

Putting safe futures within reach

Impact report

September 2023 – August 2026



Safe Futures Hub

Solutions to end childhood sexual violence

Contents

3 **A reflection from our Leadership Group**

5 **Our impact by the numbers**

6 **The Safe Futures Hub's reach and influence**

7 **Redefining knowledge: Bringing together different forms of expertise**

- Spotlight: Strengthening how East Africa learns from programme practices
 - Connecting the knowledge gained from practice, research and lived experience
-

10 **Building knowledge: Generating a stronger base of research and insights**

- A stronger knowledge base reflects the people and contexts it serves
-

13 **Mobilising knowledge: Putting solutions within reach**

- Spotlight: Applying evidence in East Africa with easy-to-access insights
- From insights to action across the field



A reflection from our Leadership Group

When we launched the Safe Futures Hub in 2023, our organisations shared a conviction that ending childhood sexual violence requires more than individual projects, publications and programmes. It requires a collaborative field equipped to find, share and use what we know, while generating the knowledge we need to move forward.

Too much valuable knowledge was fragmented or overlooked. Research could be difficult to access, insights were often siloed across sectors, and the deep expertise of frontline practitioners was rarely recognised as knowledge in its own right.

The Safe Futures Hub was created to help change that. Bringing together three organisations with distinct expertise and broad networks, it connects knowledge, people and practice across sectors. It is a field-building effort designed to strengthen collaboration, make knowledge more accessible and useful, and support the many actors working towards a shared goal: a safer future for all children.

Over the past three years, we have worked with hundreds of organisations and individuals, building something greater than any one organisation could achieve alone.

From the outset, the Safe Futures Hub was grounded in a simple principle: valuable knowledge is generated in many places. Formal research matters, as does the knowledge and experience of practitioners, advocates and those working directly with children and communities. Our field-first Practice-based Knowledge Guidance Framework has given frontline organisations practical tools to recognise, document and share what they learn through their work. This helps bring greater recognition to those working on the frontlines and ensures their insights enrich the field's collective efforts to end childhood sexual violence.

We also worked with researchers and organisations to strengthen the evidence base. [Our Building Safe Futures](#) evidence review brought together 72 studies from low- and middle-income countries into a single resource, making evidence from historically underrepresented settings more visible and accessible.

Among the 56 partners from 30 countries that we surveyed, 87.5% said the Safe Futures Hub had influenced their work and thinking, with our resources being used to inform programmes, research, training, advocacy and policy. We believe this is one of the clearest signs of our impact: knowledge is moving beyond the resources themselves and into decisions and action.

The report that follows shares some of these stories. It shows practitioners recognising their own experience as expertise; organisations identifying new sources of evidence; researchers asking new questions; and advocates using evidence to make stronger cases for change.

Our work has also revealed that gaps still remain. Children with disabilities, LGBTQ+ children and other groups remain underrepresented in the knowledge base. Emerging threats, such as tech-facilitated violence, are growing more quickly than prevention measures to counter them. Advocates need more up-to-date evidence to call for policy change at country and regional levels.

The Safe Futures Hub shows what can be made possible with a shared knowledge infrastructure for the field. But the promise of knowledge is only realised when people use it to inform decisions, strengthen practice and shape action. Our hope is that the connections, resources and ways of working fostered by the Safe Futures Hub will continue to move knowledge into practice, policy, research and investment to end childhood sexual violence, creating a safer future for every child.

Onward,

Safe Futures Hub Leadership Group



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Safe Futures Hub is a joint field-building initiative between the SVRI, Together for Girls, and WeProtect Global Alliance.



Our impact by the numbers

Powered by the three co-leading organisations, the Safe Futures Hub draws on the extensive and complementary reach of its partners: SVRI's network of **13,000+ researchers, practitioners, funders, policymakers** and other stakeholders; WeProtect Global Alliance's network of **350+ organisations** across **104 member states**; and Together for Girls' survivor-led movement in **80+ countries**.

Together, these connections underpin the Safe Futures Hub's ability to bring together diverse forms of expertise, strengthen and broaden the evidence base and translate knowledge into practical solutions to end childhood sexual violence. In doing so, this field-building effort is strengthening our sector as a whole.

We worked with the field to build-out missing and uneven evidence.

60+ SOLUTIONS

were identified as effective or prudent approaches to prevent childhood sexual violence.

30+ CASE STUDIES

were published showcasing **evidence and practice**, with **2,100+ views**.

23 ENDORSEMENTS

were secured from leading organisations for our low- and middle-income country evidence review.

We redefined how different forms of knowledge derived from research, practice and lived experience work together.



350+ PEOPLE

accessed the field's first Practice-based Knowledge Guidance Framework in its first **6 months** after its launch.



150+ GLOBAL CO-CREATORS

shaped Safe Futures Hub reports and resources, from frontline practitioners to policy consultants.



10+ CONVENINGS

connected practitioners and researchers to share learning from practice, exchange ideas and build collective knowledge.

We mobilised the use of existing knowledge, making it easier to find and use solutions.

87.5%

of partner organisations surveyed say the Safe Futures Hub has **INFLUENCED THEIR APPROACH**.



5000+ VIEWERS

of Safe Futures Hub solutions and resources.



800+ PARTICIPANTS

in webinars across major resource launches and learning series.



The Safe Futures Hub's reach and influence

Connecting knowledge, experience and expertise across borders



Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Benin
Cameroon
Chile
Democratic Republic
of the Congo (DRC)
Ecuador
Ethiopia

France
Guatemala
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Jamaica
Kenya
Malawi
Mali
Mexico
Nigeria

Pakistan
Palestine
Peru
Philippines
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sudan

Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Tanzania
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Source: Safe Futures Hub July 2026 impact survey and Practice-based Knowledge Guidance Framework contributor records.

Redefining knowledge

Bringing together different forms of expertise

Every day, people generate valuable knowledge about what does and does not work to end childhood sexual violence in their specific settings. They see where children disengage, where referral systems fail, which assumptions do not hold, and what makes a programme safer. Yet this practice-based knowledge is not always documented, shared or given the visibility it deserves. Too often, insights remain in meeting notes, internal reports or in the minds of those who generated them. The Safe Futures Hub is helping to change this.

We launched the [Practice-based Knowledge Guidance Framework](#) (Framework) to help recognise, capture and use the valuable knowledge generated through practice, creating more opportunities for those on the frontline to shape and strengthen the evidence base on what works to end childhood sexual violence.

Valuable knowledge is generated in many places, but not everyone has the same opportunities to shape how that knowledge is broadly understood and applied. Practitioners generate important insights through the risks they navigate, the decisions they make, and how they adapt programmes to children's realities. Yet the power to interpret, publish and influence research, policy and practice does not always sit with those generating it. When practice-based knowledge is not considered alongside other forms of evidence, important context and learning is lost, limiting what the field can learn and how that learning can inform action.

The Safe Futures Hub is putting principles of more equitable knowledge and power into practice. Through our Framework, frontline organisations gain practical tools to shape, own and use

knowledge. In co-creating practice-based case studies with the Safe Futures Hub, organisations identify their learnings, shape the narrative and decide how they are recognised: as knowledge creators and authors, not simply participants.

Global networks, funders and organisations are integrating the Framework into their operations and data collection systems, helping shift power to those working on the frontline. The **UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women** is recommending it to organisations receiving its Advocacy, Coalition Building, and Transformative Feminist Action grants as a practical way to capture, strengthen and use their learnings from programme implementation.

Save the Children is exploring how the Framework could be embedded into regional and programme structures.

ISPCAN is including it in its global Knowledge Hub and amplifying it to international networks, extending the Framework's reach across the child protection field.

This growing uptake is shaping what we do next: deepening support for more practitioners to document and share knowledge from their work, and creating more opportunities for it to be exchanged and used across the field.

“[The Framework is a] significant and long-overdue investment in shifting power within the knowledge ecosystem.”

— Peninah Kimiri, Emergency Response Specialist-Gender-based violence, **CARE**



SPOTLIGHT: Strengthening how East Africa learns from programme practices

The Safe Futures Hub has partnered with the Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC), a Uganda-based organisation. Their VaCNets Virtual Hub¹ has been helping organisations in the region connect and learn from one another since 2022.

Though organisations' practices for addressing childhood sexual violence on-the-ground were being documented, valuable insights were not being intentionally gathered in ways that made it easier for others to share, examine and adapt. IIDC was looking for practical tools and guidance to help frontline organisations recognise and draw on the knowledge emerging from their practice.

The Framework provided IIDC with a structured approach to documenting, sharing and using practice-based knowledge.

IIDC began using the Framework to help local organisations capture and build on what they were learning through violence-prevention programmes. Together with the Safe Futures Hub, IIDC is now co-facilitating a four-month Practice-based Knowledge Lab with five frontline organisations in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Lab will equip participants to turn their practical experience into resources they can use, share and build on, helping to strengthen the region's ability to contribute locally grounded insights to national and continent-wide child-protection policy.

IIDC's experience shows how creating space and structure for frontline organisations to capture their practice-based knowledge can foster the exchange and use of knowledge within the region and beyond.



Image credit: IIDC

¹ An online platform that serves as a digital repository, networking, and learning platform for what works in preventing violence against children in East Africa. It was established by IIDC in March 2022 under its Learning and Knowledge Management Program with an initial focus on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Connecting the knowledge gained from practice, research and lived experience

The Safe Futures Hub is helping organisations systematically surface and make sense of what people are learning through practice. We are creating opportunities for this learning to inform programmes, research and advocacy, while also contributing new research questions grounded in the realities of frontline work.

“The most valuable part of the process was to step back and articulate knowledge that had, until now, lived mostly in practice and memory... [and] made our knowledge into something that can inform advocacy and protection for Syria and beyond.”

— **Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights, Syria**, on using the Framework to surface recurring patterns in survivor disclosure from years of legal and medical practice.

“[The study] was largely inspired by the Framework... there is a need to learn more from frontline workers on how they do things, what they see, how they respond, and how they face challenges.”

— *Sandrine Fabie Constant, Director of Programmes, ECPAT International*, on a new four-country research study drawing on frontline practitioner knowledge.

“We now know that our direct legal practice with children is not just raw material for someone else’s research, but a contribution in its own right”

“Writing it out forced me to make reasoning explicit that often stays implicit in day-to-day litigation.”

— *Daniela Torres, Advocate, Oficina de Defensoría de los Derechos de la Infancia (ODI), Mexico*, on using the Framework process to make legal reasoning applied on a case-by-case basis visible to strengthen future practice.

This approach also recognises the knowledge and expertise that comes from lived experience, creating opportunities to work alongside people directly affected by childhood sexual violence. Through WeProtect Global Alliance, the Safe Futures Hub supported the [#SafetyNet Manifesto](#), bringing together the experiences and priorities of **109 young people** across 10 countries to define their own priorities on digital rights and online-facilitated abuse. Their insights were turned into an advocacy roadmap for governments and technology companies, giving young people a direct role in defining priorities for the digital safety agenda.

Building knowledge

Generating a stronger base of research and insights

Ending childhood sexual violence is possible, and we know more about what can help us achieve that than ever before. But the evidence remains uneven. Academic research can take years to

generate, may be difficult to find, and is often concentrated in high-income countries. What works in one setting may not translate to another, and effective local programmes and policies may never enter the academic literature.

The Safe Futures Hub is helping fill these gaps.



Our **Building Safe Futures** evidence review brought together **72 studies** from low- and middle-income countries, alongside a [companion brief](#) covering **59 articles** from high-income countries.

An innovative living **systematic review** launching in October 2026 will keep evidence up-to-date through an interactive dashboard.

Together, these resources show what is known, what approaches have worked and where evidence is still missing; particularly for Indigenous children, children with disabilities, displaced children and children with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions and sex characteristics. The Safe Futures Hub is helping turn these gaps into research priorities through a [shared research agenda on childhood sexual violence](#) and a [white paper on children displaying harmful sexual behaviours](#).

This work is already informing research, policy, funding and field-building conversations. The evidence review has been referenced in reports by **UNICEF** and researchers at **MOORE at Johns Hopkins**, and in publications including **The Lancet** and **Queensland Family & Child Commission**. The **World Childhood Foundation** is using it to assess where the evidence is strong, identify knowledge gaps and determine which issues warrant greater attention in its strategy.

Keeping the knowledge base relevant means connecting emerging evidence with the experience of people applying it in real-world settings. The Safe Futures

Hub brings together practitioners, researchers, policy experts and advocates to ensure that research is informed by knowledge and experience from across the field. Through partnerships, webinar learning series and local convenings across more than 40 countries, the Safe Futures Hub facilitates shared learning, workshops to strengthen research approaches, and conversations to identify where more evidence is needed. As the Indonesia-based **Center for Child Study and Protection** put it: “It opened opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.”

“An outstanding [evidence] review that is fundamental for the field.”

— Professor Lucie Cluver, **University of Oxford**



By connecting research with the questions and priorities emerging across the field, the Safe Futures Hub is helping keep the knowledge base current, relevant and responsive to what people need.

A stronger knowledge base reflects the people and contexts it serves

Comprehensive solutions to end childhood sexual violence must reflect the diversity of children and communities, and draw on the knowledge and experience of those working alongside them. The Safe Futures Hub is helping build a knowledge base that better reflects a wide range of experiences, contexts and evidence across the field.

Broader perspectives

Some perspectives and evidence remain underrepresented in the global knowledge base on childhood sexual violence. For example, whilst global evidence on children with disabilities remains limited, the Safe Futures Hub is surfacing evidence and practice-based insights through [a case study on school-based prevention interventions](#). A leader at **DeafKidz International** describes our resources as among the first global resources they had encountered that meaningfully include children with disabilities.

Locally contextualized solutions

Across **28 countries**, partners are using the Safe Futures Hub to inform research and programme design, translate global evidence into practical tools and strengthen locally relevant practice.

In **Jamaica**, TAMAH Research Consortium is using learnings to inform research “rooted in care, inclusion and dignity”.

In **Benin**, Women Empowered is translating global research into “actionable, survivor-centred tools”.

In **Nigeria**, the Center for Inclusive Future is bringing children’s digital safety into child-protection programming.

These examples show what becomes possible when we deepen and broaden our collective knowledge of how we can end childhood sexual violence. The Safe Futures Hub has helped surface valuable pathways for further research and learning to keep pace with emerging risks, changing contexts and practitioners’ needs. Building on this will require sustained collaboration across different forms of knowledge and expertise to shape the evidence and solutions the field needs next, an approach the Safe Futures Hub is well positioned to support.

Mobilising knowledge

Putting solutions within reach

Knowledge of what works to end childhood sexual violence can only improve practice if the people who need it can find it, understand it and apply it. Yet this knowledge is often fragmented across studies, countries and disciplines. Much of it is difficult to access or translate into practical decisions.

The Safe Futures Hub is making evidence and practice-based knowledge easier to access and use.

We bring together diverse forms of knowledge and translate them into accessible, multilingual [case studies](#), [resources](#) and [learning opportunities](#). Case studies can be filtered by intervention type, age, region and country, helping child protection workers, researchers and advocates move from “*What do we know?*” to “*What is relevant to my context, and what can I use?*”.

The Safe Futures Hub’s [webinar series](#) convenes researchers, practitioners and field experts to unpack evidence on effective interventions to end childhood sexual violence and explore what they mean in practice. Live transcription and accessible formats make these

conversations available to wider audiences, while giving participants opportunities to ask questions, share experiences and connect solutions with the realities of implementation.

By breaking down barriers such as language and accessibility we are helping the practitioners, researchers and advocates spend less time searching for evidence, and more time using it.

This is changing what happens once evidence is uncovered. Organisations are using our resources to strengthen programmes, strategies, research and training. As knowledge travels through teams, networks, classrooms and new projects, its value grows.

The Safe Futures Hub is also beginning to respond to a growing demand from child rights advocates, who are using accessible evidence to strengthen campaigns, engage policymakers and make the case for action. By making evidence and examples of what works easier to find, understand and use, the Safe Futures Hub helps connect calls for change with what research, practice and lived experience show.

The goal is not simply to make more knowledge available, but to put it in the hands of the people who can use it to drive change.

“The Safe Futures Hub has filled a major gap.”

— *Technical Officer, World Health Organisation*



SPOTLIGHT:

Applying evidence in East Africa with easy-to-access insights

For **The AfriChild Centre**, a leading child-research organisation in East Africa, finding evidence that could be applied and adapted to the contexts in which they work was not always easy. Information on what works and does not was scattered across studies, with a common assumption that little evidence existed from the region. The Safe Futures Hub's Building Safe Futures evidence review gave AfriChild a single, accessible resource to see what had been tested locally and across the region, and where gaps remained.

"Our evidence was disjointed. Some of the interventions in the review — even those from Uganda — were new to us."

"The evidence review gives us a stronger starting point. Instead of trying to innovate from scratch, we are asking: what has worked, and what do we need to adapt for this context?"

— Clare Bangirana,
Director of Research
and Knowledge
Development, **The
AfriChild Centre**



Image credit: AfriChild

The review is now informing how AfriChild develops grant proposals, helping the team identify where existing approaches could be adapted and where new research and programmes are needed for the region.

It is also shaping how AfriChild evaluates its programmes. When they designed a study of a community-based intervention for survivors of childhood sexual violence, the review informed how they assessed the intervention against approaches tested elsewhere and the research questions they prioritised. Rather than testing programme effectiveness prematurely, they focused on how the intervention was being delivered and how survivors were experiencing it. This helped generate learning to strengthen the programme in real-time, rather than simply assessing effectiveness after it had concluded.



Image credit: AfriChild

By making existing evidence easier to find and apply, the Safe Futures Hub is helping AfriChild direct limited research resources towards the questions that matter most at each stage of programme development.

From insights to action across the field

Around the world, knowledge from the Safe Futures Hub is being used to strengthen programmes, inform strategies and equip advocates, helping translate evidence and practical learning into action.

In **Colombia**, Red PaPaz is working with UNICEF Colombia on a national action plan to prevent online childhood sexual exploitation and abuse, drawing on the [Prevention Framework](#), which offers practical, cross-sector guidance to help stop technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse before it happens.

In **Indonesia**, the Center for Child Study and Protection is using Safe Futures Hub resources in training and programme design, while in **Kenya**, Action Against Teenage Pregnancies is applying learnings from Safe Futures Hub solutions and resources to programmes for girls, young women and teenage mothers.

“Engaging with the [Safe Futures] Hub is allowing us to move away from isolated or ‘top-down’ approaches... enabling the creation of locally relevant strategies backed by robust, up-to-date global evidence.”

— Dr Sena Belina Kitila, Head, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, **Jimma University, Ethiopia**, on how it is now easier to identify and apply relevant approaches to local contexts.

Ahead of the **2025 G20 Summit**, the Brave Movement’s Third Richest Nation (3RN) campaign used Safe Futures Hub case studies as solutions to address the US\$7 trillion annual cost of violence against children. The campaign helped shift the narrative from the scale of the problem to what can be done about it, reaching more than **41,000 advocates**.



Image credit: Bob Whitehead/Brave Movement

Cover image credit: Magnific

Safe Futures Hub is a joint field-building initiative between the **Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)**, **Together for Girls**, and **WeProtect Global Alliance** focused on solutions to end childhood sexual violence. We work together to identify and elevate interventions for prevention, healing and justice; meaningfully include historically underrepresented perspectives; and unite people working across specialties to protect children, including advocates, strategists, policymakers and those on the frontline.

www.safefutureshub.org



SAFE FUTURES HUB

Solutions to end childhood sexual violence