



Establishing research priorities on violence against women and girls in the Latin American and Caribbean region



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Equipo FREE

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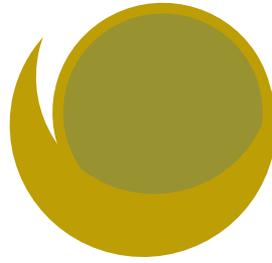
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And finally, to thank all the experts who participated in the workshop to present the Regional Agenda. We hope that the Regional Agenda supports the path towards a Latin America and the Caribbean free from violence against women and girls.



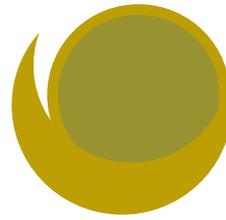


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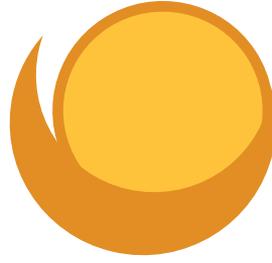
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ACRONYMS

- LAC:** Latin America and the Caribbean
- GSRA:** Global Shared Research Agenda
- LBTI+:** Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and More
- NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization
- LMIC:** Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- VAWG:** Violence Against Women and Girls
- SVRI:** Sexual Violence Research Initiative



Important definitions and clarifications on the use of some concepts

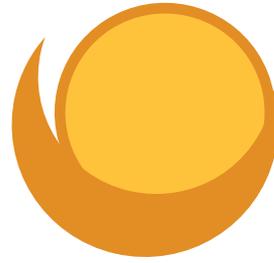
INTERSECTIONALITY: This concept was coined in 1989 by Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, an American academic and professor specializing in critical race theory. It defines it as “the phenomenon by which each individual suffers oppression or holds privilege based on their membership in multiple social categories.” Intersectionality shows how the different social categories generate very different oppressions and privileges when intersecting with each other. They are not layers of discrimination that overlap or add up (gender + race + rurality, etc.). But their intertwining generates diverse dynamics that multiply discrimination. It is thus a fundamental concept for the analysis of both the situation of women and gender inequality in the world and any analysis related to human rights.

LGBTI+: although some UN Agencies, as well as Summits, Platforms or recommendations of protection mechanisms, use the term LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex), the consulting team, following the LGBTI+ movement also incorporated the + symbol to include all those women, girls and adolescents who may not feel included in the previously mentioned categories, and thus try to be the most inclusive of the different identities existing in the region. When we specifically refer to LGBTI+ women and girls throughout the document, we have removed the G, as it does not apply to them.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: throughout this report, we have used the term “violence against women and girls” because we want to make girls specifically visible in gender-based violence. This is because it acquires specific characteristics in girls caused by power imbalances.

SPEAKING IN FEMININE GENDER: throughout the report, it has been chosen to speak in feminine, given that most of the experts who participated in the consultations were women*.

[*Translator's note: The original version of this report is written in Spanish. This language makes a grammatical gender distinction (feminine vs masculine) in every noun and adjective. This does not apply to English; thus, the distinction is lost when translated].



Executive summary

Introduction

THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE Research Initiative (SVRI) aims to achieve a world free of violence against women and children. This, through innovative responses, evidence-informed prevention programs and research focusing on low- and middle-income countries.

While it is recognized that violence against women and children is a multidimensional problem, it becomes necessary to establish research priorities to achieve better use of available resources and to advance more systematically in response to violence against them. In this way, SVRI promoted with its partner organizations to identify global research priorities on violence against women under an open, collaborative approach so that diverse voices and perspectives were included. Within this framework, a collective set of priorities for the Latin American and Caribbean region was developed based on the findings of the Global Shared Research Agenda, including violence against girls.

This research considers different sources of information, both quantitative and qualitative. However, it aims to give visibility, presence, and reason to the voices of the experts consulted, with special attention to non-academic voices. Therefore, the Regional Agenda of research priorities of violence against women and girls considers the needs of civil society organizations working in this field. This, in opposition to traditional methodologies built from the priorities of funders or academia, surpassing

the ‘expert’ judgment of a limited group of people. The process itself is as valuable as the results when it comes to a new approach.

The following report is structured in three parts. The first section presents the objectives and background, the methodology, the scope and limitations encountered. The second part includes the results of the process of collective construction of the Regional Agenda. Finally, the third part displays the conclusions and recommendations.

Methodology

Concerning methodology, a desk review, data analysis and consultations were carried out with experts on violence against women and girls in the region. This comes from grassroots and academic organisations, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations specialising in the field.

Six domains of analysis, derived from the domains of the overall process, were identified: 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls; 2. Strategies for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls; 3. Improving interventions to address violence against women and girls; 4. Impact of policies and laws on violence against women and girls; 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls; 6. Measuring violence against women and girls. These domains guided the consultations and the construction of the Regional Agenda.

The consultation process, which was carried out through different online tools, began with a survey for the identification of experts on violence against women and girls. 126 Afro-descendant, indigenous, mestizo, white, lesbian, bisexual, queer and disabled experts from Central America and Mexico, the Southern Cone, the Andean Region and the Caribbean responded to the survey. Of the 126 people who filled out the identification form, 83 responded to the first questionnaire on research priorities (77 women and 6 men). They indicated priority topics to be investigated within the six domains. Of those

83, 11 were interviewed, and 16 were members of an Advisory Board. This Advisory Board accompanied the whole process. Then, a second questionnaire to narrow down priorities was answered by 73 experts (69 women and four men). In total, 101 experts from 22 countries in the region participated in the consultations. These were conducted in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Results

1. Regional

Research on violence against women and girls in the region demands an intersectional approach. Although academia produces the majority of knowledge regarding violence in the region, feminist, women’s and civil society organizations also play an essential role, being responsible for one in four of the identified investigations. In addition, there is growing research, although still insufficient, that applies an intersectional approach to analysing the impact of violence against certain groups of women and girls who face double and triple discrimination. These are indigenous, Afro-descendant, lesbian, bisexual, trans and migrant, among others. This intersectional approach often arises from research efforts from the decolonial perspective, which is increasingly present in feminist research.

A Regional Agenda with 23 priorities and some subregional specificities. The Regional Agenda comprises 23 priorities, four general priorities and three priorities per domain. Except in domain six, where four are presented since there was a tie in the third priority.

23 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by experts from the region, for the region

General Priorities

- o.1 Investigate femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence, both within and outside the intimate partner relationship, particularly sexual harassment.
- o.2 The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- o.3 Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.
- o.4 In terms of age range, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Priorities by Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1 Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2 The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- 1.3 Violence against women and girls on the Internet and social media, risk, and protective factors.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions for violence prevention against women and girls through an intersectional approach.
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 2.3** Strategies/actions for reporting and attention to victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.2** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices for interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1 Results and impact of national policies on the prevention, attention, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.2 Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, attention, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in the family setting.
- 5.2 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on state budgets.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional approach.
- 6.2 Design of indicators to measure the state's compliance with international commitments towards the prevention, attention, punishment and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).
- 6.3 Institutional/State capacities to identify and measure cases of different types of violence against women and girls.

2. Subregional

Four Agendas were prepared for the subregions of Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Region, and the Southern Cone, following the same scheme as the Regional Agenda. However, some significant differences in the sub-regions are worth noting. Concerning overall priorities, the most prioritised type of violence in the Caribbean is intimate physical violence or partner violence and sexual harassment. Regarding the elements of violence in the Caribbean, the causes and prevalence stand out.

Regarding priorities by domains, **the most significant difference in the first domain** is the third priority in the Southern Cone and the Caribbean. It has to do with research on the rise of fundamentalist and ultraconservative movements and discourses and their impact on increasing violence against women and girls. **In the second domain,** the Southern Cone and the Caribbean emphasize the third priority, i.e., training strategies aimed at State personnel responsible for caring for and responding to violence against women and girls. Meanwhile, in Central America and Mexico, the third priority is the strategies/actions for reporting and responding to violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability. **In the third domain,** there are no significant differences. **In the fourth domain,** differences are identified at the first priority level in the Southern Cone and Central America and Mexico. This is, for both regions, civil society mechanisms/strategies for monitoring compliance with international and national legislation on violence against women and girls. **In the fifth domain,** in the Southern Cone, three themes tie for first priority, one of them not included in the three prioritised at the overall level. This is the study of the costs and economic impacts of public policies. In the Caribbean, the latter is the most voted priority with 60% of experts, in a tie with the assessment of the sustainability of interventions to prevent and address violence against women and girls. **Finally, in the sixth domain,** significant differences are identified in the Southern Cone, where only two out of four priorities coincide with those of the whole. The third priority is the experiences of platforms and measuring observatories for violence against women and girls from civil society from the state.

Recommendations

Communication, dissemination, and advocacy. The Regional Agenda will only be useful if it reaches many interested individuals and groups and positions itself as a relevant instrument. Therefore, it is recommended that experts on violence in the region make the Agenda their own and use it as an advocacy tool, as well as universities and research centres, civil society organizations and national mechanisms for women or gender equality.

Adaptations. Being a Regional Agenda, it includes a breadth of themes that will have to be adapted to specific contexts, communities, and environments.

Research funding. The Regional Agenda should be used as a tool to influence more significant and better research funding that addresses critical gaps in research on violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Implementation. Apply the principle of “nothing about us, without us” to guarantee the validity of the Regional Agenda, built from the broad participation of expert voices from the region and different areas and spaces. We must ensure that people with lived experience or members of those communities participate as a source of information and as guides in all its phases.

Finally, the Regional Agenda is a call for collective work to coordinate and join efforts and different perspectives in constructing knowledge on violence against women and girls in the region that contributes to significantly expanding and strengthening efforts for its prevention and eradication.



PART
1

Objectives and methodology for identifying research priorities on violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Presentation

THE Sexual Violence Research Initiative, SVRI, aims to achieve a world free of violence against women and children through innovative responses and evidence-informed prevention programs focusing on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It, therefore, promotes research on violence against women, violence against children and other forms of violence derived from gender inequality. This is reflected in its Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

It is valuable to recognise that violence against women and children is a multidimensional problem that requires comprehensive and multidimensional responses that adapt to different contexts. However, it becomes necessary to establish research priorities to use available resources better and advance more systematically in response to violence against these.

In this way, SVRI has promoted, together with its partner organizations, the identification of global research priorities under an open, collaborative approach so that diverse voices and perspectives are included. Within this framework, it has been identified the need to develop with regional partners of Latin America and

the Caribbean (LAC) a process of establishing priorities for research on violence against women and girls (VAWG). The starting point is [the Global Shared Research Agenda](#) (GSRA) findings.

To this end, extensive work has been carried out to review and compile documents, databases analysis and consultation with VAWG experts in the region. Both from grassroots organizations working in VAWG and academic organizations that deal with VAWG research, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations specializing in VAWG.

It is thus a research effort that considers different sources of information, both quantitative and qualitative. But that aims to give visibility, presence, and reason to the voices of the experts consulted. Compared to what is given to them in other situations, diagnoses are based mainly on secondary sources and quantitative data analysis. The participation of non-academic voices was a methodological premise established from the beginning to identify the research priorities in VAWG from the experts of the region working in this field. This approach also aims to help fill the structural lack of data and allow the analysis of the different intersectionalities.

The consultation process, which was carried out through different online tools, began with a survey to identify VAWG experts. 126 Afro-descendant, indigenous, mestizo, white, lesbian, bisexual, queer and disabled people from Central America and Mexico, the Southern Cone, the Andean Region, and the Caribbean responded to the survey. All those who filled out the identification form were sent the first questionnaire, questionnaire one, on VAWG research priorities in the region, where 83 experts (77 women and 6 men) participated. Of the 83 women who responded, 11 were also interviewed. Subsequently, a second questionnaire, questionnaire two, was launched to narrow down further the research priorities in VAWG, to which 73 experts (69 women and four men) responded. From the 83 experts who responded to questionnaire one, an Advisory Board of 16 experts was selected. This Advisory Board accompanied the process of identifying priorities through several activities. Some of them include an online workshop for discussion of the findings of questionnaire one, their feedback on four questions posted on a virtual

whiteboard ¹, and the review of the draft report of the Regional Agenda produced once questionnaire two was completed. A total of 101 experts participated in the different activities of the process (55 experts responded to the two questionnaires, 28 experts answered only questionnaire one, and 18 answered only questionnaire two). These experts come from 22 countries in the LAC region and one country outside the region (the USA, where two experts currently live).

The following report, which takes the Global Agenda as a reference, is structured in three parts. Part one presents the objectives and background to the project, the methodology developed, and the scope and limitations encountered. Section two presents the results of the collective construction of the Regional Agenda. Finally, part three delivers the conclusions and recommendations.

In this way, it is expected that the research priorities presented in this report will serve as input to place VAWG on the political discussion tables at the regional and country levels. Therefore, it has become a useful and concrete instrument to influence the roadmap of the research centres of the region, civil society, cooperation and multilateral organizations, academics and governments in the region responsible for guaranteeing the rights of women and girls non-violence against them and gender equality.

¹ The Padlet tool was used. This is a digital platform that allows you to create collaborative murals, offering the possibility of building spaces where multimedia resources can be presented, whether videos, audio, photos or documents. These resources are added as sticky notes, as if they were “post-its”.

2. Objectives

THEREFORE, THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE of this work was to develop a Regional Agenda of research priorities on violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It also had the same **specific objectives** as the Global Agenda:

- Identify gaps and highlight priority research areas in the region that can guide research spending and ensure that resources are used effectively.
- Assist individuals and research organisations, funders, practitioners and policy makers in research planning and fundraising.
- Serve as a monitoring tool in the field, including the follow-up of ongoing research and the spending against priorities.
- Serve as a follow-up tool on the ground, including monitoring ongoing research and spending against priorities.
- To guide the awarding of SVRI grants.

3. Background

SVRI, as mentioned above, aims to achieve a world free of violence against women and children through innovative responses and reality-based prevention programmes. To this end, it promotes research on violence against women and children and other forms of violence arising from gender inequality in low- and middle-income countries.

In this context, between October 2019 and July 2021, SVRI and [The Equality Institute](#), with the support of the [Wellspring Philanthropic Fund](#), led and facilitated the development of a Global Agenda for research on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries. The Global Agenda aimed to strengthen the understanding of violence

against women to ultimately prevent it, based on the conviction that research should be prioritized and carried out in such a way as to provide sound practical and empirical guidance for interventions, programmes, and policies.

With this Global Agenda, the way of doing things was distorted, breaking with the research agendas established vertically by a few and that are usually far from the communities that research is intended to serve. The GSRA thus made it possible to build a more equitable agenda. It also had specific objectives, the same ones that have just been named in the section of objectives for the Regional Agenda.

The construction of the Global Agenda was carried out in a participatory and interactive six-step process. First, the process began with a literature review to identify major gaps in the field, which framed the priority-setting process. It led to the identification of four key research domains:

<p>DOMAIN 1</p>	<p>Research to understand violence against women in its multiple forms. This includes the prevalence of different types of violence, risk and protective factors for the experience and perpetration of violence against women, and the causes and consequences of violence against women, including health and psychosocial consequences.</p>
<p>DOMAIN 2</p>	<p>Intervention research. This includes research on violence prevention and response interventions, also various types of evaluations of interventions, including process, formative, and impact assessments.</p>

<p>DOMAIN 3</p>	<p>Enhancing existing interventions. This includes scale-up research, cost research, intervention science, process research, and other forms of research that generate innovative solutions to improve existing interventions. This is to make them more affordable or sustainable, including research to understand the impact of policies and laws on violence against women.</p>
<p>DOMAIN 4</p>	<p>Methodological and measurement gaps. This includes new and innovative ways of measuring violence against women, hierarchies of knowledge, practice-based learning, sticky ethical issues, and monitoring and evaluation of interventions.</p>

Ultimately, the GSRA was carried out through a prioritization exercise to identify the main gaps and the most critical issues that need to be addressed for progress toward eliminating violence against women. To this end, the knowledge of experts in the field was used. As a result, priorities for the next five years were established to achieve a fair, effective, and relevant investigation into violence against women.

Global Agenda Outcomes

Overall, the priorities most voted on in this global exercise were those related to domain two, which has to do with research on intervention strategies concerning the prevention, attention, and eradication of violence against women.

Of the five priorities most voted by the participants in this process, three questions related to domain two and the other two to domain one (characterization of violence).

The five most prioritized questions in order of classification were:

1. What types of interventions can effectively prevent multiple forms of violence, and why?
2. What types of interventions are most effective in preventing intimate partner violence (including 'honour'-based violence) against women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (including age, poverty, disability, ethnicity, race, and sexuality)?
3. How are new feminist social movements (e.g., #Me too, Ni una menos) and meninist social movements (activists for men's movements, incels, etc.) positively or negatively influencing individual, social and policy perspectives related to the experience and perpetration of violence?

4. What interventions work to prevent sexual harassment in institutional settings (in person or online), including the workplace and educational settings, and why?
5. What are the impacts (including disability-related impacts) of under-researched forms of intimate partner violence on women and girls, including emotional and economic violence, revenge porn and ‘honour’-based violence?

Few regional differences were identified since the group’s five most voted questions were also the most voted at the regional level. There were some exceptions in East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific. They did not prioritize the issues related to feminist and meninists ² movements. Experts from low- and middle-income countries identified research on interventions to prevent sexual harassment in institutions as one of their first five priorities. However, it was not a priority for experts living and working in high-income countries.

² Meninism is a movement that defines itself as a defender of men’s rights, in opposition to feminism, believing that feminism has led to inequality between men and women..

The domain's first two most prioritized questions are presented in the following table.

DOMAIN 1

Research to understand violence against women and girls in its multiple forms.

1. How are new feminist social movements (e.g., #Me too, Ni una menos) and meninist social movements (activists for men's movements, incels, etc.) positively or negatively influencing individual, social and policy perspectives related to the experience and perpetration of violence?
2. What are the impacts (including disability-related impacts) of under-researched forms of intimate partner violence on women and girls, including emotional and economic violence, revenge porn and 'honour'-based violence?

DOMAIN 2

Intervention research.

1. What types of interventions can effectively prevent multiple forms of violence, and why?
2. What types of interventions are most effective for preventing intimate partner violence (including 'honour'-based violence) against women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (including age, poverty, disability, ethnicity, race and sexuality)?

DOMAIN 3

Mejora de las intervenciones existentes.

1. What alternative modalities (besides in-person programming) effectively prevent violence against women at scale?
2. How can large-scale sector programmes be adapted to optimise their impact on violence prevention and response, particularly education, health, economic development, infrastructure and social protection programmes?

DOMAIN 4

Methodological and measurement gaps.

1. What are the most effective tools to measure harmful traditional practices against women and girls (including female genital mutilation/cutting, early and forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of honour, dowry-related violence, and son preference [to the detriment of daughters])?
2. What methods can be used to measure the intersection and pathways between different types of violence, including poly-victimisation and the intersections between violence against women and violence against children?

4. Methodology

4.1. Guiding principles of the work

The process of building the Regional Agenda was:

- **Participatory:** the proposal of the Regional Agenda of priorities for research on VAWG for LAC was built from the participation of the different actors working in VAWG in the region.
- **Integral and diverse:** the process was oriented to obtain the voices and perspectives of the diversity of LAC actors, ensuring a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to VAWG.
- **Practical and concrete:** the final purpose was to identify priorities for research on VAWG to contribute to its prevention, attention, and eradication. It aims to be a valuable and concrete tool to guide the definition of future research on VAWG in the region.

It was carried out under the gender approach, the human rights approach, and the intersectional approach. Likewise, we worked with cultural relevance taking into account the diversity of multicultural contexts in the LAC region. This involved promoting interaction among different sectors, populations and cultures, based on dialogue, acceptance, respect, recognition and mutual appreciation of feelings, knowledge, practices and experiences.

4.2. Sources of information

The consultation process for collecting the information necessary for the generation of the Regional Agenda was obtained from both primary and secondary sources.

- The **primary sources** were people and organizations of different types, particularly women and feminists working in VAWG. Also, female professional and academic experts who participated in the consultation process focused on defining the Regional Agenda of VAWG research priorities.
- The **secondary sources** were all those documents related to the research gaps on VAWG in the LAC region, the Global Agenda and other documents that contributed to the objectives of the consultation.

4.3. Methodology used

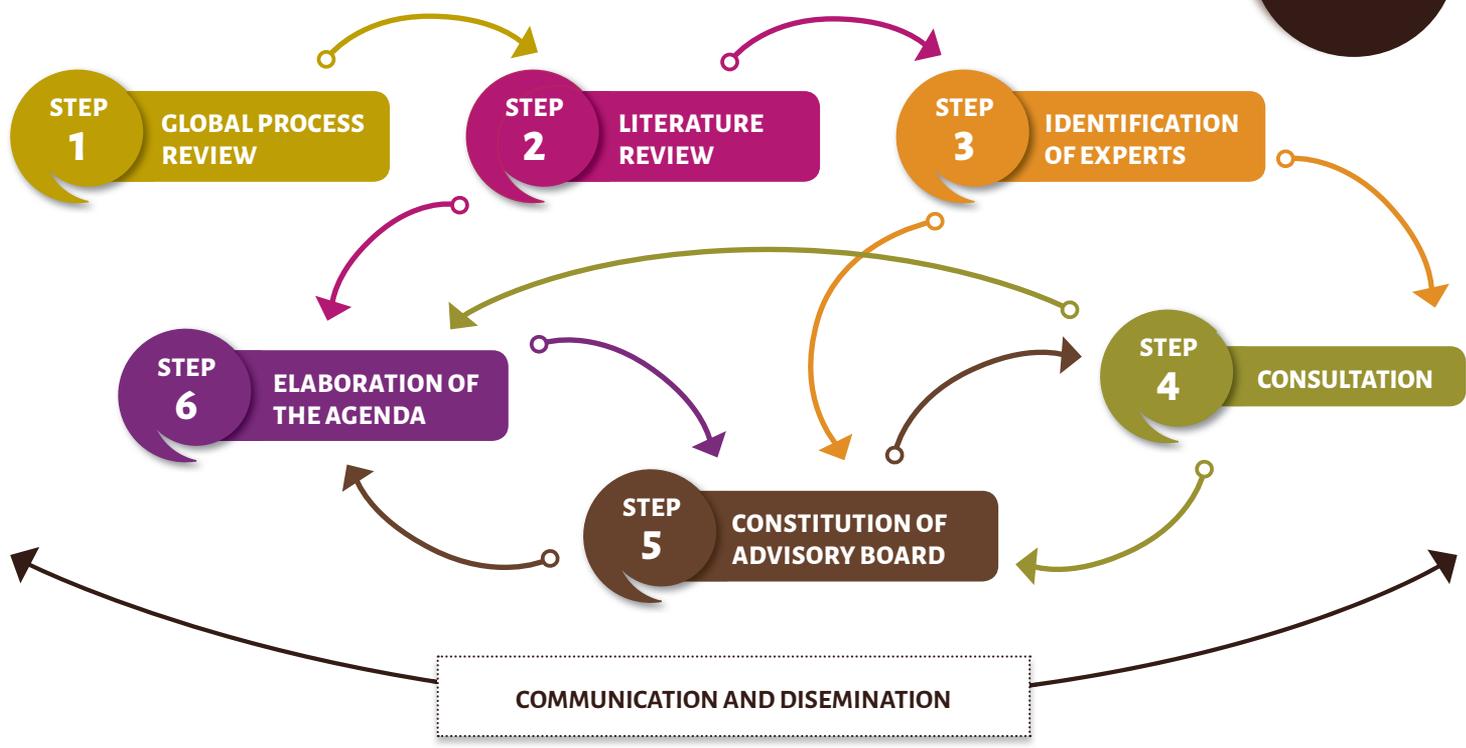
The proposed methodology takes as a reference and starting point the one used in the Global Agenda. It was adapted to the context of LAC and took into account the temporal scope of the consultancy.

Following the process of the Global Agenda, the Regional Agenda was developed in six steps. It took up some of its contents and proposed changes that allowed for compliance with the objectives of the consultation in the context of LAC.

The methodological steps were carried out complementarily and not consecutively. Thus, some were interconnected and carried out simultaneously. They are detailed in the following figure:

Steps for the elaboration of the Regional Agenda

FIGURE 1



Step 1. REVIEW OF THE OVERALL PROCESS

The objective of the first step was to know the global process of defining research priorities, clear up doubts and identify which aspects of the methodology could be maintained or adapted to the context of LAC.

From this review, the methodology was structured, and the domains of analysis that guided the construction of the Regional Agenda were established.

Six domains were used to establish priorities, which derived from the four established in the overall process. Domains one, two and six proposed here coincide with domains one, two and four of the global process. It was proposed to break down domain three of the global process into three distinct domains for the regional process. The reasons for such a proposal were as follows:

- The scope for improvement of interventions raised at the global level include, in our view, an excessive breadth of diverse issues. Therefore, it is best to disaggregate to identify better where the region’s VAWG improvement research has focused.
- The scope of research on the impact of VAWG laws and policies in the region is relatively abundant. Based on the efforts of CEPAL, organizations, women’s networks and international cooperation, these investigations are not necessarily focused on improvement.
- Studies on the costs and economic impacts of VAWG are not necessarily linked to the improvement of interventions. Thus, we consider it better to treat them outside the domain three posed by the global level. On the other hand, these studies are incipient, despite their importance for advocacy in spaces beyond feminist and human rights organizations.

The six domains finally established were as follows:

1. **Characterization of VAWG.** Understanding VAWG in its multiple forms, including studies on the prevalence of different types of VAWG, risk and protective factors for the experience and perpetration of VAWG, causes and consequences of VAWG, including health and psychosocial consequences, among others.
2. **Strategies for preventing and responding to VAWG.** Research on interventions to prevent and respond to VAWG, including process, formative, and impact assessments. Also, the provision of care and protection services to victims of VAWG, both governmental and non-governmental.
3. **Improvement of interventions against VAWG.** Research on scaling up interventions, including improving the effectiveness, deliverability, affordability and sustainability of existing interventions.
4. **Impact of policies and laws on VAWG.** Research on the results and impact of VAWG policies and laws, both at the national and local levels.

5. **Costs and economic impacts of VAWG.** Identification of the costs and economic impacts of VAWG at all levels, in families and both companies and states.
6. **Measurement of VAWG.** Studies and methodological documents (frameworks, methodologies, and instruments), including the treatment of the challenges in measuring VAWG and the new and innovative ways of doing so. Also, the efforts aimed at the construction of indicators to measure the fulfilment of state obligations related to the right of women to live free of violence.

Step 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The objective of identifying the literature was to detect, compile, and review studies and research on VAWG in the ALC region for 2016-2021.³ Moreover, to determine the most frequently investigated topics and especially the absences and gaps, so that it nourished the questionnaire one to identify priorities for VAWG research launched to the group of experts.

Based on the breadth of the VAWG theme in the region and its different manifestations, the identification of studies and research took into account the following criteria:

A. Criteria for scope:

- Research where VAWG is a primary issue and not a secondary issue.
- Research related exclusively to ALC countries, including subregional studies and/or the ones bringing together several countries in the region.
- Research published between 2016 and 2021, except for the Caribbean, where research from 2015 was also included, given the small number of investigations about Latin America.

³ For the Caribbean region and countries, some research from 2015 was also included given the limited availability of research in these countries.

- Research written in Spanish, Portuguese, and French, as well as in English referring to the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean.

B. Criteria for prioritisation:

- Research focused on gender-based violence against girls and adolescents.
- Research focused on the analysis of VAWG with an intersectional approach (Afro-descendants, indigenous, disabled, LGBTI+, rural, migrants).
- Research by grassroots organizations, activist organizations against VAWG, non-governmental organizations, feminist and women’s organizations.
- Research on problems that characterize the region’s countries, such as armed conflicts, migration, and displacement.
- Research by researchers from the region, particularly from countries often underrepresented in regional studies, such as Caribbean Island countries.

C. Criteria for exclusion:

- Publications in local languages, given the impossibility of the team of consultants to read in languages other than Spanish, Portuguese, French and English.
- Publications that SVRI already identified in a literature review carried out in March 2021.
- Studies or research focused on harmful traditional practices (child or adolescent marriage, honour killings, female genital mutilation, etc.), except in those cases where it is addressed as a risk factor for violence in relationships.
- Research on violence perpetrated by parents or caregivers against children and adolescents.
- Studies on violence in the school environment (e.g., corporal punishment, bullying).
- Studies on obstetric violence.
- Research in contexts of a humanitarian catastrophe.
- Media research.
- Studies focusing on the analysis of legal judgements or decisions.

Research Identification Methodology

The quest and identification of research on gender-based violence against women and girls in the ALC region were conducted online considering the following keywords:

- **Violence:** violence against women, violence against girls, gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment, workplace harassment, armed conflict.
- **Women:** migrants, displaced, lesbians, trans, rural, indigenous, black, Afro-descendant, women with disabilities.
- **Geographical scope:** regions, subregions, and countries.

Two paths were used to search: direct search on Google and its academic search engine and search on the organisations' web pages identified in the directory of potential members of the group of experts. These common search engines were used because the emphasis was to identify, above all, the most easily accessible content on the web for the interested public. This is not necessarily academic but also research from civil society and women's organizations in the region.

If identified, we discarded the research on the region already compiled in March 2021 by SVRI (this review was more focused on academic studies). In turn, and when it was possible to identify the authors' contact details, it was ensured that they were included in the list of potential members of the group of experts.

Review and analysis criteria

PBy terms of time, the review of the documents was limited to: 1) Reading and analysis of the abstract, conclusions and/or recommendations (if included); 2) Registration of key information; 3) Review of the literature provided to identify additional bibliography.

To compile and systematize the identified studies, a matrix was designed where the following elements were identified:

- Title
- Year
- Authorship (person(s) or institution(s))
- Organization
- Type of authoring organisation
- Funding organization. In case it was different from the previous ones
- Bibliographic citation
- Country it deals with
- Subregion. Five subregions were considered: **Southern Cone** (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay); **Andean Region** (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela); **French, Dutch and English Caribbean** (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Netherlands Antilles (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao), Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname (Netherlands), Trinidad and Tobago); **Hispanic Caribbean** (the Dominican Republic and Cuba); **Central America and Mexico** (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama).
- Population subject to study. Women, girls, girls and adolescents, youth, etc.
- Intersectionality. It indicates whether it includes an intersectional approach and/or whether it refers to a particular group of women with specific vulnerabilities (migrants, rural, LGBTI+, disabled or others).
- Document type. Academic article, thesis, government report, international NGO report, national NGO/civil society report, bilateral/multilateral organization report.
- Study type. Quantitative, qualitative, quantitative/qualitative.
- Abstract. Synthesis of the objective of the research and its scope, as reported in the document itself.
- The kind of violence it addresses. It identifies the type of violence it addresses (against women and girls in general, sexual harassment, sexual violence, workplace violence, etc.).
- Context. It identifies the context of the study (armed conflict, environmental conflict, COVID, dictatorship, public spaces, internet, social mobilization, etc.).

- Domains to which it refers. In conjunction with the domains proposed for the definition of research priorities in the region, one or two main domains addressed in the study were identified for each research analysed.
- Research questions. The document raises issues in terms of the needs to continue researching and deepening the subject.
- Link to the location of the document.

The review of VAWG research in the region complemented that carried out by SVRI in March 2021. It prioritizes research carried out by non-academic sectors concerning the six domains established above and those carried out in Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Step 3. IDENTIFICATION OF EXPERTS

The objective of step three was to identify and contact a group of VAWG experts from the LAC region. This would ensure the participation and representativeness of the diversity of voices that are part of the region’s prevention, attention and response, incidence, measurement, and research of VAWG.

To this end, a directory of organizations, institutions and individuals working in the field of violence against women and children was developed based on the review of three databases:

1. SVRI’s database of partners in LAC.
2. The *Panamerican Development* Foundation’s geo-referenced digital directory of services against gender-based violence “Juntas de Norte a Sur” [Together from North to South].
3. An initial directory created by Equipo FREE based on an Internet search and the previous knowledge of organizations and people working in VAWG in the region.

The criteria used for the selection of contacts of persons, institutions or organizations included in the final directory were as follows:

- They worked or researched in areas related to VAWG.
- They were based in a LAC country.
- They have an email contact, as this is how the consultation will be carried out.
- They represent or work with the diversity of groups of women and girls.

The organizations, institutions and individuals included in these databases were reviewed to identify whether they research and/or work in VAWG. Se reviewed about 4000 records, identifying 920 for the preliminary directory. In addition, an Internet search of their websites and social networks was carried out to identify their areas of work, email contacts, link names, and publications. This made it possible to define a final directory with 653 organizations, institutions, or experts in VAWG.

The identification aimed to ensure intergenerational representativeness by country, subregion, type of organization, areas of intervention and intersectionality.

This group was contacted electronically to: 1) publicize the process that would be carried out, 2) consult their interest in participating, 3) identify an expert (in the case of organizations) and 4) complete an online identification and characterization form of people interested in participating in the group of experts that would accompany the construction of the Regional Agenda.

For this purpose, an online form (see Annex 1) translated into four languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French) was designed and sent to the 653 contacts in the directory by e-mail. The virtual consultation was held between August 23 and September 5, 2021, receiving 126 responses.

The received responses to the identification form were systematized in a database, which was used to carry out the consultations (two questions and 11 in-depth interviews) and identify the 16 members of the Advisory Board.

**Step 4. ONLINE CONSULTATIONS:
two questionnaires and 11 interviews with the expert group**

The objective of the online consultations was to obtain input for the construction of the Regional Agenda of VAWG research priorities in a participatory, diverse, and inclusive manner.

Due to the scope of the consultations, all the activities were carried out virtually. Digital platforms and online methodologies were used to facilitate the participation of all the people who were consulted in the construction process of the Regional Agenda.

The participatory consultation process combined quantitative and qualitative research techniques, and the products were developed in Spanish. Although, the consultation tools were translated into English and Portuguese, where required. There were three moments of consultation:

A. Questionnaire one of the research priorities in VAWG

Questionnaire one (see Annex 2) was structured according to the six aforementioned domains. The aim was for the participants to identify the themes they considered the highest priorities for research within the six proposed domains. The themes in each domain were identified from the bibliographic review and the consultation findings on the construction of the Global Agenda. To this end, a questionnaire was prepared in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with 23 closed questions and one open question conducted through Google Forms. The consultation was sent to the 126 experts previously identified and was carried out between October 12 and 22, 2021.

83 responses were obtained (75 women and 8 men): 68 Spanish-speaking, nine Portuguese-speaking and six English-speaking. Of these, four defined themselves as indigenous, six Afro-descendants, two with disabilities, two lesbians, two queers, five bisexuals and six rural.

B. Interviews

The in-depth interviews (see Annex 3) aimed to deepen those themes prioritized in the questionnaire one by experts in each of the six domains. Also, to try deepening the diverse perceptions of the participants based on their self-identification and experience.

Eleven people were selected from the group of experts who responded to questionnaire one. An inclusive and diverse sample was used, for which the following criteria were considered:

- Representation of the four subregions of LAC: Central America and Mexico, Andean Region, Southern Cone, and the Caribbean (see Annex 4).
- Representation of diversities: indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural, disabled, LGBTI+ and youth experts.
- Experience in one or more of the six defined domains.
- National and regional experience and knowledge.

C. Questionnaire two on VAWG research priorities

The objective of this questionnaire was to refine the identification of priorities in each of the six domains analysed. It included, in each domain, the themes identified by at least half of the experts who answered the first questionnaire. Plus, the priorities indicated by the experts self-identified as indigenous, Afro-descendant, disabled, lesbian, bisexual, or queer, that were not included in the previous point.

To this end, a questionnaire (see Annex 5) was prepared in Spanish, English and Portuguese, with eight closed questions and one open question. It was conducted through Google Forms between January 27 and February 8, 2022. The questionnaire was sent to the 126 experts previously identified.

This second questionnaire was answered by 73 people (69 women and four men): 53 Spanish-speaking, 12 Portuguese-speaking and eight English-speaking; three self-identified indigenous, nine Afro-descendant, two disabled, three lesbian, five bisexual, one queer and seven rural.

The total number of participants from questionnaires one and two was 101 experts. 55 experts responded to the two questionnaires, 28 experts answered questionnaire one only and 18 answered questionnaire two only.

Participants in the consultations

**TABLE
1**

Instrument	Objective	Participants
Questionnaire 1	Identify priority themes to be investigated within the six domains	83
Interviews	To deepen the themes prioritised according to the self-identification and experience of the interviewees	11
Questionnaire 2	Refine the identification of priorities in each of the six domains analysed	73
Questionnaires 1 and 2	Participants who answered the two questionnaires (55), only answered the questionnaire one (28) and only answered the questionnaire two (18)	101

Step 5. FORMATION OF A REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board is a temporary multidisciplinary, multisectoral and intersectional group from the LAC region. It is composed of experts who have solid experience and knowledge of the various forms of VAWG in various contexts and realities. The members were part of the Advisory Board *ad honorem*.

The objective of forming a Regional Advisory Board was to integrate an instance that would provide accompaniment and advice in the regional construction of the research priorities in VAWG in LAC.

An instance of dialogue and meeting between various region sectors that work around the prevention, attention, sanction, reparation, and investigation of VAWG was constituted. Their expertise contributed to the construction of the Regional Agenda. The Advisory Board was composed of 16 VAWG experts from the LAC region according to the following criteria:

- Representation of all LAC subregions: Andean Region, Southern Cone, Central America and Mexico, and Hispanic and English-speaking Caribbean.
- At least 80% of women while they are mainly those who work in the fight against VAWG. This is reflected in the proportion of experts (90.5% of women) identified to participate in the consultations.
- At least two people from the following population groups -for each of them-: LBTI+, indigenous, Afro-descendant, youth and disabled. This is to incorporate an intersectional vision into the work of the Advisory Board.
- At least 60% of civil society (NGOs, networks, movements, or activists), either individually or as part of an organization. This is because, in the region, this sector has a leading and dynamic role in promoting evidence-based strategies to combat VAWG. It is also reflected in the percentage of identified experts who have links with this sector (65%).
- At least 30% of the academia or study/research centres.

Profile of the members of the Advisory Board

1. Have participated in questionnaire one on VAWG research priorities in the LCA region.
2. Have solid and demonstrable experience in VAWG, both in academia and in implementing VAWG programmes.
3. Have specific experience of work or activism in vulnerable population groups (LGBTI+, disability, youth, indigenous, Afro-descendants, among others).
4. Be originally from a country in the Latin American and Caribbean region, whether residing there or abroad.
5. Speak at least one of the official languages of the region.
6. Have availability to provide their work and contributions ad honorem.
7. Have experience in social or academic research on VAWG (desirable but not essential).

Constitution of the Advisory Board

A selection process was carried out among the 83 experts who participated in the first priority questionnaire. The aforementioned criteria were applied to them, reaching the first selection of 30 people.

This list was submitted for validation with the SVRI team. Once validated, the people prioritized among the 30 pre-selected were contacted via email. The aim was to consult them about their interest in joining the Advisory Board, providing them with the basic information on the objectives, functions, conformation, and modalities of participation. As a result, 16 experts were selected to form the Advisory Board (see Annex 6).

This comprised seven experts from the Southern Cone, four from the Andean Region, three from the Hispanic and Anglophone Caribbean and two from Central America and Mexico. 66.67% work with civil society, and 33.3% in academia or study/research centres. The population groups present were: three Afro-descendant experts, two indigenous people, two with disabilities, two young people, four rural, eight LGBTI+ (four bisexual, two lesbian and two queer) and one man.

Once the members were identified, the following accompanying activities were carried out:

- **Virtual workshop.** On December 21, 2021, a virtual session was held in which the Advisory Board was officially formed. The workshop shared and discussed the process carried out and the findings obtained so far. In addition, participants provided inputs for designing the second priority questionnaire.
- **Digital whiteboard (Padlet).** To keep open the discussion raised in the first workshop, a virtual whiteboard was opened from January 12 to 23. The aim was to deepen the discussion of the following questions (the questions were translated into English and Portuguese to facilitate participation):

a) What aspects of the VAWG research priorities presented at the Advisory Board meeting do you consider important to deepen? Why?

b) What research priorities on VAWG in LAC do you think are missing from the analysis presented at the Advisory Board meeting?

c) Which format do you think is most useful for drafting priorities in a Regional Agenda?

- Write priorities as research questions. Example: What are the main risk factors for violence against women and girls with disabilities in rural areas?
- Write priorities as research topics. Example: Risk factors for violence against women and girls with disabilities in rural areas.
- Other.

d) How do you think it is best to organise the priorities in the Regional Agenda?

- Based on the six domains (characterization of VAWG; prevention and response strategies; improvement of interventions; the impact of VAWG policies and laws; costs and economic impacts of VAWG; measurement of VAWG)
- By subregion
- Depending on the main axes of domination/discrimination (VAWC indigenous, VAWC of African descent, VAWC LGBTI+, etc.)
- Other.

- **Guided review.** Between March 9 and 17, the Advisory Board was sent the draft of the Regional Agenda of research priorities in VAWG for review and comments. For this purpose, a form was provided.
- **Presentation seminar.** In May 2022, the results of the collective construction of the Regional Agenda of research priorities in VAWG were presented in a webinar. All the experts who participated in the process were invited.

Step 6. ELABORATION OF THE REGIONAL AGENDA

With the information gathered in the previous steps, a draft of the Regional Agenda of VCMN research priorities was structured and submitted to the Advisory Board for validation and to the SVRI team for review.

The final document of the Regional Agenda, where the comments received were integrated, is presented in the second part of this document.

5. Scope and limitations

- The diversity of professionals working in different aspects of VAWG enriched the process, giving it a broad scope. At the same time, this breadth of a multitude of topics to be investigated within the VAWG is as complex as it is vast. As a result, the list of themes proposed within each domain was limited, leaving out other themes as important as those present in the questionnaires.
- The literature compilation and review were not exhaustive. In addition to the limitations set by the scope and time available, a significant part of the research produced by civil society and women’s and feminist organizations may not be published on the Internet and social networks. Therefore, it has not been accessible.
- Depending on the time and resources available, the review of each document was based on the abstract and the conclusions and/or recommendations (when available). The main objective, as already indicated, was to identify trends, present and absent themes, and proposed research questions that had not been answered.
- Despite having a directory of 653 people/institutions/organizations working on VAWG issues in the region, only 126 responded to the identification form, which is just under 20%. A limiting aspect of the scope was that their response was voluntary at the time of the consultation. Therefore, it could not be guaranteed that all the people invited to participate would complete the survey. On the other hand, the contacts of the organizations and people included in the directory mainly were taken from websites or social networks. Thus, many were not updated, which negatively influenced the possibility of effectively contacting all the records in the directory.
- The reach of the Internet made it easier to contact many organisations in the region at the same time. However, on the other hand, online consultations were a limitation to reaching organisations with limited Internet access.

- Another limitation linked to the consultations was that being a consultation process in several phases, there was fatigue in the people when their participation was required at various times. This decreased participation throughout the process. Of the 126 experts accompanying the construction of the Regional Agenda, 83 participated in the first questionnaire and 73 in the second.
- Important in building the Regional Agenda was the formation of a temporary Advisory Board. However, despite the positive aspects of the Advisory Board in supporting the Regional Agenda, the temporary nature of its creation limited the members' knowledge of each other, the appropriation of the process and the creation of permanent links with SVRI.
- Likewise, the voluntary nature of the Advisory Board's involvement in building the Regional Agenda and the diversity of activities in which its participation was required is likely to have influenced the discontinuous involvement of Advisory Board members.



PART
2

Results

BUILDING the Regional Agenda has the transversal objective of changing the traditional models of defining priorities for research on violence and its funding, allowing a more participatory, diverse, and equitable construction. Therefore, it is an agenda that considers to a greater extent the needs of civil society organizations working in this field, compared to traditional methodologies built from the priorities of funders or academia. It is a new approach, and, as such, the process itself is as valuable as the result.

A participatory methodology for establishing research priorities was chosen to capture the opinions of various stakeholders equitably. For this reason, different sources of information and opinions on the research topics have been cross-referenced, going beyond the expert judgement of one person or a limited group of people. Furthermore, consultations were always conducted in Spanish, English, and Portuguese for the same purpose.

The process was participatory, interactive and open to comments from the different experts and the Advisory Board.

Part two presents the literature review results, the results of the identification process of the expert group that participated in the consultations, and the identification of research priorities.

1. Literature review

156 INVESTIGATIONS for 2016-2021 were identified and reviewed (see Annex 7).

Regarding the methodological approach, most of the documents are qualitative. Followed by 18 (9%) using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and only nine quantitative (6%), mainly focused on the production and/or study of statistical data.

If we make a comparison of the bibliographic review carried out here with the one previously developed by SVRI (March 2021), we observe the following:

- Although in both cases, most of the identified studies come from South America (58% in SVRI and 53% in Regional Agenda), in the second case, the number of countries where research was identified at the national level was wider than in the first (30 countries compared to 23). On the other hand, in the first case, four countries concentrated most of the research (Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Colombia with 63% of the studies). In contrast, in the second, the distribution of studies is more homogeneous, with the four countries with the most research adding only 35% of the identified investigations (referring to Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia and Brazil). In the same way, for Central America and Mexico, most studies were concentrated in Mexico (62% of those in this region). In the Regional Agenda, Mexico is also the majority country, although to a lesser extent (29% of the research). Further, studies were identified in Costa Rica, absent in the first literature review. Both reviews coincide with the shortage of research work in the Caribbean.
- In both reviews, the understanding or characterisation of VAWG is the domain where most papers are identified. Also, there was coincidence in the scarcity of works referring to the costs and economic impacts of violence and the improvement of interventions, especially from analysing the social and cultural factors that produce VAWG and its consequences.

- Methodologically, most of the research identified in the March 2021 review was quantitative. In the revision of the Regional Agenda, most are qualitative. Both reviews agree on the need to develop more research with mixed methodology, which in both reviews are very limited.
- Regarding the type of violence, in the review carried out by SVRI, almost half of the works address intimate partner violence. While in the one carried out in the context of the Regional Agenda, most of it addresses gender violence and/or violence against women in general terms. To a much lesser extent, they focus specifically on this area.
- Integrating an intersectional approach in research on violence is a challenge identified in both reviews, although with important differences. In the review carried out within the framework of the Regional Agenda, one in four studies included this perspective to a greater or lesser extent, higher than that identified in the review carried out previously. Considering intersectionality, it is also essential to understand the various historical contexts that produce risk and protective factors in the different subpopulations. In particular, regarding indigenous women, Afro-descendants, LGBTI+, migrants and displaced persons, to name a few.

Conclusions

Clear research gaps in VAWG are identified in the English, French and Dutch Caribbean region, particularly in small island states such as Anguilla, Bermuda, Dominica, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis or St. Lucia. No research for these areas was identified in the period analysed, either individual or subregional.

Although this search tried to emphasize the identification of research not produced in the field of academia, it is evident that, as in other regions, it is academia the one sector producing most of the knowledge regarding VAWG in LAC. However, feminist, women, and civil society organizations, despite the greater limitation of resources for research that they normally face, also play an important role in the region. They are responsible for one in four research analysed. It is essential to highlight the role of multilateral development organizations (United Nations, Inter-American Development Bank,

international cooperation agencies) as promoters and /or financiers of these studies. Either by supporting study centres or national women/feminist NGOs or others. In those studies involving governments, the role of these promoters/funders is also key, as all identified government-signed studies have been promoted and/or supported externally.

Addressing violence against women in terms of the life cycle is still a challenge in the region, with very little research focusing on violence against girls, adolescents and/or young women, and also towards older adult women.

It is worth highlighting a relevant presence, although still a minority, of research that applies an intersectional approach in positive terms. This reveals the characteristics and the greatest impact of violence against certain groups of women and girls who face double and triple discrimination, such as indigenous, Afro-descendant, lesbian, bisexual, trans and migrant, among others. This intersectional approach often arises from research efforts from the decolonial perspective, which is increasingly present in the region in terms of studying social phenomena, particularly feminist research.

Being qualitative studies, the majority suggests the need to propose greater efforts to develop studies with mixed quantitative/qualitative methodologies that allow combining “hard” data with the experiences of violence by women and girls.

Still, most of the studies identified address gender violence against women and girls as a whole, although with an important presence of studies explicitly focused on intimate partner violence, sexual violence and some on femicides/femicides. In addition, some issues of special relevance, increasingly visible and denounced by women’s and feminist organizations in the region, such as street sexual harassment, are beginning to be present in research on VAWG, although still limited.

Clearly, the characterization of VAWG and identifying prevention and response strategies occupy most of the research efforts. In many cases combined in the same research, since research on violence mostly has the ultimate objective of generating recommendations for its approach. Also, although to a much lesser extent, studies are aimed at analysing the

scope, limitations and impacts of laws and policies to combat VAWG. The measurement of violence, the study of the costs of violence in terms of impact on society, and especially the research focused on improving interventions already developed are much more limited.

The questions identified in large part of the studies analysed and that constitute future lines of research coincide in the fact that, although the intersectional perspective is increasingly present in research on VAWG, it still needs to be expanded and strengthened. This in terms of characterizing access to justice, proposing and evaluating laws and other national mechanisms to address the various forms of violence experienced by women, especially in the countries that make up the Caribbean. It also warns about the lack of systematized data on commercial trafficking in women and children. Moreover, its link with other illegal activities energises it and allows its growth with impunity.

The process of building the Regional Agenda revealed that there are still significant research gaps in the field of VAWG in the region.

2. Research priorities

2.1 Identification of the group of experts who participated in the consultations

THE IDENTIFICATION of experts made it possible to carry out the subsequent participatory consultations to identify research priorities and identify the members of the Advisory Board. Furthermore, the results determined the scope of the subsequent consultations. As explained above, the final directory of 653 individuals/institutions spanned 30 countries.

To identify specific people within the organizations and institutions included in the directory, as well as to elaborate a profile of them and inquire about their interest to participate in the definition of the Regional Agenda of research priorities in VAWG in the region, an online form was designed in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French. This is to make a virtual consultation with the 653 records incorporated into the directory by sending an email. As a result, 126 experts from 26 countries answered this form, 24 from LAC and three Latina experts currently living in other regions (the USA and Spain). Table 2 details the number of people identified by country, and Figure 2 shows the regional scope.

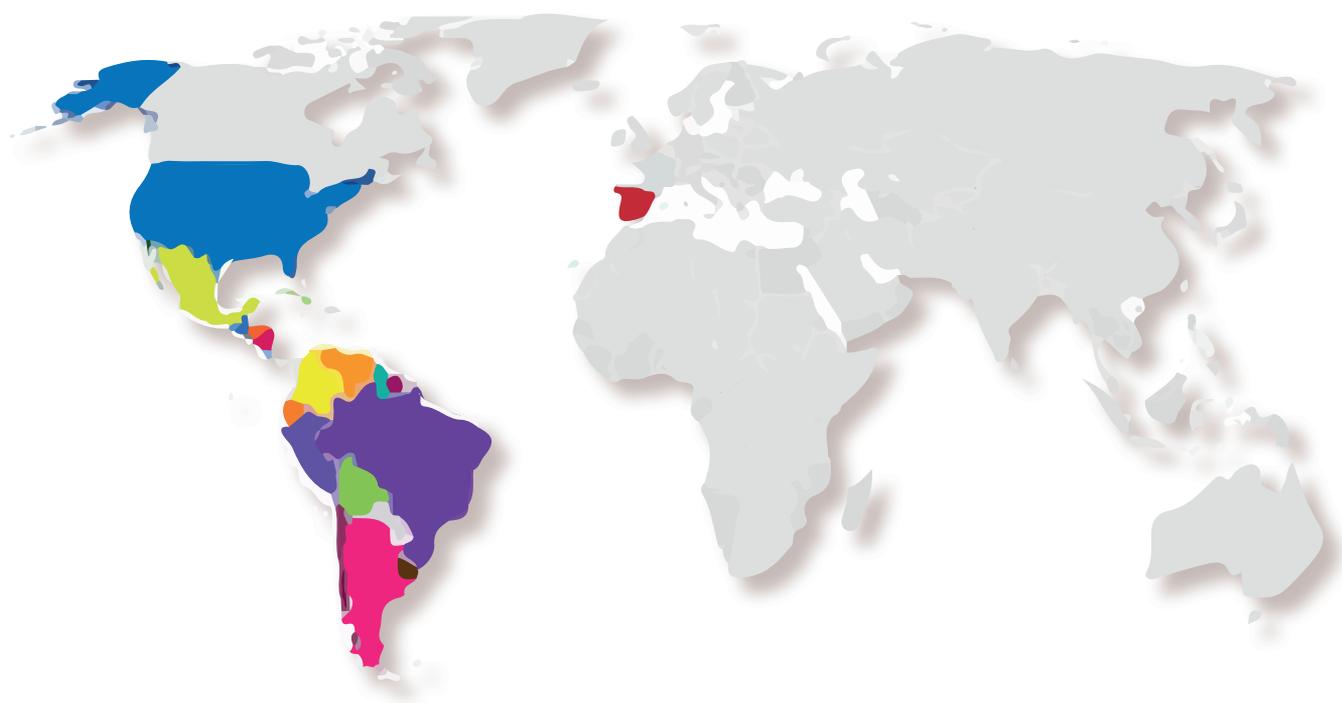
Experts identified in the virtual consultation according to country of residence

**TABLE
2**

Country	Quantity	%
Anguilla	1	0.8%
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0.8%
Argentina	7	5.6%
Bahamas	1	0.8%
Barbados	1	0.8%
Bolivia	6	4.8%
Brazil	19	15.1%
Chile	16	12.7%
Colombia	8	6.3%
Costa Rica	3	2.4%
Cuba	2	1.6%
Ecuador	8	6.3%
El Salvador	6	4.8%
Spain	1	0.8%
United States	2	1.6%
Guatemala	4	3.2%
Guyana	1	0.8%
Honduras	5	4.0%
Jamaica	2	1.6%
Mexico	11	8.7%
Nicaragua	3	2.4%
Peru	4	3.2%
Suriname	1	0.8%
Trinidad and Tobago	3	2.4%
Uruguay	6	4.8%
Venezuela	4	3.2%
Total	126	100%

Countries of residence of the identified experts

FIGURE
2

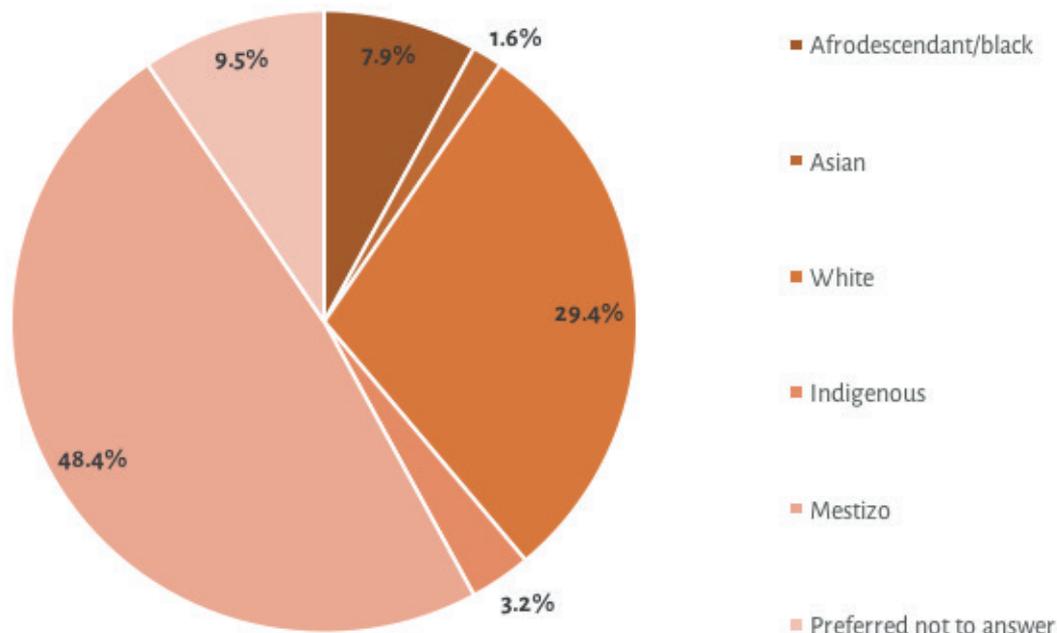


A significant number of organizations, institutions and individuals working on VAWG in the LAC region were identified. Therefore, general information is incorporated in the list prepared for the 126 experts who responded to the identification form.

Of the experts identified, 48.4% identified as mestizo, 29.4% as white, 7.9% as Afro-descendant/black, 3.2% as indigenous, 1.6% as Asian and 9.5% preferred not to answer about their racial or ethnic status.

Distribution of experts by ethnic/racial self-identification

CHART
1

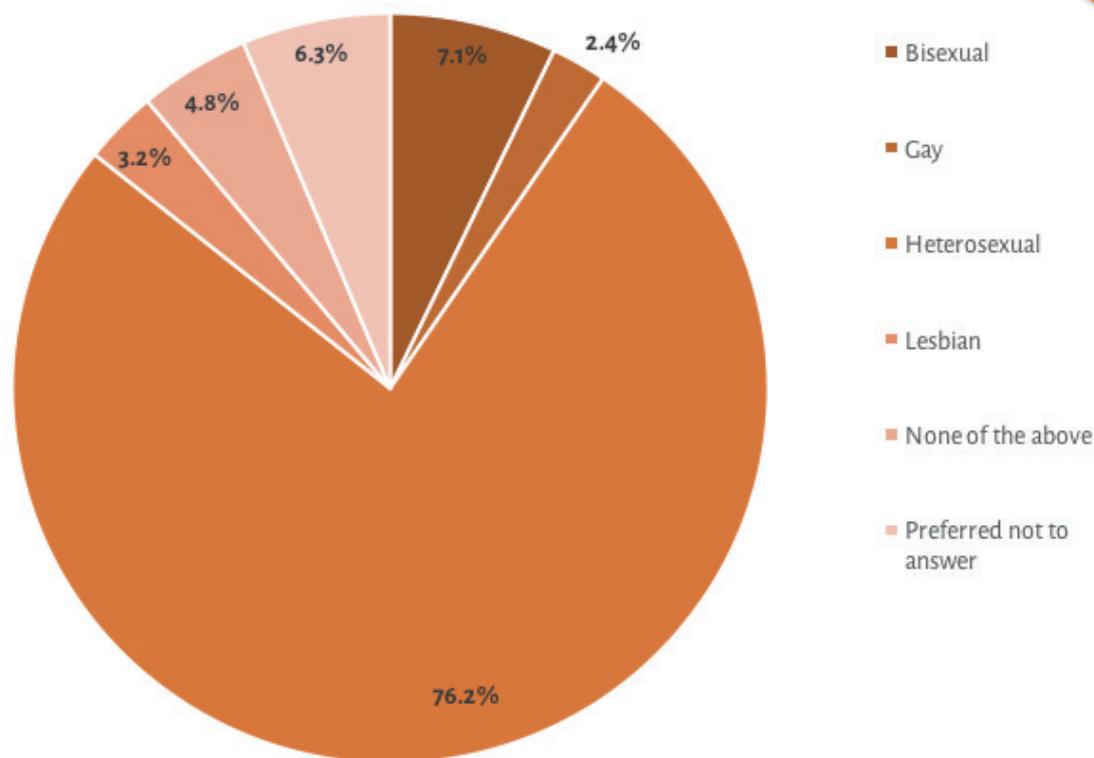


The majority of the experts identified reside in the urban area (92.1%) and only 7.9% in the rural area. Regarding age, the highest proportion (69.8%) are adults, 19.8% are old adults, and 10.3% are young.

90.5% of the experts identified in the virtual consultation are women, compared to 6.3% of men. The rest identifies as non-binary, queer or do not identify with any category of sex/gender. Regarding sexual orientation, 76.2% of the experts identify as heterosexual, 7.1% as bisexual, 3.2% as lesbian, and 2.4% as gay. 11.1% preferred not to respond or did not identify with any of the categories.

Experts identified by sexual orientation

CHART
2

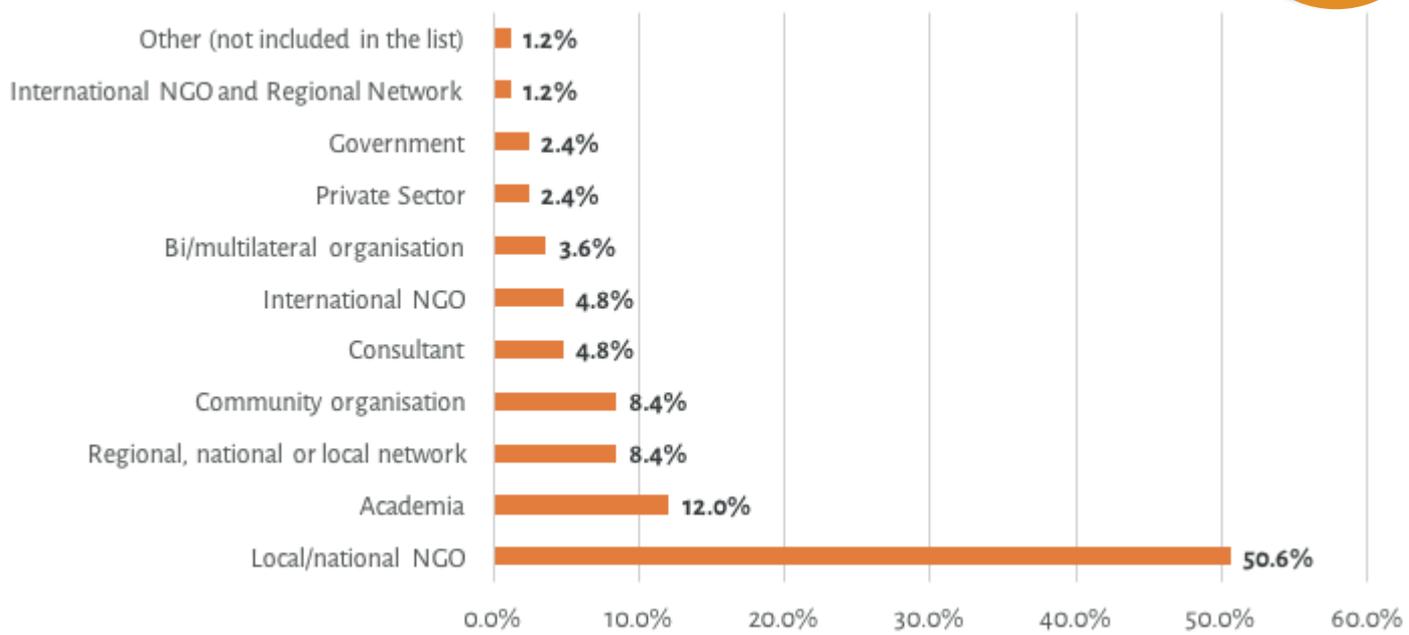


3.2% of the experts identified have a disability, of which 2.4% are women, and 0.8% are queer. The types of disabilities they possess are physical, mental or psychosocial, or sensory-visual.

Most of the experts (67.5%) work or are linked to civil society organisations (NGOs, networks or community organisations). 12.0% belong to the academy, 2.4% work in a government institution, 4.8% work in an international NGO, 4.8% are consultants and 3.6% work in a bi-multilateral organisation. The rest is linked to the private sector, religious organizations or others.

Type of organization where experts are linked

CHART 3

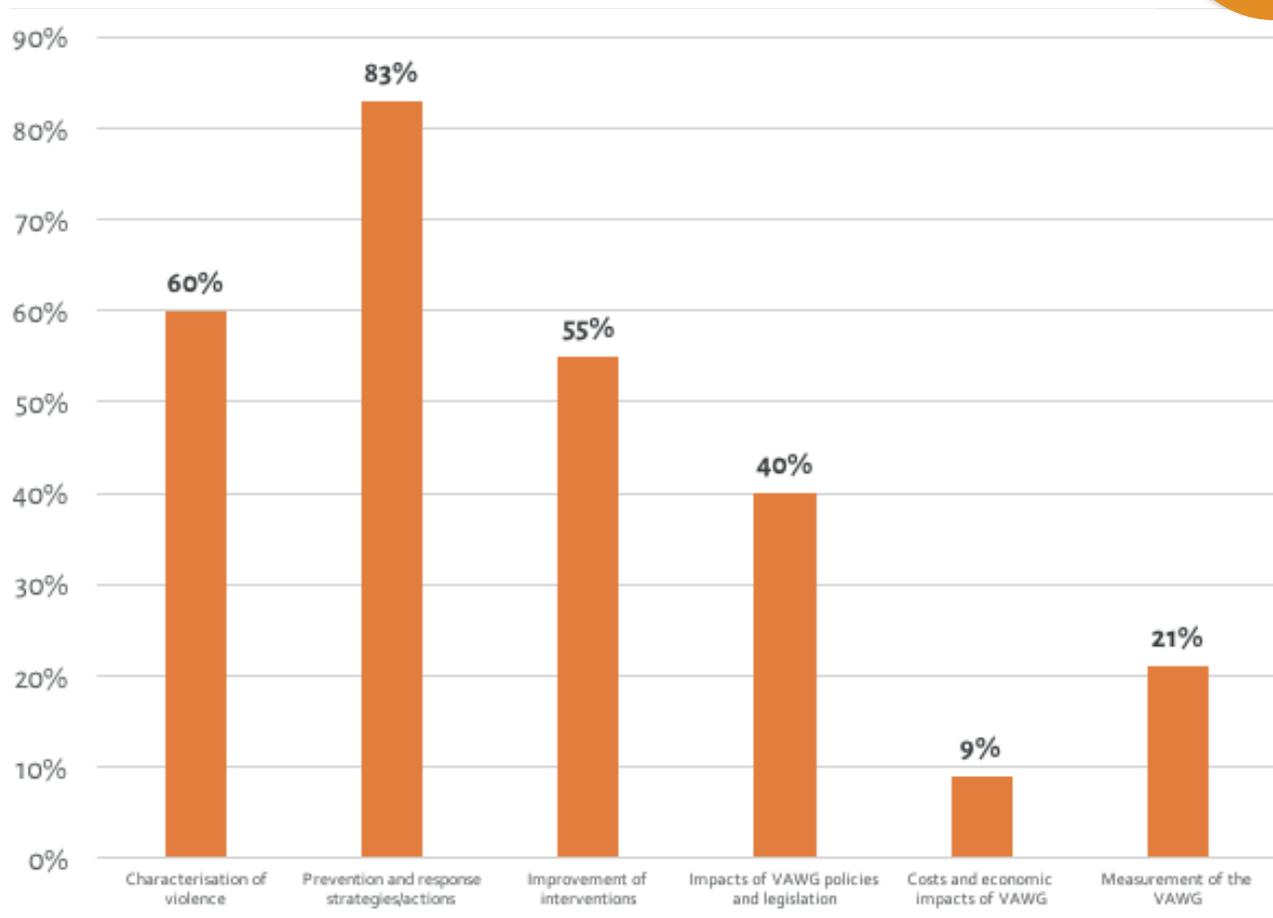


Of the total number of organizations/institutions to which the experts are linked, 81% carry out research on VAWG, and 74.6% of them are part of the research teams of their organizations/institutions.

The experts work in one or some of the six domains defined to construct the Regional Agenda of research priorities in VAWG. Almost all people indicated that they work in two or more of these domains. 83% mentioned that they work on prevention and response strategies/actions, 60% concerning the characterization of violence, 55% work around the improvement of interventions, 40% on the impact of policies and laws, 21% in the measurement of VAWG and only 9% of the total works around costs and economic impacts.

Domains of VAWG in which experts work (percentage of mentions)

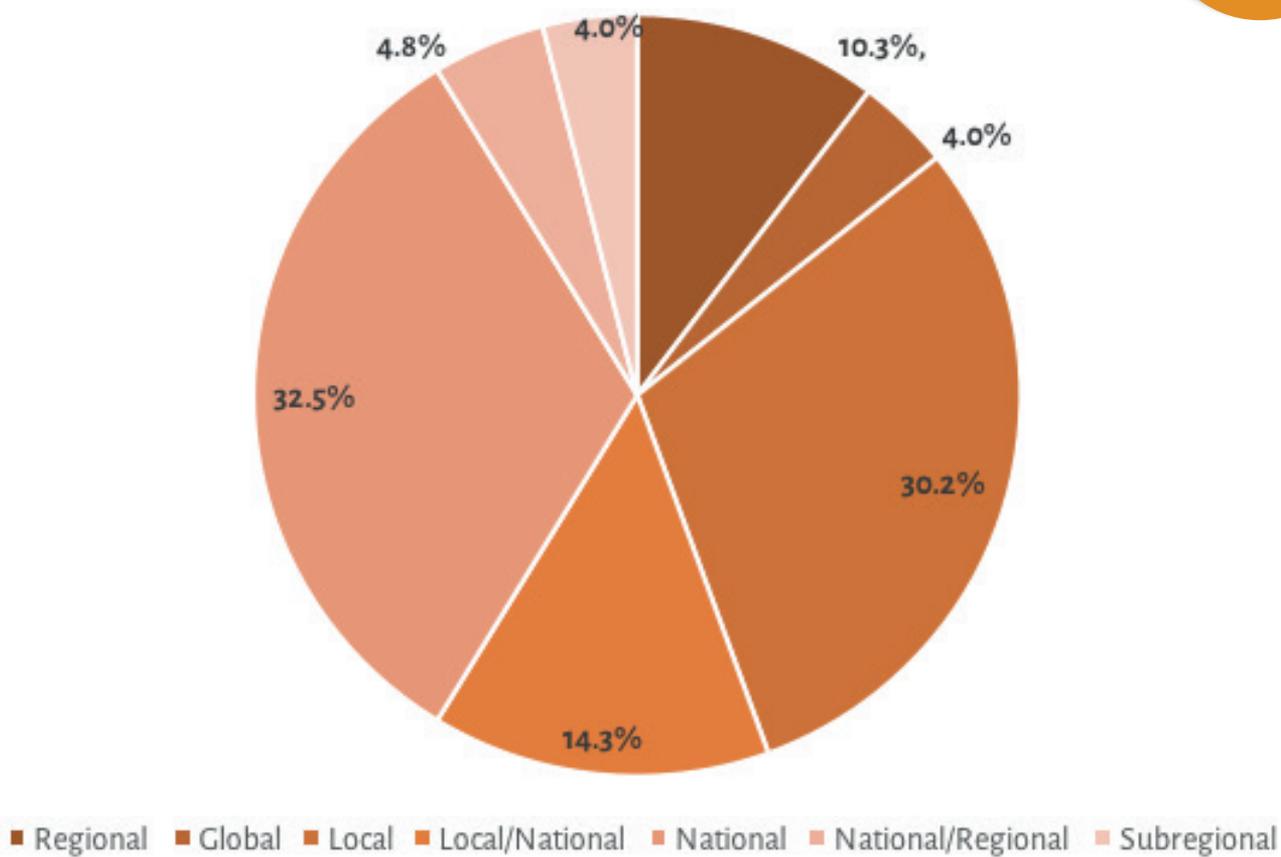
CHART 4



32.5% of the experts indicated that they carry out their work at the national level, 30.2% at the local level, 14.3% work at both levels, 10.3% cover the regional LAC level, 4.8% develop it at both the national and regional level, 4% at the global level and the same percentage at the level of the LAC subregions.

Territorial areas in which the experts work

CHART 5



The virtual consultation also investigated the specific population groups with which the organizations/institutions to which the experts are linked work. The majority work with multiple population groups, 88.1% work with women and 16.7% work with men.

According to age groups, the experts and their organisations work more with young people, although the majority also work with adolescents and adults.

Percentage of experts according to the population group they work with (ages)

TABLE 3

0-11 years	12-18 years	19-26 years	27-65 years	+65 years)
41.3%	61.9%	69.0%	62.7%	39.7%

According to sexual diversity, experts point out that they work with all sexual diversity in a higher percentage, followed by work with lesbians.

Percentage of experts according to population group with which they work (sexual orientation)

TABLE 4

Lesbians	Bisexual	Trans	Intersex	Queer	All sexual diversity
19.0%	14.3%	13.5%	7.9%	7.9%	26.2%

According to areas of residence, the proportion of experts working with rural and urban populations is quite similar.

Percentage of experts according to the population group they work with (rural-urban)

TABLE 5

Urban	Rural
32.5%	28.6%

According to race/ethnicity, the experts point out that they work the most with the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations.

Percentage of experts according to the population group they work with (ethnicity/race)

TABLE 6

Indigenous	Afro	Asian	White	Mestizo	Romany
26.2%	23.8%	4.8%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%

According to migration status, there is a similar percentage of experts working with migrants, displaced persons, and refugees.

Percentage of experts according to the population group they work with (migrants)

TABLE 7

Migrants	Displaced	Refugee
15.1%	13.5%	13.5%

Depending on risk or vulnerability, experts point to a greater extent of working with victims of child abuse or maltreatment.

Percentage of experts according to the population group they work with (victimization/discrimination)

TABLE 8

Victims of child abuse or maltreatment	Victims of trafficking	Street situation	Victims of armed conflict	Sex workers	Gang Victims	With disabilities
42.1%	19.8%	15.9%	9.5%	14.3%	11.9%	23%

The above shows that there is a diversity of strategies and actions in the region, mainly carried out by civil society organisations in the fight against VAWG and to address its consequences in the lives of women and their families. This further justifies the prioritized methodological decision to encourage their participation in constructing the Regional Agenda.

Likewise, the identification of experts has also made it possible to confirm that the domains defined for the research priorities are in line with the work being promoted in the region. Further, they bring together the various strategies and interventions in which organisations, institutions and individuals develop their work, research or activism activities.

2.2 Overall results

For the determination of the Regional Agenda, two final sources were considered:

- The questionnaire one results regarding the types of violence to be investigated, the types of data to be surveyed, the aspects of violence to be characterized, and the most urgent groups to prioritize in the research.
- The results of the census two in terms of the priorities to be investigated for each of the six domains worked throughout building the Regional Agenda.

In questionnaire two, the experts were asked, for each domain, to prioritize from one onwards the response options raised, according to the order of importance they considered. The percentages obtained for each response option were added to priorities one, two, and three to determine the final research priorities. Based on this, at least half of the experts identified the response options prioritized in one of these three positions, and the three that obtained the highest percentage of support were chosen as final priorities.

In this way, the Regional Agenda has a number of general priorities, four and six domains with three research priorities for each (except domain six, which has four priorities per tie in the percentage of priority three). These are presented in decreasing order of importance according to the research results (numbered from one to three). In each section, a table is presented first where the three priorities are surveyed, decreasing the order of support.

Therefore, the proposed Regional Agenda comprises a total of 23 priorities. Although they may seem many, it is important to consider both the size of the ALC region and the diversity of contexts in the region. This makes it necessary to present an Agenda that reflects as much as possible this diversity of interests. Likewise, sub-categories are presented by the four subregions worked on.

On the other hand, it is essential to note the effort made to disaggregate the information according to the self-identification data of participants. However, in questionnaire two, the limited participation of indigenous women, Afro-descendants, people with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, and disabilities, limits the possibility of identifying specific trends for these groups.

A. General priorities

The following table presents the four general priorities arising from the consultation process. This regarding the types of violence to be investigated, the types of data to be surveyed, the aspects of violence to be characterized, and the most urgent groups to prioritize in the research.

General priorities:

- a) Investigate **femicidal violence, institutional or state violence** and **sexual violence**, both within and outside the couple relationship, particularly sexual harassment.
- b) The production of **mixed research**, which combines quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible VAWG and its different expressions.
- c) Within the phenomenon of VAWG, **risk factors** are the priority elements to be investigated.
- d) In the age cycle, **violence against girls and adolescents** is the highest priority to investigate.

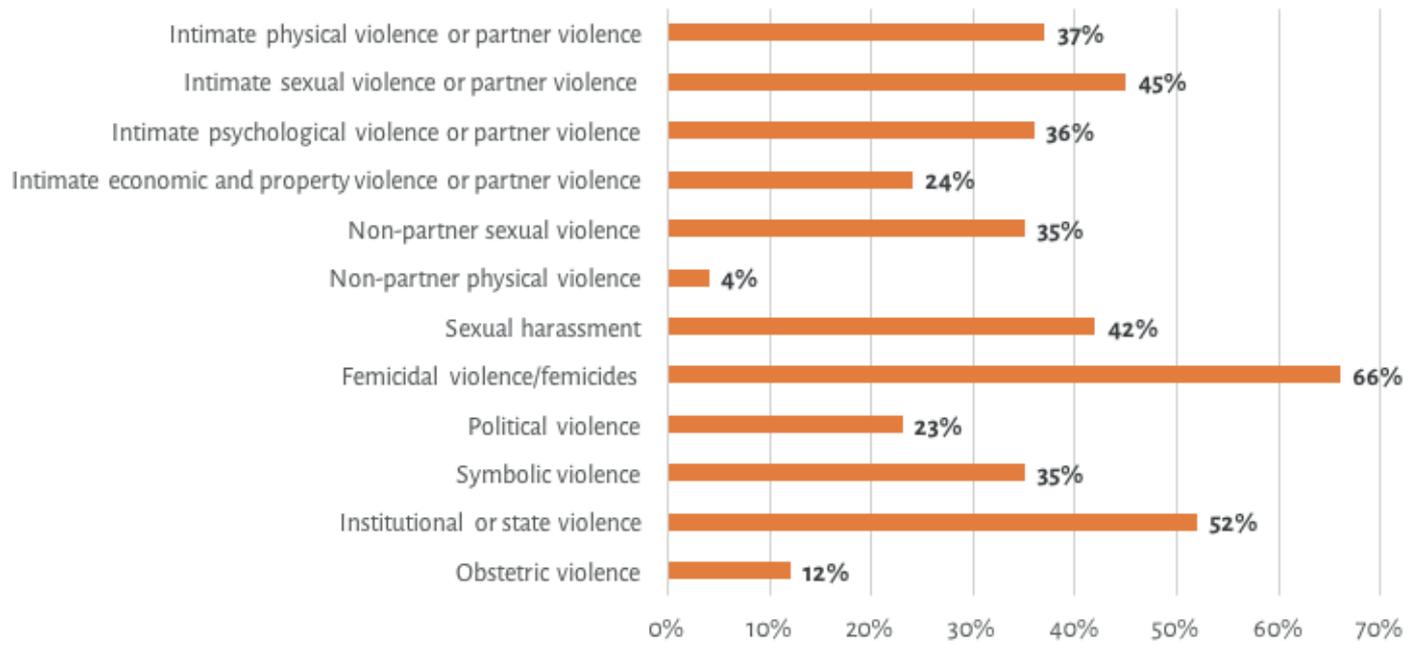
- a) **Investigate femicidal violence, and secondly institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within and outside the couple relationship, particularly sexual harassment.** The results show a widespread concern for research concerning femicidal violence, which stands out as the most prioritized type of violence for two-thirds of the experts. It is followed, although by a distance, by institutional or state violence, which is a priority for just over half (52%), intimate sexual violence or partner violence (45%) and sexual harassment (42%). Other options such as intimate or intimate physical violence or partner violence (37%), intimate psychological violence or partner violence (36%), sexual violence outside the partner (35%) and symbolic violence (35%) were similarly pointed out by just over a third of the experts. On the other hand, economic and/or intimate patrimonial or partner violence (24%), political violence (23%), obstetric violence (12%) and physical violence outside the couple (4%) are the least prioritized.

At the subregional level, in Central America and Mexico and in the Andean Region, the priority coincides with the whole in terms of femicides/femicides. In the Caribbean, the most prioritized types of violence are intimate or intimate physical violence and sexual harassment. While in the Southern Cone, state violence is the most prioritized type of violence.

For those who declare themselves Afrodescendant, the priorities focus mainly on sexual harassment and physical violence in the couple. While, for those who self-identify as indigenous, femicides at the same time as sexual harassment are first place.

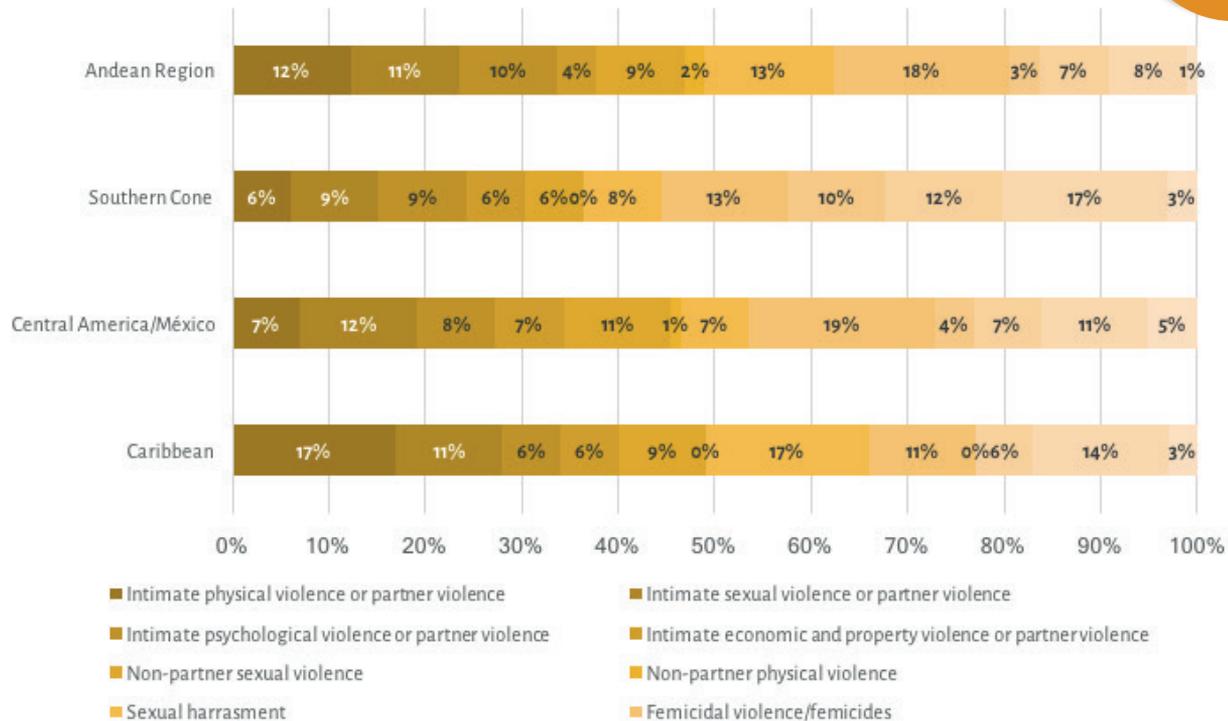
Percentage of experts who identify each of the types of VAWG proposed as priorities

CHART 6



Percentage of experts identifying each type of VAWG by subregion as a priority

CHART 7



The prioritization of femicides as the type of violence to be investigated corresponds to the scarcity of research identified in the literature review, where only 5% of the research referred to this area (seven studies).

Experts point out the importance of achieving greater research and understanding of the construction of masculinities (and the multiple and different profiles of abusive men). This is especially concerning the exacerbation of VAWG and its “new” expressions (e.g., harassment in networks and the internet). In this same sense, an interviewee highlights the importance of investigating the “femicide routes” (understood as the different paths that lead an aggressor to murder a woman) to identify, to a greater extent, previous behaviours. And also the effectiveness and good practices in interventions of re-education of abusers.

Regarding state violence, several experts insist on the need to deepen obstetric violence (exercised by both public and private entities). Also, the violence exercised by the State against women and girls, victims themselves, expressed in the mistreatment they often receive from the institutions responsible for protecting them.

- b) The production of mixed research, which combines quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible VAWG and its different expressions.** Half of the experts consider it more urgent to obtain quantitative-qualitative information and data (51%), followed by quantitative data (28%) and, to a lesser extent, a qualitative approach (22%). Again, there are no significant differences at the level of subregions. This urgency is consistent with the findings of the bibliographic compilation on VAWG research previously carried out, where 85% of the identified research was qualitative, while only 18% with a mixed approach and 9% quantitative. This reinforces the need to combine the generation of hard data with qualitative information to show and make visible VAWG and its different expressions. It is clear, in any case, that priorities in this regard depend on the information currently available. Thus, in those places with more quantitative data, the need to strengthen them with qualitative research arises. Conversely, where

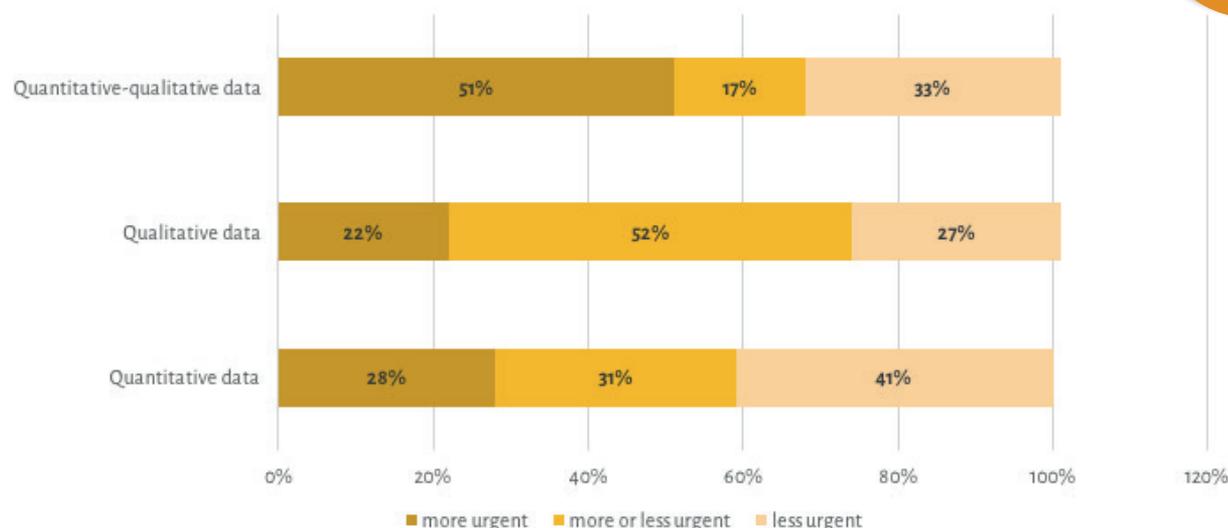
these are very limited, as in some Caribbean countries, generating “hard” data is urgent to make the problem of VAWG visible. In any case, and again corroborating the findings of the surveys, the combination of quantitative data with qualitative information on women’s experiences is considered the priority method.

Several experts pointed out that to make visible women and girls who face violence, quantitative studies must first be conducted to obtain a picture of the situation and raise awareness among the states. This must also be accompanied by qualitative studies that allow us to understand the peculiarities of each context and the experiences of the victims and survivors.

Among the most urgent data and indicators is to advance in the disaggregation of data to allow an intersectional analysis of the situation. (by ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or life cycle and particularly focused on girls and adolescents). Also highlighted is the need for information and data on domestic abuse and violence against girls, sexual violence as a whole, and in particular data related to pregnancies, abortions and suicides linked to VAWG. Others also highlighted the need for more information and data on migrant VAWG.

Experts' priorities for the type of information to be collected in VAWG research

CHART 8



c) **Within the phenomenon of VAWG, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.** Clearly, risk factors are the aspects that experts consider a priority to investigate, an aspect prioritized by more than half of the participants (54.20%). It is followed by a similar percentage of social perceptions and attitudes (36.4%), the causes of violence (31.33%) and impacts (30.12%).

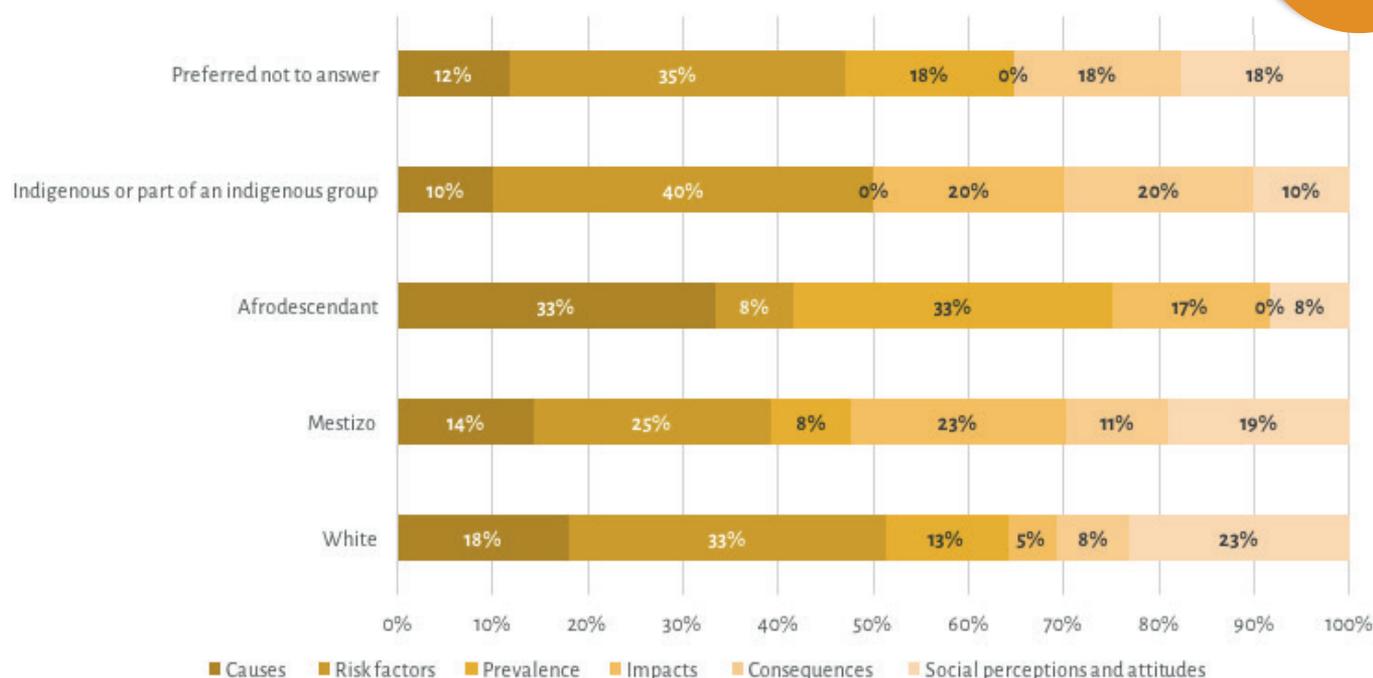
It should be noted that some subregional differences were identified. For example, the study of risk factors is a priority in the Andean Region (37%), Central America and Mexico (28%), and the Southern Cone (25%). While in the Caribbean, the main priority is the study of the causes of VAWG (31%). In Central America, the interest in studying the impacts of VAWG (23%) is also highlighted.

If we analyse the results by ethnic/racial self-identification, for indigenous women, without a doubt, risk factors are a priority (40%). While for Afro-descendants, the causes and prevalence occupy the first place (33% each). Risk factors and impacts are priorities with similar frequencies (23% and 25%) for those who declare themselves mestizo. It is also important to mention that, for

whites, mestizos and those who did not identify in this regard, an important priority is social perceptions and attitudes. This are, nevertheless, the least prioritized options for Afro-descendants and indigenous people.

Priority aspects of violence to investigate, according to ethnic/racial self-identification

CHART 9



Among the risk factors identified by the experts, the need to generate research that allows questioning the vision of the traditional family as a risk factor for VAWG stands out. Particularly in remote and/or rural areas where information and training for the deconstruction of stereotypes, patterns and sexist behaviours are often absent. Likewise, deepen the link between poverty and victimization in VAWG and other risk factors that have to do with nationality or place of origin, primarily due to the context of migration processes. Other risk factors have to do with early motherhood, sexual orientation, disability (including non-visible disability), and the predominance to a greater or lesser extent of cultural patterns that justify and naturalize VAWG.

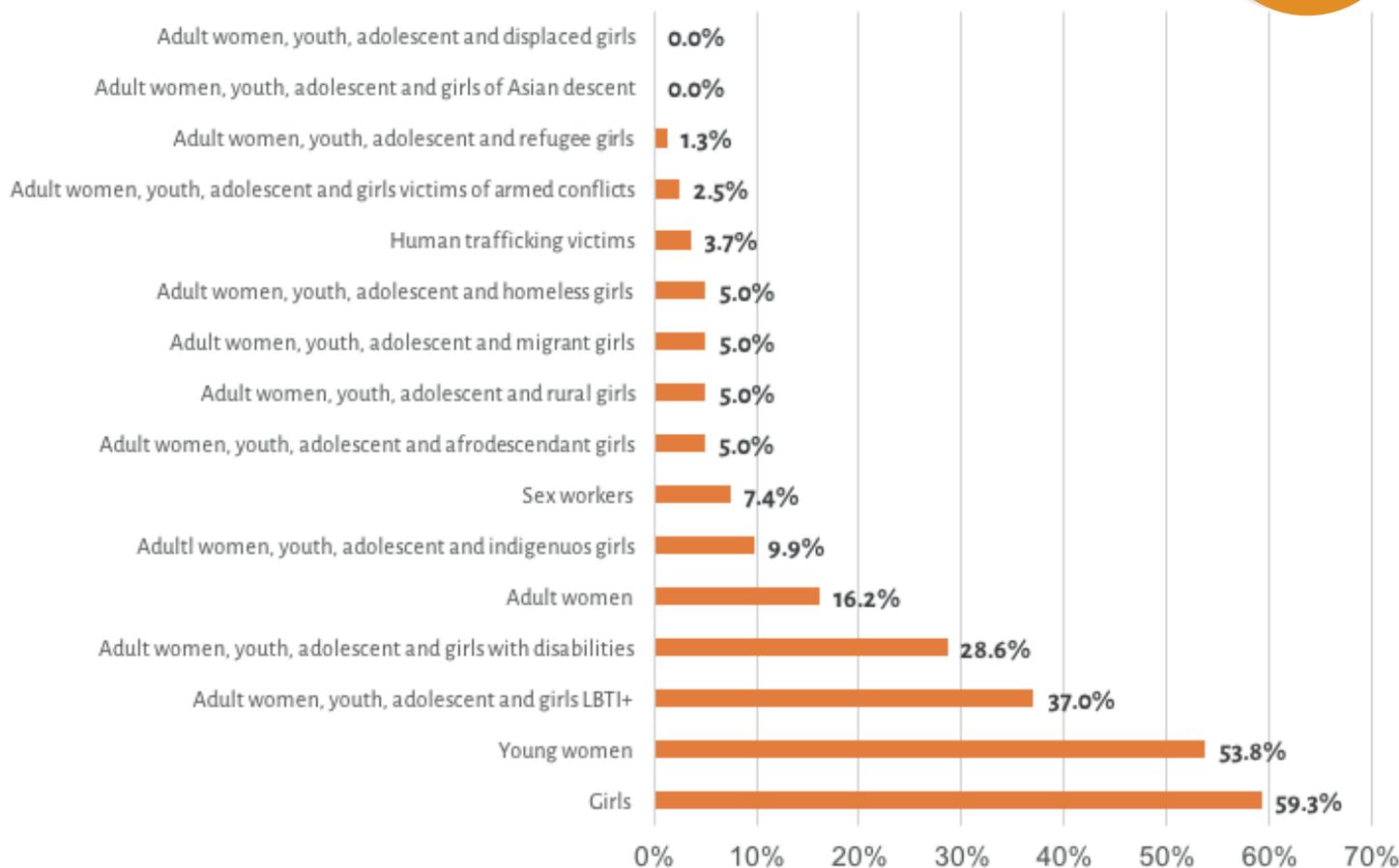
All of the above corroborates the literature review findings, pointing to the need for further research to characterise risk factors by age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other.

An additional aspect that the experts also highlight is the need to address violence against sex workers, a pending debt from research on VAWG in the region.

- d) Clearly and significantly, the participants indicated that violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to investigate.** Girls are the group voted to a greater extent as priority one, with 51 per cent. Considering the percentages obtained for each response option in priorities one, two and three, girls and adolescents are in the lead with 59% in the first case and 60% in the second, followed by young women with 54%. Although to a lesser extent, it is followed in order of importance by research on violence against adult women, young people, adolescents, and girls LGBTI+ (37%). No significant differences were observed among the subregions

Percentage of groups prioritized in options 1, 2 and 3 by experts as urgent to investigate in VAWG

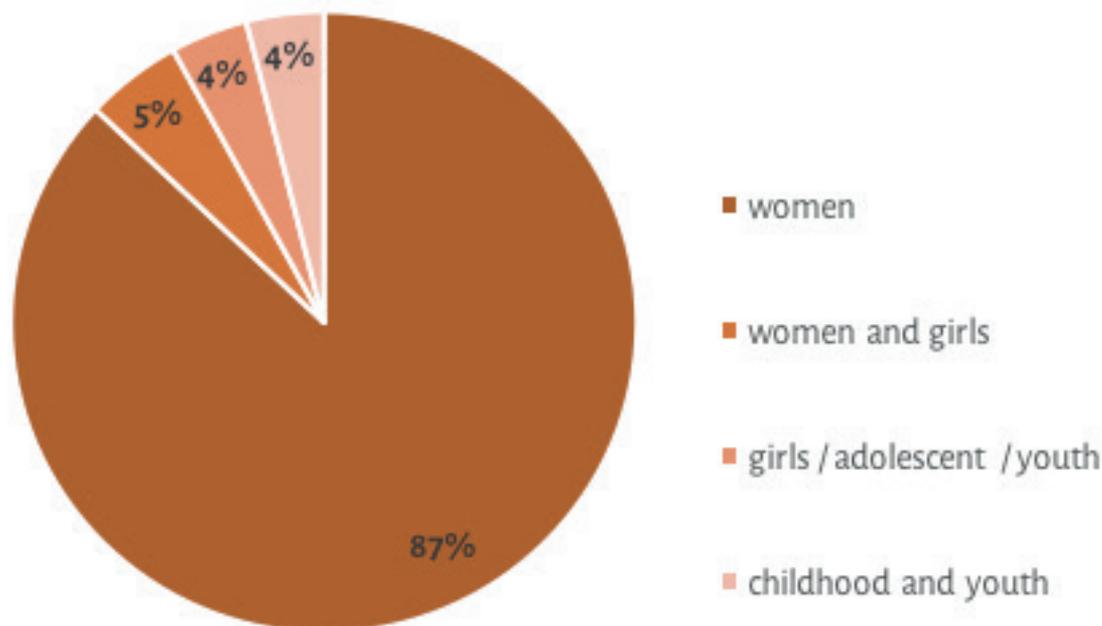
CHART 10



Addressing violence against women based on life cycle is still a challenge in the region, with very little research focusing on violence against girls, adolescents and/or young women. Following the findings found in the literature review, the vast majority of the research analysed focuses on violence against women without distinction by age group. Only 21 of the total studies mentioned in the title or abstract violence against girls and/or adolescents and/or young women in some way, either specifically (seven studies), together with women (eight studies), or in the context of violence against children and/or youth (six publications). In total, violence against girls/adolescents and/or young people is present in some way in 12% of the research analysed.

Distribution of studies by age group of women analysed

CHART
11



Many experts interviewed express the urgency of expanding the investigation of violence against girls and adolescents in the region. This is in a context where “the inviolability of the family”, i.e., the freedom of paternal action, including the exercise of violence, continues to prevail. It is also important for several of them to deepen the study of other phenomena, such as suicides linked to VAWG. Especially sexual violence and pregnancies derived from it, particularly in adolescents and young people.

Also, some of the studies reviewed propose to strengthen the investigation of the relationship between gender, race, and class in girls. This can contribute to understanding and eradicating the culture of rape from an intergenerational and intercultural perspective. Finally, the most effective strategies that allow breaking with the processes that socially naturalize the subalternity of girls and women must be identified.

Other revised works recommend giving continuity to different lines of research, such as delving into the link between violence against women and children in the home and youth violence in communities. Points to consider are: a) how often the same people are involved in multiple forms of violence; (b) what are the unique and shared risk and protective factors in intimate partner violence, domestic violence against children, and gang or community violence; and (c) what factors contribute to building non-violent and more equitable masculinities and practices.

In the specific case of Caribbean countries, it is suggested to focus on studies to further investigate the experiences of child abuse and neglect. The barriers and factors that allow recognizing and reporting violence suspicions among professionals who meet children must be identified. Also, parents' attitudes about using physical and emotional violence toward their own children it must be explored.

B. Results by domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

Research priorities for the characterization of gender-based violence against women and girls:

1. Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
2. The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
3. Violence against women and girls on the internet and social media, risk, and protective factors.

Domain 1. Characterization of VAWG. Percentage of experts who identified each option as priority 1, 2 or 3, total and by subregion

TABLA 9

Nº	Priorities	Total	Southern Cone	Andean Region	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico
1.1	Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.)	80%	72%	76%	90%	88%
1.2	The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls	65%	68%	47%	90%	64%
1.3	Violence against women and girls on the internet and social media, risk, and protective factors	50%	44%	59%	30%	60%

1.4	Advancing fundamentalist and ultra-conservative movements/ discourses (including churches) and violence against women and girls	37%	60%	41%	40%	5%
1.5	Armed conflicts in the region and violence against women and girls	35%	20%	35%	40%	50%
1.6	Impact of global and regional feminist social movements (e.g., "Me Too", "Ni una menos", etc.) on violence against women and girls	22%	24%	29%	0%	25%
1.7	Legitimization of violence from the spaces that produce knowledge	11%	12%	12%	10%	10%

As can be seen, some differences are identified by subregions. The Andean Region and Central America and Mexico coincide with the priorities of the whole. In the Southern Cone and the Caribbean, differences are identified at the level of the third priority. Thus, in the Southern Cone, the third priority is research on the rise of fundamentalist and ultraconservative movements and discourses and their impact on the increase in VAWG. This aspect also occupies the third priority in the Caribbean, along with research on the relationship between armed conflicts and VAWG.

1.1. Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.). Consistent with the results of census one, where it was ranked as the most voted topic in this domain, VAWG in special conditions of vulnerability is clearly the number one priority. It is also the first priority if analysed by subregion (in the Caribbean together with research on the COVID-19 crisis and VAWG).

The experts interviewed highlight the need to deepen in this area, given that women with disabilities, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, migrants, and LBTI+ face not only multiple and exacerbated forms of violence but, in general, a huge lack of state protection, along with the absence of information and specific data on their situation.

Some interviewees pointed to VAWG in non-heterosexual relationships particularly. Also, how LBTI+ women and girls are often expelled and rejected in both the private and public spheres and ignored by public policies. Another interviewee raised the urgency throughout the region to deepen research on VAWG with disabilities, which are rendered invisible and have enormous difficulties in reporting and accessing protection services.

Investigating in this way is essential to make the problem visible and influence the approval of regulatory and policy frameworks that address intersectionalities. Their risk factors and consequences are not only from the historical processes in which they originate.

The literature review identified proposals for future lines of research linked to VAWG research in special conditions of vulnerability from decolonial theory, especially to identify the relationship between cultural practices and violence. This aims to advance to a greater and better extent in the understanding of the social imaginaries that produce and sustain them over time. In this line, one of the analysed research projects proposes to create cartographies that reveal the intersection of structural violence with those experienced by women in their identity diversities. In particular, the global care chains and gender, racial and class discrimination are intrinsic and functional to the mercantilist model that sustains the sexual division of labour inherent to the colonial structure.

1.2 The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls. The experts pointed out the imbalance that occurred between risk factors and protective factors in relation to VAWG, caused by social distancing rules to contain the pandemic. As shown in Table 9, this theme was prioritized by about two-thirds of them. It should be noted that this is a particularly felt priority in the Caribbean. It is evident that the confinement measures derived from the pandemic have made it possible to make the seriousness of partner violence or intimate violence visible to a greater extent. Many women were locked up with their abusers. On the contrary, they faced greater violence once the confinement measures were relaxed, when the abuser feels he loses control over his victim. It also made the home visible as the main place where women and girls face violence.

The interviewees agree that the approach to the pandemic focused mainly on the response to the COVID-19 health emergency. It neglected the health and protection of people, particularly women, in a broad sense, profoundly affecting access to education or work. Again, especially tough for women who also assume the demands of home care in the first person.

Thus, the experts interviewed demand a greater study and analysis of the direct and indirect impacts on the health of women and girls understood in an integral way (absence of violence). For example, the impact of attention on the COVID-19 pandemic meant the closure of face-to-face victim care services and the change to telephone or virtual services.

This means the reduction of essential resources and services or the legitimization of institutional/state violence (such as the absence or reduction of attention in services, sexual and reproductive health, resources for shelters for victims, and job insecurity, among others).

1.3 Violence against women and girls on the internet and social media, risk and protective factors. This priority was supported by half of the experts. It revealed that greater exposure to the digital environment, especially among adolescent girls and young women, has increased exposure to risks such as cyberbullying or sexual violence against women and girls. Moreover, this exposure to digital media has increased, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this sense, several interviewees highlight the importance of investigating and characterizing this type of violence. Particularly among Afro-descendant women and girls against whom this type of violence is exacerbated due to the hyper-sexualization, they are subjected to. This is derived from the intersection between misogyny and racism. They point out that it is a very severe and present phenomenon that affects especially the young population.

Additionally, the region needs to advance research regarding the deep interrelation and articulation between misogynistic and sexist structures and discourses. The ideal space for their unpunished dissemination is between racist and lesbo/bi/transphobic structures and discourses in social networks.

At the level of subregions, both the Southern Cone and the Caribbean do not have VAWG on Internet and social networks as a third priority. This is surpassed by research on the rise of fundamentalist discourses and their link with VAWG and the Caribbean's case by research on armed conflicts and VAWG.

Regarding the rise of fundamentalist and ultraconservative movements/discourses (including churches) and VAWG, it is evident that religion occupies an important space in Latin American and Caribbean cultural identity. As an abstract concept, it covers a wide

and diverse field of reality in which concrete expressions are given. These expressions are absolutist and anti-women in the region, patriarchal and anti-human rights. In addition, they are ideological movements that often question equality policies and advances in women's rights and historically discriminated groups. Hence, the experts interviewed highlight the importance of researching in this line. Understanding the characteristics of religious fundamentalisms helps to analyse their strategies and allows women to build resistance strategies.

In this sense, an expert interviewed from the Southern Cone highlights the need to generate research to change stereotypes and ideas that justify and naturalize VAWG. Particularly in the field of churches, given the enormous and growing influence in the region.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions for prevention and response to VAWG

Research priorities in terms of strategies and actions for prevention and response to VAWG:

1. Strategies/actions **for the prevention** of violence against women **and girls with an intersectional approach.**
2. Strategies/actions **for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability** (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.).
3. Strategies/actions for **reporting and attention to victims of violence** against women and girls with **an intersectional approach.**

Domain 2. Prevention and response strategies.
Percentage of experts who identified
each option as a priority 1,2 or 3, total and by subregions

TABLA
10

Nº	Priorities	Total	Southern Cone	Andean Region	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico
2.1	Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach	61,9	64%	71%	40%	63%
2.2	Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.)	60,9	48%	65%	70%	69%
2.3	Strategies/actions for reporting and attention to victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach	52,5	52%	53%	60%	49%

2.4	Training strategies aimed at the State bodies responsible for the care and response to violence against women and girls (judicial system, police, health system, etc.)	36,0	52%	18%	50%	25%
2.5	Strategies/actions to denounce and address violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.)	34,6	36%	12%	30%	55%
2.6	Survival and exit strategy to deal with violence, itineraries of women victims	22,1	12%	41%	20%	20%
2.7	Innovative technologies and interventions to detect and prevent sexual harassment and violence in institutional, physical and/or digital settings (such as the workplace and workplace)	16,7	16%	29%	20%	5%
2.8	Key elements for the sustainability of prevention and response strategies/actions	15,2	20%	12%	10%	15%

As can be seen in this domain, the emphasis is placed on prevention strategies (2.1 and 2.2), and to a lesser extent, on reporting and care strategies (2.3). However, in both cases, the importance of integrating the intersectional approach is relieved.

There are also some subregional differences except in the Andean Region, where the priorities coincide with those of the whole. Thus, in the Southern Cone, the emphasis is on intersectionality since two of the first three priorities focus on it (2.1 and 2.3). In the same percentage as theme 2.3, the third priority focuses on the investigation of training strategies aimed at the staff of the State in charge of the attention and response to VAWG (2.4). The latter is also the third priority in the Caribbean. In Central America and Mexico, the third priority is the strategies/actions of denunciation and attention in VAWG in particular conditions of vulnerability.

2.1 Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach. Six out of ten experts (61%) prioritized integrating an intersectional approach in research related to VAWG prevention strategies. This is also the first priority for the Southern Cone and Andean Region. However, it ranks second in Central America and Mexico, and only fourth in the Caribbean.

Coinciding with this priority are the literature review results, where many of the papers reviewed encourage research from an intersectional perspective. Warning about the scarcity of quantitative work with disaggregated data on particular groups such as women with disabilities allows dimensioning the impact of VAWG from its relationship with the intersection of different axes of discrimination beyond making individual stories visible.

In the same vein, they also warn about the lack of analysis of the material and symbolic obstacles faced by lesbian and trans women, indigenous and peasant women, migrants, the elderly, and defenders of Human rights for access to justice, as well as the strategies developed by women survivors and the impact of these strategies on their emancipation and empowerment processes. Thus, some studies propose to review

the strategies of prevention and response to VAWG, including access to justice, from the perspective of women’s knowledge, trajectories, and ways of conceiving violence.

The interviews also highlighted the centrality of the intersectional approach to prevention strategies/actions. In the case of violence against Afro-descendants, deepening VAWG research is necessary. This must be from a historical understanding and its direct link with the processes of colonization and enslavement, including its modern forms, and the territory as a disputed space. In this sense, they also argue that addressing intersectionality requires analysing how the State violates the rights of certain types of women and exercises violence against them. Investigating in this way is essential to make the problem visible and influence the approval of regulatory and policy frameworks that address intersectionalities. Not only from their risk factors and consequences but also from the historical processes in which they originate.

2.2 Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.). With virtually the same frequency as the previous one, this is a key priority for the participating experts and the number one priority in the Caribbean and Central America and Mexico. On the other hand, in the Southern Cone, it has less priority, occupying the fourth position.

The interviewees highlight the need to deepen the study on violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (poverty, with disabilities, lesbian, trans, migrant, etc.) and who face multiple and exacerbated forms of violence, as well as a huge lack of state protection, along with the absence of information and specific data on their situation. Lesbians, in particular (and in general, violence against women in non-heterosexual relationships) face violence in their own homes. They are often expelled from there and then rejected by the labour market and by society itself, while public policies ignore them. These studies would provide information to set up VAWG prevention strategies/actions appropriate to the context of the most vulnerable groups.

2.3 Strategies/actions for reporting and attending to victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach. Integrating an intersectional approach is also a priority in terms of research on violence response strategies. For the Caribbean and Southern Cone, it has special importance, where it occupies the second level of priority.

Regarding strategies to respond to VAWG, the interviewees highlight the need for research to generate more learning about “what works” in different contexts. In particular in terms of strengthening the capacities of responsible state actors. Also, on how to make services accessible to all victims and survivors, especially those who, despite being in greater conditions of vulnerability, have less access to them (women with disabilities, lesbians, trans, girls and adolescents in general, etc.).

It is also necessary to study the accessibility of reporting tools for women with disabilities. In many cases, they do not exist. In addition, when they come to report, many judges or police do not consider their complaints reliable. In this sense, they also highlight the need for greater research, always from an intersectional approach. This must be done in the routes of care and the usefulness and effectiveness of measures to protect victims against aggressors. Also, there is a need for research on the routes and factors that facilitate victims to break the silence and get out of the cycle of violence.

Concerning the above, the literature review highlighted the need to identify the processes of women’s resistance to violence, the trajectories of victimization, the role of empowerment and autonomy over violence and support in support networks in groups of different income levels.

Domain 3. Improving VAWG interventions

Research priorities for improving VAWG prevention and care interventions:

1. **Good practices** in strategies and interventions to **prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability**.
2. Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions **with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability** (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LGBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).
3. Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of interventions to prevent and respond **to violence against women and girls in specific contexts** (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Domain 3. Improvement of interventions.
Percentage of experts who identified each option as a priority 1, 2 or 3, total and by subregions

TABLE 11

Nº	Priorities	Total	Southern Cone	Andean Region	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico
3.1	Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/ scalability	77,0	76%	88%	90%	63%
3.2	Adaptability and replicability/ scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LGBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.)	74,8	80%	59%	90%	89%

3.3	Adaptability and replicability/ scalability of good practices of interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.)	62,3	56%	76%	60%	59%
3.4	Innovations by feminist social movements and women's organizations in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls with potential for large-scale replicability	38,7	40%	35%	30%	44%
3.5	Using technology platforms effectively, efficiently and safely for the prevention of violence against women and girls	31,9	40%	29%	20%	30%
3.6	Good practices in prevention and response strategies from faith organizations that can be adapted to other contexts or types of organizations	11,1	8%	12%	10%	15%

As shown in Table 11, in this domain, the three themes prioritized by the set coincide with the three themes prioritized by subregions but with differences. For example, in the Southern Cone and in the Caribbean, priorities one and two are tied with the same percentage.

3.1 Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability. Almost eight out of ten (77%) experts prioritized the investigation of good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability. This is also the first priority for the Andean Region and the Caribbean. In contrast, it ranks second in Central America and Mexico and the Southern Cone.

This demand makes sense with the absence of this type of study in the bibliographic review. In the same vein, experts interviewed comment that there is no tradition of reflecting on what works to learn about it in the region. Thus, it is indicated the absence of practices in the region in the design, adaptation and use of shared instruments regarding VAWG.

Some interviewees point to solutions to detect good practices with potential for replicability/scalability. For example, unifying the registration system in the different agencies involved in VAWG at the country level. This would allow mapping and monitoring of successful cases and identifying good practices to prevent or address VAWG. Another expert raises the need to take advantage of existing information generation tools such as the household surveys, which government statistical institutions launch periodically in many region countries. In them, add some questions that allow evaluating ongoing programs on violence and thereby evidence good practices.

3.2 Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LGBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).

3.3 Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices for interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Priorities 3.2 and 3.3 are analysed together since both refer to the adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of VAWG prevention and response interventions. However, they differ in that 3.2 refers to women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability. In contrast, 3.3 refers to specific contexts of exacerbation of violence.

Almost 75% of the experts prioritise investigating the adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices in VAWG in conditions of special vulnerability. In comparison, 62% consider it in specific contexts such as humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations or dictatorships. The Southern Cone, the Caribbean, and Central America and Mexico agree with the whole by giving more priority to investigating the adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices on women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability than in specific contexts. Only the Andean Region reverses the order, prioritising research in specific contexts.

For several of the experts interviewed, all research should be contrasted, and measured with reality, because there is a tendency to apply unique recipes for the approach to VAWG. They raise the need to question interventions, understand and adapt responses to the different realities of LAC and above all pay attention to the particularities of indigenous, disabled, Afro-descendant and LGBTI+ women and to the specific contexts in which VAWG operates. They point to the importance of the research reflecting the experience of the women victims and survivors themselves. Finally, they propose some creative solutions to understand the difference. For example, creating circles of self-supporting women that help to understand the differences in the ways of living VAWG and, from there, propose actions according to the different realities.

They also point out that the organizations have a central role in coordinating and creating new prevention strategies that achieve new results because currently and with the strategies in place, violence situations are not being reversed. Hence the importance of

research to find the adaptability and replicability of good practices. Finally, they highlight the importance of studying the territories, the places where higher levels of VAWG occur and the specific contextual circumstances that lead to these violent acts.

Experts from the Caribbean emphasize that the investigations carried out in some countries impact others in this subregion. In contrast, those carried out in other subregions are not applicable due to the specificities of the Caribbean context.

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws against VAWG

Research priorities regarding VAWG prevention and care laws and policies:

1. **Results and impacts of national policies** on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
2. Compliance with **national and international legislation** on violence against women and girls.
3. **Results and impacts of local policies** on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 4. Laws and policies for the prevention and care of VAWG. Percentage of experts who identified each option as a priority 1, 2 or 3, total and by subregions

TABLE 12

Nº	Priorities	Total	Southern Cone	Andean Region	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico
4.1	Results and impact of national policies on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls	56,7	56%	65%	50%	54%
4.2	Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls	49,8	36%	53%	90%	44%
4.3	Results and impacts of local policies on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls	49,6	40%	59%	60%	49%

4.4	Outcomes and impacts of laws and policies on violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective	48,5	36%	41%	30%	40%
4.5	Civil society mechanisms/ strategies (organizations, social movements, feminist activism, etc.) for monitoring compliance with international and national legislation on violence against women and girls	44,2	68%	41%	20%	69%
4.6	Limiting and facilitating factors for the implementation of policies for the prevention and attention to gender-based violence	27,7	32%	24%	20%	30%
4.7	Identification of policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls that can be replicated in different contexts	23,5	32%	18%	30%	15%

As shown in Table 12, some differences are identified by subregion. The Andean and the Caribbean Regions coincide with the priorities of the whole. However, with differences in the order of priority, differences are identified at the level of the first priority in the Southern Cone and Central America and Mexico. Civil society mechanisms/strategies for monitoring compliance with international and national VAWG legislation for both regions. It emphasizes that for the majority of the Caribbean (90%), priority one is compliance with national and international VAWG legislation, priority two for the whole.

In this domain, the percentages of prioritization of the set of the five most pointed themes are quite equal, oscillating the percentages between 57% and 44%.

4.1 Results and impacts of national policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

4.3 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls. In this case, it has also been decided to make a joint analysis of the first and third priorities. This is because they refer to the results and impacts of the policies of prevention, care, sanction, and reparation of VAWG. The changes are only in the scope of action, in the first case at the national level (4.1) and the second at the local level (4.3). The first priority was voted by six out of ten experts (57%), while the second was prioritized by half of them (50%). All regions follow the pattern of giving more importance to the results and impacts of national policies, except for the Caribbean, where more priority is given to the local level.

The literature review found 15 studies (10%) that address the impact of laws and policies on violence against women. These investigations are of different types and, in general, do not focus so much on measuring impact. They analyse whether or not the legislation is the most appropriate for the type of violence that is addressed and if this legislation is complied with and/or is accessible to women.

In this sense, several of the experts interviewed highlight the centralism of the policies, designed in the capital without real knowledge of the rest of the country. Moreover, policies that do not adjust either to reality or to the rural context and even less to indigenous or Afro-descendant populations are applied at the provincial and municipal levels. To this is added the lack of coordination and the lack of follow-up between different levels of the State.

In addition, they point to the influence of the churches in the questioning of equality laws and policies. These have a greater echo in the context of the predominance of neoliberal policies that also question advances in terms of gender equality.

Although several experts recognize the regulatory progress in LAC, they express that much remains on paper. Thus, they believe it is necessary to investigate the results and impacts of national and local policies for the prevention, care, punishment and reparation of VAWG.

4.2 Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls. 50% of all respondents consider it a priority to investigate compliance with national and international legislation on VAWG, with the Caribbean being the first priority with 90%. On the contrary, it would remain the fourth priority in the Southern Cone. It would remain the third priority in Central America and Mexico and the Andean Region.

Violence against women and girls is now the subject of a comprehensive legal and policy framework at the international and national levels. It has been developed for the protection of their rights and the eradication of gender discrimination. In LAC, most countries have signed the leading international and regional conventions and treaties regarding equality between women and men. However, states still do not live up to their international and regional obligations and commitments. Their full implementation is a pending debt.

According to some experts interviewed, comprehensive national and international legislation on VAWG is essential as it provides the basis for a comprehensive and effective response. However, the biggest challenge is that sufficient resources are effectively devoted to its implementation. In many cases, the legislation lacks views towards indigenous, Afro-descendant, lesbian, bisexual, disabled, migrant, displaced and LGBTI+ women and girls. They point out that there should be more national laws and international regulations to protect the rights of these specific groups. Also, there should be more recognized criminal offences so that hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity are not made invisible.

Domain 5. Costs and economic impacts of VAWG

Research priorities regarding the costs and economic impacts of VAWG::

1. Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in the **family**.
2. Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on **state budgets**.
3. Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the **community level**.

Domain 5. Costs and impacts of VAWG.
Percentage of experts who identified each option as priority 1, 2 or 3, total and by subregions

TABLE 13

Nº	Priorities	Total	Southern Cone	Andean Region	Caribbean	Central
5.1	Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in the family setting	60,6	56%	59%	50%	73%
5.2	Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on State budgets	59,5	56%	76%	40%	59%
5.3	Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level	56,9	52%	59%	50%	65%

5.4	Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on public policies	45,7	56%	29%	60%	40%
5.5	Assessing the sustainability of violence against women and girls prevention and response interventions	42,8	40%	47%	60%	34%
5.6	Economic costs of continued violence prevention and reduction of violence against women and girls interventions	34,6	40%	29%	40%	30%

Firstly, it should be noted that the similarity in the priority percentages of the three themes should be highlighted. At the level of subregions, we find some variations. Thus, in the Andean Region and Central America and Mexico, the three priorities coincide (although not in the same order as the whole level). In the Southern Cone, three themes tie as the first priority (5.1, 5.2 and 5.4), with one of them not included in the three prioritized at the set level. This concerns the study of costs and economic impacts on public policies (5.4). For its part, in the Caribbean, the latter is the most voted priority with 60% of experts.

Just as in domains three and four, some themes have been grouped for analysis. In this case, the three priorities are analysed together since they refer to the same aspect of violence, differing only from the context in which it occurs.

VAWG becomes essential because of the harm to the individual and because it limits their rights. The great economic losses are recorded in public and private spheres at the global, regional, national, state, and municipal levels. The cost of VAWG, which includes costs for prevention, care, reparation of harm, punishment, personal expenses of the victim and the aggressor, and various institutional expenses, rises when considering the processes that hinder social growth by preventing the participation of women in the productive activities of the country and its economic development.

The literature review highlights the scarcity of studies on the costs and economic impacts of violence, only four having been identified. This result was expected given that these studies are relatively recent in the region and at a global level. Intensifying their production is essential to make the problem visible and sensitize key sectors of decision-making (political or economic) that are less sensitive to the issue from the perspective of human rights or social justice.

Applying economic analysis to VAWG in its different contexts makes it easier to measure the problem. Calculating the funding needed to provide adequate responses to VAWG is useful because it allows comparison. It is a starting point to knowing public and private resources' use and potential demand. It makes it easier to disaggregate areas where such resources are used and discover how many of these are addressing problems that hinder development rather than directing them to create the conditions to promote them.

Several of the research reviewed led to specialized studies on the costs of VAWG aimed at the subpopulation of microentrepreneurs. They differentiate between formal and informal enterprises and the impact on workers and employers. They quantify the productive days lost due to violence and other categories of out-of-pocket expenses that are paid with the business' income. Also, they suggest including indicators of microcredit and indebtedness associated with violence.

For their part, experts highlight the importance of combining the study of economic impacts in a broad sense. For instance, including health costs (family planning, breastfeeding, and others), housing, education (educational performance), judicial costs, reduced productivity, increased labour absenteeism and others to make visible the impact of the cost of violence on the countries' Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But, again, emphasis is placed on measuring costs, specifically for groups in greater conditions of vulnerability, such as Afro-descendant or indigenous women and girls.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

Research priorities for measuring VAWG:

1. **Innovative qualitative methodologies** for measuring violence against women and girls from an **intersectional** perspective.
2. Design of **indicators to measure state compliance with international commitments** for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
3. Design of **indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts** (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).
4. **Institutional/state capacities** for identifying and measuring cases of the different types of violence against women and girls.

Domain 6. VAWG measurement methodologies.
Percentage of experts who identified each option
as priority 1, 2 or 3, total and by subregions

TABLE
14

Nº	Prioridades	Total	Cono Sur	Región Andina	Caribe	Centro América y México
6.1	Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective	68,6	63%	88%	60%	62%
6.2	Design of indicators to measure state compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls	64,8	46%	82%	50%	79%

6.3	Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.)	50,8	42%	71%	50%	45%
6.4	Institutional/State capacities for the identification and measurement of cases of different types of violence against women and girls	50,8	59%	35%	80%	40%
6.5	Experiences of platforms and observatories for measuring violence against women and girls from civil society (organizations, social movements, feminist activism, etc.) or from the State	35,3	51%	6%	30%	44%
6.6	Online, virtual or remote methodologies for efficient, ethical and inclusive research on violence against women and girls	29,6	38%	18%	30%	30%

The first aspect to highlight is that four priorities have been included in this domain. Two (6.3 and 6.4) obtained the same percentage of priority from the experts, although well below the first two (6.1 and 6.2). Significant differences are identified at the level of subregions in the Southern Cone, where only two out of four coincide with those of the whole (6.1 and 6.4). The third priority is the experiences of platforms and observatories for measuring VAWG from civil society or the state. In contrast, in the other regions, the first four priorities coincide with variations in frequency.

6.1 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective. Seven out of ten (69%) respondents prioritise investigating innovative methodologies for measuring VAWG from an intersectional approach. While this is the first priority for the Southern Cone and Andean Region, it ranks second in the Caribbean and Central America and Mexico.

Approaching VAWG from qualitative methodologies with an intersectional approach becomes a priority in the region, considering the diversity of women and girls and the multiple intersectionalities that cross them. Likewise, qualitative information has special relevance given the statistical invisibility of women and girls from historically discriminated groups, such as indigenous people, Afro-descendants, migrants, displaced and disabled persons or LGBTI+.

The literature review found studies that propose or discuss methodologies for measuring violence, both quantitatively and qualitatively (eight studies, 5%). Most of them focus on proposing or discussing methodologies for measuring gender violence. This is gender violence in general and specific types such as femicides/femicides, workplace harassment or sexual violence, and putting together concrete instruments for their measurement (for example, questionnaires). Others focus on providing the institutions responsible with instruments for identifying and measuring cases (for example, femicides/femicides). In the literature review, no studies of innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring VAWG from the intersectional approach were found.

As already mentioned in the general priorities, several interviewees point out that, although quantitative studies must be done to have concrete data and raise awareness, qualitative studies are very important to see the differences and understand the peculiarities of the context. They point out that innovative qualitative methodologies that address mostly invisible aspects such as race, ethnicity or sexual orientation are needed to find the multiple discriminations that lead to covert violence. The insistence on the intersectional approach in this domain is also fundamental, as in the previous ones.

6.2 Design of indicators to measure state compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls. 65% of the respondents feel it is a priority to investigate the design of indicators to measure state compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of VAWG; this is also the first priority in Central America and Mexico.

International normative frameworks related to violence have been developed in recent decades. Many countries in the region have signed the main international and regional conventions and treaties on women’s rights. However, they are still far from full implementation. The limited real political will translates into the scarcity of public resources allocated to the various state agencies responsible for implementing them. Added to this is public officials’ lack of knowledge and skills, and they are responsible for implementing international commitments.

Interviewed Experts also express the limitation existing in most international instruments regarding the persistence of a universal conception of VAWG that does not facilitate the approach to intersectionalities. Others point to the reluctance and lack of transparency on the part of States to share data and information with the population, and to a greater extent, with civil society organizations. All this makes it generally very difficult for interested organizations to know the degree of compliance with regulations, particularly in the Caribbean subregion.

In this context of disinformation and scarcity of instruments to monitor States' compliance with international commitments on VAWG, some experts express that it is necessary to investigate the design of indicators that allow civil society to accompany and monitor the performance of States in this regard.

6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.). Almost 51% of experts prioritize research in designing indicators to measure VAWG in different contexts. Although this priority also enters the four most voted in most subregions, this is not the case in the Southern Cone, where it occupies the fifth position.

In this regard, several interviewees indicated the absence of indicators to measure VAWG in the political, private and family spheres, as well as in the school environment, particularly to measure sexual violence in this area. It also suggests the development of validated indicators to measure girls' and women's knowledge of their rights. Again, and as in the rest of the domains, the design of indicators that can reflect VAWG depending on the specific contexts is insisted upon. In the Caribbean, one of the interviewees highlights that the difficulty of having indicators is more at the base, given the absence of data to nourish them.

6.4 Institutional/State capacities for identifying and measuring cases of different types of violence against women and girls. This issue was tied with the previous one, with just over half of the respondents identifying it as one of the three priorities. In the Caribbean, this concern ranks first, prioritized by 80%, well above the others. On the contrary, it was only prioritized by just over three out of ten respondents in the Andean region.

A first reflection shared by some experts has to do with the states' lack of interest in improving their capacities to measure violence. Better measurement and visibility

of the problem would mean having to recognize the problem and invest more and better resources and efforts in its approach. Caribbean experts pointed out that VAWG continues to be seen as something not very relevant in the Caribbean and that it happens in the private sphere in a timely manner. As a result, there is no real interest on the part of the state to address intersectionality since recognizing it would mean having to do something about it.

In terms of recommendations, one of the interviewees raised the need to use to a greater extent standard measurement instruments. For instance, household surveys can be used to collect the impact of social programs on reducing VAWG in households.

They also point out that the State cannot deal with specific violence since it does not have indicators, numbers, or tools to understand the specificity of these events. As a result, they cannot recognize the problems that lead to understanding and demanding public policies for non-heterosexual women. For example, lesbian or bisexual women face these problems since sexual orientation is not something evident. In the case of women with disabilities, the same is true of psychosocial disabilities, and they are not as apparent as physical disabilities.

REGIONAL AGENDA FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

23 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by experts from the region, for the region

General Priorities

- 0.1** Investigate femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within and outside the couple, particularly sexual harassment.
- 0.2** The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- 0.3** Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.
- 0.4** In the age cycle, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Prioridades por Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1** Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2** The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- 1.3** Violence against women and girls on the Internet and social media, risk and protective factors.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 2.3** Strategies/actions for reporting and attention to victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.2** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices for interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1 Results and impact of national policies on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.2 Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1 Costs and economic impacts of domestic violence against women and girls.
- 5.2 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in State budgets.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective.
- 6.2 Design of indicators to measure State compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).
- 6.3 Institutional/State capacities for the identification and measurement of cases of different types of violence against women and girls.

AGENDAS BY SUBREGIONS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

22 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by experts from Central America and Mexico, for Central America and Mexico

General Priorities

- 0.1** Investigate femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within and outside the couple, particularly sexual harassment.
- 0.2** The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- 0.3** Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.
- 0.4** Within the age cycle, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Priorities by Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1** Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2** The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- 1.3** Violence against women and girls on the Internet and social media, risk and protective factors.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions to prevent violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrant, Afro-descendant, etc.).
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.
- 2.3** Strategies/actions to denounce and address violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.).

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).
- 3.2** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices for interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (human crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1 Civil society mechanisms/strategies (organizations, social movements, feminist activism, etc.) for monitoring compliance with international and national legislation on violence against women and girls.
- 4.2 Results and impact of national policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1 Costs and economic impacts of domestic violence against women and girls.
- 5.2 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on State budgets.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1 Design of indicators to measure State compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 6.2 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).

22 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by experts from the Andean Region, for the Andean Region

General Priorities

- o.1 Investigate femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within and outside the couple, particularly sexual harassment.
- o.2 The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- o.3 Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.
- o.4 Within the age cycle, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Priorities by Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1 Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2 Violence against women and girls on the Internet and social media, risk and protective factors.
- 1.3 The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrants, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 2.3** Strategies/actions for reporting and addressing victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.2** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1 Results and impact of national policies on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.2 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on State budgets.
- 5.2 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in the family.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective.
- 6.2 Design of indicators to measure State compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).

25 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by Caribbean experts, for the Caribbean

General Priorities

- o.1 Investigate intimate or peer physical violence, sexual harassment, institutional or state violence, and femicide violence.
- o.2 The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- o.3 Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, the causes are the priority elements to be investigated.
- o.4 Within the age cycle, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Priorities by Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1 Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2 The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- 1.3 Advance of fundamentalist and ultra-conservative movements/discourses (including churches) and violence against women and girls.
- 1.3 Armed conflicts in the region and violence against women and girls.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions to prevent violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, indigenous, disabled, migrant, Afro-descendant, etc.).
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.
- 2.3** Training strategies aimed at state bodies responsible for addressing and responding to violence against women and girls (judicial system, police, health system, etc.).

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.2** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1 Compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls.
- 4.2 Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3 Results and impact of national policies on the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on public policies.
- 5.2 Evaluation of the sustainability of interventions to prevent and address violence against women and girls.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of domestic violence against women and girls.
- 5.3 Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls at the community level.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1 Institutional/State capacities for the identification and measurement of cases of different types of violence against women and girls
- 6.2 Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure State compliance with international commitments for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 6.3 Design of indicators to measure violence against women and girls in different contexts (armed conflict/dictatorships, public space and the street, educational space, media, etc.).

22 research priorities on violence against women and girls identified by experts from the Southern Cone, for the Southern Cone

General Priorities

- o.1 Investigate femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within and outside the couple, particularly sexual harassment.
- o.2 The production of mixed research, combining quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions.
- o.3 Within the phenomenon of violence against women and girls, risk factors are the priority elements to be investigated.
- o.4 Within the age cycle, violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to be investigated.

Priorities by Domain

Domain 1. Characterization of violence against women and girls

- 1.1 Violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, etc.).
- 1.2 The COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- 1.3 Advance of fundamentalist and ultra-conservative movements/discourses (including churches) and violence against women and girls.

Domain 2. Strategies and actions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls

- 2.1** Strategies/actions for the prevention of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach.
- 2.2** Strategies/actions for reporting and addressing victims of violence against women and girls with an intersectional approach
- 2.3** Training strategies aimed at state bodies responsible for addressing and responding to violence against women and girls (judicial system, police, health system, etc.).

Domain 3. Improving interventions against violence against women and girls

- 3.1** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices of violence prevention and response interventions with groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability (indigenous, Afro-descendant, LGBTI+, disability, migrants, etc.).
- 3.2** Good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with the potential for replicability/scalability.
- 3.3** Adaptability and replicability/scalability of good practices for interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

Domain 4. Impact of policies and laws in the face of violence against women and girls

- 4.1** Mechanisms/strategies of civil society (organizations, social movements, feminist activism, etc.) for monitoring compliance with international and national legislation on violence against women and girls.
- 4.2** Results and impact of national policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.
- 4.3** Results and impacts of local policies for the prevention, care, punishment, and reparation of violence against women and girls.

Domain 5. Economic costs and impacts of violence against women and girls

- 5.1** Costs and economic impacts of domestic violence against women and girls.
- 5.2** Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls in State budgets.
- 5.3** Costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls on public policies.

Domain 6. Measuring violence against women and girls

- 6.1** Innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective.
- 6.2** Institutional/State capacities for the identification and measurement of cases of different types of violence against women and girls.
- 6.3** Experiences of platforms and observatories for measuring violence against women and girls from civil society (organizations, social movements, feminist activism, etc.) or from the state.



PART
3

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Conclusions

1. The regional construction process prioritized the voices of non-academic experts on violence against women and girls in the region. The reality of women and girls in the Latin American and Caribbean region is crossed by multiple and varied identities that derive from the continent’s own history as a rich and diverse territory and, at the same time, colonisation, conquest, and exploitation. A territory and a history marked by a deeply rooted racist patriarchy that determines high levels of inequality, exclusion, and violence. That is why the process of building the Regional Agenda for the definition of research priorities on violence against women and girls was carried out in a participatory, diverse, and equitable manner. It considered to a greater extent the needs of civil society organizations working in this field, compared to traditional methodologies built from the priorities of funders or academia, and therefore overcoming the expert judgment of a person or a limited group of people. Experts on violence against women and girls in the region were consulted, both from grassroots organizations working on violence against women and girls and academics working on violence against women and girls research, non-governmental organizations and international agencies specializing in violence against women and girls. This approach aimed to help identify information gaps considering the different intersectionalities. Being a new approach, the process itself was as valuable as its result.

2. Research on violence against women and girls in the region, with subregional differences and gaps, demands an intersectional approach.

The process started with a bibliographic review on violence against women and girls in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim was to emphasize the identification of research not produced in the field of academia. It has been verified, in this and other regions, that academia is the one producing most of the knowledge regarding violence. However, feminist, women’s, and civil society organizations, who normally face the greater limitation of resources for research, also play an important role. They are responsible for one in four of the research studies identified. Here, it is important to highlight the role of multilateral development organizations (United Nations, Inter-American Development Bank, international cooperation agencies) as promoters and/or financiers of these studies. They support study centres, national non-governmental organizations of women/feminists and others. In those studies involving governments, the role of these promoters/funders is also key, as all identified government-signed studies have been promoted and/or supported externally.

The literature review identified clear research gaps in violence against women and girls in the English, French and Dutch Caribbean regions. Particularly in small island states such as Anguilla, Bermuda, Dominica, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis or St. Lucia. No research was identified in the period analysed, neither individual nor subregional.

Clearly, the characterization of violence against women and girls and identifying prevention and response strategies occupy most of the research efforts. In many cases, it is combined in the same research since it aims to generate recommendations for its approach. Also, although to a much lesser extent, some studies analyse the scope, limitations and impacts of laws and policies to combat violence against women and girls. Further, the measurement of violence, the study of the costs of violence in terms of impact on society, and especially the research focused on improving interventions already developed are much more limited.

The qualitative studies constituted the majority of findings. This is probably derived from prioritizing the look at non-academic research. It suggests the need to propose greater efforts to develop studies with mixed quantitative/qualitative methodologies that allow combining “hard” data with the experiences of violence by women and girls.

Still, most of the studies identified address gender-based violence against women and girls as a whole, although with an important presence of studies focused specifically on intimate partner violence, sexual violence and some on femicidal violence. In addition, some issues of special relevance were identified, increasingly visible and denounced by women's and feminist organizations in the region. For instance, street sexual harassment is beginning to be present in research on violence against women and girls, although still in a limited way.

Addressing violence against women in terms of the life cycle is still a challenge in the region, with very little research focusing on violence against girls, adolescents and/or young women, and also towards older adult women.

In positive terms, it is worth highlighting a relevant presence, although still a minority, of research that applies an intersectional approach, intending to reveal the characteristics and the greatest impact of violence against certain groups of women and girls who face double and triple discrimination. These are indigenous, Afro-descendant, lesbian, bisexual, trans and migrant, among others. This intersectional approach often arises from research efforts from the decolonial perspective, which is increasingly present in the region in terms of studying social phenomena, particularly feminist research.

The questions identified in a large part of the studies analysed and that constitute future lines of research coincide with the need to broaden the intersectional perspective. At the same time, it needs to be strengthened in terms of characterizing access to justice, proposing and evaluating laws and other national mechanisms of attention to the various forms of violence experienced by women, especially in the countries that make up the Caribbean. It also warns about the lack of systematized data on commercial trafficking in women and children. Moreover, its link with other illegal activities energises it and allows its growth with impunity.

3. The construction of the Regional Agenda had broad and diverse participation. One hundred and twenty-six experts on violence against women and girls from 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and two from other regions (USA and Spain, where three of the experts currently live) responded to an identification form. This allowed their characterization and obtained their agreement to participate in the consultation process. 90.5% of the experts identified are women, and 6.3% are men. 3.2% identify as non-binary, queer or with no sex/gender category. Most experts (65.1%) work or are linked to a civil society organization (NGO, network or community organization). 12.7% are linked to academia, 6.3% work in a government institution, 4.8% in an international NGO, 4% are consultants, 3.2% work in a bi-multilateral organization and the others are linked to the private sector, religious or other organizations. Of these 126 experts identified, 101 participated in the different consultations, showing some correspondence with the profile of the total sample. Of the 101 experts, 83 responded to questionnaire one and 73 to questionnaire two, covering 22 countries in the LAC region and the United States, where two experts currently live. It should be noted that 55 experts responded to the two questionnaires, 28 only to questionnaire one and 18 only to questionnaire two.

It was found that the domains defined to group the research priorities are in line with the work being promoted in the region. It brings together the various interventions in which organizations, institutions and individuals address violence against women and girls: almost all of the experts indicated that they work in two or more of these domains, 83% mentioned that they work on prevention and response strategies/actions, 60% in relation to the characterization of violence, 55% work around improving interventions, 40% on the impact of policies and laws, 21% on measuring violence against women and girls and only 9% of the total works around the costs and economic impacts of violence against women and girls.

4. A Regional Agenda with 23 priorities and some subregional specificities. The proposed Regional Agenda comprises 23 priorities, four of them called general priorities, and three priorities by domain. Except in domain six, where four are presented since there was a tie in the third priority. In the results section, they are presented in detail and the subregional specificities in each case.

General priorities: Research on femicidal violence, institutional or state violence and sexual violence both within the couple and outside have a majority consensus in the expert group. At the subregional level, in Central America and Mexico and the Andean Region, the priority coincides with the whole in terms of femicides. In the Caribbean, the most prioritized types of violence are intimate physical violence or partner violence and sexual harassment. While in the Southern Cone, state violence is the most prioritized type of violence. For those who declare themselves Afro-descendant, prioritized violence focuses mainly on sexual harassment and physical violence in the couple relationship. For those who self-identify as indigenous, femicide and sexual harassment are in the first place.

There is also broad agreement on prioritizing the production of mixed research, which combines quantitative data with qualitative information to show and make visible violence against women and girls and its different expressions. Again, no significant differences were observed between the subregions.

As for the elements of violence, the risk factors are clearly the priority. For indigenous experts, risk factors are undoubtedly a priority (40%). At the same time, for Afro-descendants and Caribbean women, causes and prevalence occupy the first place (33% each). Risk factors and impacts are priorities with similar frequencies (23% and 25%) for those who declare themselves mestizo. It is also important to mention that, for whites, mestizos and those who did not identify in this regard, an important priority is social perceptions and attitudes. These are the least prioritized options for Afro-descendants and indigenous people.

Finally, and in a very significant way, the participants indicated that violence against girls and adolescents is the highest priority to investigate. Again, no significant differences were observed between the subregions.

Domain 1. The characterization of violence against women and girls in special conditions of vulnerability (LBTI+, with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants etc.), the COVID-19 crisis and the exacerbation of multiple forms of violence against women and girls and violence against women and girls on the internet and social networks, their risk and protective factors obtained the greatest consensus in the group of experts.

Some differences are identified by subregion. For example, the Andean Region and Central America and Mexico coincide with the priorities of the whole. Differences are identified at the third priority level in the Southern Cone and the Caribbean. Thus, in the Southern Cone, the third priority is research on the growth of fundamentalist and ultra-conservative movements and discourses and their impact on increasing violence against women and girls. This aspect also occupies the third priority in the Caribbean, along with research on the relationship between armed conflict and violence against women and girls.

Domain 2. In terms of strategies and actions for prevention and response to violence, priorities focused on prevention strategies, particularly those with an intersectional approach and those focused on women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability. Regarding response strategies, the priority is also to study those that integrate an intersectional approach.

There are also some subregional differences except in the Andean Region, where the priorities coincide with those of the whole. Thus, in the Southern Cone, the emphasis is on intersectionality since two of the first three priorities focus on it. The third focuses on investigating training strategies aimed at State personnel in charge of the attention and response to violence against women and girls. The latter is also the third priority in the Caribbean. Finally, the third priority in Central America and Mexico is the strategies/ actions of denunciation and attention to violence against women and girls in particular conditions of vulnerability.

Domain 3. The experts prioritized research on good practices in strategies and interventions to prevent, address and punish violence with potential for replicability/scalability. The same goes for the adaptability, and replicability/scalability of good practices of interventions focused on groups of women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability and specific contexts (humanitarian crises, armed conflicts, migrations, dictatorships, etc.).

In the Southern Cone and Central America and Mexico, priority one is the adaptability and scalability of good practices of violence against women and girls in conditions of special vulnerability. This is the second priority of the whole. Priorities one and two are tied with the same percentage in the Caribbean.

Domain 4. Regarding laws and policies for the prevention of and attention to violence against women and girls, priorities focus on research on the results and impacts of national and local policies on prevention, care, punishment and reparation. Also, there is a focus on compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls. In any case, the prioritization percentages of the set of the five most important themes are quite equal.

Some differences by subregion are also identified here. The Andean and the Caribbean regions coincide with the priorities of the whole, with differences in the priority order. Such differences are identified at the first priority level in the Southern Cone and Central America and Mexico. For both regions, the mechanisms/strategies of civil society for the follow-up to the fulfilment of international and national legislation on violence against women and girls. It emphasizes that for the majority of the Caribbean, priority one is compliance with national and international legislation on violence against women and girls, priority two for the whole.

Domain 5. About the costs and economic impacts of violence, the experts prioritized their analysis in the family sphere, in the budgets of the States and at the community level. Here it is worth noting the similarity in the priority percentages of the three themes.

At the level of subregions, we find some variations. Thus, the three priorities coincide in the Andean and Central America and Mexico regions (although not in the same order as the whole level). In the Southern Cone, three themes are tied as the first priority, with one of them not included in the three prioritized at the set level, referring to the study of costs and economic impacts on public policies. For its part, in the Caribbean, the latter is the most voted priority with 60% of experts.

Domain 6. The first aspect to highlight in measuring violence is that four priorities have been included in this domain. Although well below the first two, two of them obtained the same percentage of priority from the experts. The priorities focus on investigating innovative qualitative methodologies for measuring violence against women and girls from an intersectional perspective. Also, the focus is on designing indicators to measure both the state's compliance with international commitments on violence against women and girls and to measure it in contexts of special vulnerability such as armed conflicts, dictatorships, etc. Finally, they prioritized the analysis of institutional/State capacities to identify and measure cases of the different types of violence against women and girls. Significant differences are identified at the level of subregions in the Southern Cone, where only two out of four coincide with those of the whole. The third priority is the experiences of platforms and observatories for measuring violence against women and girls from civil society or the State. In the other regions, the first three priorities coincide with variations in frequency.

2. Recommendations

DEVELOPING a Regional Agenda of research priorities on violence against women and girls through a collective process has been a complex and enriching task. With respect and care, we approach the expert voices of the region with the conviction that this type of agenda can only be built from the collective and its diversity. The generous wisdom of the expert voices helped alleviate the anxiety arising from the enormity of this task. However, we believe that the result shows the effort and care put into it.

Bringing together activists, researchers, professionals, funders, and decision-makers in addressing this global and regional scourge, has allowed us to collectively build and deepen knowledge about the research needs on violence against women and girls in the region.

In this way, it is expected that the research priorities presented will serve as an input to place research on violence against women and girls on the political discussion tables at the regional and country levels. Therefore, it will become a valuable and concrete instrument to influence the roadmap of the research centres in the region, civil society, cooperation and multilateral organizations, academics and governments in the region responsible for guaranteeing the rights of women and girls to non-violence against them and gender equality. Therefore, the main recommendations to achieve this are briefly presented below.

Communication, identification, and advocacy: the Regional Agenda will only be useful if it reaches the largest number of interested people and groups and is positioned as a relevant instrument.

- The Regional Agenda must be used effectively and thus contribute to filling research gaps on violence in the region.
- The successful participation of experts on violence from the region in the consultations to establish research priorities on violence against women and girls shows their interest. However, it is recommended that they make it their own, adapt it to their specific contexts and use it as an advocacy tool.
- The Regional Agenda should be widely disseminated through research and donor networks, universities and research institutes, webinars, and the media.
- Universities and research centres should use the Regional Agenda to inform their own research agendas and grant applications, including sharing it with PhD and Master’s students to guide their research topics.
- Professionals from civil society organizations should use the Regional Agenda as a guide in the research they carry out in their contexts and a guide in their partnerships with research centres.
- It is recommended that national machinery for women or gender equality in the region takes ownership of this priorities agenda. Also, it must be considered when defining research and data generation priorities at the State level.

Adaptations: A regional agenda includes a wide range of topics that will have to be adapted to specific contexts.

- The Regional Agenda and the Sub-Regional Subagendas will have to be adapted to different contexts, communities, and environments.
- Funders must ensure that the Regional Agenda or the Subregional Subagendas are well adapted to the specific contexts for which funding is required. For example, the themes respond to their research programs on violence.

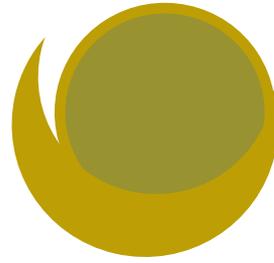
Research funding: The Regional Agenda should be used as a tool to influence greater and better research funding that addresses critical research gaps in violence against women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Important gaps in research on violence against women and girls have been revealed in the regional process of building the Agenda. Thus, funders must increase investment in quality ethical research aligned with the Regional Agenda.
- Funders should use the Regional Agenda to help set their research funding priorities in this area, leaving aside funding for research that has already been carried out and has not been identified in this process as a priority.
- Grant holders could require applicants to evaluate their proposed research projects against the priorities identified in the Regional Agenda.

Execution: “nothing about us, without us”.

- Apply the principle of “nothing about us, without us” to guarantee the validity of the Regional Agenda, built from the broad participation of expert voices from the region and different areas and spaces.
- Many of the prioritized themes refer to addressing the violence faced by women and girls due to multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that people with lived experience or members of these communities participate as a source of information and as guides of it in all its phases.

Finally, the Regional Agenda is a call for collective work to coordinate and join efforts and different perspectives in constructing knowledge on violence against women and girls in the region. It significantly contributes to expanding and strengthening efforts for its prevention and eradication.



ANNEXES

Annexe 1.

Form for the identification of experts in VAWG. English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish versions.

Annexe 2.

Questionnaire one of the research priorities in VAWG. Spanish, Portuguese, and English versions.

Annexe 3.

Interview guide. Spanish version.

Annexe 4.

List of countries that make up the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annexe 5.

Questionnaire two of the research priorities in VAWG. Spanish, Portuguese, and English versions.

Annexe 6.

List of members of the Advisory Board.

Annexe 7.

List of studies identified in the literature review.