

The Cash Transfer & Intimate Partner Violence Research Collaborative

Expertise, Impact, and Future Directions

The problem we address

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has severe long-term consequences for women's health and well-being, imposes significant economic costs through lost productivity, and has intergenerational impacts on children. Although evidence exists on effective approaches to reduce VAWG, many interventions are resource-intensive and difficult to scale. Stakeholders increasingly recognize that accelerated progress requires embedding VAWG prevention and response approaches within diverse sectors, including in existing systems and large-scale sectoral programming.

Sectors focused on reducing poverty and economic insecurity offer a particularly high-potential but underleveraged opportunity. Despite their extensive reach and influence over the structural drivers of VAWG, these sectors have not traditionally focused on VAWG reduction. The field lacks actionable evidence on how to leverage these large-scale systems to reduce VAWG in ways that governments and other key actors can adopt, finance, and sustain, including approaches that reach women and girls in fragile and climate-vulnerable settings.

What we do

Building on our demonstrated success within cash transfer programming, **our research spans a wide range of social protection and economic resilience interventions with potential to reduce VAWG.** By identifying and accelerating scalable, cost-effective solutions, we support sectors that increasingly seek guidance on gender-responsive design - focusing on poverty reduction, economic security, livelihoods, agricultural productivity, and climate resilience.

Acting as an **impact multiplier**, we generate evidence on "what works, how, and for whom" to influence investment in large-scale economic programming through our stakeholder community: governments, development organizations, NGOs, private actors, and civil society. We test solutions through innovative mixed-methods research, rigorous impact evaluations, and evidence aggregation. We then engage directly with implementers within existing economic development

TEAM PROFILE

Principal Investigators

Shalini Roy, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Tia Palermo, President, Policy Research Solutions (PRESTO)

Co-Investigators

Clare Barrington, Professor of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ana Maria Buller, Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Lori Heise, Technical Director, Prevention Collaborative

Melissa Hidrobo, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

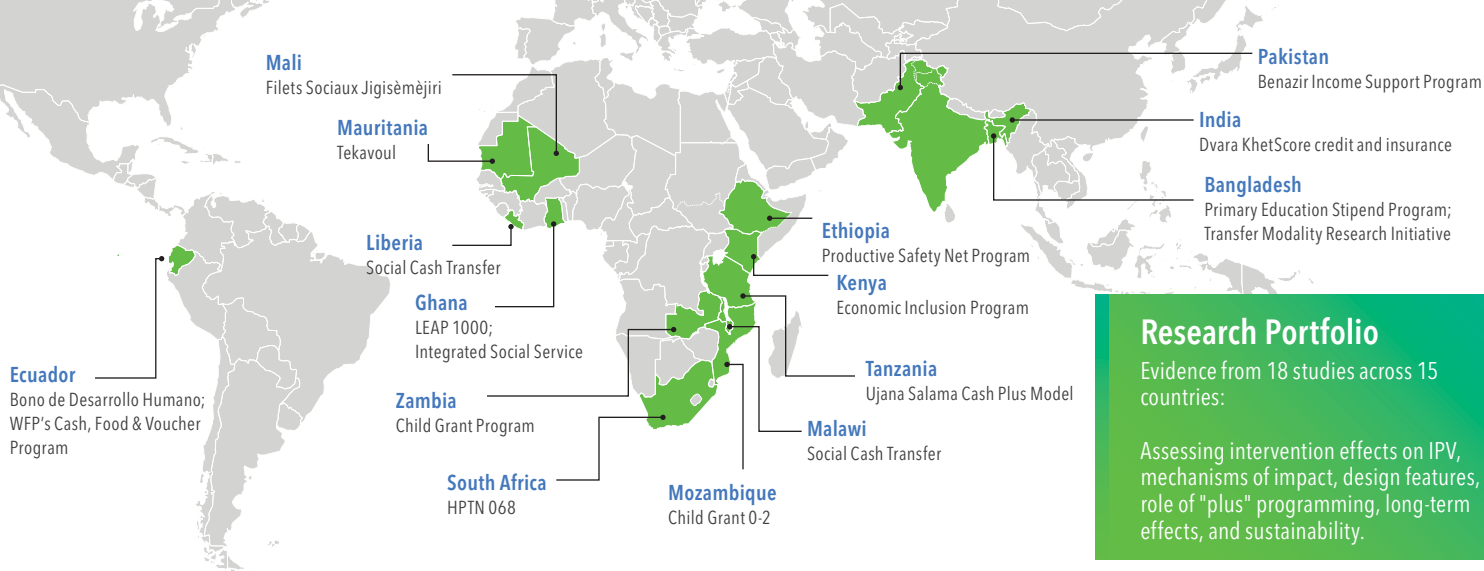
Amber Peterman, Impact Evaluation Specialist, UNICEF Evaluation Office

Meghna Ranganathan, Associate Professor and co-director of the Gender Violence and Health Centre (GVHC), LSHTM

systems and provide technical assistance to accelerate promising programming to prevent VAWG at scale.

Who we are

We are a team of development economists and public health researchers, globally recognized for expertise in poverty reduction, gender, health, and violence prevention. Our success stems from our interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, combined decades of experience conducting rigorous policy-driven research, commitment to stakeholder engagement, and deep networks spanning violence prevention and development communities. Our collaborative is hosted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and has worked together since 2019, partnering with a broad network of scholars across geographies.



Research Portfolio
 Evidence from 18 studies across 15 countries:
 Assessing intervention effects on IPV, mechanisms of impact, design features, role of "plus" programming, long-term effects, and sustainability.

Our expertise and impact

We have a [successful track record](#) of building and translating evidence on how large-scale programs, such as cash transfer programs, can prevent VAWG in the Global South, specifically by addressing economic drivers. To date, **we have led and collaborated on 18 primary evaluations across 15 countries.** We also contribute to evidence aggregation through rigorous reviews and to policy and program guidance, convenings, and thought leadership on the future research agenda. Because we work at the **research frontier** and have **strong ties with policymakers**, we are well-positioned to expand and **adapt our research to changing policy priorities.** Our work is [widely cited](#) and used by policymakers and practitioners. For example, the WHO classifies economic transfers as a "promising" poverty reduction strategy for prevention of violence against women, based primarily on our studies.^{1,2} We have provided technical assistance on program design for many institutions, including UN organizations, development banks, and donors. Several governments, including in Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, and Tanzania, have used our evidence to inform national cash transfer programs.

Our path forward

Our vision is a future where women and girls live free from violence and lead healthy, productive, empowered lives. To advance this vision, we are expanding our research to **support evidence-informed design, scaling, and investment decisions** for diverse large-scale economic empowerment and resilience programming.

We are currently fundraising for our portfolio of mixed-methods **impact evaluations** and **evidence uptake** activities, leveraging our ongoing work and partnerships, on the following types of interventions to reduce VAWG:

- **Cash-plus programming:** We want to better understand the synergies and cost-effectiveness of pairing cash transfers with scalable gender-responsive interventions, including diverse VAWG prevention components, and activities that promote youth economic or social empowerment.
- **Adaptive social protection, as well as innovative insurance and financial products:** As women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, we want to close research gaps on innovative adaptive and insurance-based models to reduce climate risk, build resilience, and prevent VAWG.
- **Livelihoods and jobs programming:** Women's and girls' ability to access quality jobs, generate income, and exercise economic power is a key factor in VAWG prevention; we want to expand evidence on effective models, particularly in settings of fragility and displacement.



If you are interested in **partnering with us** to achieve this vision, contact Dr. Shalini Roy, IFPRI (S.Roy@cgiar.org). To learn more about our work, visit: www.cash-ipv.org

¹ WHO (2019). RESPECT women: Preventing violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization.

² UN Women and Social Development Direct (2020) Poverty Reduced, RESPECT: Preventing Violence against Women Strategy Summary.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

IFPRI is a CGIAR Research Center

1201 Eye St, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA | T. +1-202-862-5600 | F. +1-202-862-5606 | Email: ifpri@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org | www.ifpri.info

© 2026 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication is licensed for use under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).