



## **Research Assistant (Short Term Consultant)**

Terms of Reference

October 2021

### **I. Summary**

The federation of all regional Gender Innovation Labs at the World Bank, in collaboration with the Prevention Collaborative, are seeking a research assistant to conduct a literature review of studies that rigorously examine the relationship between structural-level factors (e.g. policies, laws, broad-based social programs) and rates of intimate partner violence. The consultant will work under the supervision of an advisory group comprised of representatives of the World Bank regional Gender Innovation Labs, and Lori Heise from the Prevention Collaborative. The Research Assistant will work as a Short Term Consultant for up to 30 working days.

### **II. Background**

The World Bank's Gender Innovation Labs seek to identify effective policies to address gender inequality, particularly by promoting women's economic opportunity and social empowerment. The Gender Labs conduct original research and synthesize evidence for decision-makers in government and the private sector on what does and does not work to address the underlying causes of gender inequality. Part of work includes identifying promising approaches to the prevention of gender-based violence.

The Prevention Collaborative works to reduce violence against women and their children (VAW/C) by strengthening capacity of key actors to design and deliver effective prevention programmes, based on feminist principles and evidence-and practice-based learning. The Collaborative serves the specific needs of practitioners and implementing partners by curating evidence, mentoring organisations, and ensuring that donor funding is channelled wisely.

The World Bank's Gender Innovation Labs and the Prevention Collaborative are working together to produce an evidence review of macro-level policy options for the prevention of violence against women and children.

In the field of violence prevention, evidence generation has focused primarily on community-based or grassroots programming to reduce rates of intimate partner violence (IPV). However, the potential impact of structural-level factors (e.g. policies, laws, or broad-based social programs such as social protection or the expansion of education systems) on levels of violence

remains under-explored. Moreover, there has been no systematic review of those macro-level policy options for reducing violence. Some research has investigated the impact on IPV of additional years of secondary education, eliminating gender bias in inheritance law (India), women's property rights post dissolution of marriage (Africa), divorce law, and criminal and/or civil law restrictions. There is a need to synthesize findings from these types of studies and make the evidence accessible to a broad audience of stakeholders including policymakers, donors, and activists.

We are seeking a consultant to conduct a narrative review of studies that evaluate the impact of key structural factors on population levels of IPV and/or violence against children, particularly in low and middle income (LMIC) countries. The review will prioritize studies that employ rigorous methods of causal inference. We are especially interested in studies of policies that are amenable to government or institutional implementation.

### **III. Tasks and Deliverables**

Working closely with the advisory group, the consultant will:

1. Develop and refine search strategies for finding relevant literatures
2. Review and catalogue articles identified
3. Assess articles for quality and eliminate any that do not meet minimum quality requirements for their discipline
4. Develop an annotated bibliography of qualifying articles
5. Develop a background document that:
  - a. Summarizes the available evidence on structural/macro level factors that have a casual impact on population levels of IPV
  - b. Summarizes the available evidence on whether and how these structural/macro factors affect individual's risk of victimization and/or perpetration
  - c. Identifies key gaps or weaknesses in the literature(s)
  - d. Identifies and describes policy and programme interventions that could modify these macro-level drivers
  - e. Provides case examples from the literature of efforts by governments or other actors that to shape, curb or otherwise affect these factors
6. Participate in regular meetings with the advisory group to review progress and findings
7. Depending on the quality of work produced under the first 6 tasks, the consultant may be asked to participate in drafting a policy brief and/or academic journal article summarizing the findings of the review [Approximately 15 days of work will be reserved for this task.]

### **IV. Requirements**

PhD candidates or post-docs are encouraged to apply. The consultant will be remunerated at a level commensurate with their experience.

Competitive candidates will have:

- Training in economics, political science, sociology, demography, and/or public policy at a master's level or higher
- Training in methods of causal inference
- Previous academic research on gender and/or gender-based violence a plus
- Familiarity with the various data bases and sources of literature in economics, political science, demography, and public health
- Demonstrated ability to write about evidence and scientific findings in an accessible way

## **V. Expressions of Interest**

Interested candidates should send a short cover letter that highlights relevant experience and a CV to Rachael Pierotti ([rpierotti@worldbank.org](mailto:rpierotti@worldbank.org)) no later than October 22, 2021. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.