



GDLab

**GENDER AND DIVERSITY
KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE**

Call for Research Proposals

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS

Gender-based violence¹ against women, children, and adolescents is a serious rights violation² and one of the greatest public health problems that has profound social, economic and political consequences worldwide.³ Recent years have seen considerable growth in the study and understanding of this pandemic, including risk factors and the most common impacts, such as intergenerational transmission of violence.^{4,5} Existing literature indicates that exposure to violence during childhood, either as a victim or as a witness of adult violence, increases the likelihood of a child or adolescent experiencing or perpetrating violence in future relationships.⁶

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) alone, one in four women between the ages of 15 and 49 has suffered physical or sexual violence at least once in her life at the hands of her intimate partner.⁷ Even more alarming, it is estimated that 12 women die from femicide every day.^{8,9} Likewise, it is estimated that two out of three children under the age of 15 are victims of some type of abuse as a method of discipline, and that almost one in two is subjected to physical punishment at home.¹⁰ When gender and age interact with ethnicity, race, disability, immigration status, or sexual orientation, the risks and challenges of

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- 1 Violence against women, children, and adolescents includes different types of violence, including abuse, sexual violence, intimidation or bullying, youth violence, intimate partner violence, and psychological or emotional violence. It also includes trafficking for sexual exploitation and pornography, forced marriage, forced labor, child begging, and other forms of exploitation. (PAHO, 2017. INSPIRE. Seven strategies to end violence against children. Washington, D.C.)
 - 2 Adolescence is defined as the period of human growth and development after childhood and before adulthood, between the ages of 10 and 19 (WHO, 2022. <https://www.who.int/en/health-topics/adolescent-health>)
 - 3 Agüero, J. (2018). "La Violencia de Género en América Latina: Diagnóstico, Determinantes y Opciones de Política. Andean Development Corporation (No. 2018/16). Working Paper.
 - 4 Fulu, E., Miedema, S., Roselli, T., McCook, S., Chan, K. L., Haardörfer, R., Jewkes, R., & UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence study team (2017). "Pathways between childhood trauma, intimate partner violence, and harsh parenting: Findings from the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific." *The Lancet. Global health*, 5(5), e512–e522. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(17\)30103-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(17)30103-1)
 - 5 Guedes, A., Bott, S., Garcia-Moreno, C., & Colombini, M. (2016). "Bridging the gaps: A global review of intersections of violence against women and violence against children." *Global Health Action*, 9, 31516. <https://doi.org/10.3402/gha.v9.31516>
 - 6 Heise, L. (2011). What works to prevent partner violence? Evidence overview.
 - 7 WHO (2018). Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018. <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1347693/retrieve>
 - 8 Bustelo, M., Frisancho, V., Viollaz, M. (2020). What policies are effective at eradicating violence against women? Inter-American Development Bank. GDLab Policy Brief. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/what-policies-are-effective-eradicating-violence-against-women>
 - 9 WHO (2021). Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018.
 - 10 UNICEF (2018). Disciplina violenta en América Latina y el Caribe.



violence are compounded as a result of the combination of different types of discrimination.¹¹

Violence invades the everyday lives of women, children, and adolescents, and takes place in both the public and private spheres. Inside the home, the perpetrators are usually people close to the victims, such as a woman's partner, relatives, or a child or adolescent's caregiver.¹² Outside the home, women, children, and adolescents are exposed to violence in schools, workplaces, and public spaces like transportation, squares, parks, and places of recreation. Available evidence for the region indicates that the rate of sexual violence against women committed by third parties is among the highest in the world, and while most acts of violence and harassment are committed by peers, such acts are also committed by teachers and non-teaching staff.¹³

The high rate of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents poses a key public policy challenge when it comes to prevention, support, and response to violence in the region. Producing rigorous research in this area is crucial for addressing this issue. A rigorous knowledge agenda that includes an intersectional approach¹⁴ and identification of the impacts of this violence; that documents the State's capacity and the challenge facing social and citizen security and justice institutions; and that evaluates interventions or solutions for preventing, responding to, and providing support in the event of violence against women, children, and adolescents is a critical input for making public policy decisions in these areas and for enhancing meaningful strategies for promoting violence-free relationships throughout life and healthy models of masculinity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

- Document the scope, risk factors, and costs of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.
- Document the State's capacity and the challenges facing institutions engaged in preventing, responding to, providing support in the event of, and eradicating gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.
- Evaluate innovative interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.

Proposals that analyze one or more of the [26 IDB borrowing member countries](#) will be considered. The proposals must apply rigorous quantitative methods. Research proposals that include qualitative analysis will be considered only to the extent that they serve as input for the implementation of quantitative studies. Proposals for rigorous quantitative studies that generate actionable public policy recommendations are especially welcome.

Outstanding studies will be considered for publication as IDB knowledge products (IDB working paper, technical note, etc.). Such publications will require an external review process. Publication as an IDB product will not prevent publication of the study in an academic journal.

¹¹ Roza, V., Martín, C. (2021). Sexual and Gender-based Violence: Road Map for Prevention and Response in Latin America and the Caribbean. Inter-American Development Bank. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0003819>

¹² Speizer, I., M. Goodwin, L. Whittle, M. Clyde y J. Rogers (2008). Dimensions of child sexual abuse before age 15 in three Central American countries: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 32(4):455-462.

¹³ UNESCO and UN Women (2019). International guidelines for addressing gender-based violence in school environments. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN Women.

¹⁴ A term coined by [Kimberlé Crenshaw](#) in 1989 to refer to the phenomenon whereby each individual suffers oppression or privilege due to belonging to multiple social categories. See <https://blogs.iadb.org/igualdad/es/que-es-interseccionalidad/>

PRIORITY ISSUES

This call for submissions seeks rigorous research proposals in the following areas:

- 1. Measuring the prevalence of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.** Making progress on measurement is one of the great pending issues on the agenda for eradicating and preventing gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents. Proposals in this area should contribute to a better understanding of this phenomenon and may address the following topics (but are not limited to them): rate and dynamics of the prevalence of violence from an intersectional approach; definition and measurement of femicide; challenges (biases and underreporting) and proposals to improve the measurement of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents; emerging trends in violence against these populations (such as digital violence or cyberbullying); prevalence and nature of violence in contexts of economic crisis, natural disasters, conflict, or migratory displacements; prevalence of violence against women, children, and adolescents from diverse populations (indigenous women or children, Afro-descendants, persons with disabilities, or members of the LGBTQ+ community) or who face greater vulnerability (such as migrant women or children).
- 2. Economic costs of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.** Proposals in this area should focus on studying the personal, family, community, or social consequences of violence against women, children, and adolescents. The topics that could be addressed include (but are not limited to): economic costs of violence against these populations; intergenerational transmission of violence; the impact of violence on children as bystanders; impacts on school performance of exposure to violence during childhood and adolescence; impact of exposure to violence during childhood and adolescence and risk behaviors and involvement in criminal activities; impact at the judicial, police and penitentiary levels; specific risks and challenges of violence against women, children, and adolescents from diverse or more vulnerable populations.
- 3. State capacity and institutional challenges on preventing, responding to, and providing care in the event of gender-based violence against women, children, and**

adolescents. Proposals in this area should focus on studying State capacity and the challenges facing public institutions (with emphasis on social prevention institutions, as well as the citizen security and justice sector) in the work involved in preventing, responding to, and providing support in the event of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents. Topics that can be addressed include (but are not limited to): mapping and diagnosis of State capacity (public administration, transparency and integrity, digitization, and information) for effective prevention, detection, response, support, investigation, and prosecution as regards violence against women, children, and adolescents; protocols for prevention, detection, support, and response as regards violence; mechanisms for inter-agency coordination and referral to victim services; integrated service centers for women, children, and adolescent victims of violence; units specialized in violence committed against women, children, and adolescents within citizen security and justice sector institutions; inclusive services for providing support to victims belonging to diverse groups.

- 4. Prevention and support solutions for survivors of gender-based violence against women, children, and adolescents.** Proposals in this area should focus on the rigorous evaluation of interventions, programs or policies for prevention, response and/or attention to violence against women or children. Solutions that may be explored in this area include (but are not limited to): evaluation of programs for men that are aimed at changing social norms; interventions to improve the skills of mothers, fathers, and caregivers in order to break the cycle of intergenerational violence; positive parenting programs to reduce coercive parenting practices; evaluation of interventions implemented during adolescence; prevention of sexual violence or human trafficking; interventions to ensure citizen security and justice institutions respond in a timely and effective manner to cases of violence; interventions to meet the needs of women, children, and adolescents belonging to diverse groups who are victims of violence; interventions to prevent gender-based violence against displaced women, children, and adolescents and provide support in the event of it; the inclusion of digital or behavioral economics tools to enhance violence prevention programs and provide care to victims; interventions to reduce victim trauma.

DESIGNING THE EVALUATION OF A PROJECT IN THE IDB PORTFOLIO

This version of the call for submissions is open to independent researchers or external research teams to propose the design of the evaluation of one of the IDB projects related to gender-based violence against women or children. The appendix contains relevant project links and information that could benefit from rigorous research design. The teams selected in this category will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Bank's operating teams leading the projects.

WHO CAN SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Independent researchers or research teams comprised of entities from the public sector, private sector, universities, or research centers may apply. Applicants must meet the following requirements: be a citizen of one of the [48 IDB member countries](#) and not have family members who currently work at the Inter-American Development Bank or IDB Invest (jointly, "IDB Group") (to the fourth degree of consanguinity and second degree of affinity, including husband or wife).¹⁵

IDB Group specialists may be part of the investigation team but may not receive compensation for their participation. The funds awarded will be distributed exclusively among the members of the winning team.

PROPOSAL CONTENTS

- **Research team.** The names of the researchers and evidence of their ability to meet the objectives of the investigation (including previous relevant experience). The *curriculum vitae* of each researcher must be included (maximum 3 pages per researcher).
- **Objective and research question.** Country or countries to be covered, thematic area, main research question(s), and general objective of the research proposal.
- **Policy relevance and innovation.** The proposal must specify the knowledge gaps that it intends to address, as well as the way in which the study is contributing to

closing the knowledge gaps and the innovation that the study proposes to address the problem.

- **Scalability and replicability.** The proposal should describe how the proposed study can be broadly implemented and scaled, acknowledging any barriers to scaling and whether the ideas and potential outcomes could be applied in other contexts.
- **Data source(s).** Detailed description of the data to be used, including whether it is publicly available, or access is restricted. If access is restricted, the proposal must show that access to the data is possible. Specify if the databases and do-files can be shared with the IDB once the draft study is completed or if there are any valid restrictions preventing them from being shared.
- **Methodology.** The proposal must include a detailed description of the methodology. For impact evaluations, a detailed description of the identification strategy to be used must be included.
- **Execution period and work plan.** A work plan that specifies the main tasks to be carried out and the estimated execution time. Depending on the type of study, the maximum period to complete the research is 24 months.
- **Budget.** Resources to be used in the context of the research work plan. The budget should distinguish between sums allocated for professional fees, data collection, activity implementation, and other main categories of research spending.

¹⁵ Pursuant to IDB policies, additional ineligibility criteria may apply; for example, certain categories of former IDB Group employees or individuals sanctioned by the United Nations and other international organizations will be ineligible.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Scientific Committee of this call for proposals will evaluate them based on relevance, innovation, scalability, replicability, quality of the methodology, and ability of the team to carry out the research project. The Scientific Committee is made up of specialists on these issues from the IDB and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), as well as external advisors Amber Peterman and Andrés Moya. The decisions of the Scientific Committee will be final and unappealable.

The selected teams must be willing to receive comments from the advisors of the call for proposals and from IDB specialists throughout execution of the study, as well as to participate in discussion seminars held throughout the consultancy period.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **Relevance and innovation.** Does the proposal address a knowledge gap? How would the study contribute to closing these knowledge gaps? What is the innovation proposed by the study to address the problem?
- **Data and methodology.** Does the proposal present clear research design and methodology? Proposals should explain in as much detail as possible how they will address the topic under study. The data collection issues, and the estimation strategy should be described in detail.
- **Implementation capacity.** The experience of the researchers to undertake the proposed project will be an aspect to consider. Priority will be given to proposals submitted by researchers who demonstrate previous experience in the subject matter and proposed methodologies. Proposals must have an implementation plan and budget for the activities proposed.
- **Scalability and replicability.** Are the ideas and results applicable to other contexts? Are there obstacles to scaling the project?

FUNDING AMOUNT

Subject to the decision of the Scientific Committee and the signing of a consulting contract with the IDB, up to 100,000 United States dollars (USD) or its equivalent in local currency will be allocated to the total budget for each study selected. Participants may apply for one of the following funding categories based on the scope of the work proposed:

- **Category I – Diagnostics.** Studies in this category require resources to complement existing funds, to cover research activities or access to data sources, or to document the capacities of and challenges facing State institutions engaged in preventing, responding to, and providing support in the event of gender-based violence against women or children. Proposals in this category can access a maximum of **20,000 US dollars (USD)** and have a maximum of **12 months** to complete the study from the signing of the contract
- **Category II – Pilot interventions.** Studies in this category require resources to implement or evaluate the impact of an intervention or pilot program. Proposals in this category can access a maximum of **100,000 US dollars (USD)** and have a maximum of **24 months** to complete the study from the signing of the contract.

The researchers or consulting firms in charge of the studies selected must sign a consulting contract with the IDB to access the resources available through this call for proposals. The resources of both categories will be disbursed upon presentation and approval of the outputs defined in the consulting contract. The Bank reserves the right to revoke this call for proposals at any time prior to the signing of the consulting contract.

USE OF FUNDING

The resources provided must be used exclusively to finance research activities, data collection, or access to secondary data sources.

The funds from this call for proposals cannot be used to cover the costs of materials for disseminating the study (dissemination of the outputs of this call for proposals will be the responsibility of the IDB), travel, or acquisition of goods and services (except when they are shown to be essential to achieving the research objectives). Additionally, overhead can account for a maximum of 20% of direct costs.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

This call for research proposals will be open until **October 7, 2022**. To ensure proper processing of all proposals, it is strongly recommended that you submit your proposals well in advance of the deadline.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, teams must download and complete the application form (in Spanish or English) and submit the duly completed form through [GD Lab's call for proposals website](#).

Contact Email: gdlab@iadb.org

Arbitration, applicable law, and privileges and immunities of the IDB

All questions, matters, or disputes related to this call for proposals shall be governed by the laws of the District of Columbia, although no part of this clause or the conditions and rules of the call for proposals may restrict, limit, or impede any right, privilege, or immunity granted to the Bank or Bank personnel under any national or international treaty or law.

Should any dispute arise related to the call for proposals that cannot be resolved through a friendly settlement, then once one of the parties gives notice of the disagreement or dispute to the other, it shall be submitted for arbitration and final resolution before a single arbiter. The arbitration will be administered by the American Arbitration Association, in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The location of the arbitration proceeding shall be Washington, D.C. The costs of any arbitration proceeding shall be borne by the Participant and the Bank in equal parts.

ANNEX: LIST OF IDB GROUP PROJECTS

Project: Capacity Building for the Prevention of Femicide in Honduras Sector: SCL/GDI	
Contact	Nidia Hidalgo (nidiah@iadb.org)
Project URL	https://www.iadb.org/es/project/HO-T1389
Country	Honduras
Brief description of the project	The objective of the TC is to strengthen the institutional and community capacities for prevention, care and protection of women who suffer violence, with an emphasis on femicide. The specific objectives of the TC are: i) Implement initiatives for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence at the community and institutional level; and ii) improve the skills, coordination and tools for care and protection of women with a higher risk of femicide.
How would the project (or any of its components) benefit from a rigorous evaluation?	This technical cooperation project aims to change the biases, prejudices, and gender stereotypes regarding the causes of gender-based sexual violence and femicide held by service providers at the institutions responsible for providing support and protection to women victims of violence and the population groups where they seek help (relatives, friends, and community members) in Honduras. The best intervention alternatives must be identified using behavioral science in order to define these interventions for population groups and service providers within the institutions.
Last date on which the results of the program evaluation would be relevant for decision making	August 11, 2024
Are there data that could be made available to the external research team during the course of the research? Are there administrative data sources that may be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	<p>The technical cooperation is in the initial stage, and therefore there is no data on the interventions planned. However, administrative data on support for and protection of victims are available. The data available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ciudad Mujer: Module on Support for and Protection of the Human Rights of women and children who are the victims of violence; - Department of Women's Affairs: CONNECT virtual platform; - 911 National Emergency System: reports of gender-based violence; - Department of Security, reception of complaints.
Additional information to help research teams prepare research proposals with the potential to contribute to the project	In view of the persistence of social norms around gender-based violence in Honduras, the Spotlight Initiative in Honduras—financed with funds from the European Union—commissioned the Estudio de Tolerancia Social e Institucional de la Violencia hacia Mujeres, Niñas y Adolescentes en Honduras (VCMNA) (Study of Social and Institutional Tolerance of Violence against Women and Girls in Honduras) https://honduras.un.org/es/181601-estudio-de-tolerancia-social-e-institucional-la-violencia-contra-mujeres-ninas-y . The study offers a series of recommendations to address the culture of tolerance of violence against women, including by offering institutional service providers the knowledge they need to deal with this type of violence. However, identification of the interventions with the greatest impact based on rigorous evidence remains pending.

Project: Strengthening of the Health System in The Bahamas Sector: SCL/SPH

Contact	Analia Luisa Stasi (analias@iadb.org) and Ricardo Perez Cuevas (rperezcuevas@iadb.org)
ProjectURL	https://www.iadb.org/en/project/BH-L1053
Country	Las Bahamas
Brief description of the project	The general objective of this project is to strengthen The Bahamas' health system to meet the health needs of the population. The specific objectives are to: (i) integrate primary and secondary care services; (ii) improve access, coverage, and quality of community, ambulatory, and hospital services through a person and community-centered model of care; and (iii) increase health services efficiency. As part of the user- and community-centered model of care, the project proposes to implement a Policy Strategy for Addressing Gender-based Violence. This strategy seeks to strengthen health services to identify and provide support to victims of gender-based violence by modernizing access systems, improving mental telehealth services, and training health personnel. In order to increase the capacities of health personnel to respond to suspected cases of violence, the proposal is to implement identification and support protocols for victims of violence and implement mental telehealth services, among other activities.
How would the project (or any of its components) benefit from a rigorous evaluation?	Through building capacity and knowledge on institutional challenges; through proper mapping and offering a diagnosis for comprehensively addressing gender-based violence (prevention, detection, response, and investigation) and later developing substantive policies. Evaluation of the Strategy for Policies to Address Gender-based Violence would directly benefit the Ministry of Health of The Bahamas, by providing evidence of the effectiveness of the intervention and its potential, to then expand it through specific programs to the entire public health system.
Last date on which the results of the program evaluation would be relevant for decision making	Mid-term evaluation: September 2024. Final evaluation: September 2026.
Are there data that could be made available to the external research team during the course of the research? Are there administrative data sources that may be relevant? What can you say about their quality?	The project is just beginning, and data will be available during and after implementation. The WHO is making some measurements and doing data collection jointly with the Government of The Bahamas.
Additional information to help research teams prepare research proposals with the potential to contribute to the project	It is important to note that the pandemic apparently led to an increase in gender-based violence in The Bahamas. According to a WHO report, prior research conducted on the subject has typically not paid proper attention to the scientific standards, security standards, and ethical protocols that ensure collection of high-quality data while protecting confidentiality and participant safety. Project BH-L1053 includes the incorporation of comprehensive support for women through teleconsultation. Decisions on developing and implementing the policy are still being made.