



SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

2025-2029

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Government of Sindh



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Government of Sindh

Sexual Violence Response Framework 2025-2029



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Table of Content

	Messages from the Government of Sindh and Partners	1
	Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
BACKGROUND		
	Background: An Overview of the Sexual Violence Response Framework in Sindh 2020 - 2024	7
PRIMARY PREVENTION		
1	Integration of Prevention Mechanisms in Education	15
2	Working with Out of School Children and Adolescents	23
3	Role of Criminal Justice Sector in Prevention	27
4	Media and Prevention	30
5	Women's Economic Empowerment	32
6	Promoting Behavioral Change and Shifting Social Norms at the Community Level	41
SECONDARY RESPONSE		
7	Enhancing Police Response to Sexual Violence: First Responders and the Special Sexual Offences investigating Units (SSOIU)	45
8	Enhancing Operational Efficiency of Medico-Legal and Forensic Departments	56
9	Enhancing Capacity and Powers of Public Prosecutors	67
10	Supporting the Performance of Gender Based Violence Courts	71

11	Provision of Legal Aid	76
12	Improved Inter-Agency and Inter-Departmental Coordination and Collaboration	79
13	Data Collection and Analysis	82

TERTIARY RESPONSE

14	Psychological Support to Victim/survivor	85
15	Continued financial, legal and medical support	88
16	Rehabilitation of Perpetrators	92

ANNEXURE

Annexure I	93
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ANNEXURE

Acknowledgment	105
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"A gender-just world is not just a dream but a responsibility we must all bear."

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Message from the Country Representative, *UNFPA Pakistan*

The fight against sexual violence requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and survivor-centred approach. At UNFPA, we are committed to ensuring that every survivor has access to justice, support, and rehabilitation services that restore dignity and offer hope for a better future. In this context, we are honored to have partnered with the Government of Sindh, the Legal Aid Society, and Pathfinder International in developing and implementing the Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) in Sindh.



The SVRF (2020-2024) served as a groundbreaking initiative that laid the foundation for building an integrated response system for survivors of sexual violence with a focused approach towards improving responses of the Criminal Justice Actors.

The SVRF 2025-2029 builds on these achievements, reflecting both progress and evolving challenges. It emphasizes not only prevention and response but also empowerment—enabling survivors to reclaim their lives and actively participate in shaping the systems meant to protect them.

UNFPA has ensured that the framework aligns with global best practices in addressing gender-based violence. This includes building the capacities of healthcare providers for trauma-informed care, advocating for survivor-centred legislative reforms, and enhancing accountability mechanisms at every level.

The updated SVRF represents a renewed commitment to leaving no one behind. Together, we can work toward a future where survivors are treated with dignity and justice is accessible to all.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners - all key departments, institutions and experts for their contributions in making this vision a reality. . UNFPA stands resolute in its dedication to supporting survivors and advancing gender equality. Let us continue to collaborate with compassion, determination, and unwavering resolve for transformative actions to end sexual violence in Sindh and beyond.

Dr. Luay Shabaneh
Country Representative
UNFPA Pakistan

Message from the Chief Executive Officer, *Legal Aid Society*

Addressing sexual violence in Pakistan has long been fraught with systemic challenges, societal stigma, and institutional inefficiencies. The Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) serves as a guiding document to bridge gaps in our legal, institutional, and social systems. It is with immense pride that I present the updated SVRF—an evolved roadmap reflecting lessons learned, current realities, and opportunities to advance justice for survivors.



This revision is not merely an extension of its predecessor but a recalibrated response to persistent and emerging challenges. Despite some progress, barriers to justice remain deeply entrenched. Survivors continue to face social ostracization, inadequate institutional responses, and a lack of cohesive stakeholder coordination. These lived realities demanded a fundamental shift—not just in strategy, but in mindset.

The revised SVRF embodies this shift with a survivor-centric and trauma-informed approach. It prioritizes building resilience in survivors, strengthening service delivery, and fostering accountability across governance. It emphasizes inclusion of marginalized voices, enhanced inter-agency coordination, data-driven strategies, and sustainability through state capacity-building.

This progress was made possible by the visionary leadership of the Government of Sindh, particularly through the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee, whose steadfast dedication has been truly inspiring.

The updated SVRF is more than a policy—it is a call to action. It demands courage, collaboration, and unwavering compassion. Together, we can dismantle barriers and build a justice system where justice is a fundamental right, accessible to all.

Ms. Haya Emaan Zahid
Chief Executive Officer
Legal Aid Society

Abbreviations and Acronyms

BHCs	Basic Health Centres
BHU	Basic Health Units
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
CPUs	Child Protection Units
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
DLECs	District Legal Empowerment Committees
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DuAs	Dar-ul-Amans
GBV	Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers
GBVRC	Gender-Based Violence
GoS	Government of Sindh
IOs	Investigation Officers
IT	Information Technology
LAS	Legal Aid Society
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIT	Member Investigation Team
ML	Medicolegal
MLCs	Medicolegal Certificates
MLOs	Medicolegal Officers
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
P&D	Planning and Development
PDMA	Provincial Disaster Management Authority
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority

PPC	Pakistan Penal Code
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
SHRC	Sindh Human Rights Commission
SCSW	Sindh Commission on Status of Women
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SHC	Sindh High Court
SJA	Sindh Judicial Academy
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRSO	Sindh Rural Support Organization
SSOIU	Special Sexual Offence Investigation Units
STDs	Sexual Transmitted Diseases
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STEVTA	Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority
SV	Sexual Violence
SVRF	Sexual Violence Response Framework
SWD	Social Welfare Department
ToRs	Terms of References
ToTs	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nation
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WDD	Women Development Department
WMLOs	Women Medicolegal Officers

Background

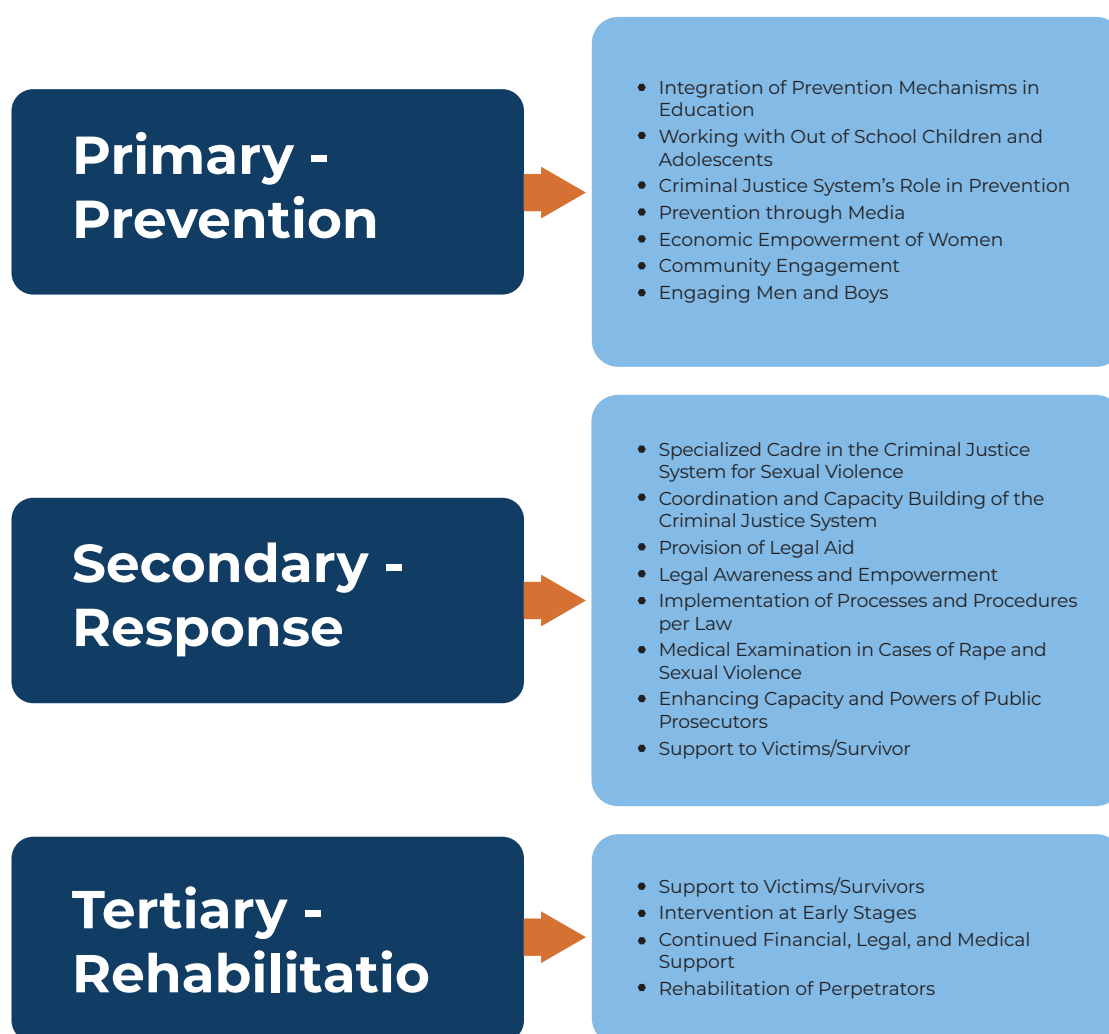
BACKGROUND

Background: An Overview of the Sexual Violence Response Framework in Sindh 2020 - 2024

The Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) represents a four-year strategic roadmap of endorsed measures by the Government of Sindh, aimed at proactively addressing, responding to, and rehabilitating victims of sexual violence. This comprehensive framework provides detailed guidance to the government on effective strategies and protocols to combat sexual violence across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care, while ensuring compliance with legal obligations. Developed in response to the escalating prevalence of sexual violence, particularly within Sindh, the SVRF underscores the government's commitment to formalizing its approach through a structured framework. It aligns with recent legal amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure 1989, Pakistan Penal Code 1860, and Qanun e Shahadat (Law of Evidence) Order 1984, which have significantly expanded the scope of sexual violence offenses and transformed registration, investigation, prosecution, and trial procedures. Notably, amendments such as the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021, informed by key judicial rulings, have reinforced the legal framework to prioritize victim-centric approaches and elevate DNA evidence as a pivotal proof. The SVRF, crafted with input from the Legal Aid Society for the Women Development Department, Law Department, and Home Department, integrates these legal reforms with empirical data, acknowledging the realities and challenges faced by survivors and their families.

The objective of the SVRF was two-fold. First, it provided a detailed breakdown of actions and interventions necessary for the successful implementation of the recent legislation and judgments by the Government. Second, it expanded the scope of work of Government functionaries beyond the law to initiate primary and tertiary preventative and response measures to work towards the ultimate goal of elimination of violence against women, particularly sexual violence. The core recommendations have been provided below:

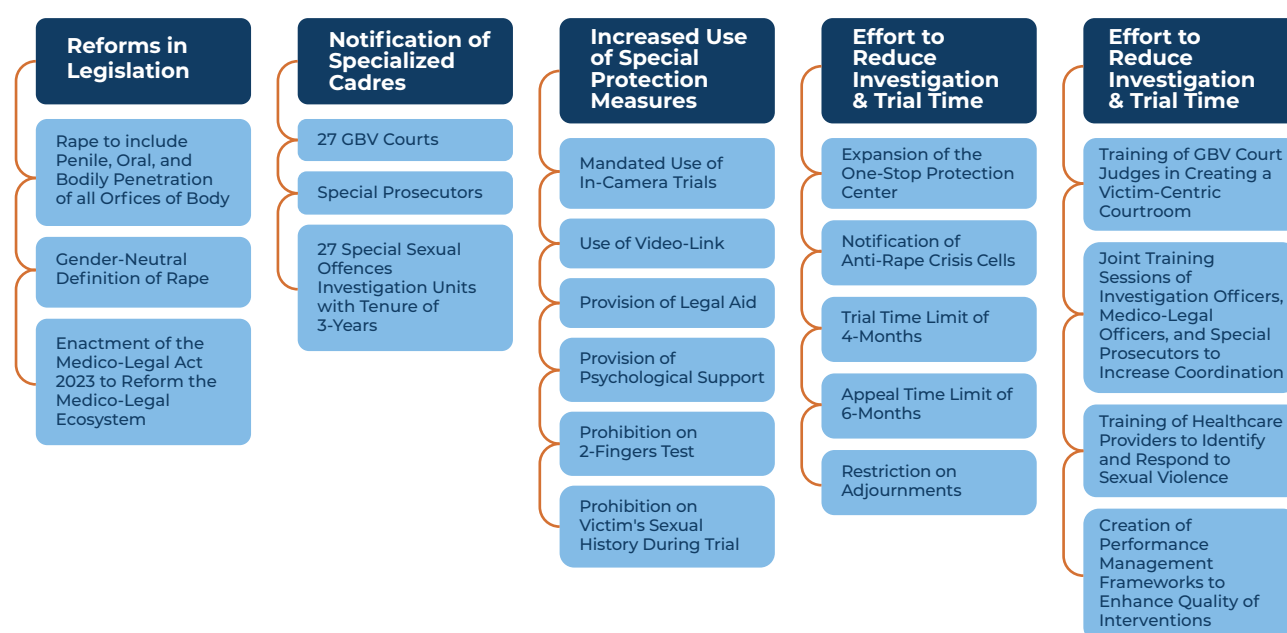
Core Recommendations of the Sexual Violence Response Framework



The SVRF's implementation status in March 2024 evidenced 5% successful completion of recommendations, with 52.5% still in progress and 42.5% which have not yet been initiated due to a variety of reasons including legal amendments, political climate, and resource availability. Some of the impacts of the SVRF are provided below:

Impact of Sexual Violence Response Framework in Enhancing Response by the State to Sexual Violence

Adoption of the SVRF in 2020 led to the Government of Sindh prioritizing the strengthening of its response to sexual violence and enhancing the survivor's experience of interacting with the Criminal Justice System. Some of the direct outcomes of the SVRF have been shared below.



Given the infrastructural changes and process-level enhancements in the investigation and trial of sexual violence cases since 2020 under the SVRF, the province of Sindh is witnessing an incredible increase in the rate of convictions.

Year	Conviction Rate
2020	5%
2023	15%

The Sexual Violence Response Framework 2025 - 2029

With expiry of the SVRF term in March 2024, the Government of Sindh is pleased to have developed a 2nd edition of the Sindh Sexual Violence Response Framework for 5 years (2025 – 2029). The 2nd SVRF takes into account the legal amendments made in 2021 and rules, the plethora of rulings from the Supreme and High Court on instructions on how to take forward cases of sexual violence, while also focusing increasingly on the need to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the first place.

The objective of the SVRF remains two-fold. First, it provides a detailed breakdown of actions and interventions necessary for successful implementation of the recent legislation and judgments by the Government. Second it expands the scope of work of Government functionaries beyond the law to initiate primary and tertiary preventative and response measures to work towards the ultimate goal of elimination of violence against women, particularly sexual violence.

The SVRF was prepared after a series of consultations with key actors of the justice sector including lawyers, police, medico-legal staff, prosecution, and key Government departments.

What is Sexual Violence?

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the widest spread violations of human rights across the world. Sexual violence against women and girls, in particular, is a crime that is underreported with low conviction rates across Pakistan, however with increasing rates in Sindh since 2021.

The World Health Organization defines Sexual Violence (SV) as:

“Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.”

It has also been defined as:

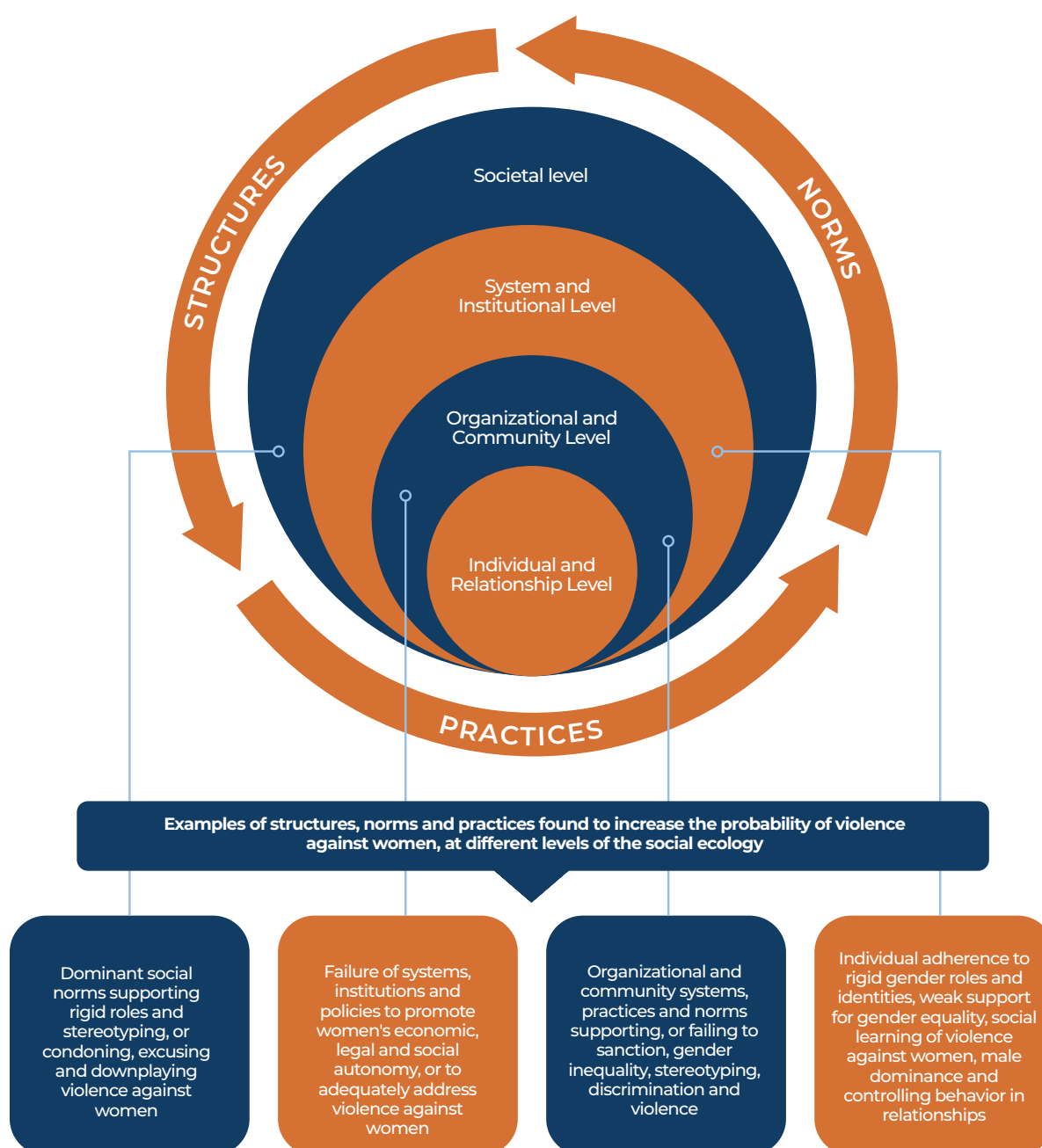
*“Sexual violence includes any **unwanted or unlawful behaviour** perpetrated with the **use of coercion and/or force** against one’s sexuality by a person either **known or unknown to the victim**...sexual violence is a display of **subordination** whereby an **asymmetrical balance of power and control** is present between the perpetrator and the victim’¹*

Sexual violence offences comprise a wide range of sexually violent acts that can take place in different circumstances and settings which may include:

- Rape (including within marriage or relationships; during conflict etc.);
- Unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours; sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people;
- Sexual abuse of children;
- Forced marriage or cohabitation, including the marriage of children;
- Denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted diseases;
- Forced abortion;
- Violent acts against the sexual integrity of women, including female genital mutilation and obligatory inspections for virginity;
- Forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

¹Graphia, R.D. (2008). Violence, sexual. In V.N. Parrillo, *Encyclopedia of social problems*. [Online]. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Available from: https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/sexual_violence.embed [Accessed 8 January 2019].

Both definitions provided above recognise that there are multiple and interacting levels of influence that result in the perpetuation of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). The ecological model is often referenced as a useful framework for understanding VAWG. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels—the individual, the relationship, the community and the societal. Thus, each interaction at each level is related to each other and equally important.



Socio-ecological model of violence against women. Source: Our Watch (2015)

UN Women, in its VAW Prevention Framework², has de-constructed the Ecological Approach and its implication on policy and programme as follows³:

- Multiple factors need to be taken into account when preventing VAW.
- It is important to consider factors at each of the ecological level and the relationship between them. For example, individual behaviours, attitudes and beliefs are shaped by people's immediate organizational and community environments as well as by influences at the broader societal level. At the same time, these broader structures and cultures are influenced by the attitudes and behaviours of individuals.
- A coordinated and consistent approach is needed to ensure that activities at one ecological level (for example, respectful relationships and human rights promotion among individuals) are supported and reinforced by activities at other layers (for example, adoption and implementation of laws and policies that promote the human rights of women and address VAW and discrimination). This mutually reinforcing approach has been identified as especially important in the prevention of VAW.
- Different sectors will need to be engaged to address the challenge of preventing VAW.
- Many actors will have a role in preventing VAW. For example, a teacher (working primarily with individuals) may not be able to lead change to laws that discriminate against women and girls. They are well positioned, however, through their teaching methods, to promote non-violent, respectful relationships.

²"A Framework to Underpin Action to Prevent Violence Against Women", UN Women, 2015

³Ibid, P.13

Overview of the Sexual Violence Response Framework

This SVRF relies on the ecological approach for understanding VAWG and SV and has incorporated the concept of interdependent and mutually reinforcing influences on VAWG as a whole within it. To ensure a comprehensive response to SV, it has organised itself into three stages of response to SV:

- **Primary prevention:** Interventions that take place prior to any incident of SV occurring and focus on preventing any such incident from occurring.
- **Secondary response:** Immediate responses after the sexual violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences of violence.
- **Tertiary Prevention and Response:** Long-term responses after sexual violence have occurred to deal with the lasting consequences of violence.

Divided according to these three stages, this framework presents a micro level plan of action for the implementation of laws and judgments relating to rape and sexual violence. Therefore, by de-constructing what exactly needs to be done and which public or private functionary is responsible for the task in question, it is hoped that the Government of Sindh may take ownership and the lead in effecting implementation of these laws and policies.

Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence

PRIMARY

Primary Prevention

Interventions take place prior to any incident of sexual violence occurring and focus on preventing any such incident from occurring.

1. Integration of Prevention Mechanisms in Education

Education is vital for preventing sexual violence as it provides individuals with essential knowledge of their rights, boundaries, and consent. By fostering respect, challenging harmful norms, and teaching assertive communication, education empowers individuals to recognize, resist, and report abusive behaviors. It builds self-confidence, promotes healthy relationships, and creates a foundation for safer, more equitable communities.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.1	Introduction and Expansion of Life Skills Based Curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools across Sindh <i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Department • Population Welfare Department • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department <i>In partnership with existing civil society partner and expert organization Aahung</i>	<p>A life skills-based curriculum helps prevent sexual violence by empowering young people with knowledge about their rights, boundaries, and body protection. It raises awareness about sexual harassment, gender inequities, and early marriage, enabling students to recognize and resist harmful behaviors.</p> <p>Through skills like decision-making, self-confidence, and assertive communication, young people are better equipped to set boundaries, express their needs, and seek help, deterring potential abuse.</p> <p>Lessons on reproductive health demystify puberty and promote informed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the existing curriculum to identify and remove content promoting gender inequality, toxic masculinity, and patriarchal norms; incorporate life skills-based education across Sindh. • Make life skills-based curriculum mandatory in all public and private schools by integrating it into existing textbooks. • Provide Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions and conduct regular and refresher training for teachers and staff to ensure effective curriculum implementation. • Hold consultative meetings with stakeholders to reflect on the curriculum's impact and gather feedback for ongoing improvement.

gender equity, and healthy relationships.

(UNGEI Case study: *Aahung Empowering Adolescents in Pakistan through Life Skills-based Education*; Jahingir & Mankani)

• Collect and analyze data on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), especially among women and children, before and after curriculum implementation to track changes in norms and reduction in violence.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.2	<p>Initiate 'Whole-of-school' interventions to promote gender equality, respectful relationships, safe and discrimination-free school environments</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Department • Women Development Department • Human Rights Department • Social Welfare Department • Child Protection Authority in consultation with relevant civil society organisations 	<p>Whole-of-school interventions reduce sexual violence by creating a safe and respectful environment through clear zero-tolerance policies, prevention education on consent and healthy relationships, and training for teachers and staff to identify and respond to sexual violence.</p> <p>Student-led initiatives and peer support programs empower students to foster a positive school culture, while involving parents and the community reinforces these values beyond school. These programs target everyone involved in the school experience, including students, teachers, staff, and parents, and focus on issues like identifying and reporting sexual abuse.</p> <p>Regular monitoring and evaluation ensure the strategies remain effective, creating a supportive and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a needs assessment framework to identify specific requirements for 'Whole-of-School' sexual violence prevention programs. • Conduct consultative meetings with teachers, students, staff, and parents to tailor the program to target group needs. • Establish zero-tolerance policies on sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination with clear reporting mechanisms. • Organize training for teachers, staff, students, and parents on prevention, gender equality, and bystander intervention. • Implement student-led initiatives to foster a safe school culture and reduce sexual violence. • Strengthen coordination between government bodies and civil society organizations for

			<p>preventative environment that helps reduce sexual violence and supports the growth of children and adolescents.</p>	<p>program implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve parents and the community in awareness campaigns and workshops to reinforce safety and respect. • Create safe spaces including digital safe spaces, for reporting incidents confidentially, with access to counseling and support. • Monitor and evaluate the program's effectiveness, adapting strategies based on feedback and outcomes. • Integrate gender equality into the curriculum and school policies to challenge harmful gender norms.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.3	<p>Community outreach programs with parents and families of school-going children and adolescents in Government Schools</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Department • Women Development Department • Human Rights Department and civil society organisations working with children and adolescents. 	<p>Community outreach programs with parents and families are essential for creating a safe and supportive environment to prevent sexual abuse.</p> <p>By educating parents on consent, healthy relationships, and recognizing signs of abuse, these programs empower families to protect their children, foster open communication, and establish a strong support system. Engaging families in prevention efforts builds a collaborative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing a Community Engagement Plan with parents and families of school-going children and adolescents as a target group. • Designing a Sessions Plan with relevant content on gender equality and non-violence for parents and families. • Coordinating and liaising with civil society organisations to facilitate the implementation of the intervention.

			<p>network that reinforces the message that sexual violence is unacceptable and ensures children feel safe at home and in their communities. Since individual attitudes and behaviors regarding violence and gender relations are shaped during childhood, particularly in adolescence, the family plays a key role in influencing these behaviors. By targeting parents and families for community engagement, we can help create a safe home environment where children feel comfortable discussing issues like sexual abuse and are better equipped to protect themselves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising sessions, study trips, school projects, and open-schools, based on the Community Engagement Plan, regarding gender equality, non-violence, child safety, etc. • Identifying Ambassadors to sustain the Community Engagement Planning with other parents and families to promote gender equality and non-violence in their children's environment.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.4	<p>Strengthening transport to and from educational institutions promotes safety.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Department • Planning and Development • Department Local Government 	<p>Safe and accessible transport to and from schools is crucial for preventing sexual violence, as it allows students, especially girls, transgender individuals, and female teachers, to attend school without the fear of harassment or assault during their commute.</p> <p>Education itself is a powerful prevention mechanism, as it equips students with the knowledge and skills to recognize, resist, and report sexual violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women only pink bus project must be expanded across Sindh and creation of routes to schools. • Assess and identify safety gaps in current transport routes to schools, ensuring safer access for students and staff. • Modify or create alternative routes to enhance safety, especially in high-risk areas. • Improve infrastructure around schools, such as

		<p>However, barriers such as unsafe transport can prevent students from fully participating in educational opportunities, particularly at the secondary level, where attendance is often lower among girls. Ensuring reliable and secure transportation reduces vulnerability, enhances school attendance, and ensures that education can serve its preventive role by providing a safe, supportive environment where students can learn and grow free from fear of violence.</p>	<p>street lights and security cameras, to protect students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide school buses with safety features and designated pick-up points for students and teachers. • Develop a 'Safety and Security Protocol' for students during school hours, especially during rush hours. • Launch government - funded safe transport services for girls, transgender students, and female teachers. • Enforce safety standards for all school transport, including driver background checks and vehicle safety. • Create and implement a scheme for women bus drivers and conductors. • Offer subsidies or free transport passes to low-income families. • Engage communities in monitoring transport safety and addressing risks. • Implement emergency response procedures for incidents during commutes.
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No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.5	<p>Improvements in school infrastructure for increased safety and gender friendly environment</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Department • Local Government Planning and • Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Public Health • Engineering Department 	<p>Schools and education facilities are important avenues for the socialisation of children and in decreasing the vulnerability of school-going children and adolescents to sexual violence in particular.</p> <p>Gender-considerate school infrastructure is crucial in preventing SGBV while also encouraging parents to send their girls, especially to secondary schools. Safe, clean, and private sanitation facilities, like gender-segregated restrooms, ensure dignity and privacy, reducing harassment risks. Well-lit pathways, secure entrances, and surveillance cameras protect students, particularly during vulnerable times like arrival and departure.</p> <p>Gender-sensitive design, including facilities for transgender students, fosters inclusion and reduces discrimination. Additionally, providing safe transportation, confidential reporting spaces, and accessible counseling services enables students to seek help and feel secure. A well-designed, safe environment also</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a gender-sensitive assessment of schools and educational institutions by SCSW to identify gaps in facilities and infrastructure that fail to meet the basic needs of girls, women, and marginalized groups, including sanitation, safety, and accessibility. • Based on the assessment, formulate recommendations to present to the Local Government, Education Department, and Public Health Engineering Department, aimed at improving school facilities and promoting the attendance of girls and women. • Invest in well-lit pathways, secure entrances, and gender-segregated, private restrooms to ensure safety, dignity, and privacy for students, particularly girls and women. • Provide accessible and inclusive infrastructure for transgender students and other marginalized groups, ensuring equal access to education for all. • Conduct regular safety audits of school infrastructure to identify and address any gaps in safety measures and ensure continuous improvements.

			<p>reassures parents, who may otherwise be reluctant to send their daughters to school due to poor infrastructure and the risk of harassment.</p> <p>Addressing these needs not only helps prevent SGBV but also promotes gender equality by ensuring that all students can learn in a secure, supportive environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create designated, safe spaces for students to seek help or report incidents of harassment without fear of retaliation, fostering a supportive and secure environment. • Offer funding or incentives for schools to upgrade their infrastructure to meet safety, inclusivity, and accessibility standards, which will promote the enrollment and retention of girls and women.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
1.6	Integration of sports into schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Department • Education Department • Sports Department • Human Rights Department • Sindh Child Protection Authority 	<p>Sports are an effective prevention tool against sexual violence for children, providing a safe, structured environment where they learn teamwork, confidence, and respect for others.</p> <p>Participation in sports also helps children build resilience and life skills, such as communication and boundary-setting, which empower them to recognize and resist inappropriate behavior.</p> <p>By fostering supportive relationships with coaches and peers, sports programs can create protective networks, helping children feel safe to report concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish gender-inclusive sports clubs within schools and communities that welcome both boys and girls, providing a safe space for recreation and skill-building. • Develop after-school sports programs in partnership with local schools to ensure access for children who may not have recreational opportunities at home. • Train coaches and educators on gender sensitivity to create inclusive, respectful environments for all children. • Host mixed-gender sports tournaments to allow boys and girls to participate together, breaking down gender

stereotypes and promoting teamwork.

- Introduce sports in girls' schools, especially in areas where girls' participation in sports is limited, to encourage physical activity and leadership.

- Provide safe transport options to sports facilities for girls, especially in rural areas where distance and safety concerns limit participation.

- Create life skills modules integrated with sports training, including sessions on consent, self-confidence, boundary-setting, and communication skills.

- Organize community sports events to raise awareness about the importance of sports for youth development and gender equality, engaging parents and local leaders.

- Ensure access to sports equipment and facilities that are safe and appropriate for both boys and girls, especially in underserved areas.

- Partner with NGOs and sports organizations such as Karachi United, experienced in youth empowerment to expand outreach and ensure sustained, impactful programs.

2. Working with Out of School Children and Adolescents

Working with out-of-school children and adolescents is key to preventing SGBV as they are more vulnerable due to lack of education and protective structures. Without education, they may not recognize or report abuse, increasing their risk of exploitation. By providing education and support, we equip them with the knowledge to protect themselves, challenge harmful norms, and make informed decisions. Such engagement also helps address risk factors like early marriage, trafficking, and rape promoting a safer environment for all children and reducing SGBV.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
2.1	Child and Adolescent Health Services <i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Population Welfare Department • Local Government • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>Health programs are essential in preventing SGBV, especially for out-of-school children and adolescents. Health workers, as trusted community members, provide crucial education on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), consent, body autonomy, and healthy relationships, empowering young people to recognize, prevent, and report abuse.</p> <p>These programs can also integrate with sectors like mental health, offering support to survivors through medical care, counseling, and legal services. Additionally, health services assist parents in preventing child abuse and support couples during pregnancy and parenting. Overall, health initiatives play a key role in reducing vulnerability, promoting well-being,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate SRH education, consent, and healthy relationships into public health and school curricula for out-of-school children and adolescents. • Launch awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking behaviors for SGBV survivors. • Train health workers to identify and respond to SGBV, offering counseling, medical care, and legal assistance. • Engage community health workers to educate families on preventing child abuse and SGBV. • Educate parents on positive parenting to create safe environments for children. • Expand mental health and reproductive health services for vulnerable groups, including girls

			and strengthening the ability of young people to protect themselves from violence.	<p>and transgender youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish confidential counseling services for SGBV survivors, with medical care and legal referrals. • Facilitate coordination between health, education, law enforcement, and social welfare sectors for a multi-disciplinary response to SGBV. • Map existing health programs to identify entry points for SGBV prevention. • Integrate SGBV prevention into existing health programs like Lady Health Workers and midwives. • Develop survivor - centered health services that are confidential, compassionate, and accessible.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
2.2	<p>Initiation of programmes with street children and out-of-school children.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare Department • Women Development Department • Local Government • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>Street children are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and are considered a high-risk group. Services supporting them can play an essential role in giving them safe spaces and rescuing them from sexual violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating an urgent short-term strategy and action points to provide aid and services including but not limited to, medical check-up, food, shelter and recreation. The strategy and action points should be sustainable with relevant budget allocations. • Providing street children with aid and basic services like medical check-up, food, shelter and recreation

				<p>through sustainable budget allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating stringent protection policies in shelter homes for street children; formulation of welfare schemes; provision of skills development courses etc. for street children being rescued. • Formulating a long-term strategy to get children off the street and into school • Consultative meeting with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to map lessons learned and best practices regarding the 'Zamung Kor' initiative.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
2.3	<p>Sports and Street Children</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Department • Education Department • Sports Department • Human Rights Department • Sindh Child Protection Authority 	<p>Using sports to prevent SGBV, especially among vulnerable groups like street children, is highly effective. Sports programs create safe, supportive spaces for recreation, fostering resilience and imparting essential life skills. By promoting self-esteem, boundary-setting, and teamwork, these activities help children, especially girls, develop confidence and assertiveness.</p> <p>Integrating messages of gender equality and respect, sports empower young people to recognize and resist exploitation, reinforcing inclusivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement or support sports-based education programs specifically tailored for street children, incorporating messages and activities focused on gender equality, consent, and healthy relationships. For example, see the Karachi United football clubs, the women's boxing club in Lyari etc. • Organize workshops within sports clubs or teams where children learn about these topics through interactive games and discussions. • Establish safe spaces for street children to

and reducing tolerance for SGBV. Coaches and teams become trusted support systems, where youth can express concerns, while structured activities minimize exposure to unsafe situations.

engage in sports activities, ensuring a secure environment free from exploitation or abuse. This could involve partnering with local organizations to set up sports facilities in community centers or vacant lots, and providing a supervised setting for children to participate in sports.

- Organize community outreach events that promote awareness of SGBV prevention through sports, engaging both street children and community members. For example, host sports tournaments or festivals where children showcase their athletic skills while also learning about topics such as respect, boundaries, and reporting mechanisms for SGBV.

- Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of sports-based interventions in preventing SGBV among street children. This may include tracking participation rates, changes in knowledge and attitudes, and incidents of violence or exploitation within the sports program.

3. Role of the Criminal Justice Sector in Prevention

The criminal justice sector plays a critical role in preventing SGBV by enforcing strict penalties and consistently publicizing prosecutions. Visible accountability for offenders acts as a strong deterrent, signaling that SGBV will be met with serious consequences. This transparency not only discourages potential perpetrators but also builds community trust, encouraging survivors to come forward and fostering a culture where violence is widely condemned.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
3.1	<p>Cases successfully investigated and prosecuted to be regularly publicized</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Home Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Women Development Department 	<p>The criminal justice sector, while primarily playing a role in secondary response, also plays a role in prevention.</p> <p>The Women Development Department is in the process of data collection from relevant justice sector departments for this purpose. This will also assist in making informed decisions on projects and programmes for women and the justice sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive data management system to track and monitor cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across the criminal justice system. • Regularly publish anonymized data and statistics on SGBV cases to promote transparency and public accountability. • Collect and consolidate case data from police, prosecution, and judiciary to produce an annual report, including a section on the justice sector's performance in handling SGBV cases. • Highlight key metrics in the annual report, such as conviction rates, case processing times, and geographic patterns to identify areas needing improvement. • Increase public awareness of laws, penalties, and prosecution rates for SGBV to deter potential

				<p>offenders by reinforcing the consequences of such crimes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the publication of high-profile SGBV case outcomes to demonstrate the justice system's commitment to accountability and safety. • Establish regular performance assessments for criminal justice agencies to evaluate their effectiveness in addressing and reducing SGBV.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
3.2	<p>Introduction of gender and SV into community policing</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Police Training Academies • Women Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>Community policing in Sindh is gaining focus with training for police officials. Integrating gender and sexual violence into the community policing curriculum is essential to address VAW and SGBV. This approach fosters trust between law enforcement and communities, enabling police to identify risks, raise awareness, and support victims. By guiding survivors on legal rights and collaborating with community leaders, community policing becomes a proactive strategy to prevent violence and create safer environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and integrate a gender-sensitive and survivor centric lens, focusing on gender equality and SGBV prevention into police regular training courses based on the job descriptions of different ranks, as well as specialised training for those interacting directly with the public on these issues. • Pre-test these modules on gender and sexual violence with selected police officers to ensure effectiveness and relevance before finalizing them. • Provide specialized gender and sexual violence prevention training to police officers, emphasizing community engagement, survivor support, and handling

cases with sensitivity.

- Train community policing officers to work with local communities, identifying risks and raising awareness about gender-based violence and available support services.

- Establish a monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of gender-based violence training and ensure police officers implement the training in their daily work.

- Foster collaboration between law enforcement, local leaders, and civil society organizations to enhance community-based prevention and reporting mechanisms.

- Encourage regular refresher courses and workshops to keep police personnel updated on emerging trends in gender and sexual violence.

- Promote transparency by ensuring that police responses to SGBV are publicly documented and reviewed annually for accountability.

4. Media and Prevention

The media plays a vital role in preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by shaping public attitudes, raising awareness, and challenging harmful gender stereotypes. Media campaigns can educate the public on consent, respect in relationships, and the support systems available for survivors, empowering individuals to take action. The media also provides a platform for survivors to share their stories, reducing stigma and humanizing the issue. By holding perpetrators accountable and reporting on SGBV cases, the media helps push for stronger legal and social protections. Overall, media contributes to creating a culture of zero tolerance for violence and encourages community involvement in prevention.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
4.1	Development of media strategy for both news and entertainment media as forms of prevention of VAW, particularly SV. <i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Information and Archive Department • PEMRA • Women Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>Media plays a significant role in shaping and maintaining social norms, whether they are positive or negative.</p> <p>Media has been seen to perpetuate violence supportive social norms; actively undermining gender equality and women's freedom from violence.</p> <p>It is essential to engage with all forms of media to ensure that such messages are eradicated and instead gender positive, appropriate messages are disseminated; particularly those that perpetuate social norms that do not rely on violence. It is important to disseminate messages that do not promote social norms premised on the perpetuation of women as weak, vulnerable beings and glorifying violence,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining existing Code of Conduct or ethics by the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women from a gender lens. • Formulating media protocols and SOPs through consultations with media personnel and gender experts to provide guidelines for news and entertainment media on gender sensitive reporting and entertainment productions. • Formulating an oversight and monitoring mechanism, embedded within the SCSW, to monitor compliance with the developed media protocols and SOPs to ensure gender sensitive reporting and entertainment productions.

			particularly sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy with entertainment media on projecting gender sensitivity, empowerment with a correct legal framework and information through programming.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
4.2	<p>Development and initiation of a social media campaign on promoting gender equality, neutrality and challenging patriarchal norms and perpetuation of VAW.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Information and Archives Department 	<p>Social media has increasingly become a norm in our day to day life.</p> <p>Social media campaigns are a key part of a larger communication campaign on preventing VAW or promoting gender equality etc. It can not only be an effective way of mobilizing youth and promoting discussion and reflection around key topics but also modeling positive behaviours and guiding target audiences to positive solutions.</p> <p>While admittedly, it can never be enough to change attitudes and behaviours as a stand-alone campaign. Social media campaigns have resulted in varying levels of awareness as well as attitudinal, behavioural and/or social norm change. Therefore, it can serve as the starting point for such changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating a social media campaign with relevant stakeholders on experts on gender equality and challenging patriarchal norms perpetuating VAW in Sindh. • Initiating and implementing a social media campaign on gender equality and challenging patriarchal norms that perpetuate VAW. • Formulating and implementing a market survey and evaluation tool to identify the lessons learned and assess successes of the social media strategy

5. Women's Economic Empowerment

Women's economic empowerment reduces sexual violence and rape by increasing women's autonomy and financial independence, reducing dependency on others who may exploit them. With their own income, women have greater power to leave harmful situations and assert boundaries. Economic stability fosters confidence and access to resources, helping women resist and report abuse. As empowered women shift cultural norms toward equality, tolerance for gender-based violence declines, reducing conditions that enable abuse.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.1	Integrate concepts of gender and VAW into all existing and planned economic packages and livelihood projects for women across Sindh <i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department in coordination with Government Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Projects with women • Social Welfare Department • Labour Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>There is a link between violence and poverty. One of the primary reasons is the woman's economic dependency on the man which leaves her vulnerable to exploitation.</p> <p>Building women's economic resources and empowering women allows them to better resist male power and transform gender relationships, contributing to the prevention of VAW.</p> <p>Furthermore, resisting male power whilst being economically strong allows a woman her own agency to make decisions and life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of economic schemes and programs for women and girls across Sindh, for example, BISP, Microfinance Loans, STEVTA etc. by Women Development Department in collaboration with the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women. • Developing a basic curriculum and strategy, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts, to integrate into these economic projects. • Researching impact of integration of VAW into relevant economic projects across Sindh to assess success of this integration model.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.2	Creation of skills training and job opportunities for women, girls, transgender, and other vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department 	At risk individuals must be able to financially support themselves in order to avoid violent situations. They must not be dependent on a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of skills development and training programs, by SCSW, to assess the status and impact of these projects as well as

	<p>based on the demands of these groups.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Department • Labour Department 	<p>potentially violent spouse or partner and be empowered enough to make decisions on their own.</p>	<p>to document lessons learned for future interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategizing and devising economic opportunities, paid internships, skills development, and jobs for individuals belonging from vulnerable groups to ensure a life of dignity and economic independence. • Options include the creation of paid internships in major organisations and institutions; placement at top organisations and institutions for the first year after graduation, etc.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.3	<p>Establish digital literacy programs for women, including courses in online safety, financial management, and e-commerce. These programs should cover essential skills like digital payments, online entrepreneurship, and social media marketing to enhance women's participation in digital economies.</p>		<p>Digital literacy empowers women and girls by boosting their confidence, independence, and access to resources, all of which help prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). With skills in online safety and digital economies, women can avoid exploitation, report incidents, and connect with support networks.</p> <p>Economic independence further reduces vulnerability to coercion and abuse, while awareness of privacy and online risks helps protect against digital harassment. Overall, digital literacy enables women to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with local civil society organisations and tech companies to design and implement community-based digital literacy workshops tailored to women in rural and underserved areas. • Collaborate with educational institutions and vocational training centers to integrate digital skills, financial management, online safety, and e-commerce into the curriculum for women and girls. • Launch mobile training units that travel to remote areas to teach women essential digital skills, ensuring that no one is left behind due to

			advocate for their safety, challenge harmful norms, and create a culture that prevents SGBV.	geographic limitations. • Provide online resources, including instructional videos and guides, to complement in-person workshops and ensure continuous learning.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.4	Provide subsidized smartphones, internet access, and digital banking services to women in underserved areas.		<p>This initiative empowers women, especially in rural areas, by connecting them to e-commerce platforms and online job opportunities, promoting economic independence.</p> <p>Affordable access to digital devices allows women to access support services, report abuse discreetly, and learn about SGBV. Economic independence through digital tools reduces dependency on abusive relationships, helping women escape harmful situations. This financial autonomy enables them to seek legal support, make informed decisions, and reduce the power imbalances that often lead to abuse, thus preventing sexual violence and exploitation.</p>	<p>• Develop partnerships with tele-communication companies to offer affordable data packages and subsidized smartphones to women in remote areas, ensuring they can access digital platforms for learning and business.</p> <p>• Establish digital hubs or community centers in rural areas where women can access computers, the internet, and technical support, empowering them to use these tools for education and business.</p> <p>• Introduce government-backed initiatives that offer low-interest loans or grants to women to purchase digital devices and access online banking services.</p> <p>• Roll out a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of digital access, focusing on its role in economic independence and personal safety.</p>

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.5	Launch government-funded incubators and mentorship programs focused on helping women entrepreneurs thrive online through provision of resources to build and market businesses through digital platforms, alongside grants or loans to encourage sustainable growth in digital spaces.		<p>Economic empowerment through digital entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in preventing SGBV by reducing women's financial dependence on others, which is often a driving factor in abusive relationships. Taking control over their income allows them to make independent decisions, escape toxic environments, and avoid situations where they might feel trapped or vulnerable.</p> <p>Digital tools also allow women to access information, legal resources, and support networks that help them identify and report abuse.</p> <p>By becoming entrepreneurs, women build networks of support, enhance their social standing, and gain the confidence to challenge harmful gender norms. As visible role models, female entrepreneurs inspire other women to assert their rights, creating a ripple effect that shifts societal attitudes toward greater respect for women and girls, and decreasing the tolerance for SGBV. This empowers women to take active steps in preventing sexual violence and securing their safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up government-funded incubators and co-working spaces dedicated to supporting female entrepreneurs in digital business development, offering them mentorship, access to funding, and networking opportunities. • Collaborate with financial institutions to provide micro-loans, grants, or low-interest loans for women starting online businesses or digital startups. • Organize digital entrepreneurship workshops that focus on social media marketing, e-commerce, and online business strategies tailored to women, especially in rural or marginalized communities. • Create public-private partnerships with e-commerce platforms, such as Daraz or Amazon, to offer training and platform-specific resources for women entrepreneurs to help them market and grow their businesses.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.6	<p>Creation of Day Cares for children at all provincial and district levels</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Finance Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>For women, transgender people or any at-risk individual seeking to economically empower themselves, facilitation is required for such individuals to enter the workforce or resume their jobs after childbirth. For this purpose, without any family support, they need to place their children in secure day cares so that they are looked after while the adult works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching the demand for daycare, effective model for day care and concentrated number of working women across the province of Sindh to identify most urgent locations of daycares by SCSW. • The government should establish affordable and reliable childcare centers in urban and rural areas to enable mothers to return to work without the worry of childcare. • Provide financial subsidies or vouchers for childcare services, particularly for low-income families, so mothers can focus on their careers without financial strain. • Ensure implementation of the Sindh Maternity Act

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.7	<p>Opening of Working Women Hostels including suites for working mothers and Working Transgender Hostels</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Labour Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department 	<p>For women, transgender people or any at-risk individual seeking to economically empower themselves, facilitation is required for such individuals to enter the workforce or resume their jobs. Therefore, Working Women Hostels and Working Transgender Hostels are required to be set up in order to facilitate them. For many of them, there is an urgent need to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveying geographic and location-wise demands of hostels in order to develop hostel plans for single women and mothers with children. • Surveying and researching geographic and location-wise demands of hostels for transgender persons to develop hostel plans for working transgender persons.

			provide safe and low-cost housing in the form of hostels. This housing security will encourage and benefit women and transgender wishing to work in locations away from their homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching and surveying viability of Working Transgender Hostels with transgender groups to formulate plans which are responsive to the needs and demands of transgender community.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.8	<p>Develop public-private partnerships to create women's bank accounts or easy paisa accounts to ensure women's financial and digital inclusion and empowerment.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Women Development Department • National Bank of Pakistan, State Bank 	<p>Women face barriers in accessing formal banking services, limiting their financial independence and participation in economic activities. Many women lack the necessary digital literacy to utilize modern financial tools and services, hindering their inclusion in the digital economy.</p> <p>Facilitating access to bank accounts or digital wallets can empower women to manage their finances independently, make informed decisions, and participate more actively in economic and social spheres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with financial institutions, telecommunications companies, and government agencies to establish public-private partnerships for women's financial inclusion initiatives. • Creating tailored banking or digital wallet solutions specifically designed to meet the needs of women, considering factors such as accessibility, affordability, and ease of use. • Launching educational campaigns to enhance women's understanding of financial concepts and digital tools, empowering them to make informed decisions about managing their finances. • Conducting outreach programs in rural and marginalized communities to raise awareness about the benefits of financial inclusion and encourage women to open bank accounts or digital wallets.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering financial literacy trainings and assistance to women in setting up and using their bank accounts or digital wallets, ensuring they feel confident and comfortable with the technology. • Establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the effectiveness of the intervention, including metrics such as the number of women served, increased financial literacy, and improved economic outcomes.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.9	Develop an integrated disaster relief and recovery strategy that encompasses fund disbursement, timely communication, and data management to ensure equitable access to relief funds and support services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Department • Social Welfare Department • Women Development Department • National, Provincial and District Disaster Management Authority (NDMA, PDMA and DDMA) • NGOs (e.g.SRSO) • International Donor Agencies (e.g., UNFPA) 	Disaster-induced financial instability has a disproportionate impact on women and their health and well-being outcomes; accelerated fund disbursement and relief initiatives such as cash schemes and house reconstruction funds reduce women's economic disempowerment and mitigate risks of VAW while enhancing community resilience and promoting gender equity in areas affected by disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with the Revenue Department to address challenges and ensure efficient funding allocation. • Deploying teams for physical verification and mapping to ensure comprehensive coverage. • Creating dedicated helplines and online portals for real-time updates on funding status. • Conducting community meetings and outreach programs to inform and engage beneficiaries. • Developing a three-year emergency relief plan with a sustainable recovery focus over five years.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing clear guidelines on funding processes and timelines for affected households. • Conducting comprehensive surveys to gather baseline data on affected households. • Utilizing GIS and mapping technologies for accurate documentation and analysis of affected areas. • Providing training to local authorities and field teams in data collection and mapping techniques.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.10	Enhance the inclusivity of registration processes for social security schemes to broaden women's participation and economic empowerment through increased access to social security benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • NADRA • Social Welfare Department • People's Poverty Reduction Program • Sindh Rural Support Organization • BISP. 	<p>The current eligibility criteria for women-centric social security schemes excludes women who are unmarried and older women in most cases.</p> <p>There is a need to economically empower and expand the scope and ambit of social security schemes to further mitigate risks of SGBV.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of eligible beneficiaries to incorporate new beneficiaries who have fallen below the poverty line. Inclusive registration to include unmarried, and older women in the eligibility criteria for BISP/Ehsaas or other government-sponsored social security schemes. • An alternative verification method should be introduced for all unconditional cash-transfer social security programs, to accommodate women engaged in agriculture and senior citizens whose fingerprints may have been compromised. • This model could also be replicated for women with upper-limb disabilities.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
5.11	Consolidation of Research Data and Strengthening Coordination Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Statistics • Planning and Development Board • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department 	<p>Gender-sensitive data collection and analysis are crucial for preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The lack of centralized, coordinated data hampers effective interventions. By creating a centralized system for gender-disaggregated data, the government can allocate resources efficiently and target interventions where women and girls are most vulnerable, especially in areas of poverty or during emergencies.</p> <p>Consolidating this data helps reduce duplication, track trends, and design more effective, evidence-based programs. It also strengthens accountability and ensures that women's needs are prioritized in violence prevention efforts, fostering long-term solutions to combat SGBV.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and centralize all research and data into a comprehensive, accessible database or repository, consolidating information on government and semi-government programs related to economic empowerment. • Integrate the Bureau of Statistics under provincial planning departments to ensure cohesive, coordinated data management and planning across sectors. • Develop and disseminate clear guidelines on the availability and use of consolidated data to relevant stakeholders, ensuring transparency and accessibility. • Establish dedicated online portals for real-time updates and easy access to consolidated data and research findings. • Create multi-tiered coordination mechanisms involving government agencies, civil society organizations, and local government units, ensuring effective collaboration and information sharing. • Organize regular meetings and workshops to facilitate communication, knowledge exchange,

and coordination among stakeholders, promoting a collaborative approach to addressing economic empowerment and its role in preventing SGBV.

6. Promoting Behavioral Change and Shifting Social Norms at the Community Level

Promoting behavioral change and shifting social norms at the community level is critical in preventing SGBV, particularly rape, by actively dismantling harmful beliefs that tolerate or excuse violence against women and girls. This approach builds widespread understanding of consent and gender equality, encourages bystander intervention, and empowers community members to hold perpetrators accountable, creating an environment where SGBV is less likely to occur and more likely to be reported.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
6.1	<p>Community engagement at all levels with men and women separately and together addressing and challenging gender roles and responsibilities</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Local Government 	<p>In-depth community engagement is one of the most successful methods of preventive measures. This requires trained community mobilisers to have consistent interaction with community members at the district level to raise awareness and discussion on a variety of issues with the objective of changing attitudes and mindsets over a period of time.</p> <p>The community is often targeted according to different groups to ensure comfort and ease in discussion and discourse emanating from these sessions.</p> <p>Such community engagement is strengthened if combined with other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of government functionaries and civil society organisations working on issues of equality, discrimination, and violence. • Involving government functionaries and civil society organisations to formulate session plans and training materials for employees and community mobilisers. • Conduct focus group discussions with community mobilisers and community members to observe gender perceptions and relations within the community and identify strategic entry points for gender sensitization and community engagement.

			simultaneous measures e.g. a media campaign.	• All departments working on issues of equality, discrimination, and violence on the ground should be involved in community engagement with trained and qualified employees.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
6.2	Strengthening women's participation and voice in decision making at all levels of governance. (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Local Government 	Transformative programming and gender sensitisation programming seek to enable and empower girls and women to imagine and work towards creating a different world by changing power relations, raising their voices, their agency and autonomy as well as empowering them within their social environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying relevant training materials for public functionaries and target women groups to sensitise regarding the importance of women's voices in decision making processes. • Facilitating and training women at all levels of governance (federal, provincial, and local) to build networks and alliances to support and empower each other in order to create spaces for women within decision making processes. • Synergising efforts for sensitization and network building with a media campaign reinforcing messages of gender equality. • Creating monitoring and evaluation systems, through the Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, to track women's participation in decision making processes at all levels of governance.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
6.3	<p>Bystander interventions may be designed to help support on-ground preventative programmes.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Sports Department • Youth Department • Education Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>Bystander interventions are mainly implemented in schools or through activity based extracurricular. These focus on changing individual attitudes and behaviours of boys and men who often play the role of bystanders in a culture perpetuating sexual violence.</p> <p>By drawing on existing influential relationships, they engage these boys and men to start a discourse challenging existing social norms and identifying a role they can play in bringing about change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing and implementing by-stander programs for men and boys through sports and other innovative methodologies. The bystander programs can help men and boys realise the positive and negative roles they can play as bystanders in cases of sexual violence. • Mapping of existing government programs with boys and men where bystander programs can be integrated. • Supporting the development of programs and sessions, through SCSW and other subject-matter experts, to integrate within existing government programs.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
6.4	<p>Creating an alliance or 'social movement' of men or male organizations working on gender issues including sensitisation, advocacy for change and creating a demand for responsive state institutions.</p> <p><i>(Continued from</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department 	<p>Male members engaging with other men in their communities on issues relating to changing status quos and social norms such as violence against women has been seen to be a successful strategy world over.</p> <p>It is important to involve men in creating social change in a patriarchal society such as Pakistan. Male allies are sometimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging community mobilisers to identify 'agents of change' within male community members as examples of promoting gender equality. • Conducting gender sensitization exercises through innovative facilitation methodologies with boys and men to engage boys and men in initiatives countering VAW.

best placed to advocate for and create desired change.

- Facilitating and building networks and alliances of boys and men who can work to promote gender equality and positive social change.

Secondary Response **of Sexual Violence**

SECONDARY

Secondary Response

Immediate responses after sexual violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences of violence.

7. Enhancing Police Response to Sexual Violence: First Responders and the Special Sexual Offences Investigating Units (SSOIU)

Training police as first responders and establishing specialized Sexual Offences Investigation Units (SSOIU) are crucial for improving SGBV responses. Proper training equips officers with skills in trauma-informed approaches, evidence handling, and victim support, ensuring sensitive, consistent, and thorough investigations. A process-oriented approach standardizes protocols, enhancing accountability, building public trust, and creating a reliable system that encourages survivors to report incidents, ultimately deterring SGBV.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.1	Establish a police team for the SSOIU instead of relying on a single investigator in a specific area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights 	The process of reporting, recording, and investigating sexual violence offenses necessitates the involvement of various police personnel beyond the Investigating Officer. Thus, it is imperative to incorporate all pertinent individuals into the SSOIU, furnishing them with requisite training, accountability measures, and support to ensure the delivery of optimal services for survivors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a comprehensive mapping of the roles of all police officers handling sexual violence cases, identifying survivor and/or family points of contact, to be able to clearly identify which police officers should be inducted into the “unit” to make it fully effective. • Define and clarify roles within the SSOIU with clear assignment of responsibilities. • Development of Job Descriptions and required competencies of each police officer to ensure clarity of roles

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.2	Enhancing SSOIU Operational Effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Law Department 	The SSOIU currently operates in isolation and lacks a clear mandate or leadership. For true effectiveness, its roles and operational guidelines must be clearly defined and integrated into the broader police force and criminal justice system to facilitate meaningful procedural changes and improve overall processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of which police department is the parent department and overseeing the operations of the SSOIU. • Mapping of the current operations of the SSOIU, understanding process gaps. • Development and notification of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the SSOIU. • Mapping of required resources for the SSOIU • Recognizing and fixing gaps in processes and procedures and resource allocation to ensure smooth and effective functionality of the unit. • Regular tracking of SSOIU performance to identify successes, and roadblocks and respond to them effectively and swiftly.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.3	Remove jurisdictional barriers to enable the SSOIU to receive sexual violence complaints across their district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Law Department • Office of the Prosecutor General 	Removing jurisdictional barriers is crucial for enhancing SSOIU's effectiveness in addressing sexual violence. Currently, limited jurisdiction hinders prompt and comprehensive responses to complaints, potentially delaying justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of which police department is the parent department and overseeing the operations of the SSOIU. • Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for the SSOIU, detailing protocols for handling cases independent of police station jurisdictions.

			<p>Expanding the unit's mandate district-wide ensures survivors receive timely and coordinated support. This approach bolsters evidence collection, fosters victim-centered responses, and upholds survivors' rights and dignity, fostering community trust in impartial justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These SoPs should delineate procedures for collaboration with other police stations and criminal justice stakeholders to expedite the recording of complaints and commence investigations, with special attention to facilitating timely medical examinations for survivors. • The SoPs must take into account the differences in responses based on the survivors age, gender and religion.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.4	Capacity Building of the SSOIU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights 	<p>SSOIU police officers should undergo regular training and capacity-building sessions on substantive law and issues related to sexual violence. These sessions must encompass skills-based training, updates on recent legal developments and investigation standards, procedural enhancements, and gender sensitization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a Training Needs Assessment for the SSOIU, focusing on enhancing the knowledge and skills of police officers in addressing sexual violence. Ensure alignment with updated standards reflecting contemporary realities and requirements. • Develop a competency framework to define and assess the required skills and knowledge, ensuring clear performance standards • Develop and implement a training curriculum and schedule for regular in-service training sessions. • Develop comprehensive training modules specifically

				<p>tailored for unit members covering topics such as victim-centered approaches, trauma-informed interviewing techniques, cultural sensitivity, and gender sensitivity based on regularly updated primary data and need identification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring and evaluation of SSOIU performance post-training is essential to measure effectiveness and improvement.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.5	Provide adequate resources for purposes of investigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Finance Department 	<p>Ensuring ample resources for the SSOIU's swift response in rape cases is vital. Rapid access to rape kits and forensic tools aids timely evidence collection, while dedicated transportation expedites arrival at crime scenes for effective investigations. Prompt transport for survivors to medical facilities supports their well-being, and the provision of technological resources streamlines investigative efforts, enabling the unit to swiftly address this crucial issue and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate provision of essential resources for the swift and efficient response of the SSOIU in rape cases, encompassing the supply of rape kits and forensic equipment, dedicated transportation for timely arrival at crime scenes, and transportation for transferring survivors to medical facilities or the Anti-Rape Crisis Cell. • Additionally, provide necessary technological resources and allocate funds under the purview of local police stations to cover immediate investigation expenses.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.6	Crime Scene Investigation Units to be deployed across Sindh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department 	The success of crime scene units in Sindh, Pakistan, lies in their ability to swiftly gather crucial evidence, aiding in the apprehension of perpetrators and ensuring justice for victims. Deploying these units across Sindh according to geographical need is imperative as it extends the benefits of efficient evidence collection and investigation to all areas, irrespective of their location or population density. By strategically placing these units, law enforcement can enhance their responsiveness to crime and strengthen community trust.	Deploy mobile units equipped with forensic equipment and trained personnel to quickly respond to sexual violence cases in remote or underserved areas, ensuring timely collection of evidence and support for survivors.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.7	Inter-agency and departmental coordination and cooperation improved. (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Law Department • Health Department • Office of the Prosecutor General 	Inter-agency and inter-departmental coordination are crucial for improving the police response to sexual violence cases. By fostering collaboration among law enforcement, medico-legal, prosecutors and any other social services, a comprehensive, victim-centered approach is ensured that facilitates swift investigations, timely medical examinations, and robust support for survivors, ultimately enhancing outcomes within the criminal justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inter-departmental protocols outlining procedures for collaboration and information sharing in rape investigations. • Collaborate with relevant agencies to develop joint training programs for police officers, medico-legal officers, and legal experts on handling rape cases sensitively and effectively. • Establish cross-agency referral mechanisms to ensure that survivors receive seamless access to support services.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop secure data-sharing platforms to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies involved in rape investigations. For instance, a centralized database could be used to track case progress, share updates, and monitor outcomes. • Establish inter-departmental review panels such as the Provincial Justice Committees of the High Court, to assess the handling of sexual violence cases and identify areas for improvement. These panels could conduct regular reviews of case files, analyze investigative procedures, and recommend policy changes to enhance coordination and effectiveness.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.8	Establish mechanisms for accountability and monitoring of the SSOIU as a unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department • Planning and Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights 	Implementing robust monitoring and evaluation activities for the SSOIU is crucial for ensuring accountability and continually improving its performance in addressing sexual violence. By regularly reviewing the unit's operations, identifying areas for enhancement, and soliciting feedback from stakeholders and survivors, we can maintain transparency, uphold standards of excellence, and strengthen public trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a robust system for monitoring the performance of the unit, including case clearance rates, victim satisfaction surveys, and feedback from stakeholders, to identify areas for improvement and ensure accountability. These may include the following interventions: • Implement regular reporting mechanisms to track and report on the SSOIU's performance to senior police leadership,

			<p>in the police response to rape cases. These activities not only facilitate the identification of systemic challenges and areas for improvement but also promote a victim-centered approach, ensuring that survivors receive the support and justice they deserve within the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>government officials, and the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct periodic internal audits of the SSOIU's operations to ensure compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and adherence to legal guidelines. Audits can assess the quality of investigations, documentation practices, and adherence to timelines. • Finalise and notify the Performance Management Framework for the SSOIU. Defining competencies and key performance indicators (KPIs) will assist in measuring the effectiveness of the SSOIU in handling rape cases. Examples of KPIs include case clearance rates, time taken to initiate investigations, and satisfaction levels of survivors with the police response. • Conduct regular User Satisfaction Surveys among survivors of sexual violence and their families to assess their satisfaction with the SSOIU's response.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.9	<p>Enhancing Sensitivity and Knowledge on Sexual Violence Response of First Responders, Including 15 Unit.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department 	<p>Sensitizing and enhancing the capacity of first responders to effectively address cases of sexual violence is crucial for ensuring a compassionate and competent response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specialized in-service training programs focused on understanding the dynamics of sexual violence, trauma-informed care, and effective communication with

			<p>By providing specialized training and education, first responders can develop a deeper understanding of the complexities and sensitivities surrounding sexual violence, enabling them to approach survivors with empathy, respect, and professionalism. This not only fosters trust and confidence in the police among survivors but also ensures that their immediate needs for support and protection are met. Furthermore, better-equipped first responders are better positioned to gather crucial evidence, facilitate survivor centered investigations, and collaborate effectively with other agencies and service providers, ultimately leading to more successful outcomes for survivors and strengthening the overall response to sexual violence.</p>	<p>survivors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct workshops and seminars to raise awareness among first responders about the unique needs and challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence. • Provide regular briefings to first responders, including Unit 15, on updated protocols, legal requirements, and best practices for responding to sexual violence cases. • Establishing protocols to inform First Responders in directing survivors and coordinating with relevant authorities within the Criminal Justice System
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.10	Establishment & Operationalization of One Stop Protection Centers across Sindh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Sindh Police • Finance Department 	<p>One-stop protection centers are crucial for the Sindh police in responding to sexual violence cases as they provide a comprehensive range of services under one roof, streamlining support for survivors.</p> <p>These centers offer immediate medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and police reporting facilities, ensuring survivors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish dedicated centers equipped with medical facilities, counseling rooms, legal aid services, and police reporting facilities to provide comprehensive support to survivors of sexual violence. • Conduct specialized training programs for staff working at these centers, including medical professionals, counselors, lawyers, and police officers, to ensure they are equipped with

receive holistic care and support in a safe and confidential environment. By centralizing services and expertise, one-stop protection centers facilitate quicker access to resources, improve coordination among different agencies involved in the response, and empower survivors to navigate the complex process of seeking justice and recovery effectively.

the necessary skills and knowledge to support survivors effectively.

- Foster collaboration between relevant agencies such as law enforcement, healthcare providers, legal aid organizations, and social service agencies to ensure seamless coordination and referral of survivors to one-stop protection centers.

- Launch awareness campaigns to inform the public about the availability and services offered by one-stop protection centers, encouraging survivors to seek help and promoting community support for survivors of sexual violence.

- Implement initiatives to ensure the accessibility and outreach of one-stop protection centers, such as locating centers in easily accessible areas, providing transportation assistance for survivors, and conducting outreach programs in underserved communities.

- Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of one-stop protection centers, including tracking the number of survivors served, assessing the quality of services provided, and soliciting feedback from survivors to identify areas for improvement.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.11	Establishing of Data Management and Analysis Protocols.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Police • Home Department; • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights 	Data collection and management are critical for the SSOIU in the police in Pakistan as they enable systematic recording and analysis of sexual violence cases, providing insights into prevalence and trends. This information informs targeted prevention strategies and resource allocation, enhances coordination among stakeholders, and enables monitoring of the SSOIU's performance. By facilitating a more cohesive and victim-centered response, robust data collection and management strengthen accountability and effectiveness in addressing sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a comprehensive data collection and management protocol for both qualitative and quantitative data within the SSOIU for sexual violence cases to systematically record, analyze, and utilize information for enhancing investigation strategies and victim support services. • Implement technological solutions such as a centralized database for tracking sexual violence cases, digital evidence management systems, and online reporting platforms to streamline investigations and improve information sharing among stakeholders.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.12	Interim shelter to be provided to the survivor according to age, gender and religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Child Protection Authority 	Providing interim shelter to survivors based on their age and religious preferences is crucial for ensuring their safety, well-being, and cultural sensitivity during a traumatic period. Such shelters offer immediate refuge from further harm and provide essential support services, including counseling and medical assistance. Tailoring shelter options to meet the specific needs and preferences of survivors, is important to ensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference and SOPs of shelter homes and crisis centers are to be revised based on relevant precedents and orders of the superior courts and current day realities. • All relevant stakeholders must ensure that children below the age of 18 must not be placed in shelters with older women. Children must be placed in shelters or homes for children. • Shelter Homes and

			their dignity, autonomy, and recovery, fostering a supportive environment conducive to healing and empowerment.	• Crisis Centers must be opened across Sindh with separate ones for women and children and transgenders and religious minorities.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.13	Protection to be provided to the survivor and the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department 	Providing protection for both the survivor and their family is essential for creating a secure environment conducive to healing and recovery and to mitigate potential threats or efforts to force them to compromise or withdraw cases. It mitigates the risk of further harm, acknowledges the family's supportive role.	• Sindh Witness Protection Act must be amended to be relevant within current day realities and implementable.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
7.14	Support the recruitment, retention, and advancement of female police officers, particularly Investigating Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Sindh Police • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	Supporting the recruitment, retention, and advancement of female police officers, especially as Investigating Officers, is crucial for improving responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. Female officers are often more approachable for victims of SGBV, who may feel more comfortable sharing their experiences and seeking justice when interacting with women in law enforcement. Increasing female representation in the police force can lead to more empathetic, thorough, and victim-centered investigations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Knowledge Attitude Practices Survey and qualitative research on the needs and realities of female police officers be conducted to identify their actual challenges and needs. • Protocols and processes be established based on the needs of female police officers to fulfill the objectives identified. • Mentoring programmes for female police officers be conducted. • Special training for female police officers be conducted based on needs and challenges.

Furthermore, having female officers in leadership and investigative roles helps challenge gender biases within the police force and promotes a culture of inclusivity and professionalism. This representation can also inspire trust within communities, signaling that the police force is committed to addressing issues affecting women and that they can respond sensitively and effectively to incidents of SGBV.

8. Enhancing Operational Efficiency of Medico-Legal and Forensic

Enhancing the operational efficiency of medico-legal and forensic departments is crucial for a proper response to rape incidents. Timely, accurate forensic evidence is essential for supporting survivors' testimonies and securing convictions. Efficient systems ensure swift evidence collection, proper medical care, and thorough documentation, reducing delays or contamination that could harm cases. This strengthens the justice process, boosts survivor trust, and deters potential offenders by improving the likelihood of successful prosecution.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.1	Notification of the Sindh Medico-Legal Rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Law Department 	Notifying rules for the Sindh Medico-Legal Act of 2023 is essential to provide clear guidance and ensure consistency in medico-legal processes. These rules streamline procedures, reduce ambiguity, and promote fairness and accountability, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and reliability of medico-legal procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of the rules. • Notification of Committee to finalise Rules. • Notification of Rules.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.2	Constitution and Notification of Sindh Advisory Medico-legal Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department • Sindh Police 	The Constitution and Notification of the Sindh Advisory Medico-Legal Board under the Sindh Medico-Legal Act of 2023 are vital for ensuring expert guidance, quality assurance, and conflict resolution in medico-legal matters across the province. The board will be critical in the re-shaping of the Medico-Legal Department in light of the new law and expected standards of performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite nominations for the Sindh Advisory Medico-Legal Board from relevant departments and institutions on the basis of an identified criteria. • Create a panel for decisions on finalization of the Sindh Advisory Medico-Legal Board. • Create an SOP and workplan for the Board for immediate and effective implementation of the Sindh Medico-Legal Act 2023

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.3	Notification and Operationalisation of the Sindh Medicolegal Directorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department 	Notifying the Sindh Medico-Legal Directorate is crucial for ensuring effective implementation of the Sindh Medico-Legal Act. This formal notification establishes the directorate as the central authority responsible for overseeing medico-legal affairs in the province. By officially recognizing its role and authority, the notification enhances coordination, accountability, and consistency in medico-legal practices across Sindh. Moreover, it empowers the directorate to develop standardized procedures, provide guidance to stakeholders, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clear organizational structure for the Sindh Medico-Legal Directorate, including defining roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines for staff. • Recruit qualified personnel to fill key positions within the directorate as identified in law and rules including professional and administrative staff. • Establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Workplans for the Directorate and its key staff to ensure efficient and effective operations. • Establish and formally notify a Performance Management

			<p>monitor compliance with the law. Overall, notifying the Sindh Medico-Legal Directorate strengthens the legal framework governing medico-legal affairs and contributes to improved quality and transparency in the handling of medico-legal cases.</p>	<p>Framework for all staff, delineating essential competencies encompassing knowledge, skills, and values. This framework should include clear key performance indicators (KPIs) to define selection criteria, guide training initiatives, and facilitate comprehensive performance reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate resources to establish and equip office space for the directorate, including facilities for administrative, medical, and forensic activities. Ensure availability of essential resources such as medical equipment, forensic kits, and IT systems to support the directorate's operations. • Launch public awareness campaigns to inform the public about the establishment and functions of the Sindh Medico-Legal Directorate. Disseminate information through various channels such as social media, community events, and educational materials.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.4	Staff Appointment and Re-Notification of staff where necessary.		The appointment of new staff and the re-notification of existing staff within the new medico-legal structure as per the Sindh Medico-Legal Act of 2023 is necessary to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of new staff includes the Chief Police Surgeon and Forensic Nurses. • A Chief Police Surgeon must be appointed. The following steps may

			<p>ensure compliance with legal requirements and to optimize the functionality of the medico-legal system. By appointing qualified personnel and re-notifying existing staff within the framework outlined by the act, we can ensure that the Directorate is staffed with individuals who possess the necessary expertise and qualifications to fulfill their roles effectively. This ensures the smooth implementation of the act's provisions, promotes accountability, and strengthens the overall capacity of the medico-legal system to respond to cases with professionalism and integrity.</p>	<p>be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of Criteria b. Advertisement of post inviting nominations OR selection within existing cadre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing staff must be re-notified with new titles under the existing structure e.g. medico-legal officers to be re-notified as Judicial Medical Office. • New staff and renotification of existing staff within the new medico-legal structure.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.5	Capacity Building of all Staff on substantive law and processes under the law relating to sexual violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Law Department • Sindh Police • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights • Child Protection Authority 	<p>Building the capacity and knowledge of medico-legal officers on sexual violence cases is crucial for a competent and sensitive response to survivors. This enhances their ability to document evidence, identify trauma, and provide survivor-centered care, improving outcomes and strengthening trust in the justice system. Moreover, it contributes to prevention and prosecution efforts by enhancing evidence quality. Thus, investing in capacity building is fundamental to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a Training Needs Assessment of medico-legal staff to understand the required knowledge and skills relating to sexual violence cases. • Develop a set of competencies relating to required levels of knowledge, skills and values upon which training must be based. • Develop and implement specialized training programs tailored to the unique requirements of examining sexual violence cases. These programs should cover

			addressing sexual violence and supporting survivors.	topics such as trauma-informed care, evidence collection protocols, and cultural sensitivity in interacting with survivors.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.6	Establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Medical Examination in Sexual Violence Cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department 	Establishing SOPs for medical examination in rape cases ensures standardized procedures, legal compliance, and consistency in medico-legal practices. Developed in consultation with stakeholders and aligned with the Sindh Medico-Legal Act, these SOPs enhance examination quality, evidence reliability, and survivor trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify SOPs for medical examination in rape cases outlining the procedures and protocols for medico-legal examinations, documentation, and reporting. These SOPs should be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and tailored to align with the requirements of the Sindh Medico-Legal Act.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.7	Ensure Inter-agency and departmental coordination and collaboration on cases of sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Home Department • Law Department • Sindh Police • Office of the Prosecutor General • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Sindh Child Protection Authority • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	Ensuring inter-agency and departmental coordination and collaboration on cases of sexual violence is essential for a comprehensive and effective response. By working together, agencies such as law enforcement, healthcare, and social services can provide seamless support to survivors, streamline investigative processes, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. This coordination enhances the quality of services provided to survivors, reduces duplication of efforts, and strengthens the overall response to sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and coordination with relevant agencies and departments involved in medico-legal affairs, including law enforcement, healthcare, and legal authorities. • Establish formal mechanisms for information sharing, joint training initiatives, and mutual support in handling medico-legal cases.

		• Sindh Commission on Human Rights		
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.8	Monitoring and Evaluation of Medico-Legal System in Sexual Violence Cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Planning and Development Department 	Monitoring and evaluating the medico-legal system in sexual violence cases is essential for effectiveness, accountability, and improvement. By collecting data, defining performance indicators, and conducting audits, compliance is ensured areas are identified for enhancement, and concerns are addressed promptly. Feedback from survivors and stakeholders informs service quality improvements, bolstering trust and strengthening our response to sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a reporting system to track performance and outcomes. For example, create monthly reports summarizing key metrics, audit findings, and actions taken to address identified issues. • Develop standardized data collection tools to systematically capture information on sexual violence cases, including demographics of survivors, types of injuries, examination outcomes, and case dispositions. • Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of medico-legal services. For example, track examination turnaround times, evidence collection rates, and adherence to protocols. • Conduct regular audits and reviews of medico-legal processes. For instance, perform quarterly reviews of case documentation to ensure compliance with established protocols and identify areas for improvement. • Implement quality assurance programs to maintain standards of

				<p>care. For instance, conduct regular training sessions for medico-legal staff on evidence collection techniques and trauma-informed care practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure collaboration between medico-legal professionals, law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and legal authorities. For example, establish regular multidisciplinary meetings to discuss complex cases and share best practices. • Establish feedback mechanisms for survivors and stakeholders. For example, implement satisfaction surveys after examinations and provide avenues for survivors to provide input on their experiences with the medico-legal system.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.9	<p>Establishment and operationalisation of Medicolegal centres in all districts of Sindh with both human and technical resources.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department 	<p>Medico-legal centres are not operational in districts which raises many questions related to their effectiveness and capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing Medico-Legal Centres across all districts of Sindh with relevant technical and human resources to be made available including rape kits, tools, equipment, male and female MLO, etc. • Updating existing Medico-Legal Centres with the relevant technical and human resources to be made available including rape kits, tools, equipment,

				male and female MLO, etc.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.10	Appointment and posting of doctors and paramedical staff on a priority basis at ML centres, especially women staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department 	There is insufficient staff currently provided at ML centres which hampers the medico-legal evidence and reports, with a direct negative impact on investigation and trial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifying and appointing medico-legal staff, by the Health Department, on an urgent basis. The Health Department must also ensure that the appointed staff take charge of their duties and are regularly present. • Directing on a temporary basis, by the Health Department, male and female medical officers to work as MLOs where MLOs are not available or have not been posted.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.11	<p>Incentives regarding working as MLOs or WMLOs to promote it as a career choice for medical professionals.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.6.5)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department • Planning and Development 	Few medical practitioners are willing to work as MLOs due to the long hours, and obligations of courts with little or no incentive. This must be remedied to try to encourage or invite people to join the profession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an incentives plan, by the Health Department, to provide competitive salary packages and benefits to MLOs in Sindh. • Endorsing the incentives plan for MLOs, by the Finance Department and Planning and Development Department, to ensure the government's ownership of the initiative to improve access to justice by incentivising key criminal justice actors.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.12	<p>Set timings for MLOs/WMLOs in courts to give their testimony.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.6.11)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh High Court • Health Department • Law Department 	<p>One of the biggest complaints of MLOs/WMLOs is the inordinate time spent in courtrooms waiting to be examined or cross-examined about medical evidence. This can take several days and is entirely dependent on the lawyers and court system to function efficiently.</p> <p>This exacerbates the issue of lack of MLOs/WMLOs being available to look after or respond to cases during their investigation. This also creates the issue of MLOs not coordinating with other bodies in the investigation team i.e. police and prosecution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifying time for magistrates, district and sessions courts, by the Sindh High Court, to decrease inordinate time wasted of the MLOs during court procedures. The Notification can include directions to have time fixed for examination and cross-examination of MLO/WMLO or a day and time set for this purpose which would reduce the time of the MLO/WMLO in court and reduce delay in trials.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.13	Establishment of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells (ARCC) across Sindh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Finance Department 	<p>ARCCs must be established in public hospitals as per the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021. Currently, their operational status is limited, with full functionality observed in only two hospitals in Karachi. It is imperative to expedite the operationalization process and ensure that ARCCs are established in every district of Sindh to fulfill their critical role in providing support and services to survivors of sexual violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCCs must be established in every district across Sindh with appropriate facilities • Guidelines and SoPs for ARCCs must be notified. • Addressing jurisdictional challenges for Anti-Rape Crisis Centers (ARCCs) necessitates official notification from the health department, affirming that survivors from any area within the district are eligible to access their services directly.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ARCCs must have adequate resources as required under the law and rules and SOPs in order to be effective. • Inter-agency and departmental coordination must be established and made effective for seamless service for the survivor through the ARCC and other institutions in the criminal justice system.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.14	Enhancing the capacity, effectiveness and transparency of forensic labs in Sindh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Finance Department • Health Department 	Enhancing the capacity, effectiveness, and transparency of forensic labs in Sindh is critical in rape cases because it ensures the accurate and timely processing of forensic evidence, such as DNA samples, which are often pivotal in securing convictions. Improved lab capabilities lead to faster turnaround times and more reliable results, increasing the likelihood of justice for survivors. Transparency in lab operations builds public trust in the justice system, ensuring accountability and discouraging potential tampering or mishandling of evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate resources for advanced forensic equipment, especially for DNA analysis in sexual violence cases. • Provide regular training for forensic experts to stay updated on best practices. • Upgrade forensic labs to meet international standards for handling sensitive evidence. • Standardize procedures for evidence collection, storage, and analysis. • Partner with international forensic organizations to enhance local expertise. • Implement transparent reporting to ensure accountability and prevent evidence manipulation. • Strengthen legal frameworks to ensure proper chain of custody and evidence integrity. • Improve coordination between forensic

				labs, law enforcement, and the judiciary for effective use of evidence.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
8.15	Development of Guidelines of Medico-Legal Examination for Transgender Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Department • Social Welfare Department • Sindh Commission on Human Rights 	Developing guidelines for the medico-legal examination of transgender persons is essential for an effective response to sexual violence in Pakistan. Such guidelines ensure respectful, inclusive, and appropriate treatment during examinations, addressing specific needs and challenges transgender individuals may face. Standardized protocols reduce biases, enhance accuracy in evidence collection, and help prevent retraumatization, promoting justice and increasing trust in the system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inclusive medico-legal guidelines for transgender individuals in sexual violence cases. • Train healthcare and forensic staff in gender sensitivity to better serve transgender survivors. • Establish support teams with mental health counselors and social workers for transgender individuals in hospitals. • Provide confidential examination facilities dedicated to transgender individuals. • Coordinate data-sharing between healthcare, law enforcement, and the judiciary, ensuring privacy. • Conduct awareness campaigns to promote the need for specialized support for transgender individuals. • Regularly update policies to address challenges faced by transgender individuals in the justice system.

9. Enhancing Capacity and Powers of Public Prosecutors

Enhancing the capacity and powers of public prosecutors is crucial for effectively handling rape cases. Well-trained prosecutors can present evidence effectively, pursue convictions, and ensure timely justice for survivors. This improves case outcomes, reduces delays, and strengthens public confidence in the legal system's ability to address sexual violence.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.1	Establishment of a Public Prosecutors Training Academy (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Planning and Development Department • Sindh Judicial Academy 	<p>Public prosecutors receive no formal training on joining, unlike judiciary or police.</p> <p>Currently, they only receive ad hoc training. The Sindh Judicial Academy has started providing more regular trainings for them but without any uniform or standardised curriculum approved by the Public Prosecutors Officer.</p> <p>Working as a public prosecutor is an extremely important job that requires training on different types and categories of cases as opposed to private counsel, especially if not all those joining have had previous experience in criminal trials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a training curriculum and training plan, by the Law Department, for new recruits and in-service prosecutors. • Establishing a Public Prosecutor Training Academy, by the Finance Department and Planning and Development Department, to institutionalize training curriculum and training courses for public prosecutors. • Training public prosecutors by the Sindh Judicial Academy until the Academy is established, to build capacity of newly inducted and serving public prosecutors.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.2	Establishment of a room or chambers for Public Prosecutors in all courtrooms. (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Sindh High Court • Planning and Development 	The prosecutors have no space or area that is confidential to confer with their clients or witnesses before appearing in court, in particular witness preparation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and notifying, by the Sindh High Court, spaces and rooms in all courthouses to be allocated for the use of public prosecutors.

			<p>Currently, this happens in public spaces, resulting in intimidation or confusion of clients or witnesses etc.</p> <p>As an arm and representative of the Government, it is essential that due to respect for their work and position, private office space be created for them in the Court.</p>	
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.3	<p>Prosecution offices in all districts are to be made operational.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.3)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Home Department • Finance Department • Planning and Development Department 	<p>Currently not all prosecution district offices are operational. Many are not in easily accessible areas. This makes the work of prosecution difficult, impacting their quality, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of public prosecution offices in the districts that are operational and which need to be established, by the Law Department, to identify the amount of resources required. • Evaluating the level of accessibility of public prosecution offices in the districts, by the Law Department, to ensure that the offices are easily accessible to the public. • Allocating budget and resources, by the Finance and Law Department, to establish and operationalise public prosecution offices in the districts across Sindh.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.4	<p>Public Prosecutor Case Management System to be developed.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.4)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Planning and Development Department • Finance Department 	<p>The Public Prosecution Office does not have any operational form of a case management system. The Prosecutor General oversees 27 districts and a vast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a case management system, by the Law Department, for Public Prosecutor to manage and record data pertaining to cases.

			<p>number of cases. This is done through paperwork with judgments and case files being physically sent back and forth.</p> <p>This impacts the time spent on oversight resulting in inefficient use of time; wastage of paper; and also makes monitoring and evaluation cumbersome.</p> <p>The office must have an online case management system similar to the MIT system of the Sindh High Court in order to improve its entire functioning, particularly with regard to monitoring and oversight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an IT Department within the Public Prosecutor Office to maintain the case management system as well as respond to any bugs or operational issues. • Training Public Prosecutors on the use of case management system to enter and receive information and data regarding their cases.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.5	<p>Collection, collation, analysis and publication of annual data on cases of the Public Prosecution Department.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.5)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Public Prosecution Department 	<p>The Public Prosecution Department as a public body must ensure a certain level of transparency for the public.</p> <p>This will ensure greater faith and trust in the public prosecution department.</p> <p>Such data is also essential to identify patterns of crime and associated factors across the province, allowing for more informed targeted programming, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating standardised formats, through the Law Department, to collate and organise data pertaining to cases. • Hiring data experts and researchers for collation and robust data analysis of the cases prosecuted by the prosecution department to identify patterns of crime and trend analysis of trial decisions. • Publishing, online and offline, an annual report with analysis of the data of cases prosecuted by the Public Prosecutors Office.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.6	<p>Law and rules for the Prosecution Department must be revised.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.6)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh High Court • Public Prosecutor's Office 	The current law does not reflect the current needs of the department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising and reforming the Sindh Criminal Prosecution Service (Constitution, Functions and Powers) Act, 2009 and its Rules, by the Law Department to ensure a more effective prosecution department. For example, the Public Prosecution Department must have powers to refuse to proceed with cases with insufficient evidence so as not to waste the time of the court and to allow for deviation of cases to alternative mechanisms e.g. ADR or mediation under the Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance 2002 etc.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
9.7	<p>Improved Monitoring and Evaluation system of the Public Prosecution Department.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.7.7)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Public Prosecution Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>There is an MIT Department within the Public Prosecution Office.</p> <p>However, a standardised monitoring and evaluation framework must be made with M&E experts and regular oversight of the prosecutors.</p>	Developing a qualitative and quantitative monitoring and evaluation framework, in collaboration with SCSW, at both the head and district offices to ensure a regular oversight of prosecutors.

10. Supporting the Performance of Gender-Based Violence Courts

Supporting the performance of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) courts is essential for ensuring timely, specialized, and sensitive handling of rape cases. These courts focus on the unique needs of survivors, providing a safer, more supportive environment for them to testify. This leads to better case outcomes, reduces the trauma for survivors, and promotes a more effective judicial response to sexual violence.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.1	Increased Use of Special Protection Mechanisms in the GBV Courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Planning and Development Department • Finance Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights • Child Protection Authority 	Enhanced utilization of Special Protection Mechanisms in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Courts for sexual violence cases is paramount for several reasons. Firstly, these mechanisms are designed to safeguard the rights and dignity of survivors throughout the legal process, particularly in cases where survivors may face intimidation, trauma, or secondary victimization. By providing a supportive and secure environment, Special Protection Mechanisms help mitigate the risk of re-traumatization and ensure survivors' access to justice without fear or intimidation. Moreover, these mechanisms foster trust and confidence in the judicial system, encouraging survivors to come forward and report incidents of sexual violence. Ultimately, their increased use not only upholds survivors' rights but also strengthens the effectiveness and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment or provision of required resources and equipments for courts to be able to use special protection mechanisms for women, children, and transgenders. • Additional facilities may be required for disabled persons and in special cases where the survivor may be a victim of forced conversion and requires extra protection. • An updated mapping of GBV Courts and required structures and systems such as waiting rooms and changes in the courtrooms must be identified. • Video-link equipment must be provided to the courts in order to conduct video link testimony. • Identification of rooms and spaces for survivors to provide testimony must be identified.

			integrity of GBV Courts in addressing sexual violence comprehensively and impartially.	
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.2	Capacity Building of GBV judges on increased survivor approach in sexual violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Judicial Academy • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Commission on Human Rights • Child Protection Authority 	Capacity building of GBV judges to adopt a survivor-centric approach in sexual violence cases holds immense importance for several reasons. Firstly, it ensures that judges possess the necessary knowledge and skills to handle such cases sensitively, recognizing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of survivors. By prioritizing survivors' well-being and rights throughout the legal process, judges can help mitigate re-traumatization and promote access to justice. Moreover, capacity building fosters a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of sexual violence, enabling judges to make informed decisions based on evidence and best practices. Ultimately, this approach strengthens the judicial response to sexual violence, enhances survivor satisfaction with the legal process, and contributes to the overall effectiveness and fairness of GBV courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct specialized training workshops for GBV judges on survivor-centered approaches in sexual violence cases. These workshops should cover topics such as trauma-informed justice, understanding the impact of sexual violence, and best practices for interacting with survivors during court proceedings. • Provide judges with case studies and simulations that depict real-life scenarios of sexual violence cases. This hands-on approach allows judges to apply survivor-centered principles in a simulated courtroom environment, gaining practical experience in handling sensitive issues and making informed decisions. • Establish peer learning networks or communities of practice where GBV judges can exchange knowledge, share best practices, and seek guidance from their colleagues. These networks provide a platform for judges to discuss challenging cases, seek advice on survivor-centered

				<p>approaches, and learn from each other's experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate comprehensive guidelines and protocols for GBV judges outlining best practices and procedures for handling sexual violence cases. These guidelines should cover aspects such as courtroom decorum, witness testimony, evidence collection, and sentencing considerations.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.3	Magistrate Courts must be equipped to provide adequate protection to survivors of SGBV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Sindh High Court 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of Magistrate Courts must be conducted to identify what types of protection is required by survivors at this level. • Resource allocation for such requirements must be made e.g. waiting rooms, screens, etc.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.4	Magistrate Courts must be provided recording equipment to be able to record the 164 statement of victims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Sindh High Court 	<p>All 164 statements made by survivors of SGBV must be recorded and stored as mandated by the Anti-Rape Act 2021.</p> <p>This is crucial due to the often lengthy time between the incident and the trial, making it imperative to collect initial evidence from the survivor promptly. Additionally, it is important because</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the courts to identify courtrooms where such setups can be created. • Mapping of existing IT systems in the High Court to assess storage capacity. • Identification and development of protocols to ensure storage and privacy of recordings of the 164 statements.

			out-of-court settlements, which are illegal in such cases, are common. Collecting evidence early ensures that these settlements cannot undermine the case and provides crucial documentation for future legal proceedings.	
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.5	Court psychologists must be appointed to be able to interview children and traumatized survivors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Sindh High Court • Health Department 	Appointing court psychologists is crucial in rape cases, particularly when interviewing children and traumatized survivors. They are trained to handle sensitive cases with empathy and expertise, ensuring that survivors, especially vulnerable ones, can provide accurate testimony without further traumatization. This also helps in creating a safe environment for survivors, facilitating the gathering of crucial evidence while minimizing the risk of re-traumatization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create clear policies and guidelines for the appointment and role of court psychologists in sexual violence cases, particularly for child and traumatized survivors. • Provide adequate funding to courts and legal systems to hire qualified psychologists and establish dedicated roles within the judiciary for these specialists. • Initiate recruitment drives to hire qualified clinical psychologists with experience in trauma and child psychology, ensuring they are well-trained to handle sensitive cases. • Include the role of court psychologists in the training curriculum for judges, lawyers, and court staff, emphasizing the importance of psychological assessments in cases of sexual violence.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up training programs for court psychologists, focusing on handling sexual violence cases, understanding the impact of trauma, and ensuring ethical interview techniques. • Ensure coordination between courts, child protection agencies, and mental health services to refer cases and support survivors effectively. • Create a system for monitoring the performance and effectiveness of court psychologists in handling rape cases, with regular evaluations to ensure continuous improvement.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
10.6	Protocols for handling child survivors of SGBV must be created and implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Sindh High Court • Sindh Child Protection Authority 	<p>Creating and implementing protocols for handling child survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is crucial in rape cases as it ensures a child-centered, trauma-informed approach throughout the justice process. These protocols protect children from further emotional harm by guiding law enforcement and medical professionals on how to conduct interviews and evidence collection sensitively. They also ensure access to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the Sindh Child Protection Authority, experts, and legal professionals to create trauma-informed protocols for interviewing child survivors, evidence collection, and protection during legal proceedings. • Train police, social workers, healthcare providers, and relevant personnel on child protection, trauma care, and age-appropriate interview techniques. • Establish safe, dedicated spaces in

		specialized care, including psychological and social services, and help facilitate accurate testimonies in age-appropriate ways. By safeguarding the child's well-being and ensuring legal safeguards, these protocols strengthen the overall legal process and increase the likelihood of justice for child survivors.	hospitals, police stations, and other institutions for child survivors to receive services with minimal exposure to further trauma. • Ensure access to psychological and social services for child survivors and their families during the investigative and judicial process. • Promote coordination among law enforcement, child protection agencies, healthcare providers, and legal bodies for a survivor-centered approach to handling child SGBV cases.
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11. Provision of Legal Aid

Legal aid is vital in rape cases as it ensures survivors, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, receive the necessary support to navigate the legal system. It provides access to competent representation, protects survivors' rights, and increases the chances of a fair trial, helping them seek justice and recovery.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
11.1	Provision of free legal advice and aid (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Home Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • WDD • Bar Council / Associations • District Legal Empowerment 	<p>There is little legal literacy in the population of Pakistan and few places to access free of cost quality legal advice and legal aid.</p> <p>Without such legal advice and aid, survivors/victims are often exploited and vulnerable to legal processes and laws being used against them, thereby obstructing their</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating SOPs to provide legal aid to victims/survivors of rape or SV as per section 161A Code of Criminal Procedure 1898. • Identifying and mapping all existing private and public legal aid mechanisms to understand availability and scope. • Establishing a mechanism to

		<p>Committees (DLEC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Prosecutors Office • Office of the Attorney General • Office of the Provincial Advocate General, Sindh • Ministry of Finance; (ref. section 5 of LAJA Act, 2020) • Free Representation Units created under sec 11 of LAJA Act. 	<p>attainment of justice.</p> <p>Access to legal resources is limited and expensive and poverty is rampant in Pakistan. Free or low-cost legal aid is essential to ensure access to justice for everyone.</p>	<p>provide free legal advice and aid for victims/survivors as found necessary as a result of evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a panel of advocates and volunteers. • Establishing a referral and procedure mechanism with a directory to refer victims/survivors of rape and SV to the correct forum and guide them through the process. • Encourage settlement of disputes through negotiations, arbitration and reconciliation (LAJA Act-sec 8)-- however, mediation is still recommended. • Providing financial aid to applicants (sec. 9 of LAJA Act) • Design programs to enhance public awareness of legal aid systems. • Effective mechanism for provision, monitoring and evaluation of legal aid.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
11.2	Establishing a list of institutions and organisations that provide legal advice and aid, within Police Stations and other criminal justice actors, to provide to any complainants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department • Health Department • Women Development Department 	<p>The Salman Akram Raja 2013 judgment requires all police stations to have a list of NGOs and institutions providing legal aid.</p> <p>This is extremely useful as</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and making a list of functional public and private legal aid bodies and institutions including DLECs, legal aid bodies of the Bar Associations/Councils etc.

	(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.3.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Department • Social Welfare Department 	<p>survivors/victims and their families often need instant legal advice and aid to protect their best interests. Thus, such a list must be available at all immediate first responders' offices for instant access. The requirement for having a list of institutions providing legal aid can be extended to hospitals, BHCs, medico-legal departments, shelter homes, and all protection services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting a list of lawyers for pro bono services by the Sindh Bar Council to be available at all police stations, hospitals, BHUs, shelter homes, protection services, etc. • Developing criteria for organisations, NGOs and legal aid providers to be listed at police stations, hospitals, BHUs, shelter homes, protection services, etc.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
11.3	<p>Ensure legally informed justice sector institutions through updated curriculum and training of key justice sector institutions.</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.3.3.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Law Department • Home Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women 	<p>There is a general lack of awareness of the new 2021 amendments amongst the key institutions of the justice response sector, particularly prosecutors/lawyers, judges, police, medico-legal, shelter homes, child protection units, crisis centres, etc.</p> <p>In addition to the training for specialised cadre, it is essential that all individuals are familiar with the law, in particular the recent amendments to rape and sexual violence laws and procedures between 2016 – 2024.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing legal awareness, session plans and trainings for the relevant criminal justice actors and institutions by WDD and SCSW. • Incorporating recent developments into existing curriculum designed for the criminal justice actors through consultations with WDD and SCSW. • Ensuring easy access to legal knowledge for the criminal justice actors through posters, guidebooks, calendars etc by WDD and SCSW. • Conducting trainings and legal clinics on updating legal knowledge of criminal justice stakeholders.

12. Improved Inter-Agency and Inter-Departmental Coordination and Collaboration

Improved inter-agency coordination ensures seamless collaboration between law enforcement, healthcare, social services, and legal bodies, streamlining the investigation, evidence collection, and victim support. This approach leads to more efficient, survivor-centered justice, minimizing delays and trauma for victims.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
12.1	Enhancing Efficiency and Consistency of the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee on Gender-Based Violence Through Regular Meetings and Effective Operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Chief Secretary • Home Department • Technical Working Groups 	The establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Committee on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Karachi, Sindh aims to facilitate effective interdepartmental coordination at the senior level, enabling informed and comprehensive policy decision-making. This initiative is paramount given the significance of collaboration and coordination in addressing gender-based violence effectively. When operational on a regular basis, the committee has demonstrated notable success. It is imperative that this platform receives increased recognition, support, and operational space to fulfill its mandate. All departments involved should prioritize their commitment to the committee's objectives, ensuring its systematic operation free from bureaucratic constraints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of the committee must be held on a quarterly basis to facilitate ongoing collaboration and information sharing among key stakeholders. • Technical Working Groups should meet at least 6 times a year to ensure effective planning and comprehensive recommendations and implementation of recommendations • Relevant departments must be mandated to work with the committees to fulfill their mandate.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
12.2	Establishment of a mechanism of coordination and collaboration between all actors of the response and protection sector of the justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department • Health Department • Social Welfare Department • Women Development Department • Human Rights Department 	<p>Insufficient or irregular endeavors exist to synchronize the activities of diverse criminal justice stakeholders concerning sexual violence. The establishment of committees or groups is often undertaken in an ad hoc manner rather than through systematic processes.</p> <p>Enhanced coordination among pivotal stakeholders would ensure the efficient prosecution of cases and the comprehensive provision of support to victims. This approach fosters a holistic response, thereby bolstering the efficacy of interventions aimed at addressing sexual violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop inter-departmental protocols outlining procedures for collaboration and information sharing in rape investigations. • Collaborate with relevant agencies to develop joint training programs for police officers, medico-legal officers, and legal experts on handling rape cases sensitively and effectively. • Establish cross-agency referral mechanisms to ensure that survivors receive seamless access to support services. • Develop secure data-sharing platforms to facilitate the exchange of information between agencies involved in rape investigations. For instance, a centralized database could be used to track case progress, share updates, and monitor outcomes. • Establish inter-departmental review panels such as the Provincial Justice Committees of the High Court, to assess the handling of sexual violence cases and identify areas for improvement. These panels could conduct regular reviews of case files, analyze

				investigative procedures, and recommend policy changes to enhance coordination and effectiveness.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
12.3	<p>An online case management system shared between the police, medico-legal/forensic, etc; and prosecution must be developed.</p> <p>This system may also be extended to the judiciary if felt appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Department • Home Department • Health Department • Planning and Development Department • Finance Department 	<p>The current mechanism of information sharing between these three key investigating agencies responsible for establishing a prosecution case is through a paper trail with little reliance on email or over the phone.</p> <p>For purposes of expediency, an online case management system will require each actor to update the system at every stage of their investigation with only specific individuals being allowed access and control to make changes. Others may view the updates to keep track and guide on any aspect of the investigation process.</p> <p>This will also speed up the process of sharing evidence with each other etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating establishment of an online case management system between police, medico-legal officer/forensic and prosecution through the Home Department. • Contracting IT experts (national or international) in collaboration with justice sector experts for the purposes of developing and setting up of an online case management system and catering it for each relevant department in Sindh.

13. Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection and analysis are vital for the effective response to rape cases as they provide insights to identify trends, gaps, and areas for improvement. This helps inform policies, improve victim support, and strengthen the criminal justice system while ensuring transparency and accountability.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
13.1	<p>Data on VAW, particularly rape and SV must be identified from various sources including the police, prosecution, judiciary, hospitals and medico-legal centres, shelter homes and crisis centres, consolidated and analysed on a regular basis to identify patterns of violence being inflicted upon women and girls.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.10.1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Home Department • Law Department • Health Department • Social Welfare Department 	<p>There is limited authentic data on cases of rape from the State which hinders seriousness and responsiveness to such cases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying with WDD key Government Departments and Institutions, by WDD, to pull out data on the number of cases of rape being complained of, prosecuted and convictions achieved. • Formulating data collection tools, indicators and analysis, by SCSW, to produce research analysis on VAW, particularly, rape and SV across Sindh. • Analysing data gathered by WDD, by SCSW, to produce a qualitative and quantitative analysis on the patterns and demographic of VAW, especially rape and SV.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
13.2	<p>Regular qualitative and quantitative research to elaborate and diagnose specific gaps and bottlenecks within the system.</p> <p><i>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 5.10.2)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sindh Commission on the Status of Women • Sindh Judicial Academy • Home Department • Law Department • Women Development Department 	<p>The judiciary must examine in detail case trials to identify where exactly the delays at trial level are and to develop strategies to combat this.</p> <p>An assessment of the SC's responses to cases of rape from different provinces and overall must be examined to identify the average time of response to share with parties to a case and prosecution to encourage more appeals where necessary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulating data collection tools, indicators and analysis, by SCSW, to diagnose specific gaps and bottlenecks within the system in cases of VAW, especially rape and SV. • Researching to diagnose specific gaps and bottlenecks within the system in cases of VAW, especially rape and SV, by SCSW and SJA, on a regular basis.

Tertiary Response **to Sexual Violence**

TERTIARY

Tertiary Response

Long-term responses after sexual violence have occurred to deal with the lasting consequences of violence.

14. Psychological Support to Victim/survivor

Psychological and rehabilitation support are vital for survivors of SGBV, helping them recover from trauma, ensuring safety, and providing resources for rebuilding their lives. Government support in these areas promotes long-term healing, independence, and reduces the risk of re-victimization.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
14.1	Provision of trauma informed counselling.	• Health Department	<p>Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are common concerns faced by victims/survivors post the actual rape or sexual violence</p> <p>Counselling, therapy etc are key ingredients contributing towards a victim's/survivor's full recovery. Often this treatment goes for many months if not years, and is particularly useful during the trial process.</p> <p>Several counsellors incorporate life management skills into the sessions for survivors/victims. This helps them to mitigate some of the damage and restore a sense of safety and mastery over their lives. In essence, it turns them from a victim into a survivor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish specialized support centers such as Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers (GBVRCs), for survivors of SGBV or expand the scope of existing centers such as existing shelter homes to provide a comprehensive response tailored to the needs of survivors. • Identifying medical practitioners and councilors, by the Health Department, who are qualified and can provide these types of services in all districts. In particular, those providing pro bono services must be identified. • Providing the lists of identified medical practitioners and councilors, by the Health Department, to court, as well as all departments that provide legal aid, policstations, medico-legal departments and civil society.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing funds allocated to the Government to provide medical aid to victims/survivors of SGBV. • Create certified specialized courses for psychologists and psychiatrists on trauma informed counseling to build a cadre to cater to this need. • Launching media campaigns, by Health Department and SCSW, to combat the stigma of mental health issues in order to promote better mental health, particularly of those who have experienced such trauma.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
14.2	<p>Development of a long-term protection plan for victims/survivors not residing in Dar-ul-Amans and other shelter homes.</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 6.1.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare Department • Women Development Department • Human Rights Department <p>Support will be needed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department <p>Other government departments where necessary</p>	<p>Protection of complainant and witnesses is a major concern in such cases where they are known. There must be mechanisms for their protection which go beyond just sending them to Dar-ul-Aman's or other shelter homes for an immediate time period during crisis, particularly as cases often take years to be resolved.</p> <p>The victim/survivor has to move out of the shelter homes and continue with her life with potential continued threat. Thus, the government with the support of experts must be available and ready to develop individualised plans to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing individualised plans for victims/survivors of rape and SV, by Women Development Department, Social Welfare Department, and Human Rights Department in coordination with other relevant Departments and institutions, to ensure long term protection and safety of the victims/survivors. • Developing a policy and notifying rules, by the Law Department, Home Department and Social Welfare Department, for providing support beyond legal and medical aid to the victim/complainant which may include re-allocation and

			ensure their continued long-term protection and support.	re-allocation and economic empowerment of the complainant/victim.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
14.3	<p>Development of a long-term rehabilitation and reintegration plan for victims/survivors/complainants who have fled from environments (including family) which have perpetuated the sexual abuse and violence.</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 6.1.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Welfare Department • Women Development Department • Human Rights Department <p>Support will be needed from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Department • Law Department <p>Other government departments where necessary</p>	<p>This kind of plan is different from a protection plan as that requires actual protection.</p> <p>A rehabilitation and reintegration plan require a plan of action to support the survival of the victim/survivor away from her family and normative support systems.</p> <p>This may include housing, employment, support funds etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessing different financial funds such as Zakat, Bait-ul-Maal and Women in Distress and Detention funds, by WDD and Social Welfare Department, to provide support to the victim/survivor. • Providing access to low cost housing and employment in addition to start up funds, by the WDD and Social Welfare Department, in order for victim/survivor to be able to create a life on her own as a form of rehabilitation. • Removal of economic dependency and despondency will assist her in the long term.
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
14.4	Formation of support groups and other resources for survivors/victims self-healing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department 	<p>Support groups and the like have been known to support to healing process of the victim/survivor.</p> <p>It is essential for the victim/survivor to have knowledge and access to such groups to be able get the support and treatment needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming support groups, by the WDD and Social Welfare Department, by of victims/survivors who have accessed government services for self-healing. WDD and Social Welfare Department can facilitate their meetings and collaborations.

15. Continued financial, legal and medical support

Providing financial, legal, and medical support to SGBV survivors long after the case is crucial for their recovery and empowerment. Financial aid helps them rebuild their lives, legal support ensures their rights are protected, and medical care, including mental health services, addresses physical and psychological trauma. These services enable survivors to heal and regain independence.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
15.1	Provision of Financial Support or Facilitation to the survivor and/or the primary earning member of the family. (Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 6.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Human Rights Department • Bait ul Maal Department etc. 	<p>One of the biggest issues survivors/victims and their families face is loss of earning and loss of security system in their community if the accused belongs to the same community. They need to have some funding to support the family.</p> <p>This makes them frustrated and vulnerable to compromising the case on the basis of financial compromise. This financial support provided, however, must not be limited to a certain use e.g. the financial support can only be used for making eggs etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and accessing existing Government pools of funds, by WDD and Social Welfare Department, to use these funds to help victims/survivors of rape and SV. • Facilitating victims/survivors to access the Government pools of funds, by WDD and Social Welfare Department, to provide economic and financial support. • Linking survivors and their families to micro-financing and other cash transfer schemes and poverty alleviation projects/programmes.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
15.2	Continued medical treatment	• Health Department	<p>Long-term medical follow-up for survivors of SGBV is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, SGBV often results in physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and reproductive health complications that may require ongoing monitoring and treatment. Regular medical check-ups can help detect and address these issues promptly, preventing further health complications and promoting healing.</p> <p>Secondly, SGBV survivors may experience long-term psychological and emotional effects, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. Medical follow-up appointments provide an opportunity for healthcare professionals to assess survivors' mental health status, offer counseling or therapy services, and connect them with appropriate mental health resources for ongoing support and treatment.</p> <p>Furthermore, medical follow-up appointments serve as a means of providing survivors with ongoing care, support, and validation of their experiences. By maintaining regular</p>	• Ensure survivors have access to regular free medical check-ups and follow-up care to address any physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), reproductive health issues or pregnancy resulting from the violence.

			contact with healthcare providers, survivors can feel reassured that their health needs are being prioritized and that they have access to professional support and guidance throughout their healing journey.	
No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
15.3	Continued Legal Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Aid Authority • Human Rights Department • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department 	<p>Continued legal support for survivors of SGBV is essential for several reasons. Firstly, navigating the legal system can be daunting and complex, especially for survivors who may already feel vulnerable and overwhelmed. Ongoing legal assistance provides survivors with the guidance, advocacy, and representation they need to navigate legal proceedings, file complaints, and seek justice against perpetrators.</p> <p>Additionally, legal support helps survivors understand their rights, access available legal remedies, and address any challenges or barriers they may encounter throughout the legal process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide continued legal assistance and advocacy to survivors throughout the legal process, including filing complaints, attending court hearings, and seeking justice for the perpetrators. This may involve offering ongoing legal advice, representation, and support navigating the legal system.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
15.4	<p>Low or No Cost Housing for Victims/Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 6.3.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Development Department • Social Welfare Department • Law Department • Home Department; • Local Government 	<p>Upon reporting a case of rape and SV, a victim/survivor often finds it difficult to return to home to the same conditions experienced previously, including violence and threats of violence to the family. Difficulty in obtaining and maintaining employment is also an issue, particularly due to the mandatory attendance during a long-protracted trial. Often shelter becomes the primary concern.</p> <p>It is essential to provide the victim/survivor with financial support, but it is also essential for them to have a safe home to reside in during this time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocating funds for survivors/victims, by WDD and Social Welfare, to provide support and services which go beyond the immediate medical and legal aid. • Identifying potential property for low-cost housing, by Social Welfare Department, to establish low-cost housing for victims/survivors of rape and SV who cannot return home. Also providing a set amount of finances to the victim/survivor to cover costs of rent and other associated costs based on a pre-decided criterion. • Analysing the potential establishment of mid-way houses, by the Social Welfare Department, to provide a minimum of one year stay for victims/survivors until reintegration into society.

16. Rehabilitation of Perpetrators

Ensuring perpetrators are given psychological support and are rehabilitated after serving their sentence to avoid repeat offenders.

No	Intervention	Responsible Agencies	Relevance of Intervention	Proposed Action
16.1	<p>Formulation of a Rehabilitation Plan for perpetrators for a long-term strategy.</p> <p>(Continued from SVRF 2020-2024 at 6.4.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison Department • Home Department • Law Department • Social Welfare Department 	<p>There is little focus on the rehabilitation of offenders and prisoners. There must be an increased focus to ensure that the high prison sentences result in reformed offenders when they re-enter society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating the objectives, principles and processes of Prisons, by the Prisons Department, shifting the focus from retribution to rehabilitation. • Providing therapy and psycho-social support to sex offenders, by the Prisons Department and Social Welfare Department, to initiate processes of rehabilitation of perpetrators.

Annexure

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE I

Sexual Violence Response Framework 2020 – 2024

Status of Compliance

4. Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence

Interventions that take place prior to any incident of SV occurring and focuses on preventing any such incident from occurring.

4.1. Integration of Prevention Mechanisms in Education

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.1.1	Introduction of Life Skills-based Curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools across Sindh	In-Progress.
4.1.2	Initiate 'Whole-of-school' interventions to promote gender equality, respectful relationships, safe and discrimination-free school environment.	To be officially initiated
4.1.3.	Community outreach programs with parents and families of school-going children and adolescents.	To be officially initiated
4.1.4.	Strengthening transport to and from educational institutions to promote safety.	Pink Bus Service has been launched in Karachi, Sindh. This may be expanded across Sindh.
4.1.5.	Improvements in school infrastructure for increased safety and gender friendly environment.	In progress

4.2. Working with Out of School Children and Adolescents

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.2.1.	Child and Adolescent Health Services.	Health services outreach has been expanded, but SGBV has not yet been fully integrated or prioritised.
4.2.2.	Initiation of programmes with street children and out of school children.	Private/civil society organisations have been running programmes with some coordination with the Government. These are in the process of being expanded.

4.3. Criminal Justice Sector Playing a Role in Prevention

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.3.1	Cases successfully investigated and prosecuted to be regularly publicised	In Progress. Conviction rates from the Criminal Prosecution Department being shared with the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee regularly. Information Department to share with the public.
4.3.2	Introduction of gender and SV into community policing	In Progress. Community Policing is being taught to the police. Sindh police has piloted different trainings and is in the process of developing modules on SGBV for integration into this curriculum.
4.3.3	Training of judiciary on gender sensitive and appropriate language in judgment writing	Sindh Judicial Academy has been holding ad hoc trainings on this topic. However, it has yet to be made part of the regular curriculum.

4.4. Media and Prevention

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.4.1	Development of media strategy for both news and entertainment media as forms of prevention of VAW, particularly SV.	To be officially initiated
4.4.2	Development and initiation of a social media campaign on promoting gender equality, neutrality and challenging patriarchal norms and perpetuation of VAW/SGBV.	Ad hoc social media campaigns have been run, but not in the shape of a strategy or planned intervention.

4.5. Economic Empowerment of Women

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.5.1	Integrate concepts of gender and VAW/SGBV into all existing and planned economic packages and livelihood projects for women across Sindh.	To be officially initiated
4.5.2	Creation of skills training and job opportunities for women, girls, transgender and other vulnerable groups based on demands of these groups.	Women Development Department Sindh is carrying out a mapping to identify potential entries in the market place, which will inform the training courses and opportunities.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.5.3	Creation of Day Cares for children at all provincial and district levels.	Women Development Department is in the process of mapping potential sites and areas of priority.
4.5.4	Opening of Working Women Hostels including suites for working mothers and Working Transgender Hostels.	Women Development Department is in the process of mapping potential sites and areas of priority.

4.6. Community Engagement

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.6.1	Community engagement at all levels with men and women separately and together addressing and challenging gender roles and responsibilities.	This has not been prioritised as a government strategy. However, the Government has collaborated with private sector/civil society organisations to conduct community work on the issue.
4.6.2	Strengthening women's participation and voice in decision making at all levels of governance. VAW/SGBV.	The Government has ensured women's participation in various committees on an ad hoc basis. However, this is inconsistent and not a priority.

4.7. Engaging Men and Boys

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.7.1	Bystander interventions may be designed to help support on-ground preventative programmes.	To be officially initiated
4.7.2	Creating an alliance or 'social movement' of men or male organizations working on gender issues including sensitisation, advocacy for change and creating a demand for responsive state institutions.	To be officially initiated

4.8. Advocacy and Lobbying for Legal and Policy Change

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.8.1	Working in collaboration with advocacy and lobbying groups campaigning for policy or legislative change.	Government of Sindh and Sindh Police representatives are members of the Anti-Rape Committee under the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021 and have been successful in contributing to large scale policy or legislative change.

4.9. Profiling of Victims/Survivors

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
4.9.1	A profiling of victims/survivors of rape and SV over the last 5 years must be conducted.	In Process in 2024.

5. Secondary Response of Sexual Violence

Immediate responses after the incident has occurred; dealing with the short-term consequences of violence.

5.1. Specialized Coordinated Cadre within Criminal Justice System

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.1.1	A Special Cadre of specially trained police officers, prosecutors, medicolegal officers and judges in every district to be notified to have exclusive jurisdiction on sexual violence cases.	In-Progress. Specialized cadre of investigation officers, prosecutors, and judges have been notified.
5.1.2	Amendment in law and rules e.g. Sindh High Court Rules for facilitation of specialised cadre and creation of mechanisms and processes for cases of rape and sexual violence.	Completed. The amendment in the procedure and specialized cadre of investigation officers, prosecutors, and judges have been notified as part of the Anti-Rape (Investigation & Trial) Act 2021.
5.1.3	Specialized, combined and comprehensive training of Special Cadre within key institutions including police, prosecution, medicolegal department, judiciary and judicial staff on the new laws, precedents and processes.	In-Progress. Training sessions have become regular.
5.1.4	Setting tenures of minimum 3 years for Investigating Officers in one police station.	Completed. Setting 3 year tenures for investigation officers have become regular.
5.1.5		

5.2. Working with Out of School Children and Adolescents

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.2.1	Curriculum of all relevant state actors must include sections on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and	In-Progress. Specialized cadre of investigation officers, prosecutors, and judges have been notified.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
	and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly with reference to sensitisation, new laws, procedures and processes.	
5.2.2	Curriculum of all administrative bodies including entry and advancements trainings and certifications must include sections on Violence Against Women (VAW), particularly with reference to sensitisation, new laws, procedures and processes.	Completed. A training curriculum on gender mainstreaming in policy and project design has been institutionalized with the National School of Public Policy.
5.2.3	First responders and state actors who come into contact with the victims/survivors, their families and their cases must be trained on satisfactory and sensitive response and handling to ensure a victim-centric approach.	In-Progress. Training sessions have become regular.
5.2.4	Establishment of a mechanism of coordination and collaboration between all actors of the response and protection sector of the justice system.	In-Progress. Coordination mechanisms in shape of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells inside tertiary hospitals and One Stop Protection Centers within Women Police Stations are being established across Sindh.
5.2.4	Establishment of a mechanism of coordination and collaboration between all actors of the response and protection sector of the justice system.	In-Progress. Coordination mechanisms in shape of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells inside tertiary hospitals and One Stop Protection Centers within Women Police Stations are being established across Sindh.
5.2.4	Establishment of a mechanism of coordination and collaboration between all actors of the response and protection sector of the justice system.	In-Progress. Coordination mechanisms in shape of Anti-Rape Crisis Cells inside tertiary hospitals and One Stop Protection Centers within Women Police Stations are being established across Sindh.

5.3. Provision of Legal Aid

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.3.1	Provision of free legal advice and aid.	In-Progress. Human Rights Department has been running a program to provide free legal aid to vulnerable populations in Sindh. Private free legal aid through various NGOs is also ongoing.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.3.2	Establishing a list of institutions and organisations that provide legal advice and aid, within Police Stations and other criminal justice actors, to provide to any complainants.	In-Progress. Ad-hoc referral directories exist, however, a standardized government owned referral directory is missing.
5.3.3	Ensure legally informed justice sector institutions through updated curriculum and training of key justice sector institutions.	In-Progress. A training curriculum for investigation officers, prosecutors, and judges have been developed in partnership with NGOs.

5.4. Legal Awareness and Empowerment

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.4.1	Legal awareness media campaigns for the public in rural and urban settings, giving relevant information about laws and processes.	In-Progress. Ad-hoc media campaigns exist, however, a government owned media campaign is missing.
5.4.2	Legal capacity building sessions with key justice sector institutions regarding criminal liability of public servants and others in investigating, evidence handling, reporting etc in cases of rape and SV.	To be officially initiated
5.4.3	Development and implementation of a community engagement strategy by Government functionaries starting from the grass-root level.	To be officially initiated

5.5. Processes and Procedures as Per Law

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.5.1	The Sindh High Court Rules must be amended to reflect the mandatory procedures and mechanisms under the Anti Rape [Investigation & Trial] Act 2021 and Criminal Law [Amendment] Act 2021.	To be officially initiated
5.5.2	Operationalising the Criminal Law [Amendment] Act 2021.	In-Progress. New definition of rape is being taught to criminal justice system actors through regular training sessions.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.5.3	Identifying and rectifying bottlenecks during trial to combat delays in meeting the time frame of 3 months under the 2016 Amendment.	Completed for 2020. Gap analysis by the Legal Aid Society on investigation and prosecution of rape and sodomy cases showed a timeline of 16.8 months for a case to reach a verdict.
5.5.4	Establishment of mechanisms to ensure anonymity of the complainant/victim to fulfil requirement of Section 376A PPC.	In-Progress. Criminal justice system actors are being trained to ensure victim's anonymity.
5.5.5	Development of a case management system to be able to deal with the legally mandated anonymity of the survivor through every step of the trial.	To be officially initiated.
5.5.6	Identification and notification of safe places within the jurisdiction of the Sindh High Court where complainants/victims/survivors of rape and other forms of SV can record their statements as per Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898.	To be officially initiated.
5.5.7	Notification and SOPs on holding trials of rape and other forms of SV in camera as per Section 352A Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences Relating to Rape) Act 2016.	In-Progress. The Anti-Rape Act 2021 mandates Special Courts to conduct in-camera trials.
5.5.8	Arrangements of technical equipment must be made to allow for trial to be conducted via video-link.	In-Progress. A few courts have technical equipment while others need to be resourced.

5.6. Medical Examination in Cases of Rape and Sexual Violence

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.6.1	Practical applicability of the Criminal Law [Amendment] Act 2021 for registered medical practitioners employed in a hospital run by the Government or local authority to conduct medical examination of accused persons under Section 53A and 164A of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898.	Sindh Medico-Legal Act 2023 and Sindh Injured Persons Compulsory Medical Treatment (Amel Umer) Act 2019 have been enacted which cover the requirements of this.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.6.2	Protocol or SOP for medicolegal, prosecution and police for the collection of DNA and forensic evidence in cases of rape or SV as per the Code of Criminal Procedure (Sindh Amendment) Act 2017.	Completed. Sindh High Court notified DNA SOPs in Kinaat Soomro & Others vs. Province of Sindh on 4th June 2021.
5.6.3	Establishment and operationalisation of Medicolegal centres in all districts of Sindh with both human and technical resources.	The Sindh Medico-Legal Act 2023 has been passed which has created an entire structure for the Department. The technical working group on medicolegal reforms under the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee is proposing recommendations to reform the medicolegal department through the drafting of the Rules for this purpose. The Health Department has notified relevant persons for vacant posts and is in process of ensuring their timely joining.
5.6.4	Appointment and posting of doctors and paramedical staff on a priority basis at medicolegal (ML) centres, especially women staff.	In-Progress. Positions including cadre of forensic nurses have been approved by the Health Department as part of the recommendations from the technical working group in 2023.
5.6.5		
5.6.6	Incentives regarding working as MLOs or WMLOs to promote it as a career choice for medical professionals.	In-Progress. Incentivization is being part of the Rules for Sindh Medicolegal Act 2023.
5.6.7	Appointment and posting of Medicolegal assistants / Mortuary assistants at all Medicolegal Centres on a priority basis.	In-Progress. Additional positions have been introduced as part of the Sindh Medicolegal Act 2023.
5.6.8	Capacity building of Medicolegal Officers (MLOs) and Women Medicolegal Officers (WMLOs) on a priority basis.	In-Progress. Training sessions have become frequent with various partners.
5.6.9	Introduction of uniform protocols in the entire province for all types of medico-legal cases.	In-Progress. Uniform protocols are being introduced as guidelines under the Sindh Medicolegal Act 2023.
	Provision of free post-exposure preventative medical treatment for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and emergency contraception.	In Progress. The Guidelines for Anti-Rape Crisis Cells have been finalised which include the provision of such care are in the process of being notified by the Health Department. The Rules for the Sindh Medicolegal Act 2023 are in the process of being finalised which will include this.

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.6.10	Nurses in hospitals and other health units and Lady Health Workers may be trained to recognise, respond and report cases of rape and SV.	In Progress. These trainings are being conducted by the Health Department and Universities on an ad hoc basis.
5.6.11	Set timings for MLOs/WMLs in courts for giving their testimony.	In-Progress. Standard timings for MLOs/WMLs in courts are being worked on as part of the rules under the Sindh Medicolegal Act 2023.
5.6.12	Space to be provided for MLOs/WMLs and prosecution in courtroom.	To be officially initiated

5.7. Enhancing Capacity and Powers of Public Prosecutors

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.7.1	Establishment of a Public Prosecutors Training Academy.	In-Progress. A space for training public prosecutors is being designated inside the Sindh Judicial Academy.
5.7.2	Establishment of a room or chambers for Public Prosecutors in all courtrooms.	To be officially initiated
5.7.3	Prosecution offices in all districts to be made operational.	To be officially initiated
5.7.4	Public Prosecutor Case Management System to be developed.	To be officially initiated
5.7.5	Collection, collation, analysis and publication of annual data on cases of the Public Prosecution Department.	In-Progress. Public Prosecution Department has reported an increase in conviction rates in cases of sexual violence for the past 2 years through data collection and analysis.
5.7.6	Law and rules for Prosecution Service must be revised.	In Progress. The Office of the Prosecutor General is currently revising its own law for recommendations for law reform.
5.7.7	Improved Monitoring and Evaluation system of the Public Prosecution Services.	In-Progress. A performance management framework has been tested with the Public Prosecution Services in 2022.

5.8. Victim/ Survivor Support

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.8.1	Individualized focus on victims/survivors must be placed to ensure emotional and psychological support.	To be officially initiated.
5.8.2	All bodies and institutions with grass-roots level support and protection services must be made functional and publicised e.g. Child Protection Units, Domestic Violence Protection Committees and Domestic Violence Protection Officers, local government bodies etc.	In-Progress. Child Protection Units are operational while the recommendations to operationalize Domestic Violence Protection Committees are part of "A Roadmap for Addressing Domestic Violence through Implementation of the Domestic Violence (Protection & Prevention) Act 2013 and Rules 2016 by Sindh Human Rights Commission.

5.9. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.9.1	Monitoring mechanisms must be set up to ensure Supreme Court and High Court orders are implemented.	To be officially initiated.
5.9.2	Monitoring of implementation of new criminal justice procedures from a qualitative and quantitative mechanism relating to rape and SV.	To be officially initiated.

5.10. Data Collection and Analysis

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.10.1	Data on VAW, particularly rape and SV must be identified from various sources including the police, prosecution, judiciary, hospitals and medico-legal centres, shelter homes and crisis centres, consolidated and analysed on a regular basis to identify patterns of violence being inflicted upon women and girls.	In-Progress. A technical working group on standardization of data for gender-based violence has been notified under the multi-sectoral coordination committee along with a technical working group to develop a gender parity report.
5.10.2	Regular qualitative and quantitative research to elaborate and diagnose specific gaps and bottleneck within the system.	In-Progress. Performance management frameworks have been developed and tested by technical working groups under the multi-sectoral coordination committee in 2022.

5.11. Amending Definition of “Rape”

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
5.11.1	Proposal to the Federal Government to amend the definition of rape given in section 375 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.	Completed. The definition of rape was amended through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2021.

5.11. Amending Definition of “Rape”

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5.11.1	Proposal to the Federal Government to amend the definition of rape given in section 375 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860.	Completed. The definition of rape was amended through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2021.

6. Tertiary Rehabilitation of Sexual Violence

Long-term rehabilitation after sexual violence; dealing with the lasting consequences

6.1. Support to Victim/Survivor

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
6.1.1	Ensuring provision of counselling or therapy (individual or group depending on the need) for victims/survivors.	In-Progress. Private entities provide counselling and therapy, however, psychologists under the Sindh Mental Health Authority need to be linked with the Criminal Justice System.
6.1.2	Development of a long-term protection plan for victims/survivors not residing in Dar-ul-Amans and other shelter homes.	In-Progress. Women Development Department and Rozan had curated a rehabilitation policy in 2022 which needs to be implemented.
6.1.3	Development of a long-term rehabilitation and reintegration plan for victims/survivors/complainants who have fled from environments (including family) which have perpetuated the sexual abuse and violence.	To be officially initiated.
6.1.4	Formation of support groups and other resources for survivors/victims self-healing.	

6.2. Intervention at Early Stages

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
6.2.1	Identification of early signs of VAW and SV in order to attempt to prevent VAW and SV from happening in the first place for example intervention in cases of domestic violence or harassment etc.	Completed. The definition of rape was amended through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2021.

6.3. Continued Financial, Legal and Medical Support

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
6.3.1	Economic/financial support must be given to the victim/survivor and the primary earning member of the family.	In Progress. There are various avenues for provision of such aid including through the District Legal Empowerment Committees, the Women Development Department and the Human Rights Department. However it is currently unstructured and limited.
6.3.2.	Low or No Cost Housing for Victims/Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence.	To be officially initiated.

6.4. Rehabilitation of Perpetrators

No	Intervention	Status of compliance
6.4.1	Formulation of a Rehabilitation Plan for a long-term strategy.	To be officially initiated

Acknowledgment

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Message from the Minister for Women Development Department, *Government of Sindh*

The Women Development Department, Government of Sindh, remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing women's rights, including their social and economic development, and safeguarding them from all forms of violence, particularly sexual violence, and rape. These critical issues demand coordinated, multi-sectoral action, and our department is resolute in leading these efforts.



Building on the progress achieved through the Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) 2020-2024, we are now introducing an enhanced SVRF for 2025-2029. This updated framework will continue to guide the Government's proactive, victim-centered response to sexual violence, focusing on prevention, intervention, and comprehensive rehabilitation, informed by recent legal reforms, including the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act 2021, the SVRF 2025-2029 aligns our approach with expanded legal definitions and strengthened evidentiary standards, including DNA evidence prioritization.

Our valued partnership with the Legal Aid Society, under the esteemed leadership of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, Barrister Haya Emaan Zahid, and Advocate Maliha Zia Lari, has been instrumental in developing this framework. Together, we remain committed to reducing incidents of sexual violence in Sindh and ensuring that survivors receive the support and justice they deserve.

Ms. Shaheena Sher Ali
*Minister for Women Development Department,
Government of Sindh*

Message from Special Secretary, Home Department, *Government of Sindh*

The Government of Sindh is dedicated to creating a safer, more just society. Recognizing the importance of cohesive and comprehensive actions, the Home Department has taken key steps to enforce laws related to sexual violence, associated rules and implement pivotal judicial rulings, and judgments in this pressing issue. In partnership with relevant government departments and key stakeholders, we have worked to build an interconnected network, empowering institutions and fostering a united approach to support survivors of sexual violence and ensure their rehabilitation.



The Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) 2020-2024 laid the foundation by enhancing institutional capacities and fostering inter-departmental collaboration. Initiatives under this framework included extensive training for medico-legal officers, legal professionals, and police. These efforts underscored the value of a structured, united response framework.

The SVRF 2025-2029 builds on these accomplishments, marking a progressive step forward. This next phase charts a comprehensive pathway for the future, enabling departments to strengthen prevention, improve response capabilities, and foster a culture of safety, and respect across Sindh.

The implementation of the SVRF was given to the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee (MSCC) notified in 2021 and its Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with a purpose to strengthen GBV coordination mechanisms in Sindh.

With this framework, we remain committed to a robust, comprehensive, and resilient quality of state response to sexual violence, ensuring a supportive environment where vulnerable groups feel safe and dignified. The Home Department stands proactive to play its crucial role in this ongoing journey toward a safer and dignified society for all.

Mr. Saeed Ahmed Shaikh
Special Secretary, Home Department,
Government of Sindh

Message from Minister for Home, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Criminal Prosecution Department, Government of Sindh

The Government of Sindh remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing the critical issue of sexual violence, and we are resolutely focused on ensuring that survivors receive justice. The enactment of key legislative measures, including the Sindh Medicolegal Act, 2023, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021, and the Anti-Rape (Investigation & Trial) Act, 2021, together with their associated rules, has established a



comprehensive legal framework designed to better respond to sexual violence cases. These laws, which incorporate key provisions such as mandatory DNA testing, are central to improving the efficacy of investigations, enhancing the judicial process, and securing the rights of victims in Sindh.

The Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) 2020 has laid the foundation for a comprehensive, survivor-centric approach that integrates the legal, medical, and social services necessary to respond effectively to sexual violence cases. As we look ahead to 2024 and beyond, the continued development and implementation of the SVRF will play a pivotal role in advancing our efforts. The framework will evolve through strategic actions, including expanding awareness, refining protocols, improving inter-agency collaboration, and enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders involved in combating sexual violence. From 2025 through 2029, we will work diligently to strengthen and scale up these efforts, ensuring that the response to sexual violence remains robust, timely, and effective.

The Law Department, Government of Sindh is dedicated to playing its role in combating sexual violence and will continue to extend unwavering support to all relevant departments to effectively identify, prevent, and responding this critical issue.

Mr. Zia ul Hassan Lanjar
Minister for Home, Law, Parliamentary
Affairs, and Criminal Prosecution,
Government of Sindh

Message from the Secretary Women Development Department, *Government of Sindh*

I am pleased to underscore our commitment to combating and preventing gender-based violence (GBV) in Sindh. Since our re-establishment in 2003, WDD has focused on advancing protections for children, women, girls, and transgender individuals against physical, sexual, and psychological violence. Aligned with international frameworks and best practices, WDD has collaborated with the Legal Aid

Society to strengthen a comprehensive Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) 2020.



The importance of need of adoption of SVRF 2020 and its further development and advancement for 2024-2029 is a crucial step forward, reinforcing WDD's role in creating a sustainable, coordinated approach to protect vulnerable populations across Sindh. This framework provides a structured, long-term strategy for implementing and enhancing legal safeguards, social services, and rehabilitation while fostering collaboration among key stakeholders. WDD remains dedicated to this cause, ensuring that our response to sexual violence remains robust, adaptive, and deeply rooted in the principles of dignity, safety, and equity.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all relevant government departments and the Legal Aid Society, whose invaluable contributions have been instrumental in shaping this roadmap. Their unwavering commitment to justice, advocacy, and systemic reform has profoundly enriched the development of the SVRF, empowering WDD and its partners to foster a safer, more inclusive Sindh.

Mr. Rashid Ahmed Zardari
Secretary, Women Development Department Sindh,
Government of Sindh

Message from Secretary Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Criminal Prosecution Department, *Government of Sindh*

The Government of Sindh recognized the need for a comprehensive and cohesive approach to combat sexual violence and introduced the Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) in 2020. This framework established protocols and structured collaboration across departments, enhancing accountability and ensuring a victim-centred response. By doing so, it facilitated crucial institutional reforms, enabling effective coordination among law enforcement, legal services, and rehabilitation providers.



Building on this success, the revised SVRF (2025-2029) reflects the evolving landscape of gender-based violence and incorporates critical legislative advancements. It broadens the framework's scope, addressing emerging challenges while reinforcing a survivor-centred approach. The updated SVRF strategically aligns with key legislation, including the [Code of Criminal Procedure, (Sindh Amendment Act, 2017)] with a purpose to provide speedy justice to the survivors of sexual violence incidents.

The Law Department remains firmly committed to implementing this agenda, in partnership with key stakeholders and civil society, to ensure comprehensive support and swift justice for all survivors in Sindh.

I especially thank and commend the relevant departments of Government of Sindh, the Legal Aid Society, and UNFPA for their dedication to advancing the SVRF and fostering a coordinated, survivor-centred response to gender-based violence in Sindh. Their strategic efforts have strengthened institutional frameworks and ensured a more effective justice system.

Mr. Ali Ahmed Baloch

*Secretary Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and
Criminal Prosecution Department,
Government of Sindh*

Message from the Chief Country Director, *Pathfinder International*

Confronting sexual violence in Pakistan requires addressing deeply rooted societal stigmas, institutional barriers, and fragmented response systems. Pathfinder International, in partnership with the Government of Sindh, the Legal Aid Society, and UNFPA, remains steadfast in its mission to empower survivors and build accountable systems. The updated Sexual Violence Response Framework (SVRF) represents a transformative roadmap, reflecting lessons learned and our collective commitment to tackling these challenges.

The revised SVRF is more than an update; it is a bold response to longstanding gaps in prevention, response, and rehabilitation. Survivors face immense hurdles, including social ostracization, limited trauma-informed care, and weak interagency coordination. These challenges demand a shift toward building systemic resilience and fostering long-term change.

The SVRF 2025-2029 embraces survivor-centric and trauma-informed approaches while addressing harmful societal norms that perpetuate sexual violence. It emphasizes multi-sectoral coordination through the visionary leadership of the Multi-Sectoral Coordination Committee (MSCC) and its Technical Working Groups, which have been pivotal in strengthening accountability and collaboration.

Pathfinder International has worked tirelessly to amplify marginalized voices, ensure survivors receive holistic care, and build institutional capacity for compassionate and effective responses. This progress would not have been possible without the Legal Aid Society's partnership with us to ensure justice and dignity for survivors.

Moving forward, we must demonstrate courage to challenge harmful systems, collaboration to build unified responses, and compassion to honor survivors' dignity. While the journey ahead is demanding, together, we can break barriers, foster hope, and create a society where justice is a fundamental right for all.



Madiha Latif
Country Director
Pathfinder International