



# RESPONDER Partnership Newsletter



Issue 1 | June 2026

**Global Partnership for Accountability and Change related to  
Responder-Perpetrated SEA**

[www.responderpartnership.com](http://www.responderpartnership.com)

# A message from the Co-Directors



**Dr. Susan Bartels**  
*Director*



**Dr. Sabine Lee**  
*Co-Director*

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

We are delighted to introduce the inaugural edition of the RESPONDER Partnership newsletter. The launch of this newsletter marks an important step in sharing our work and insights from the research alongside getting to know each other better.

Through this newsletter, we aim to provide regular updates about our research and emerging findings, about the partners and collaborators, and on planned and completed activities. We would like to create a platform for dialogue across disciplines and regions, and we hope that it will also serve as a space to amplify diverse perspectives and share learning that strengthens the RESPONDER Partnership.

The subcommittees will have an opportunity to share their news, and we would like to introduce all the different study contexts in more detail over a series of bimonthly newsletters. Furthermore, when students and interns are coming on board with their RESPONDER-related projects, we hope to use this internal platform to provide the opportunity for them to introduce themselves to the rest of the Partnership.

As we launch this first issue, we are pleased to share some reflections on our launch workshop in Prishtina, Kosovo and to remind ourselves of the momentum generated through this event. We invite you to engage with this newsletter, contribute your insights, and join us in advancing a shared vision: a world in which sexual exploitation and abuse are prevented, reporting is safe, and accountability is real.



# Launching the RESPONDER Partnership



Partners from across Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Middle East gathered in Prishtina, Kosovo for RESPONDER's first in-person workshop.

In April 2026, the RESPONDER Partnership reached an important milestone as partners gathered in Prishtina, Kosovo, for the Partnership's first in-person workshop. Bringing together researchers, civil society leaders, community advocates, and international experts from across Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Middle East, the workshop was the first in-person meeting of a seven-year collaboration dedicated to addressing responder-perpetrated sexual exploitation and abuse (RP-SEA) in humanitarian settings.

Hosted in partnership with the University of Prishtina and Kosovo Women's Network, the workshop brought together more than 35 participants, both in-person and virtually, representing over 20 institutions and organisations from 13 countries. The gathering provided an opportunity to build relationships, establish shared priorities, and lay the foundation for future collaboration. Throughout the workshop, we explored key themes including research design, ethics, trauma-informed approaches, and safeguarding. Interactive sessions encouraged participants to share experiences from their own contexts and to identify opportunities for collaboration across countries and disciplines.

The workshop also benefitted from the valuable contributions of the RESPONDER Advisory Board, including community advisors, whose insights helped ground discussions in lived experiences and local realities.





A central focus of the workshop was the Partnership's vision of strengthening accountability, promoting survivor-centered responses, and generating evidence that informs policy and practice. Participants worked together to identify priorities for the Research, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDIA), Training, and Knowledge Mobilization Committees, which will guide key areas of activity throughout the Partnership. Beyond the formal sessions, the team took part in a feminist walking tour of Prishtina, visited sites connected to Kosovo's history, and attended a screening of the award-winning film, *Zana*. These experiences provided opportunities for reflection and learning, and engagement with themes of resilience, recovery, and the long-term impacts of conflict.



As the workshop concluded, participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing research, strengthening accountability, and supporting meaningful change for communities affected by RP-SEA. The ideas, partnerships, and plans developed in Kosovo will help guide research and engagement activities across South Sudan, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Kosovo, and the Central African Republic in the years ahead. The Kosovo workshop marked the beginning of a global partnership committed to fostering collaboration and contributing to a future in which responder-perpetrated sexual exploitation and abuse is prevented, reported without fear, and met with survivor-centered justice and accountability.



# The RESPONDER Partnership at a Glance

A global network of researchers, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and community advisors working together to strengthen accountability

## Our Partner Network

### PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



13  
Countries



10  
Academic  
Institutions



9  
Civil Society  
Organizations



4+  
International  
Organizations

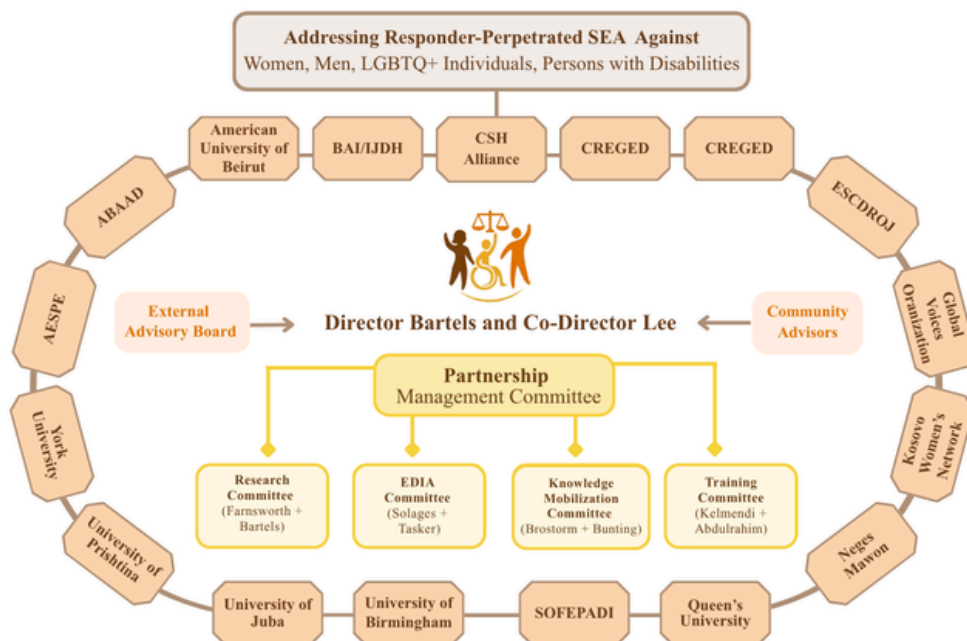


6+  
Community  
Advisors



6  
Research  
Sites

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Together our partners bring diverse expertise from across the globe to generate evidence, strengthen collaboration, and advance survivor-centred responses to responder-perpetrated sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings.

# Committees Corner

## Research

The RESPONDER Research Committee supports the implementation and quality of research activities across all study sites. They provide guidance on study design, ethics, participant recruitment, data management, safeguarding, and quality assurance to support rigorous and consistent research activities.

## Training

The RESPONDER Training Committee strengthens research capacity through training in research methods, ethics, safeguarding, responder-perpetrated sexual exploitation and abuse. The committee also supports student recruitment, onboarding, mentorship, and collaborative learning and the delivery of high quality learning across all sites

## Knowledge Mobilization

The RESPONDER KMb Committee supports the sharing, and application of knowledge generated through the Partnership. They guide knowledge communication, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge mobilization activities to ensure research findings and community perspectives are accessible, meaningful, and widely shared.

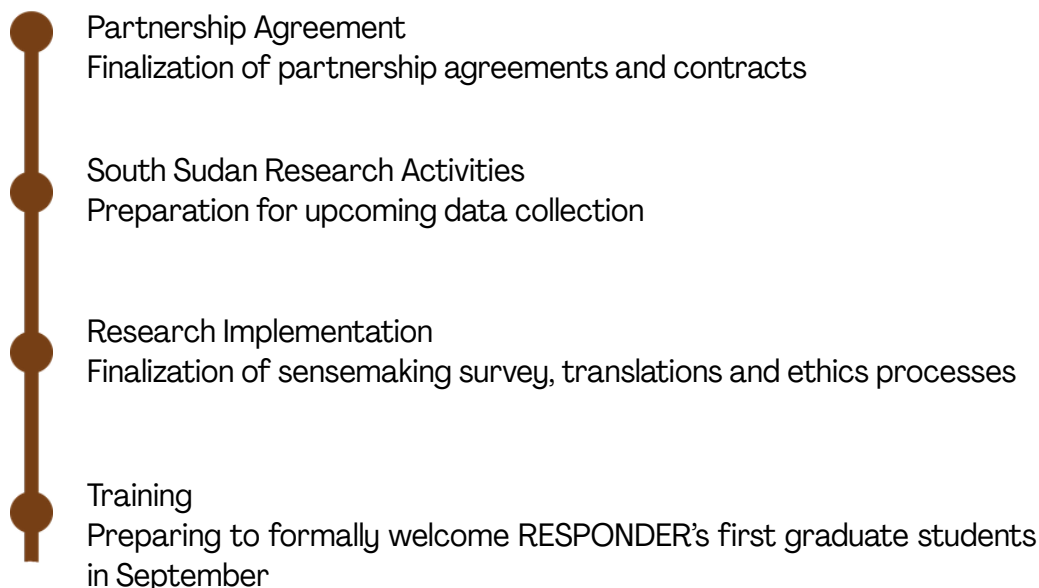
## EDIA

The RESPONDER EDIA Committee promotes inclusive and equitable participation across all the Partnership activities. They provide guidance on accessibility, inclusive recruitment, language access, accommodations, safeguarding, and ethical practices to ensure diverse perspectives are reflected throughout the partnership



# Looking Ahead: What's next for RESPONDER

As the RESPONDER Partnership continues to grow, the coming months will focus on advancing research activities, strengthening collaboration across study sites, and preparing for field implementation.



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[www.responderpartnership.com](http://www.responderpartnership.com)



E-mail

[responderpartnership@queensu.ca](mailto:responderpartnership@queensu.ca)



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