided by the number of received informed answers (blanks left out)
- Results in research priority scores (RPS) between 0 and 100%
• Each research option will receive intermediate scores for each of the criterion (based on input from technical experts)
Advantages of CHNRI methodology?

- Measures collective optimism of technical experts
- **Advantages and disadvantages** of each research option become transparent, and the scores are intuitive
- **Transparently** presents opinions of many technical experts on all research options: **limits personal bias** and prevents a few individuals from dominating the process
- Presents a **simple quantitative outcome**
How we are adapting CHNRI
Scoping review: 474 papers

Number of papers by region

- Eastern Africa: 234
- Southern Africa: 51
- Middle Africa: 68
- Western Africa: 108
- Multi-regional: 12

- Western Africa:
  - Chad: 7
  - Central African Republic: 13
  - Gabon: 9
  - Congo: 7
  - DR Congo: 10
  - Angola: 13
  - Zambia: 14
  - South Sudan: 11
  - Sudan: 17
  - Ethiopia: 12
  - Somalia: 56
  - South Africa: 103
  - Botswana: 11
  - Namibia: 13
  - São Tomé and Príncipe: 7

- Southern Africa:
  - Madagascar: 65

- Middle Africa:
  - Western Sahara: 4
  - Mauritania: 7
  - Mali: 9
  - Guinea: 15
  - Burkina Faso: 5
  - Senegal: 14
  - Guinea-Bissau: 17
  - Gambia: 11
  - Ghana: 16
  - Côte d’Ivoire: 17

- Eastern Africa:
  - Eritrea: 11
  - Kenya: 13
  - Tanzania: 13
  - Uganda: 15
  - Rwanda: 15
  - Burundi: 16
  - Seychelles: 17

- Multi-regional:
  - 17 multi-country
Thematic focus of papers

- Majority of papers attempt to understand VAWG in its multiple forms – mostly prevalence and associations/drivers/risk factors.
- More than three times the number of papers on VAWG prevention interventions than VAWG response interventions.
- Papers on prevention interventions mainly target intimate partner violence (IPV) (n=73). 14 papers target non-partner sexual violence (mainly in conflict settings), 8 papers target reduction of early marriage, and 6 papers target FGM.
- Majority of papers on VAWG response related to health response – few related to justice, legal or other forms of response.
Few papers related to VAWG prevention and response at scale. Most common thematic focus in this domain is the costing of VAWG prevention interventions; and early marriage interventions at scale.

Few papers related to measures and methodologies for VAWG research – themes include methods to measure social norms; ethical issues in VAWG research (particularly in conflict settings); methodologies for costing studies; and innovative methods to measure prevalence of violence.
Types of VAWG

Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents and young people</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant or post-partum</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex workers</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with disabilities</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IPV: 61%
Sexual violence: 16%
"GBV": 16%
FGM: 7%
Early marriage: 6%
Development of domains

Domain 1
Research on understanding VAWG in its multiple forms

Domain 2
VAWG response interventions

Domain 3
VAWG prevention interventions

Domain 4
VAWG prevention and response at scale

Domain 5
Measures and methodologies
Advisory Structures

**STEWARDSHIP GROUP**
SVRI + UN Women
+ Consultant with expertise in CHNRI

**ADVISORY GROUP**
20+ experts in VAW prevention & response

**REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP**
400+ representing diverse voices
The Process

1. Scoping review
2. Question gathering
3. Consolidate questions
4. Scoring, analysis, report writing
5. Advisory Group & Regional Expert Group Consultations
6. Wide dissemination

Advisory Group – domains and criteria
Advisory Group Validation Workshop
## Role of the Advisory Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1: Call for research questions</th>
<th>First meeting of the Advisory Group</th>
<th>Jul 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review key domains &amp; criteria</td>
<td>Sept - Dec 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey 1 - research questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2: Consolidation</td>
<td>Review questions</td>
<td>Jan 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3: Scoring</td>
<td>Disseminate second online survey on scoring of consolidated questions (AG &amp; REG)</td>
<td>Jan – Feb 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4: Validation workshop</td>
<td>Participate in an online workshop to validate the results of the priority setting exercise</td>
<td>April 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review draft report of findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5: Dissemination</td>
<td>Review communications</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act as ambassadors for / support dissemination</td>
<td>June 2023 +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Role of the Expert Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formation of Expert Group</strong></td>
<td>Participate in introductory webinar on the African Shared Research Agenda process and contribute research questions to be considered</td>
<td>Dec 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scoring</strong></td>
<td>Complete online survey and disseminate online survey on scoring of consolidated questions (AG &amp; REG)</td>
<td>Jan 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Validation workshop** | Participate in an online workshop to validate the results of the priority setting exercise  
Review draft report of findings | April 2023 |
| **Dissemination** | Act as ambassadors for / support dissemination | June 2023 + |
Time requirements & Advantages

Approximately 4–6 hours of time over the January 2023–June 2023 period

Opportunity to contribute to shaping and establishing a regional shared research agenda that will benefit researchers, practitioners (including women’s rights and feminist organizations and networks), funders, policy-makers and others in or working in Africa.
Membership criteria

- Research, academic or practitioner experts with specific expertise in diverse forms of VAWG in Africa (including child marriage or FGM)

- Research, academic or practitioner experts with specific expertise in diverse and marginalized groups (e.g. LGBTQI, women and girls with disabilities, youth and adolescent girls, indigenous women and girls, displaced or migrant women and girls, among others), across the continent

- Research, academic or practitioner (including activist) experts with experience in different geographical and context settings across East and Southern and Central and West Africa (including in fragile and humanitarian settings)

- Policy makers, including from multilateral organisations, practitioners and donors based in or with a focus on the region.

- Able to engage in English, French or Portuguese, Arabic or Swahili according to timelines of the process
DEVELOPING RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SUBMITTING QUESTIONS
UPDATE ON RESEARCH QUESTION DEVELOPMENT (STATUS OF INPUTS RECEIVED)

Domain 1 – Understanding VAWG

Domain 2 – VAWG response interventions

Domain 3 – VAWG prevention interventions

Domain 4 – VAWG prevention and response at scale

Domain 5 – Measures and methodologies

Other Questions

- English: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3SP9FP9
- French: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3S5Q7W8
NEXT STEPS & THANK YOU!

- Submit research questions by end December 2022
- Complete survey questionnaire
  - January 2023
- Participate in validation workshop (virtual)
  - April 2023
- Share African shared research agenda process with networks – act as ambassador
  - Ongoing