



# Strengthening the VAWG Prevention Ecosystem

25-26 April 2024, The Hague





# 1. Introduction

Over the last 5 years, various leaders from the field of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and allied donors and governments have met to discuss how to achieve a substantial step change in global efforts to reduce VAWG and prevent violence and abuse in the next generation. These efforts have included various touchpoints, including two key strategy meetings hosted at Wilton Park in the United Kingdom—one in 2019 hosted by Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF) and the UK Government (then DFID, now FCDO, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Organization) and a second in 2023, co-hosted by WPF, FCDO, the Ford Foundation, and the South African government). The focus of the first meeting was to share emerging evidence and practice demonstrating that violence against women could be reduced in programmatic time frames; the goal of the second was to discuss what it would take to deliver this type of prevention at scale.

These meetings were designed to bring together leaders in the field and their allies to strategize how to mobilize greater political will and funding for reducing VAWG and to build greater understanding of what preventing VAWG at scale would require. By their very nature, these meetings were global events that engaged only a select group of participants. Nonetheless, they represent two milestones in an on-going, more extensive conversation among a wider group of stakeholders about how to ensure that the field's strategy and resources align with the magnitude and urgency of the problem.

After the November 2023 Wilton Park Meeting, a set of civil society participants (SVRI, Raising Voices, the Accelerator for GBV Prevention and the Prevention Collaborative) decided to ensure that the discussions that began at Wilton Park continue, with an emphasis on building consensus around priority gaps that if filled, could propel the field forward. There was a strong desire to move from talking to doing by concretizing a set of priority actions and a proposed way of working together that could achieve the synergies that the field currently lacks.

Thus, on 25-26 April 2024, a subset of mostly civil society representatives from the 2023 meeting came together in The Hague with the following objectives:

1. To agree upon (and reach a mutual understanding of) key gaps that must be filled to build a healthy VAWG prevention ecosystem that can eventually deliver prevention at scale.
2. To identify the organizational and other assets that already exist in the field and their comparative advantages.
3. To discuss how we might best work collaboratively and organize ourselves and the ecosystem to move our collective agenda forward.

This meeting report captures an overview of the primary issues discussed at the Hague meeting and summarizes the agreed upon outcomes and next steps.



## 2. A Healthy Prevention Ecosystem

Concerted effort to forge a strategy to prevent VAWG (rather than respond to its consequences) began less than 15 years ago, with the first serious investments in generating research and practice-based evidence on how to reduce violence or prevent it before it starts. This makes the field of VAWG prevention relatively young compared to other health and development efforts, such as promoting family planning, improving agricultural output, or reducing poverty. These fields have enjoyed decades of investment to improve knowledge, build sustainable organizations, and refine programming. By contrast, work on VAWG prevention is still nascent and disjointed. While impressive progress has been made in understanding violence against women and girls, only limited investment has been made in the type of “connective tissue” that helps a field grow and thrive.

The Hague consultation began with the shared recognition that to aspire to prevent VAWG at scale requires looking beyond the roles of individuals, organizations, and projects. Such an ambition requires thinking in terms of what is required to build the whole, rather than what advances any single organization or institution. Accordingly, the agenda was framed around the notion of creating and sustaining a healthy VAWG prevention ecosystem—one that could, over time, help realize the group’s collective aspiration of ending the abuse of women and their children.

Captured below is one vision—offered by the Prevention Collaborative—of what a healthy prevention ecosystem might entail. This vision served to animate the group during the discussions around priorities that followed during the rest of the meeting.

### Vision of a Healthy “Prevention Ecosystem”

1. The field has a critical mass of practitioners, researchers, activists, donors and policymakers who understand the basics of GBV prevention and grasp its importance.
2. A substantial subset have the deeper knowledge and skills required to design, implement and evaluate effective prevention.
3. The political will and funding exists to build and sustain a robust ecosystem of actors and organizations working to end VAW (at all levels).
4. The field has identified a wide array of effective strategies to reduce violence yet continues to innovate and learn.
5. There is strong “connective tissue” that links organizations and individuals-- building trust, facilitating the flow of learning, and allowing joint strategy development.
6. Movement actors and feminist practitioners are working in synergy.
7. We practice individual and collective care and invest in fostering the next generation of prevention and movement leaders.

Source: Prevention Collaborative



### 3. Ecosystem Mapping

The strength of any ecosystem depends on its diversity and the resources available to sustain it. This is as true for new fields of research and practice as it is for ecosystems in nature. Ecologists note that the nature and density of relationships among elements of an ecosystem are essential to its wellbeing. In keeping with this metaphor, the group undertook an exercise to map the relationship among the various entities in the VAWG prevention space.

This detailed mapping illustrated both where connections and relationships were strong, and where important linkages and relationships were weak. It highlighted opportunities for organizing the field more effectively to strengthen relationships, as well as to improve impact through better communication. Further, it demonstrated the vast breadth of organizations that populate or are linked to the VAWG prevention field, and the unrealized potential to find broader synergies among them.




Even this crude mapping exercise revealed some important observations, including:

- The vast number of linkages between donors and organizations that funnel through entities from the United Nations system.
- The very tenuous links the field has with entities from the private sector and investment capital.
- The weak links between the groups focused explicitly on violence prevention and both the wider feminist movement and mainstream human rights organizations.

The mapping also highlighted parts of the field that were not well represented in the room, including international women's funds, WROs, NGOs and development CSOs from low- and middle-income countries (with the exception of SVRI, Raising Voices and Breakthrough), politicians, and private sector entities working on VAW. (see Appendix 1 for a list of invitees and participants). The group acknowledged that any single meeting was at best a partial representation of the field and committed to finding additional ways for others to input into the evolving consensus on priority gaps and how best to fill them. This commitment will underpin our work going forward.





At the end of this session a participant demonstrated for the group a new App, called Kumu, that uses artificial intelligence to generate insights about lines of influence and communication among related entities. This generated much enthusiasm about the possibility of using Kumu to do a more thoughtful mapping of the ecosystem both as an analytic tool and as a public good that could be shared with the wider field.

## Current Gaps in the GBV Ecosystem

A significant part of the meeting involved discussing exactly what was needed to achieve the previous vision of a healthy prevention ecosystem. The focus was specifically on areas of investment and action that were needed to push the **prevention field** forward, as opposed to addressing all of the outstanding needs around VAWG (which are many). For pragmatic purposes, the group consciously limited its discussions to identifying those gaps that could only be addressed effectively through joint effort across multiple entities and actors. The animating question was what investments are most needed to create the scaffolding and common resources critical to positioning the field for future success.

Significantly, a set of tentative priorities (see box) had emerged through the earlier discussions at Wilton Park; the group noted these, but did not limit its deliberations to this list. Instead, participants were divided into small groups and asked to identify and discuss what they considered the most important challenges and gaps facing the VAWG prevention ecosystem.

This group exercise generated a list of 14 key gaps, which were shared in plenary and grouped thematically. Participants were then given the opportunity to vote for the three gaps they viewed as most important, with a view toward identifying five top priorities.

Table 1 on the next page summarizes the full list of gaps identified by the small groups as well as those that received the most votes (See highlighted items in Table 1). Six priorities rose to the top, one of which was deemed overarching, namely: addressing the fragmentation in the field via greater strategic coordination. This, in effect, was the “meta challenge” the meeting sought to address.

Reassuringly, the remaining five topics largely aligned with the priorities that had emerged during the Wilton Park discussions, with one exception: the need to **Build knowledge, capacity and partnerships to integrate violence prevention into sectoral programs** (such as education, health, social protection and climate resiliency), bumped **Continued innovation and new approaches to prevention** from the top five. In point of fact, these two priorities are closely aligned. One of the areas most in need of innovation as the field matures, is how to effectively work with sectoral programs to reduce VAWG.



**Gaps from Wilton Park**

- Global and Regional Advocacy
- Strategic Communications and Joint Messaging
- Collective Resource Mobilization
- Capacity Strengthening (including funding of “scaffolding organisations”)
- Continued Innovation

Table 1: Gap Identification and Prioritization

**Thematic Area One: Field Building- Related Challenges**

1. **Lack of strategic coordination and fragmentation for building the VAWG prevention field (with dedicated funding). META CHALLENGE.**
2. **Lack of strategic, powerful communication tailored to different stakeholders, both internal and external to the field and from grassroots to global actors.**
3. **Lack of joined up advocacy across multiple spaces.**
4. Lack of connection to new and emerging global south leaders/young feminists.

**Thematic Area Two: Funding-Related Challenges**

5. Lack of un-restricted, sustained funding for WROs and groups doing movement building work in the global south.
6. **Need for fit for purpose, diversely-sourced funding for key organizations in the ecosystem.**


**Thematic Area Three: Program-Related Challenges**

7. **Lack of capacity to design, fund, develop, implement, and evaluate effective VAWG prevention.**
8. Technical and operational gaps in knowledge on how to deliver VAWG prevention.
9. Insufficient investment in continued innovation and underexplored prevention strategies.
10. **Lack of knowledge, capacity, and partnerships to integrate GBV effectively within sectors (e.g., transport, social protection, education, infrastructure).**
11. Fragmented and ad-hoc integration of trauma-sensitivity and collective care into the way we work.

**Thematic Area Four: Engagement with States and State Machinery**

12. Lack of coordinated engagement with governments and their national action plans.
13. Lack of strategic engagement with women politicians who would be willing to push the VAWG agenda forward.
14. Ensuring that national women's machinery is sufficiently supported to coordinate and implement VAWG work.

After agreeing on the meta challenge and five priority gaps, participants broke into smaller groups to explore each gap in greater depth, including what were the enabling and restraining factors for addressing the gap, who are the key actors and relevant stakeholders, and what "radical actions" might help push the issue forward. Each participant had an opportunity to join two small group sessions.



The following summarizes the key discussion that emerged from each of these smaller groups.

**Gap 1: Lack of strategic, powerful communication tailored to different stakeholders, both internal and external to the field and from grassroots to global actors.**

The lack of clear and compelling joint messaging around VAWG prevention has been a long-standing gap in the wider VAWG field. The group observed that work in this area would benefit greatly from collective input and greater capacity in strategic communications. A key asset for moving this agenda forward is the recent commitment of the Accelerator for GBV Prevention to invest substantially in this area via a partnership with the Equality Institute, an Australian based social enterprise with deep expertise in strategic communications. Those in the small group noted the importance of having advocacy tools and visually compelling communications materials that can be adapted and used widely by organizations and activists, both locally and in more formal agenda-setting global forums such as the Summit for the Future and the Commission on the Status of Women.


One way of doing this is to set up an advocacy and communications working group that would interact with the strategic communications work of the Accelerator for GBV Prevention. This group's role would be to provide a mechanism to encourage two-way communication with stakeholders, both to inform the development of communications products as well as to help encourage their uptake in the wider field. The importance of monitoring and evaluating impact was highlighted, as well as creating opportunities to test messaging and strategies with different stakeholders.

The group further noted that strategic communications must both mobilize political and financial support for VAWG prevention, as well as help advance whatever specific advocacy "asks" that emerge from the field. As noted in the section below on advocacy, there is still considerable work to do to build consensus around what those "asks" should be. To build this area of work, we need to work collaboratively with creatives to develop effective communication tools. We also need to advocate with funders to specifically fund strategic communications as a vital part of a healthy prevention ecosystem.

**Gap 2: Lack of capacity to design, fund, develop, implement, and evaluate effective VAWG prevention.**

The group discussing this thematic area focused on the challenges of building capacity in a relatively young field. Group members acknowledged that an understanding of primary prevention of VAWG is still relatively weak among many of the organizations working on VAWG, women's empowerment and women's human rights. Even those with expert knowledge on survivor-centered care, advocating for law reform and/or training providers in the health and justice systems, are not always well versed on what it takes to reduce VAWG at a population level. Given the failure of many governments to ensure women's rights and provide adequate services, many groups have had to step into the breach, leaving little time to develop effective VAWG prevention programmes.





As with many fields, investment and evidence generation on VAWG prevention has tended to circulate largely among researchers and INGOs based in high income countries (or the Global North), with limited investment in evidence building by global south researchers, practitioners and policymakers. Of course, there are important initiatives underway to help develop sustained capacity for evidence-informed, feminist approaches to VAWG prevention, including the work of the FCDO-funded What Works 2.0 programme (preventing violence at scale), the Prevention Collaborative, resources produced by SVRI, Raising Voices, and various INGOs, and the soon-to-be launched South East Asia GBV Prevention Platform.<sup>1</sup> Even collectively, however, these initiatives do not begin to address the scope of the outstanding need or the unequal distribution of resources.

The group recognized that the field had indeed developed some important assets to help assist the capacity strengthening process, including (but not limited to):


- The resources and training of the RESPECT programme developed and implemented by UN Women and WHO.
- The practice-based learning series produced by the UN Trust Fund To End Violence Against Women.
- Numerous online and hybrid training programmes on VAW prevention topics developed by the Global Women's Institute (GWI), the Prevention Collaborative, SVRI, and the WHO.
- The guidance, technical resources and coordination offered through the GBV Area of Responsibility for the humanitarian sector.
- The mentoring and technical accompaniment programmes implemented by Raising Voices, the WW 2.0 programme, and the Prevention Collaborative.

The challenge, however, is how to ensure these assets reach the individuals who can benefit from them, and they have access to the on-going technical support and accompaniment that experience has shown is necessary to shift practice.

The group observed that in large measure, this gap centers on insufficient human and financial resources, both in terms of **staff** among field-building organizations (to build relationships, share content, and accompany learning) and **time** on the part of WROs, NGOs and policymakers to engage in shared learning. There are also areas where “how-to” knowledge is still weak, making it even harder to strengthen capacity. Two areas cited as weak were pathways and strategies for delivering prevention at scale and how best to mainstream VAWG prevention into other sectoral programs (see Gap 3).

But there are also additional strategies that could be developed, including funding a help desk (like that sponsored by FCDO for their staff) but open to others needing assistance creating a centralized database of prevention-experienced consultants who could be hired by organizations across the field.

<sup>1</sup> The SEA GBV Prevention Platform is a new \$13.5 million initiative, funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Development and Trade (DFAT) to create and sustain a new regional secretariat to strengthen capacity and political will for addressing GBV prevention in Southeast Asia.



The group noted the need for a collective space to consistently engage around how best to meet the ongoing need for training and capacity strengthening for VAWG prevention programming, as well as ongoing accompaniment and mentorship. This could facilitate maximizing scarce resources by eliminating duplication of effort and seeking synergies among the work of different organizations. Another option could be to create a central repository of existing tools, training materials and the like, potentially building from one or more of the existing knowledge hubs that currently serve the field (SVRI's website, UN Women's Global VAWG Platform, the Prevention Collaborative's Knowledge Hub and Learning Lab, Spotlight's SHINE Platform, GWI's GenderPro Training site; etc.)

### **Gap 3: Lack of knowledge and capacity to integrate VAW response and prevention within other sectors.**


As interest has grown around how to achieve scale, it has become increasingly apparent that the VAWG prevention field will need to work more effectively with governments, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and the private sector—those entities that have the infrastructure, capacity and funding to reach wider segments of the population. While direct work with communities by WROs and national CSOs will remain important, the size and number of these organizations alone will never be adequate to reach the numbers required to substantially reduce violence at a population level.

Thus, there is a need to work in tandem with government and other entities to integrate prevention of and response to violence into the mainstream work of other sectors. This is especially true for partnering with governments, whose programs and investments are generally made via topic-specific Ministries, such as health and education, and other large-scale programmes such as social protection, urban development, climate resilience, etc.

This type of mainstreaming work, however, is different from the field's current evidence base (which is concentrated on local, community driven processes implemented by civil society organizations). While WHO, USAID, World Bank and multiple UN agencies have been grappling with sector integration for some years, this work has focused largely on integrating linkages to services for victim/survivors.<sup>2</sup> By contrast, we have little working knowledge of how to successfully integrate concern for VAWG *prevention* into infrastructure projects, mining, transportation, climate programming and the like. Donors have expressed interest in finding ways to integrate violence prevention into the education sector, and work has begun to pilot and evaluate these opportunities (e.g. through The Coalition for Good Schools, UN Women and UNESCO, What Works 2.0, Global Partnership for Education, among others).

Nonetheless, the group working on this theme noted that we are still relatively unprepared to provide leadership for VAWG prevention work in many sectors—especially in defining explicitly what safe, ethical, feminist and effective VAWG prevention integration looks like for different sectors.

<sup>2</sup> For a non-exhaustive repository of some of this work being done on sector integration visit: [Sector Resources - SVRI](#) and [Sector Resources - Prevention Collaborative](#).



One option explored was to establish projects like the **Cash Transfer and IPV Research Consortium**, an initiative funded by the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund that works to generate, systematize, and promote evidence on the positive impact that social protection programmes can have on reducing IPV at scale. Over the last five years the consortium has catalyzed impact evaluations, developed operational guidance for implementation, and advocated for more attention to IPV in social protection programmes. This model could be used with other sectors to begin to pilot and evaluate models for effective integration.

The group also observed that political and policy advocacy is also needed to make the case for other sectors to take up VAWG prevention, suggesting some need for cross collaboration with those working on advocacy and strategic communications. One strategy might be to analyze the outcomes and benefits that addressing VAWG could yield for different sectors. Lessons could be drawn from groups that have successfully tapped into other sectors and mapping such examples could be helpful. One example is the collaboration between the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and USAID to catalyze cross fertilization between the GBV and Climate worlds via a dedicated grants programme called RISE. The project commissioned a detailed global report on the intersections between GBV and climate and has sponsored multiple funding rounds to support pilot projects to address the intersection of these two issues.<sup>3</sup> The group also noted earlier work pursued by the DFID-funded STRIVE Research Consortium to develop new methodologies that could assess the cost effectiveness of interventions that positively impact multiple outcomes—say improving agricultural resilience to climate while reducing child marriage and improving mental health. Traditional cost benefit analyses attribute the full costs of any program to a single outcome, which undervalues the true benefits of multi-sectoral and integrated strategies.<sup>4</sup>

The group discussed current research and evaluation currently being done on VAWG prevention by the WBG, SVRI, UNICEF and WHO which provided a great starting point for the creation of a community of practice/working group on research and innovation for sector integration of VAWG prevention which could help build the evidence and practice base for working more effectively with government and other issue-based sectors.

#### **Gap: 4 Lack of joined up advocacy across multiple spaces**


There was significant overlap between this group and the meeting participants who examined strategic communication. Both emphasized the need for greater coordination on messaging and advocacy demands and greater cross-fertilization across advocacy networks. The field has several existing networks including:

- The GBV Prevention Network, engaging groups and individuals working on VAW in the Horn, East and Southern Africa
- COFEM

<sup>3</sup> See: **IUCN GBV and Environment Report: Gender-Based Violence and Environment ; GBV Rise Grant Challenge**

<sup>4</sup> Remme, M., Martinez-Alvarez, M., & Vassall, A. (2017). Cost-effectiveness thresholds in global health: taking a multisectoral perspective. *Value in Health*, 20(4), 699-704.



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- Spotlight’s civil society reference group
  - The MenEngage Network
  - SVRI

But these networks seldom have an opportunity to meet in person nor to interact strategically with each other. A persistent challenge in recent years has been the lack of funding for groups and networks to come together to develop strategy and advocacy agendas.


UN Women briefed the group on the soon-to-be-launched **ACT program**, an EU funded initiative that will partially address this gap. ACT stands for “Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) to End Violence Against Women Programme. UN Women is in the process of identifying a set of groups to co-host an ACT Civil Society Platform, whose purpose is to convene women’s rights and civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls, develop a shared advocacy agenda and foster cross-sectoral collaboration and coalition-building related to forthcoming key advocacy moments and opportunities. The Accelerator for GBV Prevention, working with the Equality Institute, is also positioned to help marshal key advocacy opportunities by helping to organize events that highlight the potential of VAWG prevention and showcase the work and advocacy demands of country level organizations. Much work remains to be done - including building consensus around the advocacy moments that hold the most potential, as well as what specific “asks” the field wants to prioritize.

### **Gap 5: Need for fit-for purpose, diversely sourced funding for organizations in the ecosystem**

The group working on fit-for-purpose funding covered several themes in their discussion, including the need for more funding for VAWG prevention but also the need to ensure that the money that *is* invested, is making a difference.

Many of the challenges identified by the other groups can only be addressed if significant sums of **new** money enter the space. The group emphasized the need to conduct more research on how funding flows through the ecosystem, where it comes from, who it reaches, and what mechanisms exist to get funds from large Northern donors to different types of organizations. We need data on the sources of funding that currently exist and the viability of mobilizing new funds from sources such as high net worth individuals, more bi-lateral funding from northern governments, philanthropic sources in the global south, or corporate philanthropy, etc. Each of these potential sources of funding requires a unique fundraising and advocacy strategy; the stakes are high and the group emphasized the importance of using data to inform any decision on where to concentrate effort.

The group acknowledged the important work that others have done to champion the needs of WROs and feminist movements and the need to get flexible funding directly to groups in the global south. At the same time, discussion also focused on how to ensure that resources flow to *all* elements of the ecosystem, including field-building organizations, research groups, and middle sized WROs and other CSOs working on violence prevention. As detailed in the background paper, “Strengthening the GBV Ecosystem: Resourcing the Missing Middle,” there is a strong unmet need to get flexible funding to feminist



organizations with annual budgets in the \$1.5 to \$3 million range. These groups cannot sustain themselves on \$100,000 grants, nor can they successfully compete for the multi-million contracts tendered by donor governments. Thus, there is a need to get flexible funding to such groups in sums larger than normally disbursed by international women's funds.

The group discussed the need for alternative mechanisms willing and able to mobilize and disperse funding to a wider range of entities working on VAWG prevention. The Director of the UNTF emphasized that the Trust Fund gives competitive grants for work on VAW for up to \$1 million over 3-4 years. Further it is one of the few feminist re-granting organizations open to supporting groups other than women led WROs. In recent years, UNTF has prioritized increasing support to smaller organizations with annual budgets of under \$200,000. Currently 44 percent of the 144 grantees in UNTF's current portfolio are global south groups with annual budgets of less than \$200,000<sup>5</sup>. Increasing the number of larger grants available through UNTF may be one way to address the missing middle, as would raising money and distributing it through an independent pooled fund.

The group also discussed how many of the millions of dollars being invested in GBV work via large development contracts, are not translating into effective prevention. This is largely due to unrealistic donor timelines and expectations coupled with bureaucratic and procurement challenges that get in the way of good practice.<sup>6</sup>

Finally, the group noted there is a need for a deep analysis of power in relation to funding and how this affects the flow of resources and for addressing latent tension amongst different players in the ecosystem.

## Bridging the Gaps in the VAWG Ecosystem

After the group work on priority gaps, participants turned their attention to addressing the meta-challenge that motivated the meeting: namely, the lack of strategic coordination and fragmentation in the VAWG prevention field. How might participants (and allied stakeholders not present) best organize ourselves to address the priority gaps outlined above?

To launch this discussion, the organizers shared insights from the Bridgespan Group, a consulting firm that has conducted [deep research](#) on the evolution of different fields and what helps galvanize success. Bridgespan<sup>7</sup> defines **field building** as "the activities or investments that drive a field's progress toward impact at scale" and a field as "a set of individuals and organizations working to address a common social issue or problem, often developing and using a common knowledge base."

5 Abby Erickson, UNTF Executive Director, Personal communication, June 3, 2024

6 The Prevention Collaborative's Investing Wisely programme is geared toward researching the current system with an eye toward identifying the problems that undermine effective prevention and making strategic recommendations for reform. Obviously the VAW field cannot single-handedly transform the aid industry; but the Collaborative hopes to identify a handful of actionable items that can be incorporated in the field's wider advocacy agenda.

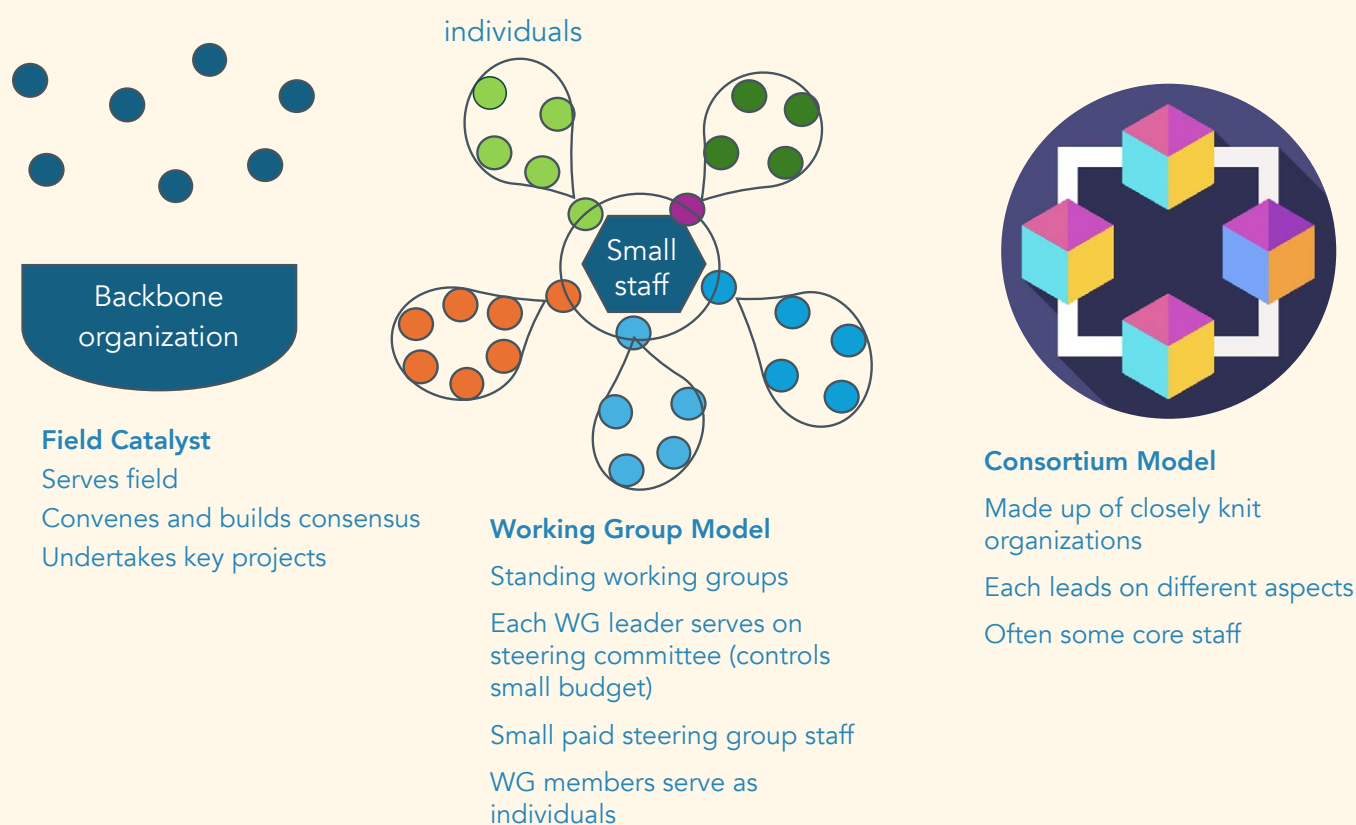
7 According to Bridgespan, characteristics that can unlock a field's progress toward equitable systems change and impact at scale include: knowledge, actors, resources, infrastructure and a field level agenda.

Their research demonstrates the importance of what they call “**field catalysts**” which are:

*A highly effective type of intermediary or collaborative that works to mobilize and galvanize actors across a social-change movement, or field, to achieve a shared goal for equitable systems change.*

According to **Bridgespan**, “Field catalysts are among the highest-leverage investments philanthropy can make when it comes to equitable systems change.” Generally, such field catalysts take one of three stylised forms, illustrated below.

**Figure 3: Common Structural Forms for Field Catalysts**



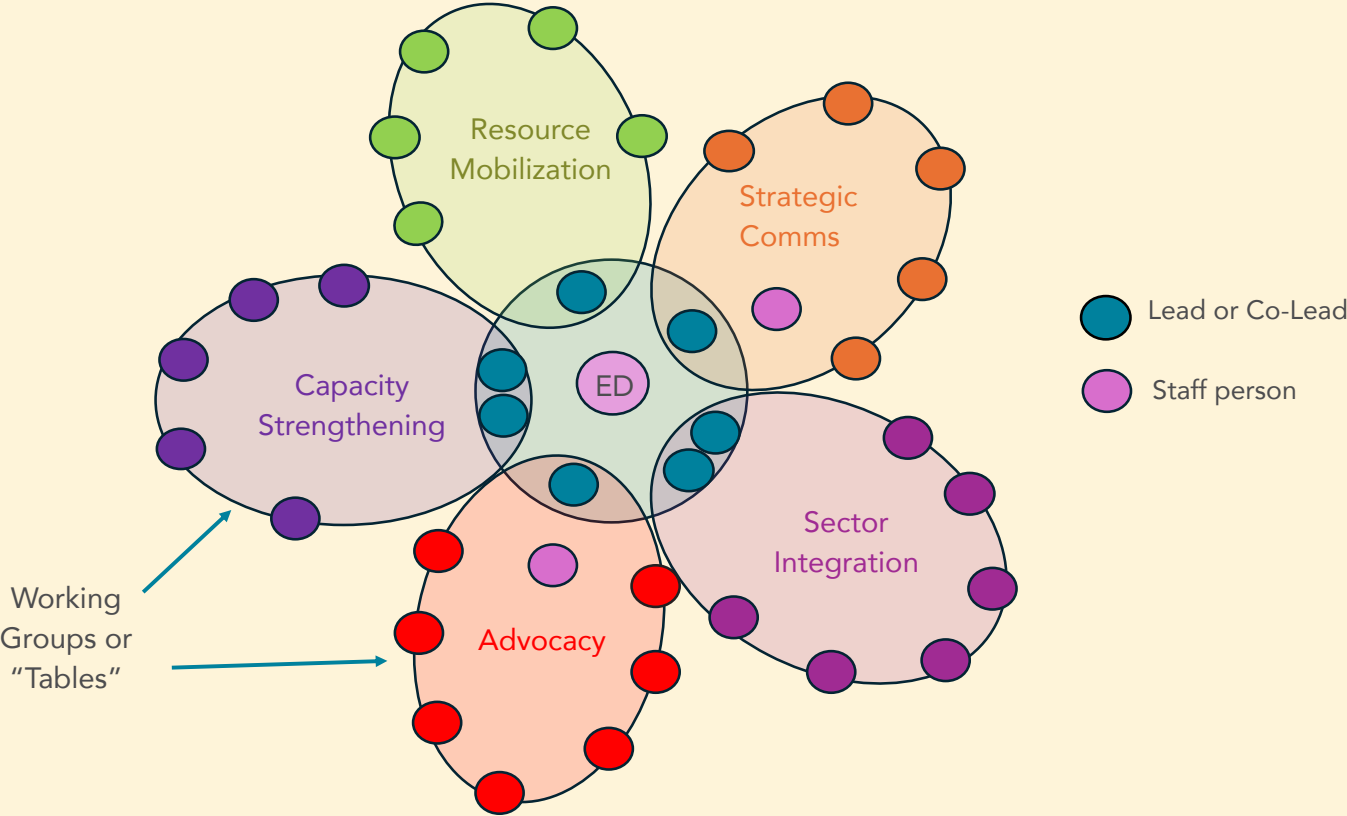
One of the small groups had specifically explored the issue of how to structure ourselves to address the fragmentation and lack of strategic coordination in the field. This group noted that to build a viable field catalyst, we first must acknowledge those missing from the room and commit to engaging more Global South leaders and organizations. For this reason, the group was drawn to the Working Group model, because it created a way to easily involve a range of stakeholders committed to working on specific issues.

Early in the conversation, the idea arose of potentially transforming the nascent Accelerator for GBV Prevention into a more fulsome field catalyst organization. The Accelerator had been catalyzed several years earlier by WPF, Ford Foundation and FCDO as a mechanism to mobilize more funding for the GBV field through strategic communications and advocacy. It currently has three part time staff members, an advisory group, and an agreement with the Equality Institute to provide strategic communications services. Most of the staff and advisory group members were present at the meeting.



The group analyzed the pros and cons of building off a “re-imagined” Accelerator for GBV Prevention, rather than setting up a new field catalyst. The sense was that there were clear advantages to building from the Accelerator, assuming this option was acceptable to the staff, leadership, and donors of the Accelerator. The funding and means to convene working groups on strategic communications and advocacy were already in place. Additional working groups to address the remaining priority gaps could easily be built on this foundation. Importantly, the existing work of the Accelerator could proceed while additional funds were sought to expand its remit. The tentative structure imagined was a group of articulated working groups or “tables,” each convened by a lead or two co-leads. Together these leads would form a steering group that would meet monthly to plan and strategize across the tables/WGs. Assuming adequate funds, table leads could receive a stipend for their time and a budget to pursue the work of the table. The overall Accelerator could have a Director role that worked as a “servant leader” to advance the collective agendas of the steering group and their tables. Each table could recruit its members to ensure strong representation of interests across the VAWG prevention ecosystem.

### Reimagined GBV Prevention Accelerator







## 5. Mapping the Way Forward and Next Steps

In the final session of the meeting, participants spent time identifying key next steps and shared actions that could be taken to move the collective agenda forward. Participants were encouraged to think about some of the bigger strategic actions that could be taken together, but also some of the more practical or immediate actions they could implement following the meeting in the coming weeks.

Some of the key areas proposed included:

### Strategic Next Steps

- Explore in greater detail what a strategic coordination mechanism could look like (and the role of the Accelerator for GBV Prevention) - including the proposed working groups (or nodes), priorities and required budget.
  - Bring the field on board.
  - Identify resource needs for the priorities identified at this meeting and potential funder who would invest.
  - Create an investment case.
  - Visualize the value chain (of donors) of 'Who is doing what?' Align this with innovation, scale (who is filling these gaps in the prevention field).
  - Map the ecosystem in terms of the roles, expertise, and comparative advantage of each entity involved.
  - Transfer the ecosystem mapping to an online platform and deepen it further e.g., connections to wider sectoral stakeholders, identify points of influence.
  - Build evidence in partnership with others on what it takes to integrate VAWG prevention in sectoral programs.
  - Co-create a shared advocacy and comms agenda, identifying clear asks/messages and key target audiences.
  - Build out a budget to support our advocacy 'asks'.
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## Practical Next Steps

- Create a narrative and visual of what we mean by field building - develop a one-pager or slide deck.
  - Build a repository of existing capacity building tools that we have.
  - Use our existing data for strategic communications.
  - Capture the gaps and opportunities across the funding system.
  - Develop a strategy for influencing the UN system.
  - Advocate for more core and flexible funding from the UN Trust Fund.
  - Create more space for strategic thinking and develop a clear strategic plan for the core and working groups.
  - Conceptualize the working groups and their functions.
  - Develop a community of practice working on VAWG prevention from an intersectional perspective.
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## Immediate next steps

- Create a shared advocacy and events calendar 2024/25.
- Set up a virtual follow up meeting to continue the conversation and engage the wider GBV prevention field (and explore potential for a recurring convening / collective space).
- Take forward insights from the meeting to the upcoming GBV Funders Forum.
- Solicit feedback from the Accelerator staff and donors about their reaction to the proposed re-imagining.





## Conclusion

In closing, the group reflected on its three days together, noting the value of protected space for creating a shared vision and building strategy. Everyone left committed to trying to make the vision of a re-imagined Accelerator for GBV Prevention a reality, as a collective investment in growing a healthy GBV prevention ecosystem.



## Annex 1.

<b>Apolitical Foundation</b>	Lisa Witter, Co-founder & CEO Suki Capobianco, Chief Strategy Officer & Head of Women in Politics
<b>Breakthrough India</b>	Pritha Chaterjee, Deputy Director, Partnerships
<b>COFEM</b>	Joy Watson, Coordinating Committee
<b>FCDO, UK Government</b>	Emily Esplen, Head of Ending Violence Team
<b>Making Cents International</b>	Diane Gardsbane, Consultant
<b>Global Women's Institute, George Washington University</b>	Mary Ellsberg, Executive & Founding Director
<b>Prevention Collaborative</b>	Lori Heise, Technical Director; Joy Watson, Senior Associate
<b>Raising Voices</b>	Lori Michau, Co-founder & Board Member
<b>Social Development Direct (What Works 2.0)</b>	Kate Bishop, Associate Director, Gender Based Violence
<b>Spotlight Initiative</b>	Erin Kenny, Head of Technical Unit
<b>SVRI</b>	Elizabeth Dartnall, Executive Director
<b>The Accelerator for GBV Prevention</b>	Freya Seath, Policy and Advocacy Lead
<b>The Equality Institute</b>	Emma Fulu, Founder & Director
<b>UNFPA</b>	Alexandra Robinson, Gender-based Violence Technical Advisor
<b>UN Trust Fund</b>	Abby Erikson
<b>UN Women</b>	Yeliz Osman, Policy Specialist, Ending Violence Against Women
<b>USAID</b>	Sarah Mosely, Senior Gender-Based Violence Advisor
<b>Wellspring Philanthropic Fund</b>	Tesmerelna Atsbeha, Senior Program Officer
<b>WHO</b>	Avni Amin, Technical Officer, Sexual and Reproductive Health Research
<b>World Bank</b>	Diana Arango, Sr. Gender-Based Violence and Development Specialist

## Individuals who were invited but could not attend

Africa Women's Development Fund	Nadia Adhidjo, Director of Partnerships and Philanthropy
Prospera	Alexandra Garita, Executive Director
Raising Voices	Natsnet Ghebrebrhan, Violence against Women Director
Together for Girls	Daniella Ligerio, Executive Director
Ford Foundation	Monica Aleman, International program director for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice International (GREJ-I).
UN Women	Kalliopi Mingeirou, Chief Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Section
MenEngage Alliance	Laxman Belbase, Co-Director of the Global Secretariat
Breakthrough	Sohini Bhattacharya, Executive Director
U.S. Department of State	Caroline Cooney, Acting Division Chief, Gender-Based Violence & Cross-Cutting Issues Team
USAID	Diana Prieto, Director, Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
Ford Foundation	Radha Wickremasinghe, Programme Officer
Asian Development Bank	James Lang. Senior Specialist on GBV



