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SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Report of Evaluation Findings

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Executive Summary

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) is a global project that promotes research on sexual violence in order to improve policy and service delivery.

In March 2010 the Global Forum for Health Research commissioned an external evaluation of the SVRI. This report details the methods and findings of that evaluation.

Using archival review and key informant interviews, the evaluation assessed key progress indicators and six dimensions of the SVRI's performance: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, institutional development, complementarity, and sustainability.

Highlights of the findings include:

- The SVRI has made great strides in a relatively short time. It has shown substantial increases in its membership and geographic reach. It has demonstrated substantial increases in both its online and in-person offerings.
- The aim, objectives and activities of the SVRI demonstrate consistency and relevance.
- SVRI participants reported increased awareness of global perspectives and that they use SVRI resources to promote general awareness of sexual violence in their communities and regions.
- SVRI participants reported increases in their capacity for conducting research. There were some reports of research projects that have grown directly out of connections made through the SVRI.
- SVRI publications and conference proceedings have been used to influence policy and service delivery.
- There has not been demonstrated efficacy for strengthening the funding base for sexual violence research.
- The work of the SVRI appears to be carried out in an efficient manner for a global initiative. The use of online technologies has allowed for the formation of a global network and the efficient dissemination of information and tools.
- However, in-person events also play an important role. The most concrete examples of SVRI impact grew out of in-person trainings, conferences and meetings.
- There has been substantial institutional development of the SVRI. Its expansion of publications and venues for participation are reaching an increasingly global audience.
- The SVRI's unique focus on sexual violence in the global context is fulfilling an otherwise unmet need. Its work complements the efforts of other organizations without duplication.
- The SVRI has demonstrated appeal to donors, despite a challenging climate for funding of sexual violence research.

In addition to details pertinent to these findings, the report also contains suggestions for future work and exploration. These include:

- Reconsidering whether increasing the available funding for sexual violence research should be a main objective of the SVRI at this time
- Increasing the visibility of grassroots and NGO-based work and giving more emphasis to lessons learned and practical solutions to problems in the field
- Facilitating access to research journals
- Providing more active support for networking between researchers; specifically, increasing use of the listserve for networking, concentrating efforts on promoting online discussions, creating an online database of members, and creating mechanisms to mentor researchers
- Raising awareness of the need for individualized technical assistance to service programs
- Continued attention to the differing needs of researchers and practitioners
- Delineating roles within the SVRI for researchers from high/upper-middle income and lower-middle/low income economies
- Increasing global involvement in the SVRI in all regions of the world

It is the assessment of the evaluators that the SVRI is an effective and efficient organization that is fulfilling an important and otherwise unmet need in the field of sexual violence research and practice.

Although the funding climate presents challenges, the SVRI is a sustainable initiative that is worth continued investment.

Purpose

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) was established by the Global Forum for Health Research to serve two main functions:

- Address the lack of **research** on sexual violence
- Draw the attention of a wide range of stakeholders to the variety, scope and complexity of sexual violence in order to develop more effective **responses**.

Its specific objectives are to:

- Increase **awareness** of sexual violence as a priority public health problem through evidence-based communication and information
- Build **capacity** in sexual violence research
- Improve knowledge of sexual violence globally to **influence policy and practice**
- Strengthen the support and **funding base** for research on sexual violence

Since it became fully operational in April 2004, various efforts have been made to evaluate its effectiveness. At the conclusion of its training events feedback has been solicited from participants on what they gained from the event and how future offerings can be improved. Additionally, an evaluation was conducted of the online listserve membership to assess member demographics, needs, and how well the SVRI listserve and website meet their needs.

At this juncture in the SVRI's organizational development, a more in-depth evaluation of its performance is warranted. Therefore, the Global Forum for Health Research commissioned independent consultants to carry out an evaluation to:

- **Quantify** results of progress indicators
- Assess the **relevance** of those progress indicators and other SVRI activities
- **Evaluate** the performance of the SVRI to achieve its objectives.

Evaluation Method

Methodology

The SVRI is a complex initiative. It operates:

- **Globally** through its online resources and international conferences
- **Regionally** through training programs and strategy meetings
- **Locally** through consultation and technical assistance

The complexity of operations is fitting because sexual violence itself is a complex issue. It is a global problem that manifests differently in different cultures. Yet, some forms of sexual violence, such as human trafficking and rape as a weapon of armed conflict, are perpetrated in ways that cross cultural and national boundaries.

While the SVRI seeks to promote evidence-based practices for responding to sexual violence, this endeavor is complicated by the fact that:

- Evidence from one culture or setting is **not always applicable** to other cultures or settings
- There is a **paucity of research** on sexual violence
- The SVRI seeks to influence a **variety of stakeholders** who have **varying needs**

Because of this complexity, evaluation of the SVRI was based on **multiple sources of information** and **multiple methods** of measurement. This triangulation process reduced the propensity toward measurement error and strengthened the validity of findings (Rossi, Freeman, & Lipsey, 1999). By using multiple methods we can be more confident in drawing conclusions about complex social systems (Singleton & Straits, 2005). Specifically, this evaluation employed two methods: archival review and key informant interviews.

Archival Review

The review of organizational archives is an efficient wait of documenting programmatic activities and organizational accomplishments, including types and scope of activities. It also reveals how an organization articulates its purpose to the public. Archival review has the advantage of being nonreactive and of analyzing the organization (rather than individuals) as the unit of analysis (Singleton & Straits, 2005).

In this evaluation, archival review was used to **document key progress indicators**. Of particular importance were the comparison of annual proposals to the actual accomplishments as described in annual reports. Additionally, other documents such as training and conference reports, listserve and Help Desk archives, discussion forum postings, research tools, commissioned reports, and other website content were analyzed for both their manifest content and their latent messages about the purpose and philosophy of the SVRI.

In addition to the substantive content, when applicable, archival documents were also analyzed for **how the public utilizes** the SVRI. This included considerations of global reach and relevance.

Finally, archival materials were analyzed for **indicators of impact** on awareness of sexual violence, capacity for sexual violence research, influence on policy and practice, and the funding base for sexual violence research.

Key Informant Interviews

While archival review is an effective way of documenting organizational activities, it does not capture the perceptions people have of those activities, how the activities achieve their impact, or impacts that extend beyond participants. Additionally, while archival review can identify gaps in service for known needs, it is not an effective way of identifying previously unknown needs. Interviewing key informants can be an effective means of triangulating and expanding upon archival data (Patton, 2002). Interviews can also serve as an important validity check on the inferences evaluators draw from other sources of data (Singleton & Straits, 2005).

In this evaluation, qualitative interviews were conducted with individuals from key stakeholder groups to assess **how relevant** the SVRI's objectives and activities are to a global constituency, to evaluate the **impact** the SVRI has had, and to identify **unmet needs** that the SVRI may be able to target in the future.

The proposed methodology was submitted to the Global Forum for Health Research prior to interview recruitment for their approval and feedback.

Procedures

Archival Review

The archival review was completed between March and July 2010. This review examined 46 discrete SVRI documents (see Appendix A). The documents were identified through an examination of the SVRI website, references contained within documents, and a request made to the SVRI staff for any documents that may be useful to the evaluation.

All documents were reviewed by the lead evaluator and some were reviewed by both evaluators who shared their interpretations of the documents. A spreadsheet was used to compile and organize notes pertaining to:

- Regional and national **scope** of activities
- **Types** of activities
- **Definitional components** of the four main objectives of the SVRI (i.e., awareness, funding, capacity, and knowledge for service delivery)
- **Observations** pertaining to the dimensions of SVRI performance (i.e., relevance, efficacy, efficiency, institutional development, complementarity, and sustainability)

Key Informant Interviews

Potential interview participants were selected through a combination of **purposive and random sampling**. SVRI participants were randomly sampled through a three-stage process. First, a sampling frame was compiled of all known SVRI participants from seven participant lists:

- SVRI Workshop on Research on Promoting and Strengthening Research Skills on Sexual Violence, New Delhi, 2007
- Medico-Legal Response training, Nairobi, 2008
- Meetings of the African Regional Training Programme, Pretoria and Harare, 2009
- SVRI Forum, Johannesburg , 2009
- SVRI Satellite Meeting on Sexual Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana, 2010
- All discussion forum members who had posted a comment on the forum

This yielded a total sampling frame of 400 potential interviewees. The SVRI listserve membership was not included in the sampling frame. The SVRI staff were concerned that releasing those names and contact information to the evaluators would be a breach of the confidentiality that had been promised to participants.

The Global Forum for Health Research set a target of **40 qualitative interviews**. This represents 10% of the sampling frame and is a fair representation for an evaluation of this type.

To reach this target, the second stage was to draw an **initial sample** of 40 potential interviewees. Then, in anticipation that not all individuals would elect to participate, the third stage was to draw a demographically similar **replacement sample** of 25 SVRI members who could be invited to participate as respondents either declined or as invited individuals failed to respond to the interview invitation.

In addition to these 65 randomly sampled individuals, 9 **purposively sampled** invitations were extended to researchers who were not SVRI participants, potential donors, and researchers who had specific expertise that could shed light on key issues faced by the SVRI. (Some of those individuals who were purposively sampled were found to be members of the SVRI listserve).

Recruitment of people to be interviewed occurred in June to August 2010. To facilitate the invitation process and to affirm the legitimacy of the project, the SVRI posted an **announcement** on the listserve informing members of the evaluation project and explaining that some members would be invited to participate in the interviews. See Appendix B for that announcement.

Following that announcement, sampled individuals received an **e-mail invitation** to participate. See Appendix C for the invitation. Two weeks following the issuance of the invitations, a **follow-up notice** was sent to those who had not yet responded. See Appendix D for that notice.

Individuals who agreed to be interviewed were asked to contact the evaluators to **schedule** the interview. Interviews were scheduled at a time that was most convenient to the participant. They were conducted via Skype, Gmail text chat, and telephone with the mode of communication being chosen by the participant. Although the invitations were sent only in English, interviews were conducted in English or Spanish as requested by the participant. (French was also an available, although unused, option.) Each interview was conducted by one evaluator (60% were completed by the lead evaluator and 40% were completed by the second evaluator).

In consideration of contextual differences that may lead some participants to be uneasy with recorded conversations, interviews were not audio recorded. Data collection relied on the evaluators taking detailed **notes** during the interviews and then writing those notes up into a **case summary form**.

The evaluators consulted with one another throughout the interview process to discuss emerging themes. Additionally, they shared their case summary forms with one another as they were written.

In addition to these randomly and purposively sampled interviews, three informal interviews were held with SVRI staff to gain insight on their perceptions of the effectiveness of the SVRI, share with them preliminary findings, and hear their responses to those findings. These interviews were done to ensure that major activities of the SVRI were not overlooked and to use their responses as a validity check for the findings.

Sample

As a result of these procedures, a total of 74 interview invitations were extended. Of these, 40 (54%) resulted in completed interviews, 5 (7%) interviews were declined, and the remainder received no response from the invitees. This response rate is excellent for an evaluation of this type in which participants were asked to devote 30-60 minutes of their time to the interview and in which there may

have been challenges regarding internet and telephone access.

It should be noted that those who declined to be interviewed generally expressed support for the SVRI and regret that they would not be able to participate. Reasons for not participating mostly involved being unavailable due to travel schedules. One person who was invited indicated that she was not authorized by her employer to give interviews.

Interviews lasted from 30 to 110 minutes with an average of 58.9 minutes (standard deviation = 21.9 minutes). Interviewees resided in 19 different countries. When considering where they do their work, four additional countries were represented. See Appendix E for a list of countries.

Table 1 shows the demographics of those who participated in the interviews (excluding SVRI staff). Specific SVRI venues represented in the sample included:

- SVRI Workshop on Research on Promoting and Strengthening Research Skills on Sexual Violence, New Delhi, 2007
- Medico-Legal Response Training, Nairobi, 2008
- Meetings of the African Regional Training Programme, Pretoria and Harare, 2009
- SVRI Forum, Johannesburg , 2009
- SVRI Satellite Meeting on Sexual Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana, 2010
- SVRI Listserve
- SVRI Discussion Forum
- SVRI Facebook

This representation of venues is a strength of the sample as all major events/venues were represented in the interviews.

Table 1. Description of Sample
(excluding SVRI staff)

	Percentage
Stakeholder Group	
Research	45%
Non-Governmental Organization	23%
Medical	15%
Large, Multinational NGO	8%
Donor	5%
Legal	2%
Journalism	2%
Regional Location	
North America	30%
Latin America/Caribbean	24%
Africa	23%
Asia	18%
Europe	5%
Economic Status of Country	
Low and Lower Middle Income	38%
Upper Middle and High Income	62%
SVRI Participation	
SVRI Participant	86%
Non-SVRI Participant	14%
Type of Participation	
Both Online and In Person	50%
Online Only	28%
In Person Only	19%
Specific Venues Participated	
Listserve	78%
In Person Events	69%
Discussion Forum	38%

This final sample was largely reflective of the group that was randomly sampled to receive invitations to participate in the evaluation. However, there were some variations that should be noted. First, the final sample had a slightly higher representation of researchers (45%) than were invited to participate (37%). However, given the emphasis of the SVRI on building the capacity for sexual violence research, this does not compromise the generalizability of findings.

Second, the final sample included more individuals working in North America and Latin American/Caribbean countries and fewer working in African countries than were invited to participate. Given the SVRI's work to date and its focus on African countries, this represents a slight limitation. However, in light of their interest in expanding their work, especially to the Latin American/Caribbean region, the representation of more individuals working in that region can be helpful for future planning.

Third, the final sample resulted in fewer individuals working in low and lower-middle income countries (38%) than were invited to participate (44%). This is likely a result of difficulties accessing the internet which may have resulted in individuals not receiving or being able to respond to the invitation. It is also attributable to the 9 purposively sampled interviews, 6 of which were with researchers, NGOs and donors working in North America. However, it is important to note that the sample does adequately reflect the current demographics of the online discussion forum and SVRI Forum 2009 where 33% and 41% (respectively) of registrants are from low and low-middle income countries. Therefore, there is evidence that the sample is generalizable to the SVRI membership.

Measures

The interviews followed a **semi-structured** protocol. This type of protocol has a set of predetermined topics and issues to be covered. However, the specific sequence and wording of questions is determined as the interview unfolds (Patton, 2002). The advantages of this approach are that the protocol increases the comprehensiveness of the data and makes for systematic data collection in which potential responses and gaps in responses are anticipated and resolved (Patton, 2002). However, the interviews themselves remain conversational and can be tailored to the specific situation (Patton, 2002).

Questions were asked in an **open-ended** manner, allowing participants to respond in their own words. This approach can be useful for building rapport and fostering a discussion where participants are more apt to provide in-depth responses. An open-ended approach also is more likely to garner responses that the evaluators may not be able to anticipate. As such, it avoids the constraints that can be introduced by closed-ended questions. Most importantly, an open-ended approach allows the interviewer to explore the participant's individual experiences (Charmaz, 2002).

Most questions were truly open-ended where participants created their own answers. These were recorded using participants' own words. However, some questions were asked in an open-ended manner but sought specific factual answers (Dillman, 1978). For these questions, predetermined codes were included in the protocol so the evaluators could categorically code responses in real time.

The interviews shared a common set of core questions as well as additional questions that were specific to the stakeholder group. For respondents who had not participated in the SVRI activities, the questions about the SVRI were omitted.

Core questions addressed four main areas:

- **Use** of SVRI online resources and networking opportunities
- **Experiences** with participating in SVRI trainings, conferences and meetings
- **Usefulness** and **impact** of SVRI resources and activities
- **Relevance** of SVRI resources and activities

Researchers were additionally asked about:

- Current research priorities and future prospects for research
- Funding and other support for sexual violence research
- Gaps in sexual violence research
- How to build capacity for sexual violence research
- Potential for global networking and collaborations among researchers

Multinational non-governmental organizations were additionally asked about:

- Ways the SVRI can broaden its reach
- Relationship between sexual violence and other health, development and human rights issues

Service providers were additionally asked about:

- Gaps in sexual violence research
- How to build bridges and collaborative relationships between service providers and researchers

Policymakers were additionally asked about:

- Status of sexual violence laws and policies within the stakeholder's country
- Priority areas for improving systemic responses to sexual violence
- Research and technical assistance needs for making those improvements

Journalists were additionally asked about:

- Information needs to support reporting on sexual violence
- Access to sexual violence experts

Funders were additionally asked about:

- Relevance of the SVRI to the funding priorities of potential donors
- Strategies for strengthening the SVRI's funding potential

The interview protocol is found in Appendix F.

Analytic Method

Data analysis was completed in August 2010. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses were used. All analyses were completed by the lead evaluator.

Progress Indicators

The Global Forum for Health Research specified quantitative progress indicators to be evaluated. These progress indicators included data such as:

- Number of **participants** in various SVRI activities and networks
- Number of **people trained** in research on and responses to sexual violence
- Number of **reports and resources** posted and distributed by the SVRI
- **Funding** obtained

These indicators were measured by a quantitative tabulation of the relevant information from the archival review.

Content Analysis

Conventional content analysis is used when the goal is to describe a particular experience (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005). It is particularly appropriate when existing theory or research on a topic is limited, as is the case of a global initiative such as the SVRI.

Conventional content analysis begins with a reading of the data (i.e., interview notes) to derive **codes** that describe the content of responses (Hsieh & Shannon, 2005; Miles & Huberman, 1994). Codes are then sorted into **categories** based on how they are related. Codes and categories are then organized into a variety of **schemas** depending on the nature of the data and the evaluation questions (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

Analytic Induction

Analytic induction (Erickson, 1986) emphasizes the development and testing of explanatory assertions. In this approach the evaluator develops a preliminary set of **assertions** that address core evaluation questions. Those assertions are then tested against the data, looking for five types of **evidentiary inadequacy:** inadequate amount of evidence, inadequate variety in the kinds of evidence, faulty interpretative status of evidence, inadequate disconfirming evidence, and inadequate discrepant case analysis. Assertions are then **revised or eliminated** based on their evidentiary adequacy until there is a well warranted set of assertions.

Performance Dimensions

All analyses were organized around the performance dimensions that were identified by the Global Forum. Based on the initial archival review, these dimensions were defined as follows.

Relevance: The relevance of SVRI objectives and activities to its overall aim. The perceived relevance of the SVRI to participants' work as measured by their use of and satisfaction with SVRI resources. The global applicability of SVRI's resources and activities.

Efficacy: The quality of SVRI reports and documents. Reported impacts of SVRI materials and trainings on research, policy changes and responses to survivors of sexual violence. Reported research or practice collaborations that emerge out of SVRI networking events and online platforms.

Efficiency: The extent to which SVRI events are designed to promote multisectoral partnerships and responses to sexual violence. The extent to which SVRI publications and resources provide practical tools for the promotion of specific research or response practices. The ability of SVRI communications to reach a global audience in cost-effective ways.

Institutional Development: The expansion of SVRI activities and resources over time. The establishment of an organizational infrastructure that will facilitate ongoing operations.

Complementarity: The extent to which the SVRI's objectives, activities and resources complement (without duplicating) the work of other organizations. The extent to which the SVRI 's objectives, activities and resources represent a potential for working collaboratively with other health, development and human rights organizations.

Sustainability: The history of past fundraising. The attractiveness of the SVRI to potential funders.

Evaluation Findings: Progress Indicators

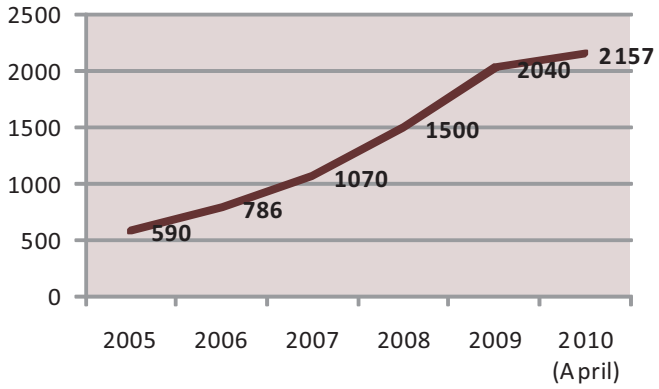
The progress indicators are found in Appendix G. These indicators show that **the SVRI is making great advances in achieving its goals**. The indicators reflect substantial increases in the SVRI's membership and activities. A few findings are particularly worth highlighting.

Online Membership

The primary online membership activity is the SVRI Listserve which distributes biweekly updates to members. One of the updates focuses on research while the other highlights coverage of sexual violence in the media.

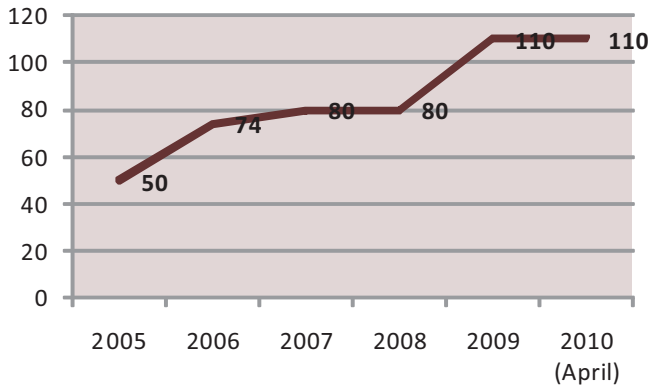
SVRI membership has increased almost fourfold since 2005. As Figure 1 shows, each year has resulted in substantial increases in the number of individual members registered. The growth has occurred at a remarkably consistent rate.

Figure 1. SVRI Listserve Membership by # of Registrants



As shown in Figure 2, **most years have also yielded an increase in the number of countries represented**. The largest increase came between 2008 and 2009, likely due to the SVRI Forum and two African Regional Training Programme events held in 2009. Currently, the listserve includes 2,157 members from 110 (57%) of the 192 members of the United Nations. The 2008 evaluation of the listserve found that most of the members were from low or middle income countries.

Figure 2. SVRI Listserve Membership by # of Countries



In addition to the listserve, the SVRI also hosts an **online discussion forum**. This forum currently includes postings from 58 members (33% of whom are from low or lower-middle income economies). There are 30 discussion threads with an average of 71.5 views and 4.2 replies. However, only 23% of the threads have three or more replies.

The final online venue for members is the SVRI **Facebook page** which currently has 361 fans and has recently experienced increased interaction on the "wall".

Website Usage

In addition to Listserve membership, the SVRI has also shown **steady and substantial increases in the usage of its website**. As shown in Figure 3, the number of website hits in December of each year has increased steadily. The hits in December 2009 were almost 3.5 times that of December 2006.

Additionally, as shown in Figure 4, the number of unique visitors each month has increased threefold to 4,016 unique visitors during December 2009.

The high usage of the SVRI website is a reflection of the quantity of material available on it. To date the website includes:

- 12 SVRI-authored or commissioned reports
- Links to 105 other research documents or tools (e.g., research guidelines, instruments, surveillance tools, screening tools, etc.)
- 172 pages with country-specific content
- Links to: 649 journal abstracts
  468 reports
  218 organizations
  21 guides

Although the website is primarily in English, the SVRI is attempting to broaden its reach by translating materials and providing links to materials in other languages. Currently, the SVRI research agenda and brochure are available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Mandarin. Additionally, the review of sexual violence in China is available in Mandarin and English and the review of sexual violence in Latin America and the Caribbean is available in Spanish and will soon be available in English.

The SVRI staff are appropriately mindful of the need to keep the bandwidth of the website as minimal as possible in order to increase accessibility in areas where the internet is less readily available.

Figure 3. Website Hits in a Single Month

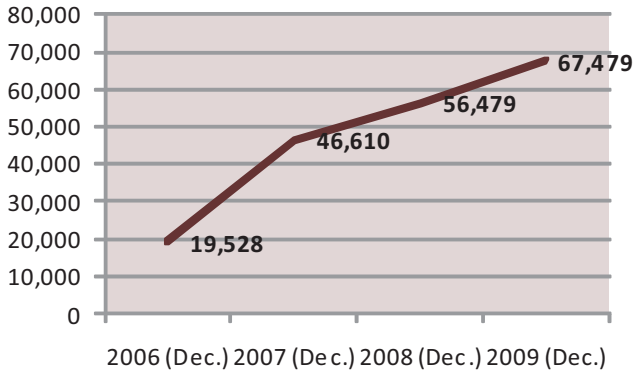
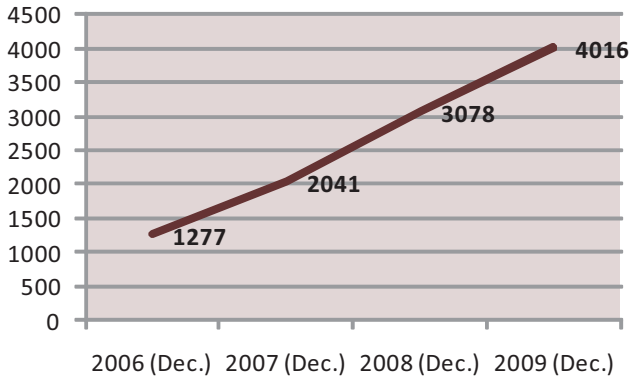


Figure 4. Unique Visitors in a Single Month



In-Person Events

In addition to its online venues, the SVRI also has hosted numerous in-person events. These include:

2007:

- Promoting and Strengthening Research Skills/Networks on Sexual Violence, New Delhi

2008:

- Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence, Nairobi
- African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, Pretoria
- African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, Harare
- Consultative Meeting on Ethical Recommendations for Research with Perpetrators of Sexual Violence, Pretoria

2009:

- SVRI Forum 2009, Johannesburg
- SVRI Satellite Meeting on Sexual Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana

2010:

- Training of Trainers in Clinical Management of Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Rwamagana District, Rwanda
- Prostitution in South Africa: Setting a Research Agenda, Pretoria
- Taking Care of Ourselves: A Workshop for Sexual Violence Researchers, Pretoria

As shown in Figure 5, **the number of individuals reached by these in-person trainings has steadily and substantially increased each year**. In addition to the participants reflected in the figure, 194 individuals attended the SVRI Forum 2009.

The registrants at the SVRI Forum included 41% from low or low-middle income economies. This is a remarkable rate for a professional, international conference where participation is often cost prohibitive.

In terms of stakeholder groups, the forum was a diverse gathering as shown in Table 2.

Figure 5. In-Person Participants
(excluding the SVRI Forum 2009)

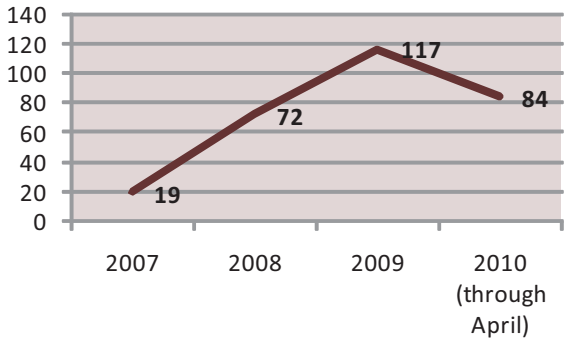


Table 2. SVRI Forum 2009 Registrants

	Percentage
Non-Governmental Organizations	34%
Researchers	28%
Government Officials	13%
Consultants	7%
Large, Multinational NGOs	4%
Legal Professionals	4%
Medical Professionals	3%
Journalists	1%
Donors	1%

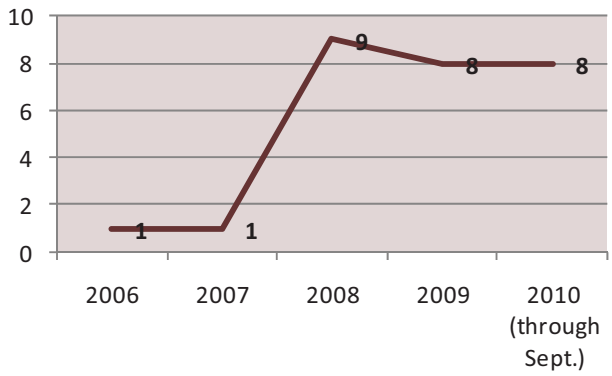
Meetings and Presentations

In addition to hosting its own events, SVRI staff also participate in regional and global meetings held by other organizations. This participation is an important way of raising awareness not only about the SVRI but, more importantly, about the need to support research on sexual violence.

As shown in Figure 6, SVRI participation in regional and global meetings has increased over time. In addition to these single-event meetings, SVRI staff are also currently represented on three committees:

- Publication Mentoring Programme of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASCCS)
- Gender Based Violence Prevention Network Advisory Committee
- Technical Working Group for Child Sexual Abuse Literature Review by East Center and Southern African Health Community

Figure 6. Regional and Global Meetings



Partnerships

The SVRI has also established 15 partnerships:

- AfroAIDSInfo Portal
- AIDS Portal
- Centre for Development Services
- Euromedcenter
- FRONTIERS Program
- Global Forum for Health Research
- International Center for Research on Women
- InterAmerican Alliance for Gender Violence Prevention and Health
- Liverpool VCT
- Medical research Council
- PATH
- Restore Program
- School of Psychology, Victoria University
- WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health
- Women's Center, Georgia

Funding

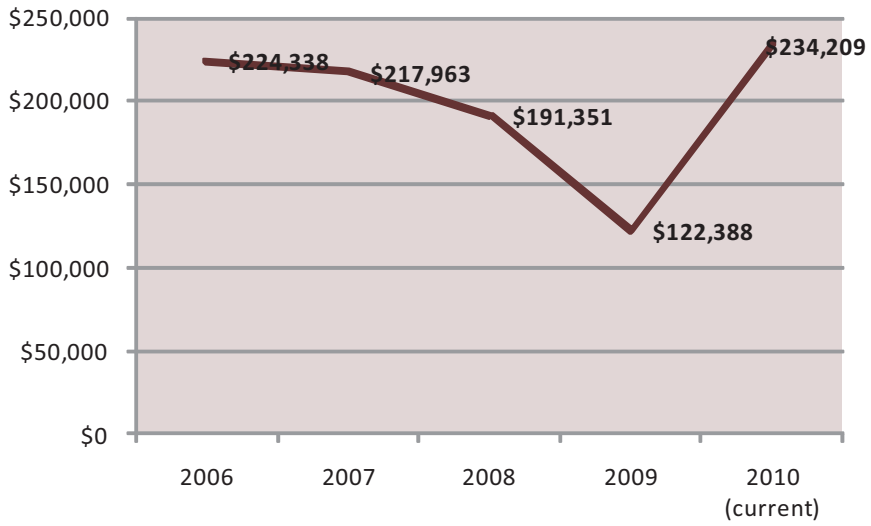
The SVRI has carried out its work to date with a combination of core and project funding. **The SVRI staff have successfully increased the budget of the initiative.**

As shown in Figure 7, the core operating budget declined for a time but recently increased substantially. Core funding for 2010 is currently at US$234,209. Core funding has been provided by three sources:

- World Bank via the Global Forum for Health Research
- World Health Organization
- Oak Foundation

As will be discussed later in this report, there are formidable challenges to securing funds for core operations. Many foundations primarily (or only) fund specific, time-limited projects. Therefore**, the recent acquisition of a new source for core funding represents an important achievement of the SVRI.**

Figure 7. Core Funding

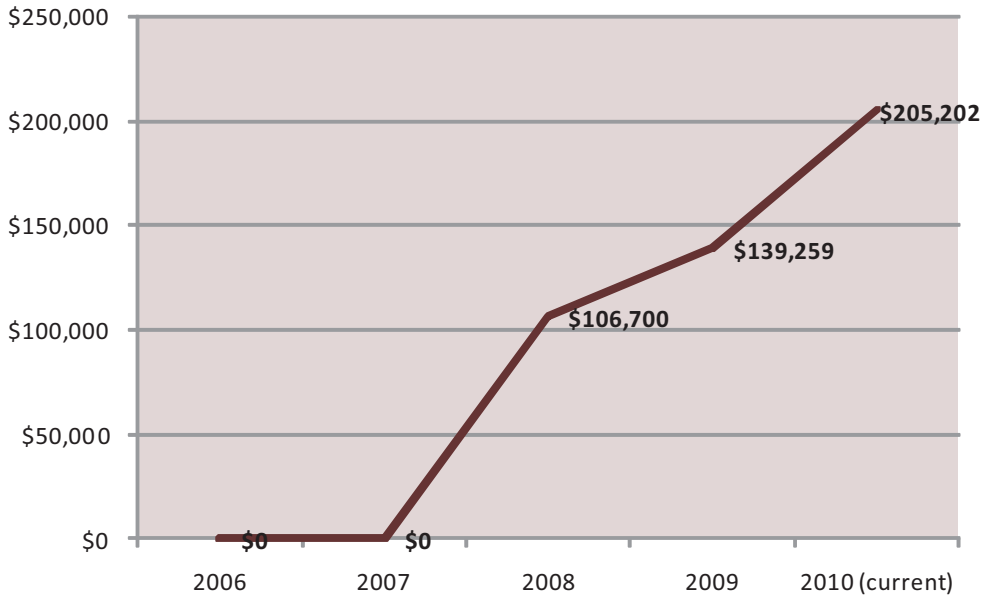


As shown in Figure 8, **there has been a steady increase in funding for specific projects**. These funds have come from six sources:

- World Health Organization
- Ford Foundation
- Hewlett Foundation
- Oxfam Novib
- Medical Research Council
- Oak Foundation

The multiplicity of funders for special projects and funding from sources over multiple years speak to the **increasing success of the SVRI staff at securing project funds and the increasing appeal the SVRI has to donors**. The programmatic success of the SVRI as reflected in the other progress indicators is remarkable given the relatively small budget they have worked with to date.

Figure 8. Project Funding



In summary, the progress indicators reveal that the SVRI has made great strides in a relatively short time. The SVRI is operating through both online and in-person modalities. Online, the SVRI has shown substantial increases in:

- **Listserve membership**
- **Countries represented by Listserve members**
- **Hits on the website**
- **Unique visitors to the website**

Although less notable, there have also been increases in:

- **Discussion Forum membership and participation**
- **Facebook fans**

In-person events have substantially increased in:

- **Number of events**
- **Number of participants**
- **Global representation of participants**
- **Representation of the SVRI at regional and global meetings**

All of this has been accomplished on a relatively small budget, but one that is beginning to grow. Most notably, funding for special projects has increased consistently since 2007. The current project funding level is almost twice what it was only two years ago.

The remainder of this report will present findings from the qualitative interviews with some additional data from the archival review.

Evaluation Findings: Interviews

Overview

The Global Forum for Health Research requested that six dimensions of performance be evaluated. The following findings are organized around each dimension:

- Relevance
- Efficacy
- Efficiency
- Institutional Development
- Complementarity to Other Efforts
- Sustainability

Each of the four key objectives of the SVRI were individually analyzed:

- Increase awareness
- Build capacity for sexual violence research
- Improve knowledge internationally to influence policy and service delivery
- Strengthen the support and funding base for sexual violence research

Table 3 provides a quick reference guide for how each objective was rated across the six performance dimensions. In the table, **+** indicates overall positive findings for that objective and dimension and **o** indicates notable absences on that dimension.

However, it must be stressed that **this evaluation was not designed to yield a single summary judgment of performance** on these dimensions. The evaluation was **designed to provide rich, qualitative data that can yield insights** into the value and effectiveness of the SVRI that can be used to strengthen future operations.

As such, the following **description of themes that emerged across interviews constitute the substantive findings of the evaluation**. This summary table is presented merely to orient the reader to the overall tenor of the findings.

The qualitative findings will be presented for each performance dimension in turn. When applicable, unique performance for individual objectives will be discussed. Pages 21-25 summarize the qualitative findings.

Table 3. Ratings Across Objectives and Performance Dimensions

	Awareness	Research Capacity	Policy & Service	Funding
Relevance	+	+	+	+
Efficacy	+	+	+	O
Efficiency	+	+	+	O
Inst. Development	+	+	+	O
Complementarity	+	+	+	+
Sustainability	+	+	+	O

Major Analytic Assertions Supported by the Evidence

	Increase Awareness	Strengthen the Support and Funding Base	Build Capacity in Sexual Violence Research	Improve Knowledge to Influence Policy and Service Delivery
Relevance to General Objectives	Publications, online networking, trainings, meetings, and conferences are clearly relevant to SVRI's objectives pertaining to raising awareness, both among researchers and other stakeholders. Greater clarity around roles, needs and interactions between academic and grassroots/practice stakeholders would increase the relevance of the SVRI to all stakeholder groups.	Few activities pertain to this objective. This objective may need to be re-visited. It may not be a feasible objective at this time in the SVRI's development. Rhetoric around funding seems to assume there are countries where there is much more funding for sexual violence research, but this assumption may need to be revisited.	Publications, online networking, trainings, meetings, and conferences are clearly relevant to SVRI's objectives pertaining to building capacity in research.	Publications, online networking, trainings, meetings and conferences are clearly relevant to SVRI's objectives pertaining to influencing policy and service delivery through increased knowledge of sexual violence. Greater clarity around roles, needs and interactions between academic and grassroots/practice stakeholders would increase the relevance of the SVRI to all stakeholder groups.
Efficacy	Reports/reviews demonstrate consistently high quality in terms of content and presentation for a research audience. Participants report increased awareness of	Limited evidence of efficacy. Participants report using SVRI publications and conference proceedings to support funding proposals and in reports to donors.	All participants report at least some type of capacity building as part of their participation in the SVRI. Some participants report the creation of	SVRI publications consistently demonstrate high quality in content and presentation. However, it is important to remember that the perceptions and needs of researchers may differ from those of

	global perspectives and experiences for themselves as well as use of SVRI resources to promote awareness among others.	No other evidence that SVRI's efforts have created a larger funding base or more interest among donors. Significant success on this objective may not be feasible at this time in the SVRI's development.	international collaborations to do research in developing countries. Efficacy can be increased by increased research on community system responses, prevention, responses to survivors, and working with men. The potential efficacy is not fully realized due to unmet needs for (a) access to research journals, (b) more active support of networking outside of in-person trainings, conferences and meetings; and (c) active mentoring of researchers who are either earlier in their careers and/or from countries where they have few opportunities for developing academic presentations or papers.	practitioners. Participants report using SVRI publications and conference proceedings to influence policy and service delivery. Efficacy can be strengthened by increased resources for community system responses, prevention, responses to survivors, and working with men. An implication of this objective is that knowledge will change systemic behavior. This underestimates the need for practical, local technical assistance that is consistently and proactively provided. To increase the efficacy of policy and service delivery improvements, more emphasis needs to be placed on sharing lessons learned and practical solutions.

Efficiency	Online dissemination is cost-effective, but there are limitations due to access challenges. Little evidence of proactive dissemination of reports to key organizations and researchers.	Donor information tends to be very locally specific or have very specific eligibility criteria. Consequently, links and announcements are applicable to only a very few members.	Online dissemination of reports and resources related to policy and service delivery is effective for this objective, but there are limitations due to access challenges. The most concrete impacts occur mostly as a result of in-person trainings, conferences and meetings. Similarly, people become involved with (and increase their contributions to) the SVRI through personal contacts/invitations. This underscores the need for not overly relying on online venues.	Online dissemination of reports and resources related to policy and service delivery is effective for this objective, but there are limitations due to access challenges. The focus on intra-country teams (as opposed to individuals) being trained fosters the creation and/or strengthening of integrated multi-system responses.
Institutional Development	Significant demonstration of institutional development in this area including expanded publications and venues for reaching out to a wider audience.	Substantial efforts have been made to increase members' access to funding sources and to increase funding for the SVRI. However, there is little evidence of direct efforts to increase the amount of funds allocated to sexual violence research.	Significant demonstration of institutional development in this area including expanded venues for building capacity and widening of global reach. The impact on capacity can be strengthened by a clear delineation of the roles of researchers from high income economies	Significant demonstration of institutional development in this area including expanded trainings that are focused on medico-legal responses to sexual violence. To achieve its goals, SVRI needs to do more to work with popular media. This can also meet the needs of researchers who

			and the articulation of principles for international collaboration. This is especially important in light of members' interest in having more access to widely published researchers. Specific concern was expressed over the lack of coordination of research in areas of conflict and the possibility that SVRI could play a leadership role.	acknowledge they need assistance with public dissemination.
Complementary to Other Efforts	SVRI's activities and resources are unique because of the focus on sexual violence. SVRI complements other efforts such as in the areas of gender-based and family violence, but the specificity of it brings much needed attention to sexual violence.	No evidence that any other entity (aside from individual efforts) is doing this work. It is much needed and the SVRI is the most likely entity to fill this gap.	SVRI's efforts at capacity building are unique because of the focus on sexual violence as well as the emphasis on building capacity for research in developing countries by local researchers. As such, SVRI is filling a gap not met by other organizations. Attention needs to be paid to increasing coordination among sexual violence researchers and organizations. The SVRI's efforts can tie into other issues that intersect with	SVRI's efforts at influencing policy and service delivery are unique because of the focus on sexual violence. As such, SVRI is filling a gap not met elsewhere.

			sexual violence. Caution should be exerted when tying sexual violence to other issues so the unique focus of the SVRI is not lost.	
Sustainability	Targeted training programs to raise awareness have demonstrated appeal to donors.	It is very difficult to get funding to target donors. It is unclear who might be interested in funding this type of effort.	Appeal to donors has been demonstrated through sponsorships of trainings and conferences. The support of new donors demonstrates potential sustainability. Greater transparency around the focus on developing countries will be necessary to attract external support from donors and to build active, sustained involvement by SVRI members.	Demonstrated appeal to donors of these efforts with funding obtained for training programmes. This area has the highest funding potential due to donors' interests in short-term training initiatives.

Relevance to General Aim

The SVRI defines its aim as to "promote research on sexual violence and generate empirical data that ensures sexual violence is recognised as a priority public health problem." The archival review indicated that **the way the SVRI conceptualizes its four main objectives clearly connects each objective to this general aim**. No disconnects were noted between the SVRI's aim and its main objectives.

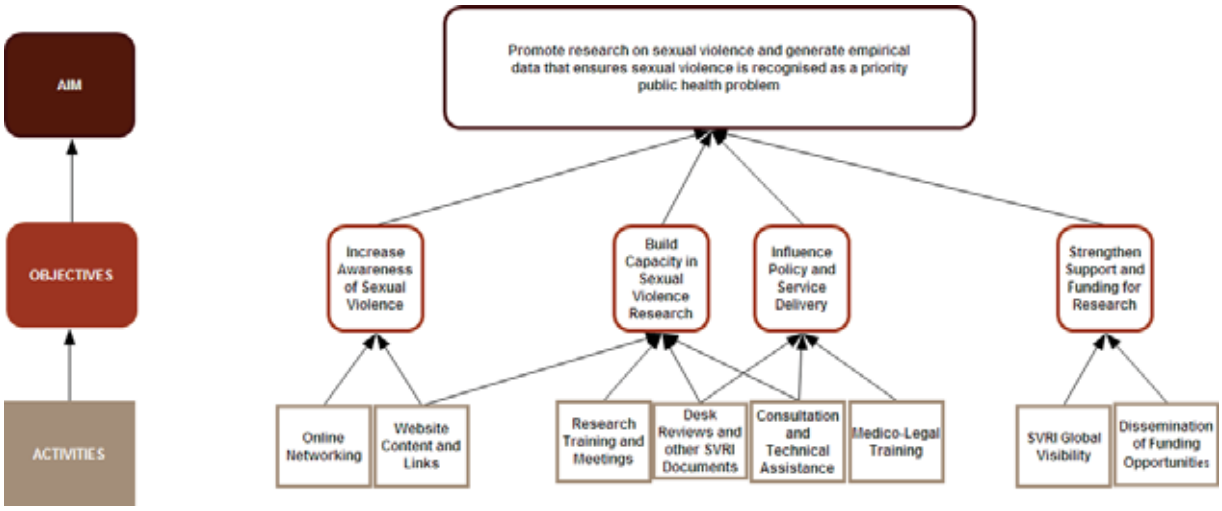
However, there is a second possible juncture at which inconsistency can occur. At times, organizations will pursue activities that are only tangentially related to their objectives. The archival review and interviews indicate that this is not the case for the SVRI. **SVRI publications, online venues, trainings, meetings and conferences are clearly relevant to the general aim and specific objectives of the initiative.**

Figure 9 provides an illustration of how the SVRI's activities, objectives and aim are connected. As this shows, there are clear and plausible connections between each juncture.

It is interesting to note that while some activities clearly link to more than one objective, the objectives themselves are discrete. The only connection between objectives that was articulated in the interviews was the perception that the SVRI's medico-legal trainings were promoting evidence based practice. However, the overall impression was that **the four objectives are separate streams in the SVRI's work and that each has its own intended audience/stakeholder group**. There is not yet evidence of a clear theoretical framework for how those objectives or their respective stakeholder groups interact.

A third way of conceptualizing relevance is the relevance of the SVRI's resources and activities to its global membership. Here, we again find

Figure 9. Linkages Between Activities, Objectives and Aim



evidence that **the SVRI is highly relevant to its global membership.** As will be detailed later in this report, most members who were interviewed reported high satisfaction with the SVRI, frequent use of their resources, and strong beliefs that the SVRI is providing valuable and vital leadership. The global membership and the fact that perceptions of the SVRI vary little across the regions indicate that its relevance is wide reaching.

Relevance: Funding Base

A few caveats need to be made about the relevance of one objective — **strengthening the support and funding base for sexual violence research** — to the SVRI's activities.

To date, the activities pertaining to funding focus on two main areas:

- Disseminating information about funding opportunities to researchers
- Securing funding for the SVRI

These activities are both important. However, neither directly increases the money that foundations, governments or other donors allocate to sexual violence. Rather, they seek to access the existing funding base. **No activities were identified in the archival review or interviews that could realistically be expected to increase the funding base.**

It may be that it is too early in the life of the SVRI to expect substantial activity, much less demonstrated success, on this objective. This is not to say that the SVRI cannot influence the funding arena. The involvement of the SVRI in regional and global meetings, participation of donors in SVRI venues, and the overall visibility of the SVRI globally can make sexual violence research more visible and attractive to potential donors. However, it would be difficult to attribute any increase in funding to the SVRI.

One area where the SVRI might want to expand its work in regard to the funding base is by providing donors who do fund sexual violence and gender-based violence projects **with concise syntheses of the evidence base for policy and practice and guidelines for ethical sexual violence research**. This could help to narrow the gap between funders' interest in funding evidence-based practice and their actual understanding of what the evidence is and how to use it when reviewing proposals. While this would not increase the available funding base, it could improve the effectiveness with which funds are used. It should be noted, however, that most donors are interested in funding service delivery. Therefore, this activity would be most relevant to improving policy and service delivery, not to increasing the capacity for research.

Relevance: Future Directions

Finally, to the extent the SVRI continues to include the strengthening of the funding base for sexual violence research in its objectives, it may be useful to **revisit the distinction (made by SVRI staff and Coordinating Group members) between research-rich and research-poor countries — at least insofar as the distinction applies to this objective**.

As will be discussed later, there is strong evidence that the SVRI membership supports the focus on developing countries. However, when it comes to funding for research, the distinction between settings was less clear. **All but one interviewee reported a paucity of resources available to support research on sexual violence** in their respective countries.

Therefore, the distinction between research-rich and research-poor countries is not easy to make. The SVRI may want to engage in further dialogue about this distinction. If it is reaffirmed as a useful distinction to make vis-à-vis the funding base for sexual violence research, then definitions for these terms will need to be clarified so that differentiated activities can be engaged in that meet the unique needs of these two groups.

In summary, there is consistent evidence that the four objectives and activities of the SVRI are relevant to it aim and to the needs of a global audience.

Issues the SVRI staff and Coordinating Group may want to explore further include the feasibility of increasing the available funding for sexual violence research and the usefulness of distinguishing between research-rich and research-poor settings.

Efficacy of the SVRI

For this evaluation, efficacy of the SVRI was conceptualized as the quality of its materials and reported impacts it has on research, policy changes and service delivery.

Across all four objectives, the SVRI consistently demonstrates **high quality in the content and presentation of information and resources for a research audience**. Reports and documents the SVRI has developed are consistently:

- Well-organized
- Clearly written
- To the extent possible, free of excessive technical terms or jargon
- Graphically formatted in a professional way that facilitates ease of understanding.

Those who were interviewed (SVRI participants and non-participants alike) frequently reported being impressed with the quality of the SVRI documents and website. For example:

"I have seen tremendous growth in the quantity and quality of work being done [by the SVRI]" (researcher, Australia)

"I have never had such a positive experience with a listserve!" (researcher, USA)

"I was blown away by the website..I was very impressed with the amount of material on it, how global it is, and all the links to papers. It was very easy to navigate." (researcher, USA)

Furthermore, there is evidence that the SVRI is having impact on those who participate in their online and in-person venues. The types of impact vary for each objective. Therefore, what follows is a discussion of the efficacy for each objective.

Efficacy: Increased Awareness

SVRI participants reported **increased awareness of global perspectives and experiences**. They also reported **using SVRI resources to promote general awareness of sexual violence in their communities/regions**.

All (100%) of SVRI participants who were interviewed reported learning about sexual violence and/or global responses through their experiences with the SVRI. Specifically:

- 100% of interviewees who attended the SVRI Forum in Johannesburg reported that it was a valuable opportunity to learn about what is happening in other locations, both in terms of sexual violence issues and research.
- 80% of interviewees reported reading the website and/or listserve regularly, indicating that the information they receive from them is valuable.
- 75% of interviewees said the research reports and articles on the SVRI website and/or listserve were useful to them in their work

In addition to impact on SVRI participants, 35% of participants reported forwarding listserve postings

and/or website content to colleagues and/or students. The number of people they forward information to ranged from 3—70 people. This reflects a **perceived value of the information and also indicates a broader reach of the SVRI beyond its membership**.

The preponderance of the evidence indicates positive impacts on awareness of global sexual violence research and issues. However, it is important to note that there is a minority of members who indicated that SVRI resources are not as useful as they might be. **The critiques focused on two issues: (a) information overload and (b) inadequate representation of grass-roots work and perspectives.**

A minority of listserve members (15%) reported that they had unsubscribed to the listserve or that they subscribe but do not read the updates. Dissatisfaction was generally attributed to (a) being inundated with electronic communications, (b) the weekly news updates not being relevant to research and/or too focused on local or extreme cases, and (c) the list of articles being too long with no synthesis and/or not having access to the actual journals.

The grassroots-research divide will be discussed on pages 40-41.

Efficacy: Capacity for Research

All (100%) SVRI participants who were interviewed reported some type of increase in their capacity for conducting research. The most frequently reported impact (60%) was the exchange of ideas about research. Other impacts included:

- Information and ideas that could be used in their writing and research presentations
- The SVRI research agenda guiding the researcher's own work
- Increasing their motivation to do research

This last point was poignantly described by three SVRI participants:

"The conference was a huge motivation to do research with limited resources...The conference made it seem possible to do research even without funding [and that it was] feasible to do projects that I wouldn't have done in the past." (researcher, Nicaragua)

"My SVRI colleagues have been very supportive of my work, providing moral support and professional encouragement...This helped me to continue my research when I felt discouraged by my own institution." (researcher, Australia)

"Hearing other stories of difficulties and successes in Africa made me angry that my own country lagged so far behind and gave me the courage and confidence to go see the minister of health and forge ahead." (medical provider, Nigeria)

The most concrete impact was seen in the **15% of interviewees who described collaborative research or writing projects** they are now engaged in that were direct results of networking they did through the SVRI. All of these projects represented cross-national collaborations.

Additionally, one interviewee stated that she had attempted to start a collaborative project but was unable to carry it out due only to a lack of funding. Another said that although she was not currently collaborating with anyone she had met through the SVRI, she would *"surely collaborate with them in the future if there was an opportunity."*

It is important to note that the **impact on capacity for research is facilitated in large part by the networking function of SVRI gatherings and online venues**. Many interviewees talked about how isolated sexual violence researchers are. For example:

- 85% of interviewees described sexual violence as not being a high priority in

their country in terms of research, policy or practice
- Many interviewees talked about difficulties knowing who in their own country is doing this type of research and there being no venues outside of the SVRI dedicated to networking around sexual violence — this was described by researchers in both high and low income countries.
- Some interviewees described sexual violence research using words such as *"lonely" and "isolated".*

The SVRI was described as helping to break that isolation. For example:

"[The Johannesburg Forum] was an absolutely phenomenal conference, the best I've ever attended on sexual violence...It really filled a gap...I made connections I wouldn't have otherwise." (researcher, USA)

"[SVRI provides] a sense of collegiality and solidarity."(researcher, India)

"It is good to have a sense of community." (NGO, Papua New Guinea)

"[The New Delhi workshop and Johannesburg Forum were] very enriching to meet so many people and to learn about the broad range of issues." (researcher, India)

"I wouldn't miss this conference for anything — this is the one...There are so few events where I can just talk about my research, where I don't have to explain to anyone about my work." (researcher, Australia)

Future Directions: Capacity for Research

However, it should be noted that the impact on capacity to do sexual violence research is diminished by three barriers. First, there is an **unmet need for access to research journals**. While the listserve updates and website links to journal abstracts are a useful compilation of recent research, the non-public nature of research journals means the full articles are only available to those who have other access to the journals or electronic databases. This usually means they are available mostly to those who work for well-funded universities and research centers.

Access to journals was noted as a limitation by both researchers and NGOs, either in regard to their own access or access for their colleagues in other countries. As one researcher who does have access to journals explained: *"Researchers in developing countries do not have access to the journals so a citation by itself is not useful to them...I've given my own password to more than one person. I'm not supposed to do it but it's the only way for them to get access." (researcher, USA)*

Illustrative of the financial barrier to journals, even by universities, the following are the annual institutional subscription prices for some of the major journals in which sexual violence research is published:

- Journal of Interpersonal Violence US$16,140
- Violence Against Women US$13,044
- Sexual Abuse US$3,180
- Child Maltreatment $2,552
- The Lancet US$1,429

Journal subscriptions are simply impossible for most universities in developing countries, especially if the publications would be used by a small number of faculty and researchers.

Second, **researchers need more active support for networking outside of the face-to-face interac-**

tions they engage in during trainings, conferences and meetings. While networking was described as a major motivation for participating in the SVRI and as one of the most valuable benefits of participation, it was also frequently described as an area where members would like more active support. Interviewees' comments on this issue focused on three SVRI venues: listserve, discussion forum, and post-conference networking.

The listserve was described by some members as a missed opportunity for networking. Most people described the listserve in terms of disseminating information via the biweekly updates, not as a venue for networking directly with others. This impression is supported by a review of the listserve which found that in a random sample of 8 months from the archive:

- At least 54% of the posts were from the SVRI itself (20% were unknown)
- 85% of the posts were announcements
- Only 15% of the posts were discussions of research or related issues
- The most recent substantive discussion that occurred on the list was in September 2006

While people reported appreciating the information sent out by the SVRI via the listserve, very few reported making specific contacts with others in the field via the list. In part, this may be due to the fact that conversations have at times been encouraged to be taken off-list via requests that responses be sent directly to the poster and not to the list. This led one member to describe the list as *"beginning to feel impersonal"* because of the lack of actual discussion on it.

Based on this feedback, the SVRI staff and Coordinating Group are encouraged to reconsider the purpose they want the listserve to meet. Listserves can serve multiple purposes and should be used according to the intended purpose. If the listserve is intended as an efficient means of disseminating information then the current format and taking of discussions off-list is appropriate. However, if the list is intended to be a networking venue then more on-list discussion should be encouraged so that members can learn more about one another's work, identify individuals who are potential resources, and share their experiences with doing sexual violence research and/or delivering services and formulating policy.

Similarly, the discussion forum appears to be underutilized for networking and discussion. As of August 2010, a review of the forum indicated only:

- 58 active posters
- 30 discussion threads
- An average of 71.5 views per thread
- An average of 4.2 replies per thread
- 23% of threads with 3 or more replies

The interviews revealed two possible reasons for this underutilization. First, accessing the list of discussion threads from the SVRI website requires four clicks plus a login. This was described by some members as *"too many clicks"* and *"too difficult to get to"*. Second, some members who had actually participated in the online discussions were unaware that they could start a new thread if they had a question or topic for discussion. They were under the impression that only SVRI staff/ moderators could start a new thread. Therefore, they were only in a position to respond to discussions and not to initiate them.

Two interviewees who had participated in other online discussion groups offered in-depth descriptions of ways to make the SVRI forum more widely utilized. Common elements of their suggestions included:

- Have defined time periods for the discussion to start and end
- Start with some type of formal information (e.g., short paper, slides highlight-

ing an issue, etc.) that would generate initial discussion
- Recruit 3-4 people to take a lead role in starting the discussion
- Actively recruit 15-20 people to participate in the discussion
- Additionally widely publicize the discussion for others to join in
- Offer some type of certificate of completion at the end for those who actively participated
- Make it clear what type of formal outgrowth of the discussion there will be (e.g., desk review, workshop, etc.) so that participants know they are contributing to something more than the discussion itself.

The goal is that when anyone views the discussion they see that meaningful, in-depth discussion is occurring among a fairly large group of people. This increases the likelihood of their contributing to the discussion. It is notable that the discussions that generated the most response were those that were structured and advertised in a way that shared some of these suggested elements.

Post-conference networking was also identified as a need. Many conference attendees who were interviewed described meeting people and being enthusiastic about following up with them after the conference. However, many also described the networking potential not coming to fruition. As one participant explained, she *"put a lot of effort into maintaining those connections...but they fizzled out."* Another described the conference as *"...simultaneously helpful and unhelpful for networking. On the one hand, I made many contacts with people at the conference. At that moment we were all excited to make contacts, but it did not continue."* She described the lack of follow through post-conference as minimizing the usefulness of the experience.

Some interviewees suggested that a valuable way the SVRI can support networking outside of face-to-face meetings is to host a searchable database on its website where members can post a profile. It was suggested that the database include:

- Name and contact information
- Topical interests
- Geographic area
- Research methods used (if applicable)
- Types of services delivered (if applicable)

This would allow SVRI members to find and contact one another as needs arise. It would expand the potential networking opportunities greatly and build a much broader global network.

Finally**, networking should be viewed as occurring not only among SVRI members but also between members and the SVRI staff.** A number of interviewees expressed interest in sharing their resources with the SVRI, but were either unaware that the SVRI was interested in this or said that without there being an **easy way to upload materials on the website**, they had not shared anything. (Note: They did not intend to upload material directly to the website, but to upload it for SVRI staff to review and consider.)

In addition to access to journals and assistance with networking, the third unmet need that diminishes the efficacy of the SVRI at building capacity in sexual violence research is the **need for mentoring of researchers who are either early in their careers and/or from countries where they have few opportunities for developing academic presentations or papers**.

The potential value of a mentoring system was noted by younger researchers who are looking for mentoring. It was also noted by more experienced researchers who expressed concerns about the presentation skills and methodological rigor

of some of the presentations at the SVRI Forum in Johannesburg.

Mentoring was most frequently described as including:

- Proactive suggestions for effective research presentations
- Feedback on abstracts before they are submitted for consideration to future SVRI conferences
- Feedback on journal manuscripts or other material for publication
- Feedback on grant applications
- Making introductions to other researchers and NGOs who could be of assistance
- Availability to answer general questions

Of course, mentoring cross-nationally (and perhaps across disciplines or topical interests) has many challenges. One model the SVRI might want to explore (at least for lessons learned) is the mentoring project that was set up by the International Journal of Transitional Justice to mentor younger scholars. Information on this project can be obtained from Hugo van der Merwe at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (Johannesburg) and Harvey Weinstein at the Human Rights Center and School of Public Health (University of California at Berkeley).

Efficacy: Policy and Service Delivery

SVRI participants who were interviewed for this evaluation reported using SVRI publications and conference proceedings to influence policy and service delivery. Examples offered included:

- Use of data to establish the evidence base for particular types and forms of services (e.g., counseling, advocacy, medical care protocols)
- International and domestic legal reforms and advocacy to reform national governmental systems (e.g., ministries of health and justice)
- Policy development
- Reform of local systems to promote multi-disciplinary responses to sexual violence
- Use of information to inform the establishment of memoranda of understanding with systems that respond to sexual violence (e.g., health and judicial sectors)

However, it should be noted that **the impact of the SVRI on policy and service delivery was seen somewhat differently by researchers than by non-research stakeholders**. When researchers spoke about the impact or potential impact the SVRI has on policy and service delivery, they cited positive examples such as those listed above. However, when non-research stakeholders were asked about this, they were more apt to cite gaps between the SVRI resources and what they need in their policy and service delivery work. For example:

"The website has good, broad rhetoric and is a good repository of large, highly technical papers. But there is very little representation of grassroots groups in a way that can help gain access to them." (NGO, Haiti)

"I wished [the Johannesburg conference] was more practice oriented...Research for research sake was not relevant for me. I wanted more policy and practice implications." (NGO, Papua New Guinea)

"SVRI is very good at what it does but still is too academic...SVRI could emerge as a resource for the activist/researcher nucleus...a set of people who can come and provide information, resources, guidance to policymakers will be useful, and donors would buy in." (NGO, Zambia)

"[The SVRI is] trying to serve both researchers and grassroots groups. They need to decide which one they want to be. Maybe they can be both, but maybe they are not the ones to do it. They may

choose to continue to be very academic because they're academics and that's fine." (NGO, Rwanda)

"SVRI has so much information to share; they should make it easier for non-academics to learn in a cost-effective way." (NGO, South Africa)

To increase the impact on policy and service delivery, more explicit emphasis may need to be placed on sharing lessons learned and practical solutions. This was requested by half of interviewees. Interestingly, an equal proportion of researchers and non-researchers identified this need. The need was most poignantly described by one interviewee:

"What the website and listserve need are more narratives of what happens next and more practical solutions that give accounts of how interventions are implemented, what is being done, successes in the field, challenges encountered and practical solutions to those challenges...On the listserve you see 'problem, problem, problem, terrible, terrible, terrible'. But you don't see what you as an individual or organization can do to make things better...The SVRI is trying to document best practices, but we also need to document problems and solutions. People need simple solutions instead of broad, academic, theoretical terms…" (NGO, Haiti)

Similarly, a **need for individualized technical assistance** was voiced, especially by non-researchers. This was most clearly described by an individual working with an NGO in Papua New Guinea:

"There is awareness that sexual violence is an issue at all levels here. We're not swimming upstream...The challenge is how to respond, how to spend the money. A lot of money and effort is spent in PNG on trainings and telling people what should be done, but there is not a lot of technical support for how to do it...There is a lack of hands-on, long-term training and no actual help with implementation…[For example,] go to the hospital with them to find the private room. Help them figure out how to get supplies in a sustainable way...Instead, the trainings are more, 'Here's generally what you should do. Now, good luck!'"

Other cited examples of areas where technical assistance is needed were:

- Development of medical and legal protocols
- Municipal level policies
- National policies
- Implementation of policies
- Systems for monitoring services
- Development of culturally differentiated services for survivors of sexual violence
- Strategies for enforcing compliance with human rights standards

It should be noted that **no one who spoke about the need for individualized technical assistance explicitly stated that the SVRI is (or should be) in a position to provide this assistance** beyond what they already do through the Help Desk. **Nor is it feasible for the SVRI, with its current resources and infrastructure, to provide this type of intense, local technical assistance in a systematic way.**

However, the SVRI may be in the position to raise awareness of the need for individualized technical assistance among NGOs and governments who are providing training. As such, they can influence and leverage existing resources so that this need is met by other entities.

Finally, the SVRI's efficacy in improving knowledge to influence policy and service delivery may be strengthened by more research and resources being developed that address four specific issues. When asked about gaps in both research and resources in the field, the following issues were most frequently named:

- Community system responses (e.g., legal

and medical protocols, policy implementation, etc.) (32%)
- Prevention (23%)
- Responses to survivors and models of care (18%)
- Working with men (14%)

Efficacy: Funding Base

Finally, there is limited evidence of efficacy on the objective of strengthening the support and funding base for research on sexual violence. As noted earlier, this may not be a feasible goal at this time.

In terms of the SVRI's efforts to disseminate information on funding opportunities, **only 15% of interviewees cited the funding announcements and donor database as among the SVRI resources they find the most valuable.** No one reported successfully obtaining funds they learned about through the SVRI.

One SVRI member emphasized the **need for small seed-money grants** that can go to grassroots organizations that do not have a research infrastructure. These are typically not the types of funding opportunities posted on the listserve.

A few participants did mention that they use information from the SVRI (e.g., reports, presentations from the Forum in Johannesburg) in their reports to their own donors. They stated that having information on work that has not made it into the published research is especially valuable. Of particular importance is information on what NGOs are doing and their evaluation findings.

In summary, the SVRI has demonstrated efficacy for three of its four objectives. Participants reported increased awareness of global perspectives and experiences and using SVRI resources to promote general awareness of sexual violence in their communities/regions. All SVRI participants who were interviewed reported some type of increase in their capacity for conducting research. There were reports of actual research projects that grew out of connections made through the SVRI. SVRI publications and conference proceedings have been used to influence policy and service delivery.

There has not been demonstrated efficacy for strengthening the funding base for sexual violence research.

Suggestions that the SVRI may want to consider for the future include: increasing the visibility of grassroots and NGO-based work and emphasizing lessons learned and practical solutions to problems in the field; facilitating access to research journals; providing more active support for networking (e.g., increasing use of the listserve for networking, concentrated efforts to promote online discussions, creating an online database of members, and mentoring researchers); and raising awareness of the need for individualized technical assistance to service programs.

Efficiency of the SVRI

For this evaluation, efficiency was conceptualized as the ability of SVRI communications to reach a global audience in cost-effective ways, the extent to which SVRI events are designed to promote multisectoral partnerships and responses to sexual violence, and the extent to which publications and resources provide practical tools for the promotion of research or practices.

The reliance on online technology is an efficient way for the SVRI to work globally. Online dissemination is cost-effective and allows for widespread global communication. The website also has the advantage of being public which allows a wide range of people to access resources and become involved.

There is evidence that SVRI members regularly access the online resources:

- 80% of interviewees reported reading the website and/or listserve regularly
- The most frequently reported reason for using the website was to downloads reports and research summaries (75% of interviewees)

For some members, the online resources are vital to their work. One researcher working in Nicaragua explained that where she lives and works *"the only lifeline is the internet".*

While online technologies are an efficient way of forming and maintaining a global network and of disseminating information widely, **respondents' comments also underscored the importance of in-person contact**.

Of those who could recall how they first learned about the SVRI, 55% learned based on a personal connection with others who were involved. The remaining 45% learned through an internet search or other listserve. **The fact that more than half of the members interviewed learned about the project through a personal contact highlights the interpersonal aspect of how the network is growing.**

The importance of in-person events is further underscored by the fact that almost all examples of concrete impact on research or practice (e.g., starting collaborative projects, ideas for research, using information in articles or reports, and ideas for practice) **came out of participation in conferences or trainings where the individuals learned from or engaged directly with others**. SVRI online documents were also cited as having impact, but mostly in terms of general information and awareness.

In-person contact at an SVRI event can also pave the way for future contact. For example, one SVRI Forum participant described how the conference *"made leaders in the field in South Africa more visible [to me] and I had a chance to talk to them and interact, so now I am more familiar with them."* She went on to describe how, as a result, she has had the confidence to contact several SVRI participants via e-mail and maintain regular correspondence with them. For this individual, that contact would not have happened without the face-to-face experience.

While in-person events are resource-intensive, they clearly play an important role in the impact that the SVRI has. As such, strategic use of in-person events appears to be worth the investment.

Efficiency: Funding Base

While there were positive findings about the efficiency of the SVRI's activities for raising awareness, building the capacity for research and influencing policy and service delivery, this was not the case for strengthening the funding base for research on sexual violence.

Focusing on the SVRI's current work to increase access to existing funds, **the funding opportunities posted on the listserve and the donor database appear to be applicable to a very narrow portion of SVRI members**.

Interviewees who had used these SVRI resources to try and find funding for their work reported that they did not find funding for which they were eligible. Issues they encountered included potential donors:

- Focusing on a specific geographic area (that was different from where the member was working)
- Limiting funds to researchers/NGOs based in certain countries
- Requiring large infrastructure that essentially limits their funds to research institutions that are already set up to receive large grants
- Funding service projects but not research

Therefore, it is questionable how efficient the listserve and donor database are for increasing access to existing funds. If these activities require very little time and effort on the part of the SVRI staff, then there is no harm in continuing them. However, if compiling this information is resource-intensive, it may be worth reconsidering these efforts.

Efficiency: Future Directions

There are limitations to the reach of online resources and venues; 24% of interviewees reported challenges with accessing the internet, either for themselves or for their colleagues in other countries. Mobile phone applications and text message updates were suggested as alternatives that may be worth exploring because in many developing countries there is better access to cell phones than to the internet.

Additionally, **increasing one's involvement in the SVRI may also be facilitated by personalized contact**. These do not have to be one-on-one communications, but can be mass electronic communications to a targeted group of people.

For example, it was striking that 23% of interviewees who had attended at least one in-person SVRI event (e.g., conference, training or meeting) reported not knowing about the SVRI listserve. For example:

"After the Forum last year, I was so motivated that other people were doing what I do. But it kind of died out after that...It would have been nice to know about the discussion forum — I just didn't pay any attention to it before…[The conference] was so motivating and exciting; it motivates me to work harder and be more in touch with other researchers. [The information on the website is similarly] very stimulating, but SVRI needs to promote its own resources better and more widely...One email about the listserve after the conference is all it would have taken to get me to sign up."(researcher, South Africa)

[Commenting on the lack of communication following attendance at an in-person meeting:] "I am interested in all the information [the SVRI] might have available. But none of this has come to me directly; it came to me through a colleague" (multinational NGO, Mexico)

A follow-up e-mail to participants of in-person events, thanking them for their participation and inviting them to join the listserve and discussion forum, would be a simple way of facilitating their increased participation in the SVRI.

Finally, during the in-person events themselves one way to increase efficiency is, when appropriate, to structure participation so that it includes intra-country teams. This is particularly relevant to those events focused on improving policy and service delivery. **Participants in the African Training Programme described the participation of intra-**

country teams as facilitating greater impact. This indicates that continuing to strategically facilitate intra-country participation is an effective and efficient use of resources.

Further support for this strategy is seen in the fact that 55% of SVRI members spontaneously talked about the importance of multi-system collaboration and cooperation. As one member observed: *"There are different influential stakeholders but they are in their own part of the universe and there is no dialogue."*

In summary, the work of the SVRI appears to be carried out in an efficient manner for a global initiative. The use of online technologies allows for the formation of a global network and the efficient dissemination of information and tools across the globe. Some SVRI members and potential members have limited access to online sources, but on the whole this appears to be an efficient modality for the SVRI.

However, the efficiency of online venues does not negate the importance of in-person events. The most concrete examples of SVRI impact grew out of in-person trainings, conferences and meetings. Therefore, strategic use of these venues is an efficient use of resources.

Institutional Development

In addition to the more externally focused dimensions of relevance, efficacy and efficiency, the evaluation also looked internally at the extent of institutional development of the SVRI. That is, how SVRI activities and resources have expanded over time and the establishment of an organizational infrastructure that will facilitate ongoing operations.

As the progress indicators (described on pages 13—19) show, **there has been significant institutional development of the SVRI, especially in regard to increasing awareness, building capacity in sexual violence research, and influencing policy and service delivery.**

A few performance indicators that especially speak to the institutional development include the fact the SVRI has created multiple ways that researchers and practitioners can access resources on sexual violence research and practice. These include:

- Website
- Listserve
- Discussion Forum
- Facebook
- SVRI Forum (planned biennially)
- African Training Programme
- Satellite and topical meetings
- Other trainings focused on specific skills and audiences

In addition to these venues for networking and learning, the SVRI website currently contains links to:

- 649 journal abstracts
- 468 reports
- 218 organizations
- 42 research guidelines
- 25 research instruments
- 13 screening tools
- 9 research tools
- 6 surveillance tools

The SVRI has also authored or commissioned a total of 12 substantive reports:

- Violencia Sexual en Latinoamérica y el Caribe: Análisis de Datos Secundarios. Iniciativa de Investigación sobre la Violencia Sexual
- Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in China
- Sexual Violence and HIV Factsheet
- Primary Level Mental Health Care for Common Mental Disorders in Resource Poor Settings: Models and Practice
- Rape: How Women, the Community and the Health Sector Respond
- The Uses and Impacts of Medico-Legal Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases: A Global Review
- Research Trauma, Safety and Sexual Violence Research
- Background Paper on Guidelines for Researchers on Doing Research with Perpetrators of sexual Violence
- Research Priorities for strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence in Eastern, Central and southern Africa
- Assessment Instruments Used to Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence
- How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault
- SVRI Research Agenda

There are also four reviews currently under development:

- Risk Factors and Social Dynamics Underpinning Rape and Critique of Best Practices in Rape Prevention Policy Internationally
- Interventions to Strengthen Parenting and Home Settings to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
- Interventions to Influence Gender Socialization of Boys
- Interventions to Prevent Rape Perpetration for Boys and Young Men

The efforts to generate and post this wealth of information and resources is recognized and appreciated by SVRI members. For example:

"The work of the SVRI is very good — a watershed in the field...I am very grateful to SVRI for what they have given to the field." (researcher, Mexico)

"If I was to rate Liz's [Dartnall's] performance she would get more than 100%! It's very, very important for someone like her to be at the SVRI." (researcher, India)

"SVRI is doing a great job and I would like to see it stay around. The current coordinating body has amazing expertise and capacities." (NGO, Zambia)

"The SVRI must continue. I see it as a central point where a lot of information converges — information on a difficult and complex subject matter that concentrates on both research and advocacy." (multinational NGO, Mexico)

Efforts to expand the SVRI's activities and resources also represent **an intentional effort to broaden the global reach of the initiative**. Specific activities have brought focus on sexual violence and research in:

- Eastern, Central and Southern Africa
- India
- China
- Latin America and the Caribbean

However, some members still perceive the SVRI as very focused on Africa (and some African members see it as very focused on South Africa) and expressed a desire for it to become more

geographically diverse in its work and membership.

Institutional Development: Funding Base

The one area where institutional development has lagged is in strengthening the funding base for sexual violence research. Substantial efforts have been made to increase members' access to funding sources and to increase funding for the SVRI. However, there is little evidence of direct efforts to increase the amount of funds allocated to sexual violence research. However, as discussed earlier, this objective may be premature in the life of the SVRI. The staff and Coordinating Group are encouraged to reconsider the appropriateness of this objective at this time.

Institutional Development: Future Directions

There are three areas that may warrant concerted efforts at development in the near future. **Specific to policy and service delivery, the SVRI may want to do more work with popular media**. In addition to advancing the SVRI's own development, efforts in this area can also help to meet the needs of researchers who acknowledge that they need assistance with disseminating information and research more broadly.

A substantial proportion (45%) of interviewees said that researchers need better skills for working with the media. For example:

"Researchers need to be trained and challenged to share their knowledge outside of journals in venues such as newspaper, radio and television...They need to be trained on how to talk with the general public about sexual violence and not just talk with other researchers." (researcher, India)

"I doubt many policymakers are reading ISPCAN...We need to have more reports in newspapers [and popular media] that reach a much broader scope of people." (researcher, South Africa)

"[Researchers need training on] how to tell a compelling story, how to use sound bytes, and how to focus on what policy makers want to know versus on research methodology." (researcher, USA)

However, it is interesting to note that while researchers and NGOs said that researchers need to be trained to work with the popular media, a journalist who is a member of the SVRI explicitly negated this opinion. She suggested that researchers are <u>not</u> the ones to do this work directly. In reflecting on *"who is best placed to read and pull messages from research journals,"* she suggested that this is a role the SVRI can play by working with a media expert to *"package simple, accessible and well messaged"* highlights of the research that are sent out monthly to major media, women's press, and medical press. She saw the role of individual researchers as serving as experts to whom journalists can go for follow up on technical questions. She did not think researchers are in the best position to learn how to write press releases.

A second area that is worth considering for future development is fostering greater clarity around the roles, needs and interactions between academic and grassroots/practitioner stakeholders. This clarity would support the major objectives of the SVRI.

The need for greater clarity was seen in the experiences of some SVRI Forum participants who reported an untapped potential in the participation and inclusion of NGOs, policy makers, medical providers, and legal professionals. For example:

- One attendee described how she was *"energized by the amazing mix of people"*. However, she *"did not think the conference capitalized on that rich diversity"*. Instead, she saw

preference being given to research perspectives in terms of workshop selection and content. Although she herself is a researcher, she talked with many NGOs at the conference who said they *"could not understand the quantitative, technical presentations."*

- Another non-researcher described the conference as succeeding *"well for academics"* and as being *"a professionals' conference"*.
- While researchers generally spoke of the conference as having a wide diversity of people present, other stakeholders were less likely to describe the conference this way. One described the conference as *"primarily attended by researchers and large NGOs"* and called for inviting *"more broad participation"* by people such as ministries of health and justice, police, prosecutors, grassroots and women's organizations. In light of the demographics of Forum registrants (see p. 15), the data indicate there was considerable professional diversity at the Forum. However, the perception by non-researchers that it was not diverse is noteworthy.

It may be worthwhile for the SVRI to re-visit how it sees its purpose vis-à-vis both researchers and non-researchers. As noted earlier (see page 19), the objectives seem to operate as parallel streams rather than in an integrated fashion. Greater clarity about the ways the objectives intersect may help shape the ongoing institutional development of the SVRI.

The third and final area that, if explored, may strengthen the SVRI's institutional development is the **delineation of roles of researchers from wealthy and developing countries within the SVRI.**

There was clear support, from interviewees from both high/upper-middle and low-middle/low income economies, for the SVRI's focus on leadership by those in developing countries. For example:

- There was recognition that a global network where *"most researchers are from the dominant cultures"* is a challenge that must be systematically addressed
- Interviewees who do cross-national work endorsed research models where the leadership of collaborating partners in developing countries is emphasized, collaborations are long-term, research methods are altered to fit the local context, and projects are designed so that when they end there are sustainable benefits to the community.
- The location of the SVRI Forum in an African country was cited by some as an important strategic decision, in terms of both increasing access to the conference for researchers and NGOs from developing African countries and reflecting a commitment to the work being done in developing countries.
- All USA researchers and NGOs who were interviewed explicitly stated that they liked the SVRI precisely because it is not USA/northern dominated.

However, it should be noted that the identification of the SVRI as being explicitly focused on developing countries came only from those participants who had the most extensive involvement with the SVRI, either because they were involved in the SVRI leadership or they had personal contact with SVRI staff or Coordinating Group members. Others were much less aware

of this emphasis. Although there was clearly a shared value among the interviewees for third world leadership, the absence of key researchers from high and upper-middle income economies was noted.

Interviewees from low and low-middle income economies frequently expressed a desire to have access to the perspectives and research resources that those from high and upper-middle income settings can bring. For example:

"Researchers from the US, Canada, Australia, and Europe can bring big picture research methods, ways of looking at the issues, and put the issues in a global picture...Women here are unaware [sexual violence] happens in other places...Outsiders are better at melding the global experience." (NGO, Papua New Guinea)

"[Research from the USA] can be used as a point of departure or discussion." (researcher, Mexico)

"I want access to their measures and methodologies. I can translate and adapt them myself." (researcher, Pakistan)

"There are culturally-specific issues [in prevention], but there are general issues that can be shared and often similarities across cultures...When there are differences, people can adapt it to their own settings." (Government, South Africa)

Those coming from high and upper-middle income economies saw similar benefits to their participation in cross-national collaborations. In reflecting on her experience working in Rwanda with grassroots women's organizations, one interviewee was of the opinion that:

"Our outside role is to document and to see things from a global perspective. We can frame and package the issues in a way that can get to the policymakers...Because we were outsiders, white, and wealthy, we had a role to broker the conversation with the government and then step aside so the women could advocate for themselves. But they hadn't been successful at gaining that access without our help." (NGO, Rwanda)

However, Researchers from wealthier contexts did not see themselves as only contributing to others' work, but also as needing to learn from the work being done globally. For example:

"We have a lot to learn from countries that are doing a far better job than we are in the USA [on prosecution]." (researcher, USA)

"[At the SVRI Forum] I learned about so many ways people are approaching prevention, especially in some of the African countries where they are doing a lot of social messaging and norms change. I shared those ideas with people in my organization who do that work." (NGO, United Kingdom)

"We're now piloting a program that organizes women's groups to analyze and change public spaces. I learned about this at the SVRI forum where it's been done in some developing countries." (NGO, South Africa)

Researchers and other stakeholders from both high/upper-middle and lower-middle/low income economies shared concerns about holding up developed countries as the standard to be emulated. **They clearly rejected the assumption that *"the first world must be the correct way of dealing with an issue."***

However, there was also a desire to have more first world researchers involved, especially those who are widely published and influential. As one person opined, *"SVRI is still a small group They need a lot more people at the table and to expand the involvement of more researchers and more people doing the work in the field." (NGO, Mexico)*

There were many expressions of trust in the SVRI's ability to ensure that the work is not co-opted by researchers from high and upper-middle income economies. As one person explained: *"[The SVRI] is good about paying attention to developing countries and making sure they are given the opportunity to voice not only their needs but also their opinions." (researcher, South Africa)*

In summary, throughout the interviews there were clear expressions of:

- Support for the focus on and leadership by researchers and practitioners from developing countries
- A noted absence of researchers from wealthier economies
- Resulting lost opportunities for access to research resources and for mutual learning
- Trust in the SVRI's ability to reach out to more researchers from wealthier settings without compromising the leadership of developing countries

Therefore, the SVRI staff and Coordinating Group are encouraged to continue their discussions about how to balance the tensions between researchers who have resources with the leadership of researchers in developing countries.

Finally, SVRI staff noted that they were disappointed by a lack of attendance by North American researchers. **Low attendance is likely due to a lack of visibility of the SVRI in North America:**

"The SVRI is a very big secret." (researcher, USA)

"Most people I know in the field don't know about SVRI...Even those few gender and violence researcher out there don't know about SVRI." (researcher, USA)

Additionally, non-members who were interviewed because of their expertise on specific issues expressed surprise that they had not heard about the SVRI and keen interest in becoming involved.

Advertising/outreach to North American researchers can be easily done through targeted invitations sent to researchers who are publishing on sexual violence and notices distributed through relevant professional organizations.

In summary, there has been substantial institutional development of the SVRI. Its expansion of publications and venues for participation are reaching an increasingly global audience.

Institutional development can be further advanced by continued attention to the differing needs of researchers and practitioners as well as to the delineation of roles of researchers from high/upper-middle income and lower-middle/low income economies. Additional efforts to expand the geographic diversity and focus of the initiative are also recommended.

Complementarity to Other Efforts

The SVRI's activities and resources are unique because of the focus on sexual violence and the global nature of the project. Members report that this is what makes the SVRI so valuable to them. For example:

"There are not a lot of other sites with that specific focus [on sexual violence]...There are general violence or family violence which may include sexual violence but they often have a much broader focus." (researcher, Canada)

"[The SVRI website is] relevant because it is very focused on sexual violence." (NGO, Papua New Guinea)

"To have a source of information that is only focused on sexual violence is a phenomenal resource...There is no other source like it." (researcher, Nicaragua)

"[The Website is valuable because it] addresses a variety of different issues in the global context of sexual violence. There are a lot of other websites out there on gender-based violence, but not on sexual violence." (researcher, Mexico)

"The most valuable part is that [the SVRI] focuses exclusively on [sexual violence]." (researcher, Mexico)

While the SVRI is clearly a unique resource, it also is well-linked to other resources. As the progress indicators show, the website contains hundreds of links to other sources of information on sexual violence and tools for sexual violence research. This led some members to describe the website as the *"first stop for information on sexual violence"* and many reported using the SVRI site as their way of accessing other sites and online resources. As such, it not only complements other resources, but is also perceived as integrating the existing resources.

The one potential drawback to the extensive linking to other resources is that it is easy to lose sight of which resources were developed by the SVRI and which are links to outside resources. Although the website does provide a specific section for SVRI Publications, it may be worthwhile to integrate that material in the pertinent topic resource lists and to develop a graphic way of highlighting those resources that were authored or commissioned by the SVRI. **This could raise the visibility of the SVRI's unique contributions to the field.**

While the SVRI's value is heavily due to its focus on sexual violence, **64% of interviewees described their work as being carried out in the context of related issues**, including:

- Development/poverty
- Domestic/family violence and intimate partner violence
- Reproductive rights
- Maternal health
- HIV prevention
- Health education
- Conflict zones

Some interviewees noted that in their countries sexual violence work is exclusively or mostly addressed as a part of other issues, most often economic development.

Despite this overlap, some interviewees described sexual violence work as *"marginalized"* or *"siloed"*. This was attributed to the field's own failure to integrate its work with other efforts. As one interviewee explained, *"We silo ourselves and then we wonder why others don't pay more attention to the issue."*

However, integrating sexual violence work with other issues can be challenging. In describing how her organization integrated sexual violence into their reproductive rights mission, one member explained:

"We never would have had any success if sexual violence was not linked to our core issue...Others don't realize the relevance of sexual violence to their issues. [Demonstrating those connections requires that it] reflect the core issue the organization is focusing on...Here's what we see in research and activism about how sexual violence impacts <u>your</u> issue. This is different from trying to get them involved in <u>our</u> issue to help us. It has to be framed in a way that shows how addressing sexual violence will help them do their own work and be more effective at what they do...The initial response is often that there is no funding, but showing how addressing sexual violence will help them be more effective can help them see sexual violence work as increasing their effectiveness and cost effectiveness rather than being a separate issue that would drain or require more resources." (NGO, Mexico)

Before tying sexual violence to other issues, however, two cautions were offered by those who were interviewed. First, **before trying to collaborate or integrate with allied issues, there needs to be better coordination among sexual violence researchers and organizations themselves.**

As one activist who has worked extensively in Rwanda and Haiti explained, *"Organizations assume that because people care about an issue, they will work together. But there is a lot of competition among sexual violence organizations for funding, notice, access and other resources...We need to clearly delineate common goals without requiring organizations to work together. SVRI is in a position to help do this." (NGO, Haiti)*

The need for better coordination among sexual violence researchers was seen as an especially urgent issue among those researchers working in conflict zones, especially in Congo and the Sudan where grave concerns were noted. As one researcher explained:

"There is a lot of interest in Congo right now, but not all studies going on there are ethical or necessary because they are not useful for practice...It's the issue of the day. People almost can't stop talking about sexual violence in Congo...A lot of graduate students and researchers are trying to make their careers off the backs of women and girls." (NGO, United Kingdom)

The SVRI was described as being in a position to address this issue by bringing intellectual resources to engage at the United Nations level to define a research agenda for the region and to create guidelines for the coordination of research there.

The second caution when tying sexual violence to other issues is to **be careful not to lose the unique focus on sexual violence**. Researchers working where family violence is more prominent expressed concern that attempts to link sexual violence to family violence risked having efforts and resources redirected to family violence with little or no consideration of sexual violence outside of families.

Similar concerns were noted when intersecting with other issues such as justice, mental health, conflict zones, and human rights. Even integration with gender-based violence is problematic because *"GBV touches on so many issues and that has diluted concrete and practical measures of GBV...The waters get muddied and it gets overwhelming." (NGO, United Kingdom)*

The intersection with the prevention of HIV transmission was also noted as problematic. Here, though, the issue is that linkages can misconstrue or incorrectly emphasis the connections. This potential was noted by all interviewees who conduct their work in the context of HIV/AIDS issues. For example:

"In making the connection between rape and HIV too much emphasis has been placed on

prophylaxis instead of on comprehensive rape care. We need to focus more on mental health care, holistic care, crisis counseling, advocacy, and other medical care." (researcher, USA)

"There is too much emphasis on rape and the immediate response of PEP [post-exposure prophylaxis] provision instead of on intimate partner violence. What little data we do have shows that IPV is much more prevalent." (NGO, Zambia)

It is important to note that these researchers explicitly stated that they do not see the SVRI making this erroneous linkage. In fact, they see the SVRI as leading the way in articulating appropriately how sexual violence and HIV are linked. However, their comments are offered here as a reminder that caution is needed when linking these issues because the information can be incorrectly applied by others who are less knowledgeable about sexual violence.

In summary, the SVRI's unique focus on sexual violence in the global context is fulfilling an otherwise unmet need. This focus does complement the work being done on other issues and strategic alliances and integrations can further the effectiveness of working being done on both sexual violence and other issues.

However, caution should continue to be used when linking issues so that the unique focus on sexual violence is not lost.

Appendix I contains a list of potential allied organizations.

Sustainability of the SVRI

The final dimension of performance that this evaluation examined was the sustainability of the SVRI over time. This aspect of the evaluation focused primarily on funding and the appeal of the SVRI to potential donors.

Sustainability must be understood in the context of funding trends. Most funding for the SVRI will come from high and upper-middle income economies. Governments, multinational non-governmental organizations, and foundations (both business and private) are all potential sources of funds.

The first challenge is piquing the interest of potential donors in **sexual violence as a fundable issue**. One representative of a donor organization that was interviewed expressed concern about funding prevention research and IPV in general because of the *"cost element and the time element that restricts availability of funds."*

The second challenge is obtaining core operating funds. **Representatives of donor organizations that were interviewed for this evaluation indicated their preference for sponsoring events and service-oriented projects.** For example, one donor described her organization's grantees as *"organizations that are actually improving services or evaluating those services."* While one of the SVRI's four objectives is to improve service delivery, it was not clear that this donor would value the SVRI's activities in the same way that they value direct service provision to survivors of sexual violence.

This preference is supported by studies that have been done of donor trends. Most notably, the Ms. Foundation for Women (2010) conducted a survey of USA foundations that fund efforts to address gender-based violence. This study found that:

- 70% of foundations report that 50% of their gender-based violence donations go to specific projects, not to general operating expenses
- 40% of foundations committed at least half of their GBV funds specifically to direct services
- Health care and criminal justice strategies received the least funding

The preference for short-term, service-oriented projects poses particular challenges for the SVRI's efforts to fund its research-oriented activities and any work to increase the funding base for sexual violence research.

Paradoxically, there is great interest in using sexual violence research but not in funding it. One SVRI member who spends considerable time disseminating research findings to policy makers (e.g., United Nations, World Bank, USAID) spoke to this issue:

"It is unbelievably difficult to get people to fund research on sexual violence. Everyone is interested in using the research but the perception is that doing good equals providing services, not doing research. The challenge is showing them how the research helps people provide good services." (researcher, USA)

Despite this challenging funding climate, the SVRI has demonstrated its appeal to donors. It has obtained large grants for specific projects (six donors) and for core operations (three donors). For specific trainings, conferences and meetings they also obtained in-kind and travel support from four additional organizations.

Sustainability: Future Directions

Continued efforts to obtain funding can be strengthened in at least two ways. First, **it is important to tailor funding proposals to the conceptual frameworks being used by the donor organizations, which may vary between organizations and between countries**. For example, a donor in the USA where a social-ecological model for the prevention of sexual violence is currently heavily emphasized described what would make a global sexual violence initiative attractive to her organization:

"If we were to address sexual violence as a global initiative, I would want to know how holistic the approach is. To what extent would these initiatives implement the ecological model? How would they look at individual issues, interpersonal relationships, societal and policy issues within a more comprehensive framework? How would they hook up with other organizations? How do existing country policies affect their work? Are they trying to approach this as a human rights issue?" (donor, USA)

There are many valid and complementary frameworks for conceptualizing sexual violence. In this case, though, proposals that do not frame the issues and activities by explicitly using the language of an ecological model would likely not be funded by this donor. The exact same activity, framed in terms of an ecological framework, would be much more likely to be funded. This underscores the **need to have an in-depth understanding of the conceptual framework the potential donor uses and adapting the SVRI's proposal to that framework.**

Second, **greater transparency regarding the focus on developing countries may be necessary to attract support from donors**. Interviews with SVRI staff and Coordinating Group members indicated that although the SVRI is developing a global network, they have an explicit focus on sexual violence research in developing countries. However, this is not reflected in major SVRI documents. For example, there was no mention of this focus in the SVRI aims and objectives as published on the website, brochure, or in the Annual Reports (except in 2009 where it was mentioned in the context of

the need to improve knowledge of sexual violence in resource-poor settings).

Failure to be transparent about this aspect of the SVRI's work may result in lost funding opportunities because donors who share that commitment will not see it adequately reflected in the way the SVRI defines its work.

Greater transparency about the SVRI's commitment to developing countries **can also build more active, sustained involvement by SVRI members**. The relevance of the SVRI to researchers and practitioners in developing countries would be clearer to them. In conjunction with the clear delineation of roles (see pp. 36—38), greater transparency would help researchers from upper and high-middle income settings understand their roles.

In summary, the SVRI has demonstrated appeal to donors, despite a challenging climate for funding of sexual violence research.

Ongoing efforts to obtain funding may be strengthened by articulating how research supports direct services to survivors of sexual violence, tailoring proposals to the conceptual frameworks used by specific donors, and providing greater transparency regarding the focus on developing countries.

Appendix H includes a list of foundations that have funded gender-based violence initiatives and may help to expand the SVRI's fundraising efforts.

Conclusion

This independent evaluation of the SVRI found extensive evidence that the work of the SVRI is relevant to its general aims and to the needs of the global community of researchers and other stakeholders who are responding to the crisis of sexual violence.

Furthermore, there is ample evidence that the SVRI is having a positive impact on the capacity to do sexual violence research and is influencing policies and service delivery. The SVRI is efficiently and effectively using its resources to achieve an every-widening global reach. What they have accomplished with such a small budget is remarkable.

The SVRI has demonstrated appeal to donors and is expected to find continued success in obtaining funds to support its work. It is the assessment of these evaluators that the SVRI is a sustainable initiative that is worth continued investment.

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Appendix A: Documents Reviewed

Training/Conference Reports

- Promoting and Strengthening Research Skills/Networks on Sexual Violence, 24-28 September 2007, New Delhi, India
- Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence, 2-6 June 2008, Nairobi, Kenya
- African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, 2-13 February 2009, Pretoria, South Africa
- SVRI Forum 2009, 6-9 July 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa
- African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, 20-31 July 2009, Harare, Zimbabwe
- SVRI Satellite Meeting on Sexual Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, 16 & 18 November 2009, Havana, Cuba

Online Networking

- SVRI Listserve (random sample of 16% of the months from April 2006 to present)
- SVRI Discussion Forum
- SVRI Website
- SVRI Facebook
- SVRI Help Desk E-mails

Proposals and Administrative Reports

- Core Funding Proposal 2008, 2009
- Annual Reports 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Reports to the Global Forum For Health Research, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Coordinating Group minutes 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,
- STRATEC Report Sept 2004
- Report to Governing Bodies 2004
- Monthly Reports to Coordinating Group for 2007, 2008, 2009
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative: An Evaluation

SVRI Publications on Sexual Violence

- SVRI Research Agenda
- Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in China
- Sexual Violence Fact Sheet
- Assessment Instruments UsedTo Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence
- The Uses and Impacts of Medico-legal Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases: A Global Review
- Guidelines for Researchers on Doing Research with Perpetrators
- Primary-Level Mental Health Care for Common Mental Disorder in Resource-Poor Settings: Models and Practices
- Rape: How Women, the Community and Health Sector Respond
- How to Conduct a Situational Analysis
- Sexual Violence and HIV Fact Sheet

Appendix B: Listserve Announcement of Evaluation

Dear SVRI participants,

Greetings from Geneva. On behalf of the Global Forum for Health Research, I want to inform you that we are currently conducting an evaluation of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and its activities. We have hired two external consultants, Stephanie Townsend and Angela Heimburger, to conduct the evaluation.

The evaluation will include in-depth telephone interviews with a small, randomly selected cross-section of SVRI participants. Stephanie and Angela will contact those who have been selected for the interview by electronic mail in the next week to explain the process and to schedule dates and times for those who agree to participate.

The telephone interviews will take place in June and the first part of July and will last approximately 30-60 minutes. The identity of all participants will be kept confidential. We can not provide any compensation for your time, but assure you that your answers will be very helpful to us in evaluating how we are or are not meeting your needs and improving our progress toward our collective objectives.

Thank you for your participation in this global initiative and your efforts to ensure that we are providing the best possible resources and responses to your needs.

Best regards,
Sylvie Olifson
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Global Forum for Health Research
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Appendix C: Interview Invitation

Greetings from New York. We are contacting you on behalf of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), organized by the Global Forum for Health Research. We are independent evaluators contracted to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of this initiative. As such, we will be interviewing a small, random sample of people who have participated in various SVRI activities. The people we interview will include researchers, medical and legal service providers, journalists, policymakers, international non-governmental organizations, and funders. Based on your participation in an SVRI event or online forum, you have been selected as a potential interviewee.

During the month of **June and the first part of July**, we will be conducting pre-arranged telephone and Skype **interviews**. Each interview will take **approximately 30-60 minutes**, depending on the extent of your answers. We do ask that you dedicate enough time to have an in-depth conversation about (A) your work related to sexual violence, (B) needs in your country or region, and (C) your experience with various SVRI activities.

The interviews may be scheduled at the date and time most convenient for you and conducted in **English, Spanish or French**. Your identity will be kept **confidential**. We cannot offer any compensation for your time, but assure you that your input and frank opinions will be valuable in assessing and improving the work of the SVRI.

If you are willing to participate, we ask that you respond to us **no later than 18 June 2010**, to schedule an interview. In your response, **please indicate the day, time and language of the interview, and provide us with the telephone number or Skype account we will need to contact you**. We will then confirm the interview with you. If you do not wish to be interviewed, simply let us know.

Should you have any questions about the interview process, please feel free to contact us by email. Thank you for your consideration in this evaluation and we hope to hear from you at your earliest possible convenience.

Best regards,
Stephanie Townsend, PhD
Angela Heimburger, MPH

Appendix D: Follow-up for Non-Responders

Greetings from New York. We are contacting you because we have not received a response from you regarding your participation in the evaluation of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI). (See copy of original message pasted below.)

We would like to extend a second invitation to you. If you are willing to participate, we ask that you respond to us **no later than 2 July 2010**, in order to schedule an interview. In your response, **please indicate the day, time and language of the interview, and provide us with the telephone number or Skype account we will need to contact you**. We will then confirm the interview with you.

We understand if you not wish to be interviewed. Please simply let us know and we will invite another candidate. If we do not hear from you by 2 July, we will assume that you are not available for an interview.

On behalf of the Global Forum for Health Research, thank you for your ongoing participation in the SVRI and the valuable work that you do.

Best regards,
Stephanie Townsend, PhD
Angela Heimburger, MPH

Appendix E: List of Countries Represented

Countries In Which Interviewees Are Based

Australia
Canada
Cuba
Georgia
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Kenya
Mexico
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Rwanda
South Africa
United Kingdom
United States of America
Zambia

Additional Countries in Which Interviewees Do Substantial Sexual Violence Work

Afghanistan
Democratic Republic of Congo
Sudan
Uganda

Appendix F: Interview Protocol

Date of Interview: _____ Interviewer: _____ AH
Time Begun: _____ _____ ST
Time Ended: _____
Elapsed Time: _____

Introduction

Hello, Ms./Mr. [NAME]. My name is [Stephanie Townsend/ Angela Heimburger] and I am working along with my colleague [Stephanie Townsend/ Angela Heimburger] as an external consultant for the Sexual Violence Research Initiative. Thank you for taking time to talk with me today. We are scheduled to today for an interview. Is this still a good time for you to talk?

If YES: proceed with interview
If NO: reschedule interview

As was explained when we contacted you about this interview, we are doing an evaluation for the Initiative to help them assess their work. As part of that evaluation we are talking with a random sample of people who have participated in some of their activities. According to the records the Initiative provided us, you participated in [name venue]. [***For non-participant researchers:*** As part of that evaluation we are talking with researchers who study sexual violence.] Our conversation today will take approximately 30-60 minutes, depending on the extent of your answers.

We can offer no compensation for your time, but I assure you that your input and frank opinions will be valuable in assessing and improving the work of the Initiative. Your answers will be kept confidential. I and my colleague are the only ones who will know whom we spoke with. We will use all the interviews to write a summary report in which we will focus on common themes we hear across the interviews. At no point will you be identified in the report.

Do you agree to be interviewed now for this evaluation?

If YES: proceed with interview
If NO: Thank you for your time.

Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

Basic information

It will be helpful to me to know a little about your position. Can you briefly tell me about your job and how it relates to sexual violence?

PROBES:

Profession?
Position?
Organization?
Years involved with sexual violence research/programs?
Principal interests in sexual violence research/programs?

As I mentioned earlier, it appears that you participated in [SVRI venue]. Are there additional SVRI events or networks you recall participating in?

_____ None
_____ New Delhi training, Sept 2007
_____ Nairobi training, June 2008
_____ Pretoria training, Feb 2009
_____ Harare training, July 2009
_____ Johannesburg conference, July 2009
_____ Havana meeting, Nov 2009
_____ Discussion Forum*
_____ Listserve*
_____ Help Desk*

* specifically ask about

Do you recall how long ago you first learned about the Sexual Violence Research Initiative?

Year: _____

Do you recall how you learned about it?

_____ Web search
_____ Link on another website (specify: _____)
_____ Colleague
_____ Other (specify: _____)

SVRI Website and Other Online Resources

I would like to shift our conversation to talking about the Sexual Violence Research Initiative 's online resources. I hope to learn about which of their resources you use and how they may have impacted your work.

The Initiative hosts a website with a wide range of information on sexual violence. Do you recall if you have ever read their website?

_____ No, never read
_____ Yes, read
_____ Do not recall

If YES: During the past six months, about how often would you say you have read the website?

_____ Daily
_____ Weekly
_____ Monthly
_____ Less than Monthly

If YES: What kinds of information or resources on the website have been most helpful for you?

_____ Announcements of trainings, conferences or other events
_____ Research reports and summaries
_____ Research tools and guidelines
_____ Funder database
_____ Links to country-specific resources
_____ Other (describe)

If YES: How have you used the information or resources from the website?

_____ General knowledge
_____ Preparing grant applications
_____ Educating policymakers
_____ Planning ways to improve system responses to survivors
_____ Educating journalists
_____ Public education/awareness campaigns
_____ Teaching
_____ Designing research studies
_____ Writing research reports
_____ Other (describe)

If YES: How does the SVRI website compare to other sources of information you have?

PROBES: What is unique about it?
What makes it valuable to you?

What other online resources do you frequently use in your sexual violence work?

What other resources that are not online do you frequently use in your sexual violence work?

SVRI Listserve

In addition to the website, the Initiative also has an online listserve that sends out biweekly updates and allows members to post questions and responses. Are you a member of the listserve? _____

No

_____ Yes

_____ I don't know

If YES: What do you find the most valuable about the listserve?

_____ News links/articles
_____ Research references/articles
_____ Job announcements
_____ Conference announcements
_____ Funding announcements
_____ Topical discussions
_____ Feedback on research projects
_____ Networking
_____ Other (describe)

If YES: Is there any kind of information or discussion you would like to see more of on the listserve?

If YES: Do you ever forward the listserve e-mails to any of your colleagues?

_____ No
_____ Yes
Typically, how many colleagues do you share it with? _____

If YES: Have you made any connections with individuals on the listserve that led to some type of collaboration or assistance that you received or provided?

_____ No
_____ Yes (describe)

Are there other sexual violence or related listserves you are a member of?

_____ No
_____ Yes (identify)

SVRI Discussion Forum

In addition to the listserve, the Initiative also has an online discussion forum where there are online conversations about various issues related to sexual violence. Have you ever read the discussion forum?

_____ No
_____ Yes
_____ I don't know

If YES: What do you find the most valuable about the discussion forum?

If YES: Is there any kind of discussion you would like to see more of on the forum?

If YES: How could the discussion forum be changed to be more useful to you?

If YES: Have you made any connections with individuals on the forum that led to some type of collaboration or assistance that you received or provided?

_____ No
_____ Yes (describe)

If NO: Were you aware that there was an online discussion forum?

_____ No
_____ Yes

If NO: What would make it more likely or possible for you to participate in an online discussion forum?

Are you a member of any other online discussion groups about sexual violence or related issues?

_____ No
_____ Yes (identify)

SVRI Trainings, Workshops, Conferences and Meetings (if applicable)

As we discussed earlier, you attended [SVRI venue]. I would like to hear about that experience and how it has impacted your work. How did you learn about [venue]?

_____ SVRI website or listserve
_____ Colleague (describe)
_____ Personal invitation from SVRI
_____ Other (describe)

What made you want to attend?

PROBES: Were your expectations met regarding relevance and quality of the event?

How useful was it for helping you to network with others who are doing sexual violence work?

PROBES: Who did you network with most?
What has happened as a result of that networking?
Were your expectations met, exceeded, not met?

How were you able to apply (or not) what you learned to your work?

PROBES: Can you give me an example of something that you have done that was influenced by what you learned?
What made you successful at (or what prevented you from) from applying what you learned?

How feasible would it be for you to attend another regional/global event organized by the SVRI and what would it take for you to be able to attend?

Would you recommend future events to colleagues?

_____ No
_____ Yes

PROBES: Why or why not?

Are these types of events worth doing more of in the future?

_____ No
_____ Yes

PROBES: Why or why not?
How could they be improved?

As you know, sexual violence is very complex. I would like to read you a list of issues that some researchers/responders face when combating sexual violence. For each of these, please let me know how important the issue is in your current work. In other words, how much is each issue something you are actively addressing right now. It would help me if you could tell me whether the issue is something that is: *not a part of your work right now, a little important to your work right now, moderately important to your work right now, or very important to your work right now.*

	Not a part of my work	A little Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Health effects of sexual violence (including physical, mental and sexual health)				
HIV transmission and/or treatment				
Improving medical services for survivors				
Improving legal responses to survivors				
Increasing legal accountability of offenders				
Crisis and support services for survivors				
Children as survivors				
Men as survivors				
People with disabilities as survivors				
Elderly as survivors				
Sexual violence in conflict settings and natural disasters				
Human trafficking				
Sexual violence as a human rights violation				
Prevention of sexual violence				
Funding for responding to sexual violence				
Funding for research on sexual violence				
Guidelines for doing research				
Tools for doing research				
Knowledge about research that has already been done				
Vicarious trauma (in other words, how responding to or studying sexual violence affects researchers and service providers)				

Questions for RESEARCHERS ONLY

What are your current research priorities or plans for your next research project?

For SVRI participants: How has your participation in the SVRI influenced or supported your work?

PROBES: Can you give me an example of something you have done differently?
Have you collaborated with anyone you met through the SVRI? How?

What do you think the biggest gaps in sexual violence research are today?

For SVRI participants: Is the SVRI addressing this gap? How or how not?

How do you fund your current research on sexual violence?

PROBES: Are you experiencing a funding gap for your current research?
How do funding gaps limit or otherwise affect your research?

What is the climate like in your country for sexual violence research?

PROBES: Is it seen as a priority issue? If so, by whom?
Are there funders who do not prioritize sexual violence but whom you think should be doing more on this issue? If so, whom?
Do universities support researchers who are looking at sexual violence?
What are the major barriers to sexual violence research?

Do you see research gaps in the SV literature? If so, what are they?

PROBES: Are those gaps because funders are reluctant to fund that issue?
Are there other reasons for the gaps?
How can the gaps be filled?

Aside from other researchers, who are key people or organizations you collaborate with in your work?

PROBES: How do those collaborations enhance your work?
Are there collaborations you would like to have but have not been successful at forming? If so, with whom and what are the barriers?

Questions for RESEARCHERS ONLY (continued)

What role do you think research should play in service delivery or public policy?

PROBES: What applications do you see for your own research?
How could your research be made more accessible to practitioners?
What technical assistance or other support do you need to make your research more accessible?

For non-SVRI participants: The SVRI became fully operational in 2004. Are you surprised that you have not heard of it before today?

_____ No
_____ Yes

PROBES: Why or why not?

For non-SVRI participants: What do you think would be effective venues or ways for the SVRI to reach out more to researchers in your country or region?

PROBES:

_____ Journals/publications (specify)
_____ Organizations/associations (specify)
_____ Listserves (specify)
_____ Websites (specify)
_____ Conferences (specify)

For non-SVRI participants: How interested are you in learning more about sexual violence in the global context?

_____ Not interested
_____ Somewhat interested
_____ Moderately interested
_____ Very interested

PROBES: What about it interests you?
How might a global perspective change, enhance or enhance your work?

For non-SVRI participants: How interested are you in collaborating with researchers from other parts of the globe?

_____ Not interested
_____ Somewhat interested
_____ Moderately interested
_____ Very interested

PROBES: What could you bring to those collaborations?
What would you hope to get out of those collaborations?

Questions for SERVICE PROVIDERS ONLY

What are the major organizations or agencies in your country working on sexual violence?

What are the biggest gaps are in services for survivors of sexual violence in your country or region?

PROBES: How do those gaps affect survivors?
How do those gaps affect your work?

What are the biggest gaps in holding perpetrators or offenders accountable in your country or region?

PROBES: How do those gaps affect communities?
How do those gaps affect your work?

Is the SVRI addressing these gaps?

PROBES: How or how not?
How could the SVRI improve on its work?

How do you fund your work related to sexual violence?

PROBES: Are you experiencing a funding gap for your work?
How do funding gaps limit or otherwise affect your work?

What is the climate like in your country for responding to sexual violence?

PROBES: Is it seen as a priority issue? If so, by whom?
Which systems or organizations do not prioritize sexual violence but whom you think should be doing more on this issue?
What are the major barriers you face in your sexual violence work?

Who are key people or organizations you collaborate with in your work?

PROBES: How do those collaborations enhance your work?
Are there collaborations you would like to have but have not been successful at forming? If so, with whom and what are the barriers?

What do you need in order to build bridges and collaborate more with researchers?

Questions for POLICYMAKERS ONLY

What is the climate like in your country for responding to sexual violence?

PROBES: Is it seen as a priority issue? If so, by whom?
Which systems or organizations do not prioritize sexual violence but whom you think should be doing more on this issue?

Who are key people or organizations you work with on policy issues related to sexual violence?

PROBES: How do those collaborations enhance your work?
Are there collaborations you would like to have but have not been successful at forming? If so, with whom and what are the barriers?

What is the status of sexual violence laws and policies within your country?

PROBES: What laws and policies are working well?
What laws and policies most need to be reformed?

What reforms or changes are currently underway?

PROBES: What are the challenges are faced in bringing about systematic reform?
What research or technical assistance do you need to create change?

Questions for INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ONLY

What do you see as the relationship between sexual violence and other relevant health, development and human rights issues?

What is the climate like for responding to sexual violence in the countries or regions where your organization works?

PROBES: Is it seen as a priority issue? If so, by whom?
Which systems or organizations do not prioritize sexual violence but whom you think should be doing more on this issue?

Who are key people or organizations you work with on issues related to sexual violence?

PROBES: How do those collaborations enhance your work?
Are there collaborations you would like to have but have not been successful at forming? If so, with whom and what are the barriers?

What are ways the SVRI can broaden its reach and maximize its influence?

How can the SVRI facilitate more or better inter-regional and international sharing and networking with other NGOs in your field?

Questions for FUNDERS ONLY

How is sexual violence relevant to your funding priorities and current portfolio of grantees?

PROBES: What current sexual violence research do you fund?
Does this current level of funding reflect an increase, a decrease or the same amount of funding as in the past five years? Could you please explain why?

Who are key people or organizations (if any) you work with on issues related to sexual violence?

PROBES: How do those collaborations enhance your work?
Are there collaborations you would like to have but have not been successful at forming? If so, with whom and what are the barriers?

In your opinion, what are the most important areas of sexual violence research that should be funded (whether by your organization or another funding agency)?

PROBES: Are there research gaps in the research because of areas that funders are reluctant to or simply do not support? If so, what are they?

What do you see as the relationship between sexual violence and other health, development and human rights issues?

If your organization was going to fund a global initiative to promote research on and responses to sexual violence, what critical elements would you be looking for in a project? In other words, what would make you want to fund such a project?

Questions for JOURNALISTS ONLY

Where (i.e., in what medium and/or what publications) have you published information about sexual violence?

What prompted you to get involved in reporting on this subject?

How has the information been received?

PROBES:
- By your editors?
- By your colleagues?
- By your readers?
- What sort of feedback have you received about your reporting on sexual violence specifically?

What gaps in information and reporting do you see on issues related to sexual violence?

What information do you need to support your reporting on sexual violence?

PROBES:
- Where do you usually go for information on sexual violence?
- What organizations or individuals have been the most helpful to you?
- What organizations or individuals did you expect to get help from but were not successful?

Do you have sufficient access to experts on sexual violence?

PROBES:
- Who or what organizations have been the most help to you?
- What kinds of experts do you need more access to?
- What do you need to gain access to experts?

What else is needed to promote more in-depth and consistent reporting on sexual violence?

Conclusion

Finally, in general, how can the SVRI become more relevant or useful to your work?

What additional comments or suggestions do you think I or the SVRI secretariat need to be aware of?

PROBES: Ways to improve the contents of the website, listserv or discussion forum?
Ways to broaden or expedite information dissemination?
Ways to tailor conferences and workshops to better meet your needs?
Ways to include a more diverse array of members?
Ways to strengthen its outreach and relevance to your country's needs?

This completes our interview for today. Thank you so much for your time and openness in responding to these questions. These results will be collected and analyzed in the next few months, and we will submit an evaluation report to the SVRI at the end of August.

The coordinators of the SVRI will be in touch with you and other members shortly thereafter in order to share a summary of the results. If you have any further questions about this interview, please feel free to contact Stephanie (stephanie.townsend@earthlink.net) or Angela (a_heimburger@hotmail.com).

For further inquiries or to address any additional concerns or comments, please contact Sylvie Olifson at Sylvie.olifson@globalforumhealth.org.

For information on the Sexual Violence Research Initiative or specific assistance, please visit their web-site at www.svri.org or contact them at svri@mrc.ac.za

Appendix G: Progress Indicators

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Increase awareness of sexual violence as a priority public health problem through evidence based communication and information	Listserve # of members	2005: 590 members, 50 countries 2006: 786 members, 74 countries 2007: 1070 members, 80 countries 2008: 1500 members, 80 countries 2009: 2040 members, 110 countries
	Listserve regular postings of updates	Biweekly updates from SVRI consistently made
	# of people from developing countries actively participating in online discussions	August 2010: 19 (33%) from low or lower-middle income economies 58 active posters total 30 discussion threads with an average of 71.5 views and 4.2 replies
	# of discussion groups/research groups established	None identified
	# of reports posted on website	3 reports/related documents: Violencia Sexual en Latinoamerica y el Caribe Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in China Sexual Violence and HIV Fact Sheet
	# of country pages populated with country specific information	172 country pages
	# of hits on website	Dec 2006: 19,528 hits from 1,277 unique visitors Dec 2007: 46,610 hits from 2,041 unique visitors Dec 2008: 56,479 hits from 3,078 unique visitors Dec 2009: 67,241 hits from 4,016 unique visitors
	Website updated bimonthly	Confirmed
	Increased exposure in other e-platforms	Facebook fan page with 361 fans Increased interactions on wall

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Strengthen the support and funding base for research on sexual violence	SVRI core funding base expanded	2006: US$224,338 (World Bank via GFHR, WHO) 2007: US$191,351 (World Bank via GFHR) 2009: US$122,388 (World Bank via GFHR) 2010: US$234,209 (World Bank via GFHR, Oak Foundation)
	Amount of funds raised for specific projects	2006: none 2007: none 2008: US$106,700 (Ford Foundation, Hewlett Foundation) 2009: US$139,259 (Ford Foundation, Oxfam Novib, WHO, MRC) 2010: US$205,202 (Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, WHO)
	Expansion of available resources for research	No direct evidence available for this indicator
	Increased focus of research and research expenditures on sexual violence	No direct evidence available for this indicator

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Build capacity in sexual violence research	# of people trained in research on sexual violence	101 total participants: Promoting and Strengthening Research Skills/Networks on Sexual Violence, 24-28 September 2007, New Delhi, India (19 participants) Consultative Meeting on Ethical Recommendations for Research with Perpetrators of Sexual Violence, 17-18 July 2008, Pretoria, South Africa (19 participants) SVRI Satellite Meeting on Sexual Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean,16 November 2009, Havana, Cuba (30 participants) Prostitution in South Africa: Setting a Research Agenda, 13-14 April 2010, Pretoria, South Africa (33 participants)
	# of presentations made at global meetings	27 meetings/presentations: 2006: New Woman Foundation, Egypt 2007: Roundtable at Forum 11, China 2008: Medico-Legal Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya Women's World, Madrid, Spain Reproductive Health in Emergencies Conference, Uganda Margins2Mainstream, Australia LVCT Conference, Kenya Sexual Violence: An International Perspective, online AWID Conference GBV Prevention & Sonke Gender Justice Network Meeting, South Africa Training of Health Practitioners on Sexual Assault Treatment, South Africa 2009: IASSCS Conference, Vietnam Monash University Health Day, South Africa SGBV Leadership Academy, South Africa Medical Education Workshop, South Africa Human Trafficking Indaba, South Africa SAfAIDS workshop, South Africa Meeting with Centre for Rural Childhood, South Africa Ford Foundation Convening, Vietnam 2010: Safety 2010 Conference, United Kingdom SAPSAC Annual Conference, South Africa Child Sexual Abuse Technical Working Group, South Africa Feminist Legal Approaches to Prostitution, South Africa ISPCAN International Congress, USA Hate Crimes in South Africa—Discussion Panel, South Africa Presentation on Child Sexual Abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa Presentation on Child Sexual Abuse in India

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Build capacity in sexual violence research *(continued)*	# of standing committees served on	3 committees: Publication Mentoring Programme of International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society GBV Prevention Network Advisory Committee Technical Working Group for Child Sexual Abuse Literature Review by East, Central and Southern African Health Community
	# of research tools on website	6 SVRI reports/related documents: Research Trauma, Safety and Sexual Violence Research Background Paper on Guidelines for Researchers on Doing Research with Perpetrators of Sexual Violence Research Priorities for Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Assessment Instruments Used to Study Healthcare-Based Interventions for Women Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence How to Conduct a Situation Analysis of Health Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault Research Agenda 4 desk reviews under development: Risk factors and social dynamics underpinning rape and critique of best practices in rape prevention policy internationally Interventions to strengthen parenting and home settings to prevent child sexual abuse Interventions to influence gender socialization of boys Interventions to prevent rape perpetration for boys and young men Links to other research documents/tools: 42 research guidelines 31 research instruments 6 surveillance tools 4 research priorities 13 screening tools
	# of requests to SVRI email address	November 2006 – January 2010: 41 Technical Assistance requests 25 requests for SVRI to spread word re: event, resource, site, news story, etc. 4 notices that sender has linked to SVRI site 2 internship requests 2 research funding requests 1 media request 7 thanks/compliments

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Build capacity in sexual violence research *(continued)*	Existing training programmes reviewed and strengthened to better respond to sexual violence	SVRI staff have reviewed policies, curricula and manuscripts upon request of members
	Annual capacity building workshops linked to international conferences in specific regions	No evidence available of this indicator aside from the capacity building workshops noted under other indicators
	# of briefing papers posted on website	In addition to the SVRI documents listed for other indicators, SVRI website includes links to: 468 reports 649 journal abstracts 218 organization links 21 guides 25 research instruments

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Improve knowledge of sexual violence internationally to influence policy and practice	# of people trained in responding to sexual violence	244+ participants: Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence, 2-6 June 2008, Nairobi, Kenya (53 participants) Presentation at a journalists' training sponsored by Population Reference Bureau, South Africa (2008) African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, 2-13 February 2009, Pretoria, South Africa (42 participants) African Regional Training Programme for Care and Support of Sexual Assault Survivors, 20-31 July 2009, Harare, Zimbabwe (45 participants) Training of Trainers in Clinical Management of Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, 22 February—5 March 2010, Rwamagana District, Rwanda (35 participants) Taking Care of Ourselves: A Workshop for Sexual Violence Researchers, 20-21 July 2010, Pretoria, South Africa (16 participants)
	Research reviews developed and posted on website	3 reports/related documents: Primary Level Mental Health Care for Common Mental Disorder in Resource Poor Settings: Models and Practice Rape: How Women, the Community and the Health Sector Respond The Uses and Impacts of Medico-Legal Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases: A Global Review

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Improve knowledge of sexual violence internationally to influence policy and practice *(continued)*	Wider dialogue with broad spectrum of stakeholders	SVRI Forum 2010 included the participation of: 34% NGOs 28% researchers 13% government officials 7% consultants 4% legal professionals 4% BINGOs 3% medical professionals 2% aid/development 1% journalists 1% donors 5% unknown 15 Established partnerships: AfroAIDSInfo Portal AIDS Portal Centre for Development Services Euromedcenter FRONTIERS Program Global Forum for Health Research International Center for Research on Women Inter-American Alliance for Gender Violence Prevention and Health Liverpool VCT Medical Research Council PATH Restore Program School of Psychology, Victoria University WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health
	Addressing root causes of violence brings greater awareness of gender inequality and impact of gender roles and relations	Primary prevention presentations at SVRI Forum (2009)

Objective	Progress Indicator	Documented Activity
Across all four objectives	SVRI Forum held	Held 6-9 July 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa 194 registrants
	# of people from developing countries participating at Forum	49 (25%) from low income countries 31 (16%) from lower middle income countries

Appendix H: Potential Funders

Source: Ms. Foundation for Women (2001). *Efforts to address gender based violence: A look at foundation funding.* Ms. Foundation: New York.

Foundation	FY08 Funding for GBV	# GBV Grants Made
American Jewish World Service	$234,000	16
Anschutz Family Foundation	$85,000	12
Arizona Foundation for Women	$150,000	16
Avon Foundation for Women	$4,800,000	116
Bangladesh Women's Foundation	Unknown	10
Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beaird Family Fdtn.	$50,000	3
FISA Foundation	$307,145	6
Fund for Global Human Rights	$750,000	90
Global Fund for Women	$2,116,392	113
International Women's Development Agency	$500,000	9
John Gogian Family Foundation	$135,000	9
Johnson Family Foundation	$888,721	47
Little Angel Foundation	$497,885	28
Liz Claiborne Foundation	$400,000	11
Missouri Foundation for Health	$2,385,641	16
Mongolian Women's Fund/Mones	$38,494	5
Ms. Foundation for Women	$430,000	24
NoVo Foundation	$40,000,000	36
Reconstruction Women's Fund	$101,111	26
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	$5,031,000	24

Foundation	FY08 Funding for GBV	# GBV Grants Made
The Bingham Program	$127,036	10
The Constantin Foundation	$50,000	2
The Hadassah Foundation	$75,000	3
The Overbrook Foundation	$500,000	12
Verizon Foundation	$4,700,000	250
Waitt Institute for Violence Prevention	$1,200,000	2

Appendix I: Allied Organizations

Note: These are organizations that were mentioned by interviewees as ones they network with, collaborate with or find useful in their work on sexual violence. The SVRI already has established relationships with some of these organizations, but all are listed here to provide insight on the organizations that they have potential linkages to through SVRI members.

International
African-Spanish Women's Network for a Better World
Athena Network
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Programme
Development Connections
Global Exchange Network
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Center for Research on Women
International Rescue Committee
International Rotary Club
International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
International Victimology
IPAS
IPPF
Management Science for Health
Medicins Sans Fronteras
Population Council
Population Reference Bureau
Save the Children
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNIFEM End Violence Against Women/.Human Rights Unit
VORE
World Federation for Family Doctors
Zero Tolerance

Argentina
FEIM

Australia
Office for Women
National Task Force on Violence
Ministry of Health
National Steering Committee on Violence
Australian Federation of Medical Women
Australian Women's Coalition

Australian Childhood Foundation
Child Abuse Australia
Brave Hearts

Brazil
Red de Jovens Brasil

Canada
National Clearinghouse on Domestic Violence in Canada
Statistics Canada

Chile
ISIS

Cuba
Cuban Health Ministry
National Sexuality Education Center
SEMLAC

Guatemala
Centro de Information de Mujeres y Comunicacion

Honduras
ASHONFPLAFA (affiliate of IPF)
Ministry of Helath
Violence Observatory
Women's Secretariat

India
Solutions Exchange

Ireland
Concern

Italy
COOPI

Mexico
Centro de Investigacion, Capacitacion y Apoyo a la Mujer
Consejo Nacional de Ciencias y Tecnologia
Instituo Nacional de Desarrollo Social
Instituto Nacional de Mujeres
Instituto Ncional de Psiquiatria
National Institute of Public Health
Programa de Juventud Sin violencia

PAHO
Secretaria de Educacion Publica

Nigeria
Campaign Against Unwanted Pregnancy — Action Group on Adolescent Health
Institute for Tropical Disease Research and Prevention
Interagency Working Group on Gender
Ministry of Health
National Agency for Control of AIDS

Papua New Guinea
Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee

South Africa
National Working Group on Sexual Offences

United Kingdom
Childhood and Other Sexual Abuse Survivors Support Network

United States
Aequitas
American Rescue Committee
APRI
Association of Women in Psychology
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Change
Ending Violence Against Women International
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
National Center for PTSD
National Institute of Health
National Institute of Justice
National Institute of Mental Health
National Sexual Violence Resource Center (has member organizations in all US states and territories)
National Network to End Domestic Violence
Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice
Prevention Connection
Society for Community Research and Action
USAID
VAWNet
Violence Against Women Online Resources
Vital Voices