



**Spotlight
Initiative**
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

Global

Annual Narrative Progress Report

01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Global

Annual Narrative Progress Report

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Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Administrative Agent
ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and
ADC	Area Development Committee
AFP	Agency Focal Point
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
BSC	Balanced Scorecard
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEM-H	Centro de Estudios de la Mujer
CEMUJER	El Instituto de Estudios de la Mujer (the Institute for Women's Studies),
CMI	Count Me In! Consortium
CMIPV	Municipal Plan for Equality and Violence Prevention
COP	Community of Practice
COP27	27 th UN Climate Change Conference
COSI	Community of the Spotlight Initiative
COTLA	Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSNRG	Civil Society National Reference Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
CSRRG	Civil Society Regional Reference Group
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CVSU	Community Victim Support Unit
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DG-INTPA	EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DIVA	Diverse Voices and Action for Equality
DSG	Deputy Secretary-General
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
ESP	Essential Services Package
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union (EU) Delegation
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
EWARS	Early Warning Awareness and Response System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence

GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GLS	Global Learning Symposium
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
GRG	Global Civil Society Reference Group
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HP	Harmful Practice
HRDP	Human Rights Defenders Protection
ICCPR	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESR	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IESP	Integrated Essential Service Package
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMAGES	International Men and Gender Equality Survey
IMS	Information Management System
INAM	Instituto Nacional de la Mujer
INCHR	Independent National Commission on Human Rights
INEC	National Institute of Statistics and Census
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IP	Implementing Partner
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
ISDEMU	Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual and Intersexual
LGBTI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Intersexual and other sexual identities
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual and Queer
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersexual
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual and other sexual identities
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAF	Management and Accountability Framework
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoHSSS	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
MTA	Mid-Term Assessment
NAP	National Action Plan
NAWOU	National Associations of Women's Organizations
NGBWG	Network against Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOCFS	National Office of Child and Family Services
NSC	National Steering Committee
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSC	Operational Steering Committee
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health

PacFemCom	Pacific Feminist Community of Practice
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PDDH	Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
PMER	Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PPAC	Pacific People's Advancing Change
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REDFAVIVE	Asociación Red de Familias de Víctimas de Femicidios
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)
ROAP	UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBCC	Social and Behavioural Change Communication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEMUJER	Honduran Office of Women's Affairs
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SMART	Spotlight Initiative Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STC-SDLE-4	4 th Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment
UN	United Nations
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN Trust Fund	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centres
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund
VACS	Violence against Children Surveys
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WPCTF	Women Protection Centre Trust Fund
WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WRO	Women's Rights Organizations

FOREWORD

by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General

In the words of Shamah Bulangis, Representative of the Civil Society Global Reference Group on the Operational Steering Committee, Spotlight Initiative: “The Spotlight Initiative is a significant and ground-breaking investment to end violence against women and girls that has a huge potential to model the way we do development funding towards nations recovering from colonization – the Global South – by way of meaningful partnerships with civil society and taking the cue from grassroots organizations as partners rather than just ‘grantees.’”

As countries continued to recover from the global pandemic in 2022 – with schools and public venues reopening, economic activity restarting, and vaccines reducing new infections across the globe – COVID-19’s lasting scars have become all too visible for us to see. As is almost always the case, women and girls have borne the brunt of the impacts. These include a rise in the care burden, economic hardship and unemployment, and increased physical, mental and sexual violence. These impacts have been compounded by the multiple and continuing crises the world is now facing and exacerbated by the global pushback on women’s rights, persecution of women’s rights defenders, and the onset of new conflicts, which make the world less safe for today’s generation of women and girls.

It is in this challenging and complex context that Spotlight Initiative has persisted to transform the lives of women and girls for the better. From supporting governments to pass or strengthen more than 500 gender-responsive laws and policies, to providing services for 2.5 million women and girls since 2019, the Initiative has effectively coordinated a wide range of partners, including governments, civil society, development partners, academia, and the private sector, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence at a scale never seen before.

We are now at halftime on the 2030 Agenda, and we are not where we need to be. Progress across most of the Sustainable Development Goals has been

slow and uneven, and half of the world’s population is still being left behind. The time to act is now.

Spotlight Initiative is illustrating new pathways for the United Nations to deliver transformative, sustainable change. The Initiative has generated a wealth of knowledge on what works — and what doesn’t — to effectively end violence against women and girls, taking a partnering approach that localizes the SDGs, supports greater civic space and cross stakeholder engagement, and prioritises contextual solutions. Its comprehensive programmes across 30 countries and regions embrace a comprehensive, whole-of-society model, now found to be 70–90 per cent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence than siloed or piecemeal approaches, and small-scale interventions.

In recognition of its strong results, which demonstrate clearly that significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in ending violence against women and girls can make transformative progress towards achieving the SDGs, Spotlight Initiative was selected as one of 12 High-Impact Initiatives of the UN to be featured at the 2023 SDG Summit, as examples of accelerators of change to 2030.

With current resources, Spotlight Initiative is on track to prevent 21 million women and girls from experiencing violence by 2025. With additional investments, we will do much more. Within a decade, for example, it’s estimated that Spotlight Initiative could prevent violence in over 70 million women’s lives across 60 countries, and reduce prevalence in target communities from 1 in 3 to 1 in 5 women and girls.

The time to invest, and the opportunity to impact women’s and girls’ lives, is now.



United Nations Deputy Secretary-General,
Amina Mohammed
©UN Photo/Mark Garten

FOREWORD

by EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

COVID-19 is no longer considered to be a global public health emergency. But the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls continues. It is fuelled by extreme situations, such as the one in Afghanistan, and armed conflicts like Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In many countries, the rhetoric against women and girls is mainstreamed and rights rolled back.



European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships,
Jutta Urpilainen
©Courtesy of the EU Commissioner

We have reason to be concerned. At the same time the findings of this Annual Report create hope: with targeted, well-planned and -implemented actions we can make a change. The Report allows to reflect on the progress achieved in five years of implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. The numbers speak for themselves.

We have helped to put the issue of violence against women and girls on the agenda of many governments. As a result, 477 laws or policies were signed or strengthened to end violence against women and girls. We trained institutions and supported to address the gaps of data collection.

We increased and improved access to services for victims of violence: close to 2.5 million women and girls were able to access relevant services. We piloted interventions to prevent violence, pioneering the inclusion of men and boys and non-traditional actors. Nearly 2 million men and boys were educated on positive masculinity and nonviolent conflict resolution.

The Spotlight Initiative partnered with civil society organisations who have access to communities. They are our key allies in raising awareness, preventing gender violence and providing services.

One of the great successes of the Spotlight Initiative has been its inclusiveness and ability to rally a wide range of actors – states, local authorities, international organisations, media, faith-based organisations – around ending all types of violence against women and girls. Given the multifaceted nature of root causes of gender-based violence, a coordinated whole-of-society approach is the only effective way to eradicate it.

With the Spotlight Initiative, we have a vehicle to contribute to ending the shadow pandemic. Let's strive to be even more impactful and build on the positive examples and inclusive approach.

Electronically signed on 12/07/2023 16:21 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

CHAPTER 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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1.1

Report structure and scope

This publication is a report of the Spotlight Initiative's work over the past calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December 2022. This report highlights the Initiative's unique way of working and the transformative results it has achieved, along with promising and good practices and lessons learned.

The report covers the Initiative's fund and governance structure as well as its strategic partnerships in [Chapter 2](#).

[Chapter 3](#) presents the Initiative's key results across its 34 programmes. The chapter opens with the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change and underscores why investing in civil society and women's movements is at its core and is essential to sustained impact. The chapter then details key achievements across Spotlight programmes in 2022, featuring promising and good practices, alongside common challenges and measures taken to ensure continued delivery.

[Chapter 4](#) details the Initiative's efforts – including through its knowledge management and evaluations – to capture and share learning for strengthened programming to end violence against women and girls, and [Chapter 5](#) presents the Spotlight Initiative's cutting edge communications and visibility efforts.

Finally, [Chapter 6](#) focuses on amplifying the gains made so far and makes suggestions for the second phase and the expansion of the Spotlight Initiative. The report ends with

[Chapter 7](#), the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office 2022 Consolidated Annual Financial Report, in conformity with the requirements specified in the contract with the European Union.

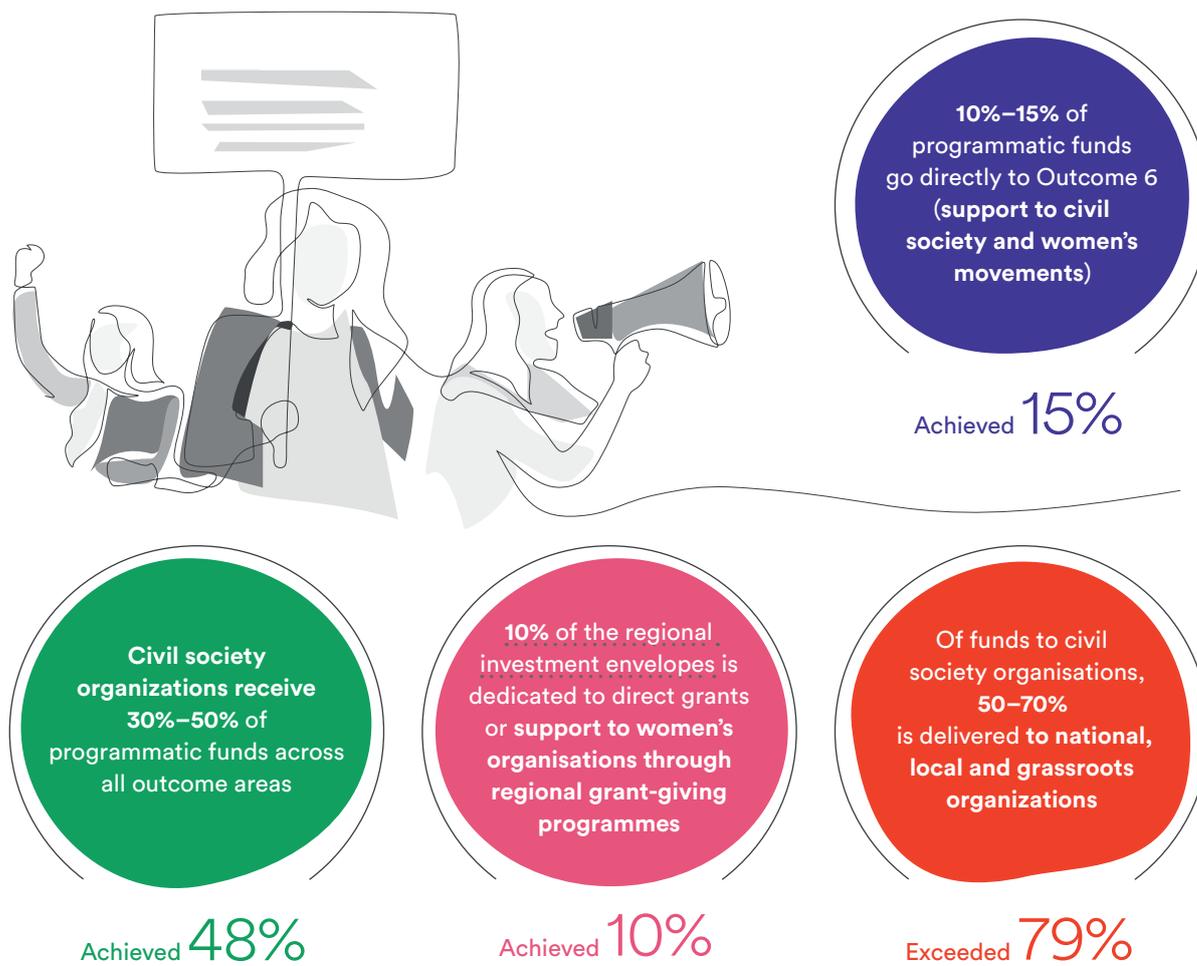
1.2

Overview

This executive summary provides highlights of Spotlight Initiative's work and contributions in 2022. It starts with detailing the funding allocations that shifted critical resources to civil society and changemakers at the global, regional and country levels, then goes on to describe outcomes across the six pillars, which involve: changing laws and policies, strengthening institutions, shifting social norms and supporting prevention activities, enhancing access to quality services, strengthening data systems, and supporting women's rights movements and organizations. It also notes challenges over the past year and the creative mitigating measures used by programmes. The executive summary ends with the Initiative's key lessons learned and knowledge management efforts, as well as communication highlights and areas for future investment.

In 2022, the world witnessed a rollback in women's and girls' rights, increased rates of violence against women and girls, and the continued (and, in many places, deepened) backlash by authoritarian and antidemocratic actors, who have popularized attacks on women, non-gender conforming communities, and others, as a perverse political strategy. The Spotlight Initiative's work on, and strategies for, ending violence against women and girls could not be more necessary or timely.

Civil Society Funding Commitments



1.3

The Spotlight Initiative Model and Theory of Change

Spotlight Initiative represents a unique opportunity to demonstrate how working as a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) model fund and a demonstration fund for the United Nations (UN) Reform can accelerate efforts to end violence against women and girls, and advance the SDGs more broadly. At the programme level, UN agencies showcased a “one UN” approach to Spotlight Initiative programme management and implementation, demonstrating UN Reform through a new generation of UN Country Teams and enhanced inter-agency coordination. Strong multistakeholder partnerships at global, regional and country levels underpin the Initiative’s approach, with a special emphasis on engaging civil society. [Chapter 2](#) has more

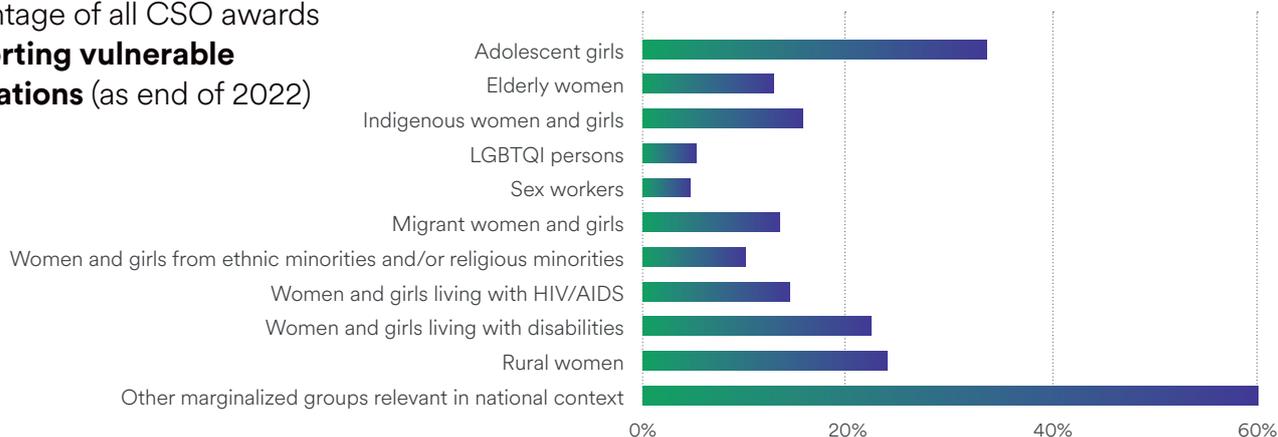
information on progress in 2022 related to the Initiative’s governance and key partnerships.

The Spotlight Initiative’s Theory of Change is grounded in the belief that a robustly resourced, rights-based, comprehensive approach to programming – one that centres feminist and women’s rights organisations and movements, and women and girls themselves, and that addresses the root causes of violence – will most effectively contribute to ending violence against women and girls. The Initiative’s approach is also rooted in the evidence that the autonomous mobilization of feminists (and progressive movements,

including feminist movements) is instrumental to progressive policy change.¹ This shapes a dual approach for the Initiative, where civil society is meaningfully engaged as partners in accountability processes and governance through the Civil Society Reference Group mechanism,

1. S. Laurel Weldon & Mala Htun, [Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women](#) (2013); [Support to Women’s Rights Organizations and Feminist Movements \(SIDA, March 2023\)](#), and [The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective](#) (2012).

Percentage of all CSO awards
**supporting vulnerable
 populations** (as end of 2022)



and as partners for change, working alongside the Initiative across outcome areas to advance efforts to end violence, and receiving critical funding directly and through sub-granting.

1.4

Funding Allocation to Civil Society Organizations

In total, USD 504.7 million² was budgeted by the end of 2022 across the Spotlight Initiative and its 26 country programmes; its five regional programmes, along with the Safe and Fair programme within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and its two Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes (partnering with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) for programmes in Africa and Latin America, and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) for programmes in Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea).

As of December 2022, the Spotlight Initiative has met or exceeded its funding commitments to civil society. Cumulatively Spotlight Initiative programmes allocated 48 per cent, or about USD 190 million,³ of activity funds to civil society organizations (CSOs). This represents an increase of approximately USD 11 million from the previous year.

Of the USD 190 million allocated to civil society, USD 174 million has been delivered so far, with 79 per cent reaching national, local and grassroots organisations, and 34 per cent going to new partners, diversifying the civil society base. USD 127 million, or 73 per cent of delivered funds, was invested in women’s organisations, and USD 23 million was invested in core support to civil society. Core and flexible support are crucial for sustained activism and movement-building, and demonstrate Spotlight Initiative’s continued commitment to intentionally support the resilience and autonomy of civil society organizations and women’s movements at large.

Funding allocations to civil society also supported leaving no one behind: as of December 2022, across all outcome areas, 34 per cent of all contractual engagements with CSOs, i.e., awards, reached adolescents girls, 24 per cent reached rural women, 23 per cent reached women and girls living with disabilities and 60 per cent reached other marginalized groups.⁴

Overall, across the Initiative’s portfolio, USD 48 million or 15 per cent of activity funds⁵ have been allocated to Pillar 6, reaching women’s movements and grassroots feminist organisations. Sub-granting and subcontracting modalities have also been used to expand grassroots outreach, and improve grassroots and local groups’ access to funding opportunities they may not otherwise qualify for under standard United Nations procedures. As of December

2. This figure does not include the full budget of the Guatemala country programme in the amount of USD 5.4 million which was discontinued shortly after its roll out. Together with the full Guatemala programme budget, the overall amount is USD 510 million, as presented in the financial chapter of this report.

3. This includes USD 36.8 million allocated to CSOs by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

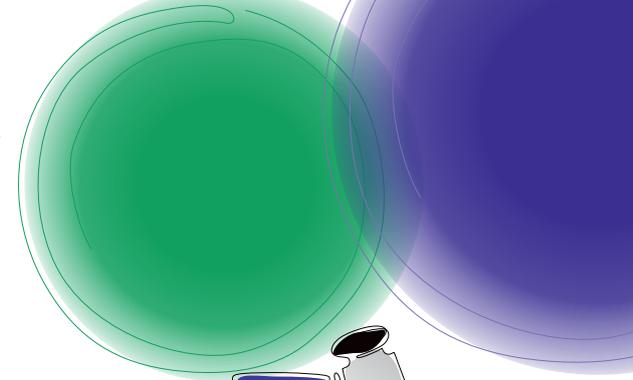
4. Responding to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination various groups face, each CSO award can report to have reached multiple marginalized, vulnerable and traditionally left behind populations at the same time. Therefore, the data presented in this section in Chapter 4 is counted against the total number of CSO awards reported, and is not mutually exclusive.

5. This does not include the Safe and Fair programme in the ASEAN region given its different programmatic structure, as well as the UN Trust Fund and Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund programmes. Together with UN Trust Fund and Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund programmes, which allocate their entire activity costs to Pillar 6, the overall amount for Pillar 6 is 85 million USD, or 23 per cent of the overall activity costs.

Since 2019, with **Spotlight Initiative's** support ...



The overall **CONVICTION RATE** for gender-based violence **DOUBLED** across 12 countries



477

LAWS OR POLICIES

were signed or strengthened to end violence against women and girls

NATIONAL BUDGETS to address gender-based violence increased

10x

across 14 countries

USD 190 million

allocated to **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS** (48% of activity funds)

Close to **3.5 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE**

participated in in-and out-of-school programmes promoting gender-equitable **attitudes and behaviours**

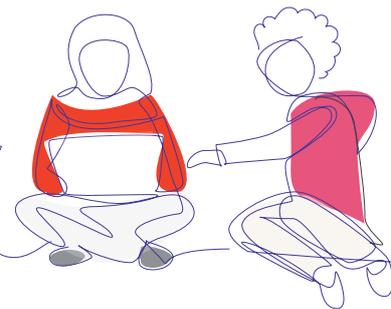


Over **4,000 LOCAL AND GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS**

reported having **GREATER INFLUENCE** and agency to work on eliminating violence against women and girls

Close to **2.5 MILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS**

accessed gender-based violence **SERVICES**



Close to **260 MILLION PEOPLE WERE REACHED**

through **CAMPAIGNS** to prevent violence against women and girls in at least 30 languages

Nearly **2 MILLION MEN AND BOYS** were educated on:

- Positive masculinity**
- Non-violent conflict resolution**
- Respectful family relationships**



43 COUNTRIES

strengthened their **NATIONAL ACTION PLANS** to eliminate violence against women and girls

2022, a total of 220 awards included sub-granting or subcontracting modalities, reaching an additional 911 sub-grantees or subcontractors, with at least USD 13 million. [Chapter 3](#) has more detailed information on funding allocations.

1.5

Overarching and Pillar-Specific Results: The Importance of Investing in a Comprehensive Model

Demonstrating the synergistic effects of a comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls, Spotlight Initiative's programmes contributed to results that went above and beyond individual pillars or outcome areas. An excellent example of how results in one area can spur changes in another is in **Belize**. The Spotlight Initiative in **Belize** leveraged existing prevention programmes in schools and communities, established under Pillar 3, to reach nearly 28,000 women and girls with information on available quality essential services at the national and community levels. This was coupled with capacity-building efforts under Pillar 6 that further positioned women's rights advocates as key drivers of change within the hardest-to-reach communities. As a result of these collective efforts, women and girls, including youth and women from rural, migrant, and indigenous communities, were better able to access quality services (spurring results under Pillar 4). Further highlighting the synergistic effects of a comprehensive approach, Spotlight programmes also reported elevating the issue of violence against women and girls on (national) political agendas and, through the use of participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting, a deepened rights-based approach to ending violence against women and girls, fostering more responsive interventions, and increasingly sustainable results. [Chapter 3](#) presents further details on cross-cutting results, as well as pillar specific results.

PILLAR 1: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION



Countries are obligated under international frameworks to address violence against women and girls. While some have made

significant legislative progress, numerous gaps remain. By analyzing existing legislation and policy frameworks to identify gaps and promote gender-sensitive laws and policies; strengthening, or newly establishing, laws and policies to end violence against women and girls; and strengthening advocacy for legal and policy reform by key stakeholders and partners at grassroots, local, subnational and national levels, Spotlight programmes contributed to the development of strengthening of **477 laws or policies to end violence against women and girls across to date** (with 174 in 2022 alone). Numerous Spotlight programmes – including those in **Jamaica, Mexico, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Vanuatu** – conducted assessments of existing legal and policy frameworks addressing violence against women and girls and examined legal frameworks related to gender equality more generally. In most countries, these analyses focused on key barriers to implementation – including inadequate funding or capacity to implement – and areas of policy omissions that guided stronger policy development. In **Grenada**, the Spotlight Programme – in consultation with civil society and the Grenada Bar Association – advocated for the establishment of a “first of its kind” National Sex Offenders Register. Such a Register would help prevent violence and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted. Advocacy for its establishment continues, with further consultation on the policy and its passage expected in 2023. The Spotlight Initiative is also making advancements in preventing cybercrime, sexual harassment and bullying. For example, in **Belize**, the Spotlight Initiative provided recommendations in support of the amendment of the Cyber Crime Act, while in **Zimbabwe** it advocated for and supported the Data Protection Act, the most comprehensive legal framework in southern Africa for addressing online violence against women and girls.

PILLAR 2: INSTITUTIONS



Strong institutions play a critical accountability role, and help to ensure that laws and policies to end violence against women and girls, and advance women's rights more broadly, are implemented and adequately funded. To strengthen the implementation of laws and policies – and improve sustainability of efforts to end violence against women and girls – the Initiative has, to date, contributed to the

development of **national action plans to eliminate violence against women and girls and advance gender equality in 43 countries.** For example, in **Kyrgyzstan**, the Spotlight Initiative supported the adoption of the first National Action Plan on Gender Equality, leading the Government to decentralize issues related to gender equality, including preventing and responding to violence to the local level, a first for a national strategy. The Government also allocated funding from the National Budget to support this decentralization effort. Moreover, to further institutionalise efforts, Spotlight Initiative contributed to a **10 fold increase in the amount budgeted across 14 countries' national budgets** to address violence against women and girls since its inception. **During this period, 94% of targeted countries have maintained or increased budget allocations to end violence and advance gender equality.** For example, in **Papua New Guinea**, building on gains made in 2021, the programme to ensure a dedicated allocation of Papua New Guinea Kina (PGK) 7.9 million (over USD 2.2 million) to address gender-based violence in the 2022 National Budget. Additionally, the programme supported the development of a 2023 National Gender-Based Violence Budget proposal – endorsed by the Government at the end of 2022 – which scales up the Government's allocation even further to PGK 9.8 million (or nearly USD 2.8 million) in 2023.



PILLAR 3: PREVENTION

Violence against women and girls and harmful practices are upheld due to harmful social norms, beliefs and attitudes. As such, under Pillar 3, the Spotlight Initiative supported prevention strategies that addressed harmful norms, beliefs and practices, and promoted principles of equality and inclusion. In 2022 alone, **over 118 million people were reached through campaigns** to prevent violence against women and girls, and close to **3.5 million young people were engaged in programmes** (both in and out of school) that promoted gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours since Spotlight Initiative began. In **Ecuador**, for example, the Initiative continued to implement its comprehensive prevention strategy, including the communication campaign **#EseTipoNo**. The campaign reached an estimated audience of 10,162,700 people at a national level and 7 million at the regional level, contributing to

increased awareness of and improved ability to identify and prevent violence against women and girls and femicide. Engaging men and boys is a prerequisite to changing behaviours and ending harmful social norms. To date, nearly **2 million men and boys received information on positive masculinity**, respectful family relationships, and non-violent conflict resolution. An excellent example of this occurred in **Liberia**. Nearly 450 traditional leaders contributed to changing community mindsets on female genital mutilation. The programme supported the [adoption of a policy statement suspending FGM](#) for three years and, together with traditional leaders, advocated for the passage of an anti-FGM law. Two bills are now before the legislature for review and passage into law. This work also resulted in the closure of 65 bush schools that were operating against the policy.



PILLAR 4: SERVICES

Quality essential services to address violence against women and girls are a central component of effective response, yet accessibility (and quality) are often compromised by inadequate funding, weak staffing, and capacity, coordination and implementation challenges. Under Pillar 4, Spotlight Initiative programmes continued to improve the availability and accessibility of rights-based, survivor-centred essential services that adequately addressed the needs of marginalized communities. Since the Initiative began, **nearly 4.4 million survivors know more about the essential services** available to them, with close to **2.5 million women and girls accessing services** supported by the Initiative. In **Malawi**, the Initiative strengthened integrated service delivery by ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights were coherently integrated into traditional chief's action plans, shaping their awareness raising campaigns on violence against women and girls. These have been carried out across the country, with patrols to identify and refer cases. Concurrently, the programme also supported the Community and Survivor Funds Initiative. An innovative approach to strengthen accessibility, the funds support adolescent girls and young women survivors of violence with the financial means to access essential services. The funds are managed by the community to ensure local ownership, agency, continuity and long term success. As a result of targeted efforts to strengthen services,

shift awareness through prevention campaigns (under Pillar 3), and strengthen institutions (under Pillar 2), to date, the overall annual conviction rate (of perpetrators of violence) doubled across countries in which the Initiative works.



PILLAR 5: DATA

Addressing violence against women and girls necessitates high quality data that identify the prevalence, incidence, scope, impact and underlying or contributing causes of violence against women and girls. The availability of data facilitates stronger design of large-scale social, cultural and political interventions to end violence against women and girls. In 2022, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, countries have improved systems to collect administrative data on violence against women and girls and harmful practices, disaggregated to better reflect multiple forms of discrimination and in line with international standards, across different sectors. Since the beginning of the Initiative, **34 countries developed methodologies to produce national level data on violence against women and girls.** For example, the gender-based violence (GBV) data management system “InfoViolência” supported by the Spotlight Initiative in **Mozambique**, saw a three-fold increase in the number of sexual and gender-based violence cases entered from 2021 (the platform has roughly 6,000 registered cases). The Spotlight programme continued to invest in collecting quality data on sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices by expanding the platform to all target districts, and training police officers and government officials in the use and management of the system, promoting ownership and sustainability. In 2022, **58% of countries in which the Initiative works now have publicly available data on femicide, reported on a regular basis.**



PILLAR 6: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

Diverse feminist, women's rights and social justice movements have (and continue to be) at the forefront of progressive change, challenging intersecting supremacies (including colonialism, racism, sexism, and able-ism) and imagining alternatives. Through Pillar 6, the Spotlight

Initiative prioritized direct support to women's rights and feminist organizations and movements, and in particular grassroots organizations (in addition to weaving civil society support, partnerships and collaboration through all Pillars). **In 2022, nearly 1,800 local and grassroots women's rights organizations reported having greater influence and agency to work on eliminating violence against women and girls.**

Strengthening and supporting coordination across civil society organizations and movements is vital for ending violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative – including in **Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Malawi, Nigeria, Zimbabwe**, and through **the Safe and Fair programme, the Africa Regional Programme and the Pacific Regional Programme** – played a key role in these efforts, supporting communities of practice and increasing opportunities for coalition building and knowledge exchange. Since the beginning of the Initiative, **330 jointly agreed recommendations to end violence against women and girls were developed**, through multi-stakeholder dialogues which included representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Moreover, with the Spotlight Initiative support, **over 2,000 local and grassroots women's rights organizations and relevant civil society organizations reported having greater agency and improved ability to work on eliminating violence against women and girls.**

1.6

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The following programmatic, operational and technical challenges were identified as prominent in 2022:

- Political instability and security threatened the advancement of women's and girls' rights in some contexts.
- The ongoing climate crisis, natural disasters, and the global health pandemic/disease further exacerbated violence and threats to women's and girls' rights.
- It can be challenging to secure and sustain government engagement, particularly during government transition and shifting political priorities.



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- Shifts in the political priorities of governments led to challenges in implementing comprehensive programming to eliminate violence against women and girls.
- Consistently (across programmes and contexts) engaging civil society meaningfully, as both partners and within governance structures, was demanding.
- Gaps in quality data on gender-based violence posed challenges to evidence-based decision-making and advocacy efforts.
- Limited technical expertise in programming to end violence against women and girls in certain regions led to human resource gaps.

While significant progress has been made, operating as one UN and delivering under the UN Reform, has seen challenges in sustained inter-agency collaboration and cooperation. The Spotlight Initiative programmes engaged in a variety of mitigating measures to address these challenges, including: streamlining inter-agency collaboration for greater impact; supporting gender-responsive adaptation to humanitarian disasters, recovery after COVID-19 and conflict; sustaining and further deepening partnerships with government; effectively supporting civil society groups to advance their critical role; engaging in evidence-based adaptations to technical obstacles; and involving universities and local researchers and experts in Spotlight Initiative coalitions for enhanced responsive and local relevance. Read more about the challenges faced and the creative adaptive measures put into place in [Chapter 3](#).

1.7

Knowledge management and lessons learned

The Spotlight Initiative also made progress in 2022 in supporting knowledge management and evaluation to continually lift up lessons learned, share knowledge broadly across country and regional programmes, and adapt programming accordingly. The 2022 global annual report highlights critical **lessons learned and promising and good practices**, noting that the Spotlight Initiative's rights-based, comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls has led to more transformative, sustainable results. The global annual report goes on to underscore the importance of a **whole-of-society** approach to foster collective action and sustained commitment, and notes that Spotlight programmes that leverage **community structures, engage local authorities, and employ community-centred approaches** better promote accountability, local ownership and the use of services. A community-based approach also facilitates the participation of rights holders in programming more effectively, improving ownership and strengthening **long term commitment** to efforts to end violence against women and girls. This, in turn, promotes positive changes in attitudes, beliefs and social norms.

To amplify lessons learned, the 2022 Global Annual Report presents [SHINE](#). In partnership with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, SHINE was introduced to the public on 1 March 2022 as a multi-stakeholder online hub for global exchange on ending violence against women and girls. It is the **first online knowledge exchange hub** of its kind, intentionally bringing together government, civil society, the United Nations, the European Union (EU), and other

practitioners for active engagement and the co-creation of knowledge to end violence against women and girls. Reach more about promising and good practices in [Chapter 3](#), and knowledge exchange and evaluation for learning in [Chapter 4](#).

1.8

Communication and visibility results

An important dimension of the Spotlight Initiative's reach and influence is through its communication and visibility work. In 2022, progress was made in increasing the public's attention on Spotlight Initiative's [global website](#). Social media followers grew as well across Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and Twitter channels to nearly 56,000. More than 3,850 Spotlight Initiative-specific articles and stories were published by 1,200 media outlets across 100 countries, with an estimated cumulative reach of more than 4.1 billion.

At the programmatic levels, diverse communication strategies raised the visibility of violence against women and girls in different countries, including through campaigns and creative arts. For example, in **Ecuador**, the Spotlight Initiative team supported the development of *Flores en el Aire*, a digital mapping tool that aims to humanize the country's shocking femicide statistics by sharing testimonies from the families of victims to create a virtual "memory map". *Flores en el Aire* was publicly launched with in-person events in three cities and a commemorative walk for femicide victims was held in Cuenca. At a global level, the Spotlight Initiative's flagship digital engagement campaign – [#WithHer](#) – consolidated its focus on curating online conversations among cultural influencers. The campaign reached more than 78 million users on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in 2022. Other communication highlights include "[What were you wearing?](#)", a high profile exhibit in the United Nations visitors centre in New York; the expansion of Spotlight Initiative's flagship [#WithHer campaign](#), and the continued engagement with the [WithHer Fund](#) (in partnership with UN Foundation) to provide additional resources directly to grassroots women's organizations working to end violence against women and girls) as well as the partnership with the [Group of Friends for](#)

[the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls \(Group of Friends\)](#). Taken together, this work has raised awareness and challenged harmful stereotypes, beliefs and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women and girls. [Chapter 5](#) has more examples of communication and visibility activities.

1.9

Moving forward: Invest boldly

Spotlight Initiative is well positioned to accelerate its efforts, expand its programmes to reach more communities and secure additional resources to further support global movements for transformative change in the lives of women and girls. As the Initiative looks forward to 2023 and beyond, the Initiative hopes to build on its transformative results across contexts. By strengthening the UN-EU partnership and mobilizing new partners to bring substantial investments to scale up this proven model, the Initiative can continue to implement across its current locations, and expand its programmes to new contexts. The data are clear, Spotlight Initiative has a solution to end violence against women and girls. The data in this report highlights the incredible results that the Initiative has catalysed over the past year. As the [Imperative to Invest](#) study⁶ underscored, the holistic and rights-based approach adopted by the Spotlight Initiative – which delivers a comprehensive approach implemented across multiple intersecting pillars and centred on grassroots and local actors and feminist movements – can reduce violence 70–90 per cent more effectively than other approaches. The study also demonstrated that even moderate investments can greatly reduce violence.

For an additional USD 317 million, the Spotlight Initiative's work could further reduce the prevalence of violence in target communities from one in three to one in five women and girls within a decade. Imagine what could be done with two or three times this amount. Ending violence against all women and girls around the world is possible and together – with sustained and meaningful investment – it can be achieved. The Spotlight Initiative invites the donor community to join us and support what we know works.

6. Dalberg ["Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time, fosters peace & stability, and supports people reach full potential, all of which advances us towards the SDGs"](#) (2022).

CHAPTER 2

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE DNA: A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND UNITED NATIONS REFORM DEMONSTRATION FUND BUILT ON PARTNERSHIPS 2023

The Spotlight Initiative is a proven model of multilateralism and multi-stakeholder partnership and engagement toward ending violence against women and girls. Launched in 2017 with a significant seed investment from the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative is a flagship programme of the United Nations Secretary-General, and a demonstration fund for UN Reform and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Spotlight Initiative is led from the highest political levels at both the United Nations and the European Union. This chapter presents an overview of the Initiative's governance structure and funding allocations for 2022, as well as its strategic partnerships, which are central to its sustained impact.

2.1

Fund Structure and Governance

The Spotlight Initiative relies on a multi-tiered and multisector governance structure at the global and programme levels to make decisions and steer the Fund toward its objective of ending violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative's governance structure convenes a range of partners to end violence against women and girls and advance women's human rights more broadly. Coordinated from the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General (EOSG) and under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat facilitates the implementation of the Fund's programme portfolio across Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs). This portfolio consists of 34 programmes: 26 country programmes; five regional programmes along with the Safe and Fair programme in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and two Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes, partnering with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) for programmes in **Africa** and **Latin America**, and the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) for programmes in **Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti** and **Papua New Guinea**.

2.1.1

Global Governance Structure

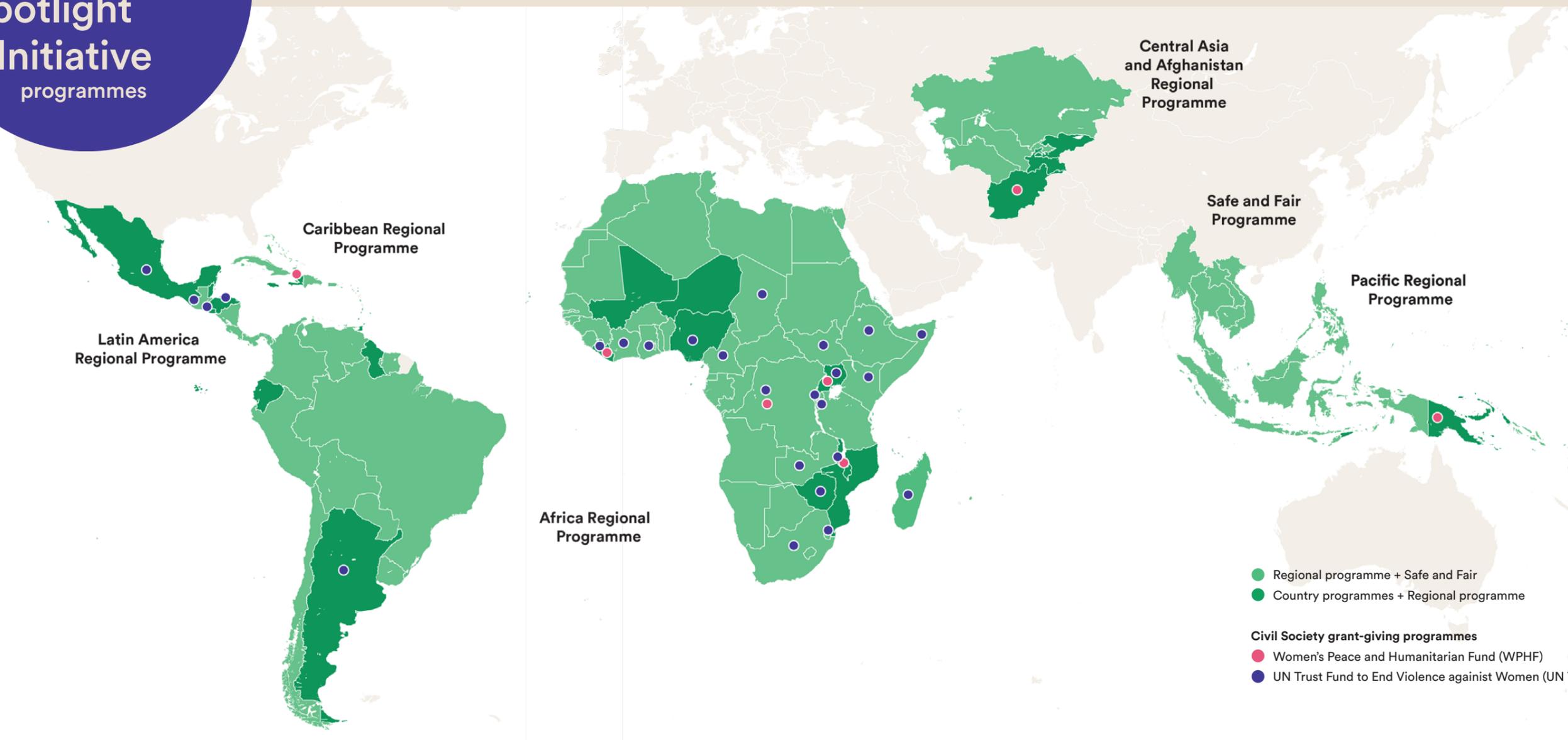
As seen in the Figure below, there are two tiers of governance at the global level: the Governing Body, which is the highest tier, followed by the Operational Steering Committee (OSC). The Executive Office of the Secretary-General manages and coordinates the Spotlight Initiative, while the Administrative Agent (AA) administers the Fund, and the Fund's Secretariat manages the investments through the programme portfolio. This structure supports effective oversight and decision-making, and allows for efficient quality assurance. Notably, civil society, including feminist and women's rights organizations, maintain meaningful participation and membership in the Spotlight Initiative's governance bodies and decision-making at all levels. More information on civil society's specific role in governance can be found below, while the [Spotlight Initiative's Operations Manual Compendium](#) provides additional details on the Fund's governance more generally.

122
countries reached by 34
Spotlight Initiative
programmes

26
Countries reached through Spotlight's
twenty six country programmes

30
Countries reached through Spotlight's
two civil society grant giving
programmes

66
The number of additional countries
reached through Spotlight's five
regional programmes + Safe and Fair



Africa

Liberia ^{II}	\$22.634.286	Africa RP	\$25.620.000
Malawi ^{II}	\$28.571.429	UN Trust Fund – Africa	\$20.636.792
Mali ^{II}	\$25.714.286	WPHF – Africa	\$7.075.472
Mozambique ^{II}	\$28.571.429		
Niger ^{II}	\$24.285.715		
Nigeria ^{II}	\$35.714.286		
Uganda ^{II}	\$31.428.571		
Zimbabwe ^{II}	\$30.000.000		

Asia

Safe and Fair	\$29.370.587
Afghanistan	\$16.500.000
Kyrgyzstan ^{II}	\$6.714.286
Tajikistan ^{II}	\$7.000.000
Central Asia and Afghanistan RP ^{II}	\$5.309.298
WPHF – Afghanistan	\$2.000.000

Pacific

Papua New Guinea ^{II}	\$22.400.000
Samoa ^{II}	\$4.142.857
Timor-Leste ^{II}	\$14.142.857
Vanuatu ^{II}	\$3.535.714
Pacific RP ^{II}	\$8.845.687
WPHF – Papua New Guinea	\$2.000.000

Caribbean

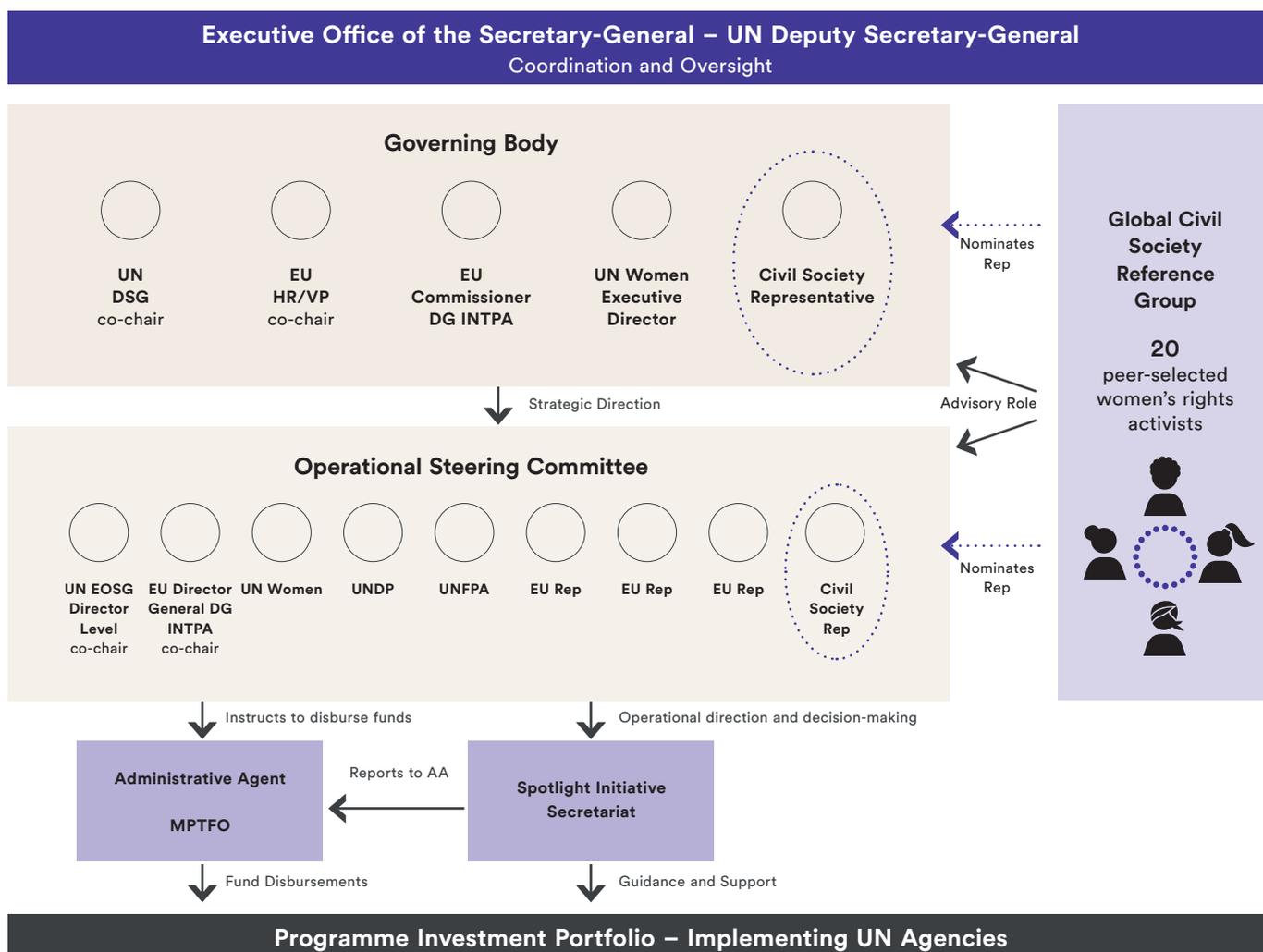
Belize ^{II}	\$3.535.714
Grenada ^{II}	\$2.357.143
Guyana ^{II}	\$5.285.714
Haiti ^{II}	\$14.142.857
Jamaica ^{II}	\$9.428.571
Trinidad and Tobago ^{II}	\$5.285.714
Caribbean RP	\$9.552.830
WPHF – Haiti	\$2.000.000

Latin America

Argentina ^{II}	\$7.714.286
Ecuador	\$2.900.000
El Salvador ^{II}	\$10.285.714
Honduras ^{II}	\$10.285.714
Mexico ^{II}	\$9.000.000
Latin America RP ^{II}	\$5.000.000
UN Trust Fund – Latin America	\$5.660.378

^{II} Phase I and phase II budget included. Other programmes include phase I budget only, or are single-phase. Figures include EU funding only.

Global-Level Governance Structure



2.1.2 Programme-Level Governance Structure

Programmes are governed by National and Regional Steering Committees. Steering committees are context-specific and aligned with the priorities of each programme. They provide oversight and help facilitate coordination. Similarly, **Civil Society Reference Groups** at national and regional levels enable the systematic engagement of civil society, including within Spotlight programmes' governance structures (reference group members must comprise at least 20 per cent of the membership of National and Regional Steering Committees).

The Figure above provides an overview of the programme-level governance structures. Additional details can be found [in previous years' Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Reports](#).

As the Spotlight Initiative is set up as a pooled multi-partner fund, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) is the Administrative Agent of the Initiative, using a "pass-through" arrangement.⁷ In this role, it provides the Secretary-General and Recipient United Nations Organizations with fund administration and other support services, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Secretary-General and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

7. A pooled fund is a mechanism used to receive contributions from multiple financial partners and allocate such resources to multiple implementing entities to support specific national, regional or global development priorities. These open-ended funds operate as "pass-through mechanisms" and as such do not require all participating organizations to comply with the operating procedures of a lead agency. Instead, pooled funds offer a flexible mechanism that enables participating organizations to handle implementation according to their own operating procedures for procurement and financial management. By avoiding any duplication of operating procedures, pass-through mechanisms minimize implementation delays and transaction costs.

Programme-Level Governance Structure



The **Global Secretariat** of the Spotlight Initiative plays a critical, cross-functional role in ensuring effective and sound Fund and programme management and implementation support that maximizes the European Union's investment and promotes transformational results. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat is composed of two units – the Management Unit and the Technical Unit. The units complement each other's areas of expertise to effectively execute a range of responsibilities and support programme coherence and delivery, while working collaboratively under the overall direction of the Global Coordinator. The Management Unit of the Secretariat fulfils core management functions, as well as reporting and coordination, while the Technical Unit ensures the technical quality and coherence of all Spotlight Initiative programmes.

2.2

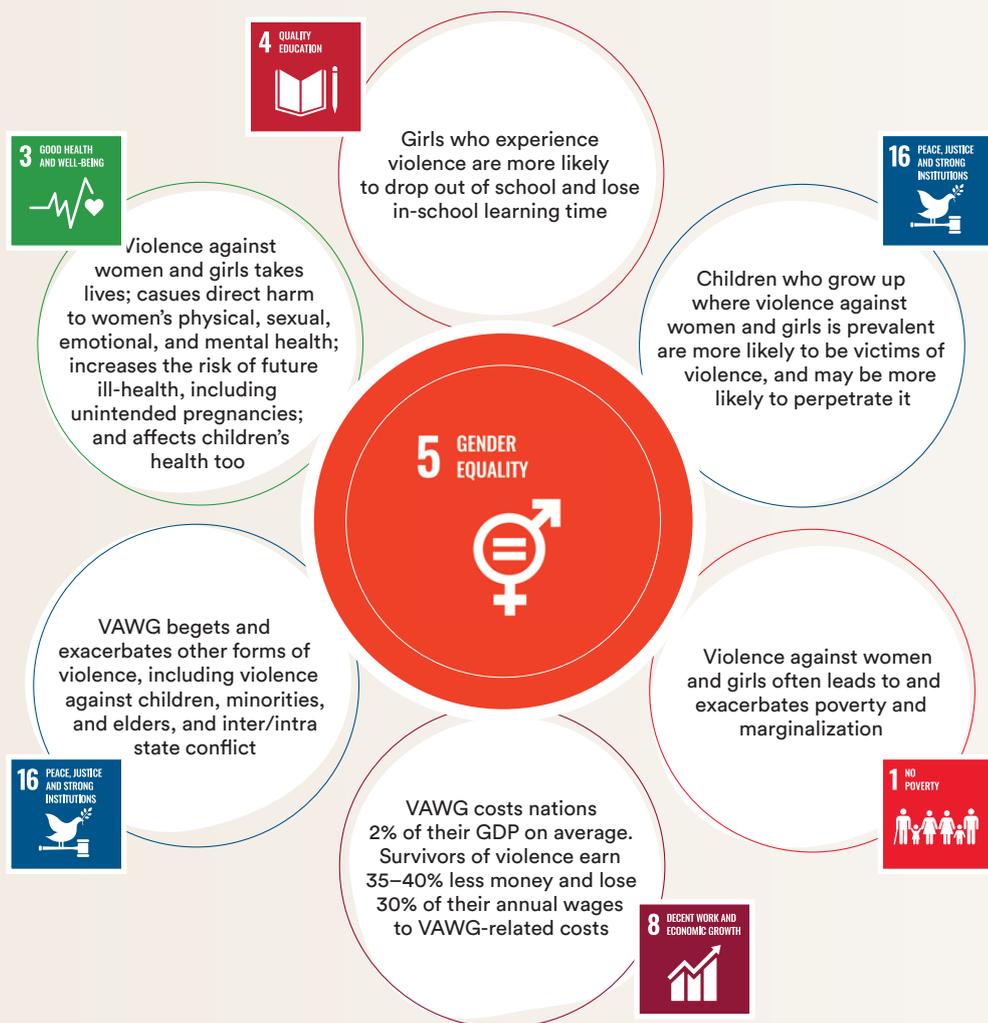
A Model Built Partnership: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Reform

The Fund's structure and governance (as described above) – together with its strategic partnerships and comprehensive approach

(described further below) – position the Spotlight Initiative as both a Sustainable Development Goal model fund and a demonstration fund for the UN Reforms. By addressing and preventing violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative is primarily focused on Goals 5 (gender equality) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), but contributes significantly to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes, for example, by contributing to a world where women and girls live free from threats to their security in cities (SDG 11) and at work (SDG 8), where they can safely and equally access key resources such as water and energy (SDG 6 and SDG 7), and where women and girls can live a healthy life (SDG 3) and be educated (SDG 4). The Spotlight Initiative also contributes to efforts to end poverty (SDG 1), since violence deepens poverty and marginalization, and it also helps to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8). Moreover, the Spotlight Initiative also contributes to stronger global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17), calling on the United Nations and European Union to work together with others to advocate for the elimination of violence against women and girls globally. An illustrative overview of the cross-cutting linkages between addressing violence against women and girls and making progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals can be found in the Figure below.

Violence Against Women and Girls

A Barrier to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



Global-level collaboration

At the global level, United Nations agencies work together in the spirit of UN Reform in a range of ways, including as Spotlight Initiative agency focal points (AFPs).⁸ Agency focal points meet regularly to discuss the Initiative's progress, address emergent challenges, and share operational and technical guidance. These spaces have fostered inter-agency coordination and streamlined communication flows between United Nations agencies at headquarter level and the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, allowing for strengthened support to programme implementation.

Operational and technical agency focal point meetings were held throughout 2022. Operational meetings focused on implementation of the

programmes by, for instance, identifying and addressing management bottlenecks and operational questions, including on procurement, human resources and finance, among others. Technical meetings highlighted the integral work done by Spotlight programmes, addressed technical challenges and provided a space for technical knowledge exchange. At the global level, agency focal point meetings continue to highlight a “new way of working” by coordinating closely to operationalize the Spotlight Initiative's core principles. This intentional coordination has had a ripple effect in strengthening inter-agency partnerships at the programme level.

United Nations agencies also work together at the global level through the United Nations

8. Agency focal points are headquarters-level representatives of each Recipient UN Organization, covering both technical and operational/managerial issues.

Headquarters Knowledge Management Group on ending violence against women and girls. This group – of which the Spotlight Initiative is a part – was pivotal in identifying opportunities for inter-agency collaboration on knowledge management, improving the uptake of knowledge and evidence across the wider United Nations system. The group comprises knowledge management focal points from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2022, the group convened to provide inputs on the development of [a tool to measure the uptake of knowledge products](#), and to discuss plans for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in November 2022.

The Secretariat also leveraged the agency focal points’ expertise in other ways, including organizing key strategic knowledge convenings – such as the Global Learning Symposium – and in the roll-out of SHINE, the online knowledge hub on ending violence against women and girls, produced by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative as part of its Global Platform (more on this in [Chapter 4](#)). The agency focal points also provided technical inputs to the global guidance note on sustainability, the meta-review of Spotlight programmes’ mid-term assessments, approaches to joint resource mobilization, and on the key features of Spotlight Initiative 2.0, playing a critical role in sharing good practices, lessons, and scaling up the Spotlight Initiative model.

In addition to these regular convenings, in February 2022, the Secretariat and agency focal points co-hosted a retreat to look back on three years of implementation and collectively shape the future of the Spotlight Initiative. The learning surfaced has helped inform and strengthen future programming through improved operational, managerial and technical support.

Programme-level collaboration

At the programme level, United Nations agencies under the Spotlight Initiative showcase the “one UN” approach to programme management and implementation, demonstrating UN Reform through a new generation of UN Country Teams and enhanced inter-agency coordination. As part of their impartial, independent and empowered role, UN Resident Coordinators exercise leadership and oversight over the Initiative’s programmes, leading UN Country Teams towards an integrated working model that fosters coherence and accountability, and maximizes the effectiveness of efforts to end violence against women and girls and achieve sustainable development. UN Resident Coordinators also support work among multisectoral partners, including government leaders, European Union Heads of Delegation, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, the donor community and the private sector, among others. For examples of implementation under UN Reform leading to strengthened programming, see [Chapter 4](#) on lessons learned.

Through a whole-of-system approach to eliminating violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative leverages the collective expertise and institutional knowledge of the Initiative’s core agencies at the global level – UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). At the programme level, the Initiative’s programmes comprise Recipient UN Organizations, of which there are 11,⁹ which, in certain contexts, work together with any number of 13 “associated agencies” to implement Spotlight programmes.¹⁰ Agencies are selected by the UN Resident Coordinator to ensure that existing thematic expertise and capacities in the country or region are leveraged effectively to end violence against women and girls. Two examples of inter-agency collaboration to advance a unified approach for more effective programming follow in the box below. For additional examples, see [Chapter 4](#) on Lessons Learned, as well as the [previous Spotlight Initiative global annual reports](#), and [Spotlight Initiative programme annual reports](#).

9. The 11 Recipient United Nations Organizations are: UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), IOM, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR).

10. There are 13 associated agencies. Of the 13 associated agencies, the first 6 listed here also act as Recipient United Nations Organizations in some Spotlight Initiative programmes (e.g. UNESCO is an associated agency in some programmes while in others it is a Recipient United Nations Organization): UN Women, UNESCO, UNHCR, OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, IOM, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Information Centres (UNIC), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Global Pulse.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION IN THE SPIRIT OF UN REFORM: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative continued to engage in participatory, joint processes in the spirit of UN Reform to address implementation, accelerate delivery and catalyse impact. In Zimbabwe, for example, the Inter-Agency Technical Team conducted regular joint monitoring missions, allowing agencies to deliver coordinated interventions with clearer roles for each agency. Additionally, to save time and resources (and utilize existing evidence effectively), the programme also tapped into existing evaluations/assessments (and other agreements). For example, on an operational level, the programme drew on existing capacity assessments (completed by different United Nations agencies) to identify potential implementing partners, conducted new capacity assessments to identify mechanisms for strengthening the capacity of civil society partners, and used existing long-term agreements held by different United Nations agencies. This cross-sharing of expertise and learnings exemplified the benefits of “delivering as one”, and allowed for the active application of the leaving no one behind principle across agencies’ engagement and work with Spotlight Initiative partners. In Papua New Guinea, the Spotlight Initiative Recipient United Nations Organizations engaged in intentional cost-sharing by co-locating in joint premises. This enabled the Initiative’s Programme Management Unit (PMU) to sit together in the same office, and deliver in a more streamlined and coordinated manner.



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2.3

Partnering Meaningfully: Engagement Across Stakeholders

The Spotlight Initiative invests in diverse partnerships at global, regional and country levels to forward its mission to end violence against women and girls. In particular, the Initiative focuses on meaningfully engaging civil society, including local and grassroots groups and feminist and women's rights groups, governments, international development actors, faith-based organizations, academia, influencers and private sector actors, among others. A brief summary below details how the Spotlight Initiative interacts with these various partners, discussing how the different partnerships have had an impact on ending violence against women and girls. Additional details on the importance and added value of the Spotlight Initiative's strategic partnerships to advance transformative results can be found in [Chapter 3](#).

2.3.1

Global-Level Partnerships

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative continued to engage in strategic partnerships at the global level, including with the European Union (which offers its foundational partnership at the United Nations headquarters level, and at the programme level through its delegations), the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, and the Initiative's Global Advocates and Champions. It also consolidated its partnership with the UN Foundation and the Social Good Club, a network of digital influencers for social change, which supported several high-profile influencers to adapt the Initiative's messages for their own wide audiences.

The foundational partnership: the United Nations and the European Union

With the Spotlight Initiative, the European Union has made an unprecedented investment in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls. By promoting global, multi-stakeholder, collaborative action, the partnership has also advanced principles of multilateral cooperation, which is at the heart of achieving the

“One of the great successes of the Spotlight Initiative has been its inclusiveness and ability to rally a wide range of actors – states, local authorities, international organisations, media, faith-based organizations – around ending all types of violence against women and girls.”

– European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen

Sustainable Development Goals. The European Union serves as a key member of the Spotlight Initiative Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee where decisions are made on programming and financial allocations, and has worked closely with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat to shape and monitor the strategic direction of the Initiative through the European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG-INTPA). Collaboration with the European Union at the highest level took place via bilateral calls with the Deputy Secretary-General and European Union Commissioner throughout 2022, as well as their engaged participation in the Initiative's Governing Bodies (as noted above). The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat also made regular visits to Brussels to discuss partnership, review implementation of current Spotlight programmes, and envisage the future of the Initiative.

Additionally, the UN-EU partnership at the programme level, through the EU Delegation, continues to foster more effective, coherent programming, amplifying the Spotlight Initiative's efforts, and helping to build political will at the highest levels of government. Across the Spotlight Initiative programmes, the United Nations and European Union have worked together on strategic planning, partnerships (with a particular emphasis on mobilizing non-traditional partners and advocating with governments), monitoring and communications and visibility. The partnership has also enabled the Spotlight programmes to leverage existing European Union projects and networks, especially with local communities previously engaged in UN-EU programming. Complementing (existing) efforts across contexts to end violence against women and girls helps to prevent duplicative efforts at the country level.

Examples of active collaboration can be found across Spotlight programmes, including in **Malawi**, where the United Nations, EU Delegation, and the Spotlight Initiative line ministries undertook a number of joint missions throughout the year, which facilitated strategic joint advocacy for social behaviour change, while, in **Belize**, the EU Ambassador and EU Delegation actively participated in a joint dialogue with the UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of UN agencies. The dialogue provided a critical space to identify areas for joint advocacy, showcase the impact of the Spotlight Initiative, and to communicate the EU Ambassador's continued commitment to the Initiative. Similarly, in **Mozambique**, the partnership with the European Union has resulted in the EU Delegation supporting the Spotlight Initiative advocacy efforts, including through the high-level participation of the EU Ambassador sharing critical messages, such as the importance of engaging men and boys for ending violence against women and girls. The EU Delegation has also supported the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative work plan and the monitoring of the United Nations and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action's commitments through high-level engagement with the Minister of Gender. Finally, in **Uganda** strong support by – and close collaboration with – the EU Delegation enabled the Spotlight programme to convene a Local Development Partners Roundtable, where a new (successor) programme was successfully promoted, building on the results achieved by the Spotlight Initiative thus far. Continuous collaboration with the EU Delegation in **Uganda** proved critical to this, as the partnership raised the visibility of the Spotlight programme's results, and helped ensure the issue of gender-based violence continued to be prioritized in the national agenda. Additional information on the centrality of this partnership can be found in [Chapter 3](#), [Chapter 4](#) and [Chapter 5](#).

Group of Friends for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (Group of Friends)

Formed in 2020 in response to the [UN Secretary-General's calls for action](#) to address rising levels of violence against women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group of Friends – initiated by the EU – has been meeting regularly since its launch to share lessons learned, promote collective advocacy, mobilize resources and improve cooperation to end violence against women and girls. In 2022,

the 93-member group played a critical role in ensuring that ending violence against women and girls remains at the top of the agenda for Member states, including in the lead up to 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66). More information on the Group of Friends and its contributions to communications and visibility can be found in [Chapter 5](#).

Champions

UN Global Advocates for Spotlight Initiative, actor Cecilia Suarez and South African Springboks Rugby Captain Siya Kolisi, continued in 2022 to raise awareness of the importance of ending violence against women and girls and challenging gender stereotypes through their social media channels, interviews and at panel discussions. More information on their work and engagement can be found in [Chapter 5](#).

UN Foundation

In December 2021, the Spotlight Initiative and the UN Foundation partnered to create the [WithHer Fund](#) with the goal of providing flexible funding to local, grassroots and women-led civil society organizations working to end violence against women and girls in their communities. More information on how this partnership developed in 2022 is contained in [Chapter 5](#).

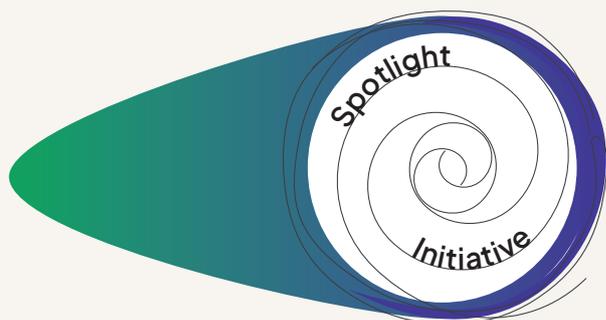
Social Good Club

An ongoing partnership with the Social Good Club and their roster of digital influencers allowed the Spotlight Initiative to spark conversations around violence against women and girls with online audiences that can be hard for institutions to reach through traditional media. More information on this work can be found in [Chapter 5](#).

RISE

The Spotlight Initiative continued its partnership with RISE, a human rights organization founded by Amanda Nguyen, to host a high-profile exhibit in the United Nations visitors' centre in New York. "[What were you wearing?](#)" This built on the success of the Initiative's previous exhibition with RISE by inviting United Nations visitors and diplomats to observe the outfits worn by more than 100 survivors of sexual violence at the time of their attacks to draw attention to the stigma and barriers survivors face in accessing justice. More on this collaboration is contained in [Chapter 5](#).

Collaboratively partnering for outsized impact



- HEAD OF STATE
- GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
- NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
- LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
- CIVIL SOCIETY
- TRADITIONAL AND FAITH BASED LEADERS
- THE PRIVATE SECTOR
- MEDIA
- ACADEMIA
- OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

2.3.2

Programme-Level Partnerships

Recognizing the pivotal role that national and local stakeholders play in the impact and sustainability of the work, the Spotlight Initiative has collaborated with diverse partners across sectors from its initial design, throughout implementation and in programme monitoring and evaluation to advance efforts in ending violence against women and girls. Detailed below is a brief overview of how the Spotlight Initiative engages with these different stakeholders, accompanied by several illustrative examples from 2022, highlighting the strategic contribution of the partnership to accelerating efforts to end violence against women and girls. Additional examples of the critical role of multi-stakeholder and multisectoral partnerships in achieving results can be found in [Chapter 3](#).

Government

The success and sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative is reliant on the support, willingness and ability of governments to take the lead, guide institutions and mobilize national stakeholders to protect and uphold women's rights and end violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative programmes have led efforts on this by directly engaging with the highest level of government, such as Prime Ministers and Heads of States. Mobilizing efforts beyond the ministry level helps secure political buy-in and creates momentum for establishing strategic national priorities to mobilize populations to end violence against women and girls. Engagement with high-level leaders also allows the Spotlight Initiative to heighten the political visibility of the

issue and offers opportunities to use national platforms to increase awareness, share key messages and accelerate social norm change. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative programmes made substantial progress in bringing the elimination of violence against women and girls to the forefront of national government agendas and accelerating the adoption of a whole-of-society approach to ending violence against women and girls across governments.

In **Honduras**, for example, the programme regularly engages with the Office of Women's Affairs (SEMJJER), the national mechanism through which actions on women's issues are coordinated, advocacy opportunities are identified and the priority needs (of Honduran women and girls) are established. Through the Spotlight Initiative's partnership with SEMJJER, SEMJJER now leads the Initiative's National Steering Committee and will be key in the sustainability of the Initiative's contributions, leading the roll-out of the sustainability strategy. In **Samoa**, the Spotlight Initiative programme and its partnership with the Government helped mobilize government efforts focused on eliminating violence against women and girls by reflecting the issue in national agendas, dialogues and budgets. As a result of this partnership, the Government of Samoa officially commended the Spotlight Initiative partnership and the opportunities for expanding and accelerating efforts toward the elimination of violence against women and girls. Led by Samoa's first woman Prime Minister, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, the new Government renewed its commitment to the elimination of violence against women and girls, where 500,000 Samoan Tala (WST) in the 2022–2023 national budget was allocated to non-governmental organizations addressing gender-based violence. The Prime Minister, Hon. Fiame

Naomi Mataafa, was also presented with the Spotlight Initiative Leave No One Behind Award, which the **Samoa** Spotlight programme won in Cancún, Mexico, in recognition of engagement and commitment across all sectors to contribute to ending violence against women and girls.

Ministries

The Spotlight Initiative's day-to-day work of partnering with governments involves engaging with counterparts at the ministry level. On behalf of national governments in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators, ministry representatives frequently co-chair National Steering Committees. This arrangement of governance helps to further foster collaboration and coherence between government partners and UN Country Teams. The Spotlight Initiative also assists with coordinating a whole-of-government approach to ending violence against women and girls, by engaging with partners across ministries, which includes entities in charge of national development and planning. In **Zimbabwe**, for example, a coordinated whole-of-government approach has been implemented, which is essential for creating ownership of the eradication of violence against women and girls and harmful practices. In 2022, the "Spotlight Initiative Inter-Ministerial Coordination Mechanism" gathered twice. The Government is now strongly committed to the Spotlight Initiative's goals and to the development of various plans of actions, like the Action Plan of the High-Level Political Compact, among others, to end violence against women and girls. The text box in [Chapter 3](#) on ending child marriage legislation in **Zimbabwe** is an example of this.

Other national institutions: Legislature, judiciary and parliament

The Spotlight Initiative programmes continue to partner strategically with other national institutions and duty-bearers to deepen local ownership and political buy-in, ensure alignment with local priorities and foster sustainability. Institutions and legislative bodies play a key role in supporting the Spotlight Initiative in reforming policies and practices to systematically prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. Of note, partnerships with legislative bodies have accelerated efforts to protect survivors

and their rights and to address the impunity of perpetrators. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative continued its efforts to enhance the use of gender mainstreaming approaches in legislative processes, and has supported the drafting of laws and regulations to promote the elimination of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative has also partnered with parliaments and judiciaries to ensure equal access to justice for survivors of violence. In this work, a particular focus has been on addressing a wide range of barriers, including corruption and discrimination, to women and girls obtaining justice, particularly women and girls traditionally left behind. In **Papua New Guinea**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission to consult on a Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill, which involved diverse stakeholders from across the four regions of the country.¹¹ As a result, several policies will be drafted, including one on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, and another to support the administration of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill once it is enacted and create sustainable administrative procedures for the protection of human rights defenders.

Private sector

Partnerships with the private sector have offered important opportunities for the Spotlight Initiative to accelerate prevention efforts and connect the elimination of violence against women and girls with other Sustainable Development Goals.¹² By establishing partnerships with entrepreneurs and companies, the Spotlight Initiative programmes engage the private sector as agents of change to end violence against women and girls and discrimination, including sexual harassment in the workplace. By intervening in workplaces, Spotlight programmes also aim to reach isolated or vulnerable women who have restricted community contact outside of work. In **Grenada**, for example, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative programme, the National Gender Machinery established a two-year strategy that seeks to guide private sector organizations and trade unions in carrying out, monitoring and evaluating workplace activities that aim to eliminate violence against women and girls and promote gender equality. After engaging with private sector groups and trade unions, the strategy recommendations

11. The 2022 Papua New Guinea Annual Programme Report, page 8.

12. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG 17 focused on global partnership as critical to the mobilization of diverse financial and in-kind resources from various sources, including the private sector.

included developing mechanisms for reporting violence, conducting immediate follow-ups and investigations and making sure that no reprisals are taken against employees who experience or report workplace violence.

Media

The Spotlight Initiative has partnered extensively with the media and arts and culture organizations to heighten awareness of healthy gender norms and behaviours and increase knowledge about the rights of women and girls, especially at the community level. In **Malawi**, for example, the programme collaborated with a private media company to raise awareness on eliminating violence against women and girls.¹³

This included promoting positive masculinities across the six Spotlight Initiative districts.

Furthermore, to highlight the important role of activists during the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence, 16 community-based activists were interviewed on community and national radio stations to help amplify and share their stories. In **Samoa**, the programme also directly engaged with key production houses and social media agencies. This included efforts seeking to develop dialogues with major media partners as well as teaching local communities ways to translate media messages into actions in order to adopt new social norms and behaviours. As part of these efforts, the Spotlight programme carried out a campaign specifically aimed at parents in communities, with the intention to raise awareness of ways to become a positive influence in one's own circle, family and village.

Traditional and faith-based leaders

Engaging traditional and religious leaders in efforts to eliminate harmful practices and transform cultural norms is critical for the sustainability and success of the Spotlight Initiative programmes. Spotlight programmes have frequently partnered with women faith leaders, who hold a unique position in communities in terms of urging religious groups and religious leaders who are men to denounce violence against women and girls, including at churches and in other spaces in the community. Under the Spotlight Initiative

programme in **Belize**, for example, the Belize Council of Churches and the National Evangelical Association of Belize, coordinated introductory, high-level dialogues with faith leaders and faith-based organizations to explore partnership opportunities to address the root causes of family violence.¹⁴ Focused on data trends in family violence, the dialogues engaged faith leaders in a wider discussion on family violence and child marriage, and helped foster alliances with faith leaders to explore how to increase awareness of family violence and child marriage. Despite some tension and pushback around certain issues – such as on sexual and reproductive health and rights, abortion and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) – the dialogues surfaced ways in which the Spotlight Initiative and the United Nations more broadly can better support and leverage the influential position of faith leaders, deepen this important partnership and scale up existing actions.

In **Honduras**, the Spotlight programme engaged traditional and religious leaders – together with faith-based and spiritual organizations – to create spaces for interreligious dialogues, including discussion on a recently completed tolerance study (that examines the different social norms that promote violence against women and girls). This will be taken forward sustainably as the programme winds down. In **Mozambique**, the Spotlight programme has continuously invested in the critical engagement of community and traditional leaders to raise awareness and change norms surrounding violence against women and girls as well as to amplify efforts to end child marriage. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative programme strengthened this partnership through the engagement of 838 community and religious leaders, including through the launch of the Regional Community Leaders Forum as a follow up to the provincial forums established in 2021. The forum brought together 300 community leaders (141 women) from Mozambique and the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA), as well as civil society organizations and senior government representatives from central and provincial levels, to discuss the role and engagement of African community leaders as spokespersons in the prevention and fight against child marriage.

13. The 2022 Malawi Annual Programme Report, page 43.

14. The 2022 Belize Annual Programme Report, page 29.



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Academia

Universities, research bodies and academia also occupy a unique position in terms of shaping the beliefs and perspectives of future leaders and policymakers. The Spotlight Initiative programmes have partnered with academia (across disciplines) to advocate for the development of specialized learning centres, for programmes to teach and promote the development of inclusive and non-discriminatory public policies, and for the use (in academia and policy-making) of evidence-based approaches to eliminate violence against women and girls. In **El Salvador**, for example, during the reporting period, the Initiative partnered with “REDLIES”, an El Salvadoran women leaders’ network in higher education institutions. Workshops were held with 18 professors from six universities to train them in the analysis of campaign communication materials (such as podcasts, life stories and testimonies) to promote efforts to end violence against women and girls. As a result, Gerardo Barrios Universidad (one of the universities in attendance) held a workshop

with 60 students, engaging in a communication and gender analysis of the podcast “Her brother, her aggressor”, which sparked important conversations on gender-based violence.

Civil society and independent women’s funds

Partnerships with civil society and progressive movements, and with local and grassroots organizations and women’s and feminist organizations and movements in particular, are at the heart of the Spotlight Initiative’s way of working, at the foundation of its Theory of Change and critical to its progress in ending violence against women and girls. Since its inception, the Spotlight Initiative has worked to build an inclusive foundation for sustained partnership with civil society that is transformative in the way the United Nations, the European Union, governments and civil society work together to end violence against women and girls. Guided by the principles of leaving no one behind and national ownership, the Spotlight Initiative’s holistic partnership with civil society spans programme implementation, monitoring and reporting to strategic advice and decision-making (within governance structures). This is detailed further below in Section 3.4.

Partnering meaningfully with independent women’s funds accelerates change as well driving core resources to feminist and women’s groups. Spotlight programmes – including the



African Regional Programme, the Central Asia Regional Programme, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, the Pacific Regional Programme, Samoa, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Zimbabwe – worked with a range of independent women’s funds throughout 2022. Spotlight programmes partnered with women’s funds to provide core funding to amplify their convening power and strengthen their advocacy efforts. The Spotlight Initiative **Pacific Regional Programme**, for example, reported that, by supporting independent women’s funds in the region, the programme was able to directly contribute to the strengthening of movement-building and the growth of smaller women’s funds. More information on the importance of core funding and women’s funds can be found in [Chapter 3](#).

2.4

Partnering Meaningfully: A Deeper Dive into Civil Society’s Engagement in Governance and Monitoring

As noted in previous annual reports, the Spotlight Initiative’s partnership with civil society, and in particular local and grassroots women’s rights and feminist organizations, is rooted in the evidence base that the autonomous mobilization of feminists (and progressive movements, including feminist movements) is instrumental to progressive policy change.¹⁵ The evidence is unequivocal: the presence of active feminist

movements contributes to progressive legal reforms on violence against women and girls, underscoring the importance of activism and a vibrant civil society for sustainable change. Feminist movements also amplify the voices of structurally marginalized and discriminated groups of women and girls. The meaningful engagement of civil society and movements is therefore a core and cross-cutting principle of the Spotlight Initiative, and integral to its functioning.

As noted above, to ensure meaningful partnership with civil society and women’s movements, the Spotlight Initiative has engaged with civil society through, inter alia, its governance mechanisms and monitoring (to hold the Initiative accountable to its commitments). However, meaningful support to, and engagement with, civil society cannot be fully achieved without dedicated, quality funding. Despite the evident impact of feminist organizations and autonomous women’s movements on sustained long-term social transformation, women’s rights organizations, particularly local and grassroots groups, and progressive movements remain severely under-resourced. Read more about how Spotlight Initiative aims to address this and funds civil society and the women’s movements in [Chapter 3](#).

Governance and sustainability

Civil society representatives, including those representing groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination,¹⁶ have been engaged in shaping the Spotlight Initiative from its inception

15. S. Laurel Weldon & Mala Htun, [Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women](#) (2013), and, [The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective](#) (2012).

16. These include, but are not limited to, women and girls living in rural communities, women and girls from ethnic minorities and indigenous communities, women and girls who are survivors of violence, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQI+ persons, women and girls living with disabilities, sex workers, domestic and informal workers, women of diverse sexual orientations, gender diverse women, etc.

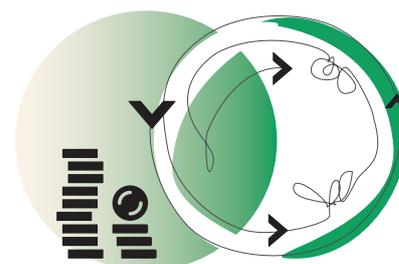
through governance and advisory roles. To ensure civil society engagement throughout the programme cycle, Civil Society Reference Groups were established at global, regional and national levels engaging diverse women's rights and feminist activists as well as subject-matter experts and groups representing marginalized communities. The Reference Groups have a triple mandate: 1) to advise on programme implementation; 2) to advocate for the realization of the Initiative's objectives, and 3) to hold the Initiative accountable to its commitments. As noted earlier in this chapter, Civil Society Reference Group members are also represented as full members in governance structures and decision-making bodies: on National and Regional Steering Committees (the highest decision-making body at the programme level); and at the global level, the Global Operational Steering Committee and the Governing Body.

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, together with Reference Group members, have developed concrete guidance on meaningfully engaging Reference Group members in governance, as well as in work plan development, budgeting and monitoring. [Previous Spotlight Initiative global and programme annual reports](#) have additional details on the guidance. Additionally, as noted, to foster sustained (and meaningful) engagement, Civil Society Reference Groups develop budgeted and resourced work plans. In 2022, the total budget for National and Regional Civil Society Reference Groups' work plans reached USD 2,171,488, compared to USD 745,229 for the previous reporting period. An additional USD 80,000 was also allocated to the Global Reference Group. The costed Reference Group work plans provided the Reference Groups the autonomy to define their priorities and engage in relevant activities. In **Argentina**, for example, the Reference Group members co-led and co-designed the Spotlight Initiative's communication campaign *#EsPosible una vida libre de violencias* (a life free from violence is possible) during the 16 Days of Activism, which reached over 3 million people on social media. The campaign focused on ending gender-based violence from an intersectional perspective. Reference Group members were also invited to join the evaluation panel of the call for small grants launched in February 2022, which is an innovative practice that allows for increased transparency and decision-making for civil society in United Nations processes.

Throughout 2022, the Secretariat took stock of the implementation of the [Guidance Note on Civil Society Reference Group Compensation](#) and supported programmes as they embarked on this new and innovative way of compensating civil society partners. As of December 2022,



Participation of civil society and intersectional feminist movements in governance, decision making and programming



Funding mechanisms and the disbursement of funds to feminist organizations and networks



Implementation integrating the perspectives of feminist activists and constituency-led organizations

seven Civil Society Reference Groups¹⁷ had

17. These are: the Global Civil Society Reference Group (GRG), and reference groups in Guyana, Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda.

operationalized the compensation modality and at least six groups¹⁸ initiated the roll-out process. The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat also found that most programmes with an active Reference Group ensured compensation for travel and data costs related to their work plan activities.

In addition to the engagement noted above, knowledge exchange, cross-regional meetings and other learning events were held in 2022. For example, over 200 Reference Group members across five regions participated in the biannual Civil Society Regional Forums in June 2022 and December 2022 sharing collaborative advocacy efforts and discussing the sustainability of the Reference Group mechanism in the Spotlight Initiative and beyond.

These consultations, along with three weeks of online discussion on the SHINE Hub, an online knowledge hub on ending violence against women and girls, produced by the UN Trust Fund in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, in December 2022 led to the development of the **Sustainability Guidance Note on Civil Society Engagement** that ensures that the partnership with civil society is addressed as part of sustainability plans and that the plans are responsive to the needs of local communities and rights holders.

To sustain civil society's efforts in the Spotlight Initiative's governance structures, the National Reference Group members in **Uganda** participated in the proposal writing for the successor programme Gender for Development in Uganda and used their roles to advocate for increased gender funding. The Reference Group is also represented on the Spotlight programme's exit committee to ensure civil society's perspective is embedded in the programme's transition plan. The Reference Group members were compensated for their work, which enabled them to engage more readily. In **Vanuatu** and the **Pacific Regional Programme**, the Reference Groups expanded their mandate to advise on all United Nations gender-based violence programming in the region and country to ensure that civil society is systematically and meaningfully engaged at every level to address violence against women and girls.

Civil Society Reference Group: Monitoring for accountability

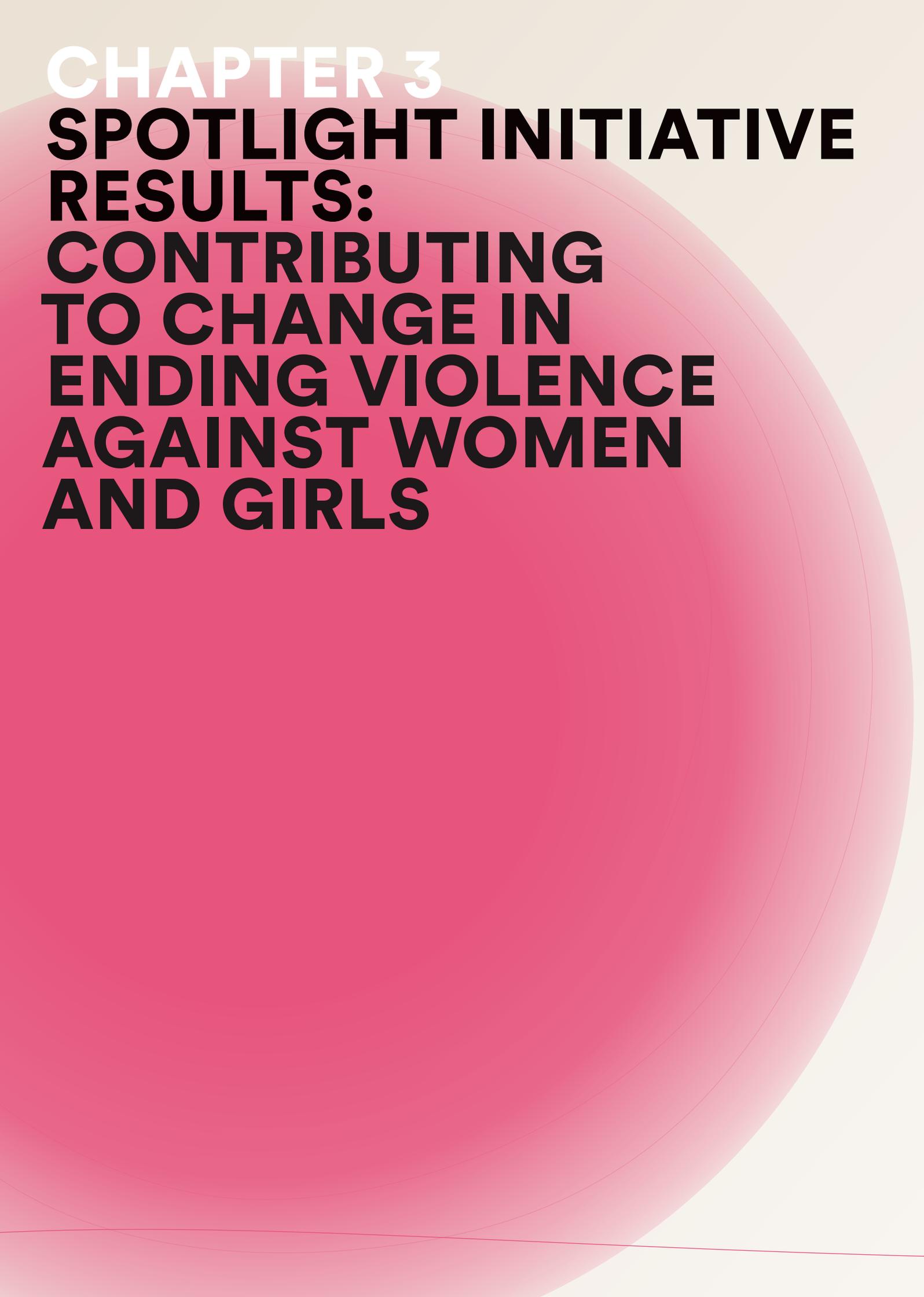
As mentioned in previous Spotlight Initiative annual reports, the Count Me In! Consortium and several members of Civil Society Reference Groups collectively developed a [Civil Society Monitoring Toolkit](#). This toolkit allows for independent monitoring and reporting by civil society on the Initiative's contributions, which is critical to the legitimacy and relevance of the Spotlight Initiative. In response to the request for more technical support, in 2022, the Secretariat and the Global Civil Society Reference Group conducted global peer-learning workshops to exchange lessons and experiences on their monitoring work. To date, at least seven Reference Groups have produced [Advocacy Scorecards](#). Additional scorecards are in the pipeline for 2023. Scorecards have highlighted how the Spotlight Initiative has advanced meaningful engagement of, and funding to, civil society, despite complex United Nations procurement and finance processes, which have been reported as a bottleneck to the accessibility of funds and a constraint to implementation.

Independent monitoring and reporting by civil society on the Spotlight Initiative's contributions are critical to the legitimacy and relevance of the Initiative, as well. In **Liberia**, the Civil Society National Reference Group conducted two monitoring visits in four Spotlight programme counties in 2022. The group's monitoring report and recommendations were delivered at the National Steering Committee, spurring a pledge by the Government of Liberia and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia to begin to raise awareness among traditional leaders and monitor activities around the "6-count Anti-FGM Policy", which banned female genital mutilation (FGM) in Liberia for three years.

18. Grenada, Liberia, Latin America Regional, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago.

“A key good practice agreed across all Reference Groups is our representation and participation in the governance and decision-making bodies. Civil society has heavily advocated to be part of these spaces because we know that this is where the UN, the EU, and governments sit together and we have a direct advocacy link to influence policy and implementation of the Initiative. This practice of bringing all stakeholders together, especially having a civil society representative independently chosen by the group, proves to be an essential foundational piece to any initiative, even beyond Spotlight.”

Shamah Bulangis, Global Civil Society Reference Group member and representative to the Operational Steering Committee



CHAPTER 3
SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE
RESULTS:
CONTRIBUTING
TO CHANGE IN
ENDING VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

This chapter opens with an overview of the global context in which the Spotlight Initiatives operates, along with how the Initiative's Theory of Change directly addresses violence against women and girls. Then, the chapter details the key results and achievements across each of the Spotlight Initiative's six Pillars (or outcome areas) and includes compelling case studies of promising or good practices. An overview of the Initiative's efforts to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights is also included. The chapter rounds out with an overview of some of the most pervasive challenges to ending violence against women and girls and the creative and innovative measures Spotlight programmes took to address these.

3.1 The Context

Globally, 2022 witnessed a rollback in women's and girls' rights worldwide, with both aggressive and more subtle, yet pernicious, measures taken to strip women of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, undermine their right to education and their economic rights and limit their political representation. In fact, at present, women and girls have only three-quarters of the legal rights of boys and men.¹⁹ At the same time, [threats and attacks against human rights defenders](#) increased in 2022, [with women human rights defenders disproportionately targeted](#). This backlash against women's rights, institutions and organizations is often led by antidemocratic forces, politicizing the rights of women and girls as part of a broader agenda, shrinking civic space and threatening to roll back decades of progress.²⁰

Additionally, women and girls continue to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated existing inequalities and contributed to an increase in violence against women and girls.²¹ As a result, women report feeling more unsafe than they felt before the pandemic.²² Further, while the pandemic shone a light on the crisis of violence against

women and girls, as the world transitions to a post-pandemic reality, that light has faded and many States have failed to treat this rights violation as the emergency that it is.

In addition to the impact of COVID-19, [ongoing conflicts and protracted crises](#), including those in Afghanistan, Haiti, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen and Ukraine, among others, continue to have a severe and disproportionate impact on women and girls globally,²³ resulting in widening inequality, a cost-of living crisis and increasing threats of food insecurity and energy poverty. Concurrently, the climate crisis has also had a devastating impact on women's livelihoods, health and well-being. The combined impact of COVID-19, conflict and insecurity and the targeted attack on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights has weakened global efforts toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 5 on gender equality. Data from 2021 showed that it would take 286 years to achieve gender equality, while data for 2023 underscored that it would take 300 years to achieve gender equality.²⁴

In the face of these and other intersecting crises, massive movements fuelled by women in all their diversity and youth are demanding justice, inclusion and rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, education, economic security, movement and participation. As the Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and others have underscored, "across the globe, feminist, women's rights and gender justice [activists, movements and defenders] are challenging the agendas of fascist and fundamentalist actors ...agendas that target women, persons who are non-conforming in their gender identity, expression and sexual orientation, and other oppressed communities."²⁵ Women have and continue to be at the forefront of organized protest and resistance, envisioning alternatives to existing hegemonic systems and oppressive structures. Inspired and guided by these movements, the Spotlight Initiative continues to join forces with women-led grassroots organizations and to position civil society organizations at the forefront of the Initiative's efforts, magnifying the Spotlight Initiative's support for their ongoing fight to end violence against women and girls.

19. [Nearly 2.4 Billion Women Globally Don't Have Same Economic Rights as Men](#) (World Bank, March 2022, Press Release).

20. [Revenge of the Patriarchs: Why Autocrats Fear Women](#) (Foreign Affairs, March/April 2022).

21. [The Economic Impact on Women of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

22. [UN Women Report: Measuring the Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women during COVID-19](#).

23. [Global Gendered Impacts of the Ukraine Crisis: Measuring: On Energy Access and Food Security and Nutrition](#) (UN Women, 2022).

24. [Without investment, gender equality will take nearly 300 years: UN report](#).

25. [AWID: Advancing Universal Rights and Justice: Uprooting Fascisms and Fundamentalisms](#).

Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change

Initiative Goal: All women and girls, especially those most vulnerable, live free from violence and harmful practices

Pillar 1 – Policies and Legislation

Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans



1.2 Partners are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG

1.1 Partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination

1.3 Partners have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda

Pillar 2 – Institutions

National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including in other sectors



2.1 Officials in relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG

2.2 Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms established at the highest level that are adequately funded and include multi-sectoral representation and representation from the most marginalized groups

2.3 Partners have greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG

Pillar 3 – Prevention

Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices



3.1 Evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours for in and out of school settings

3.2 Community advocacy platforms are established to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours

3.3 Key decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG

Pillar 4 – Services

Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence



4.1 Government authorities and women's rights organisations have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services

4.2 Survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services

Pillar 5 – Data

Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes



5.1 Partners have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG

5.2 Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available

6.2 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms

Pillar 6 – Women's Movements

Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and civil society organisations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG



6.1 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate

6.3 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

3.2

How the Spotlight Initiative Contributes to Change: The Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change

The Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change is grounded in the belief that a robustly resourced, rights-based, comprehensive approach to programming - one that centres feminist and women's rights organizations and women and girls themselves, and addresses the root causes of violence - will most effectively contribute to ending violence against women and girls.

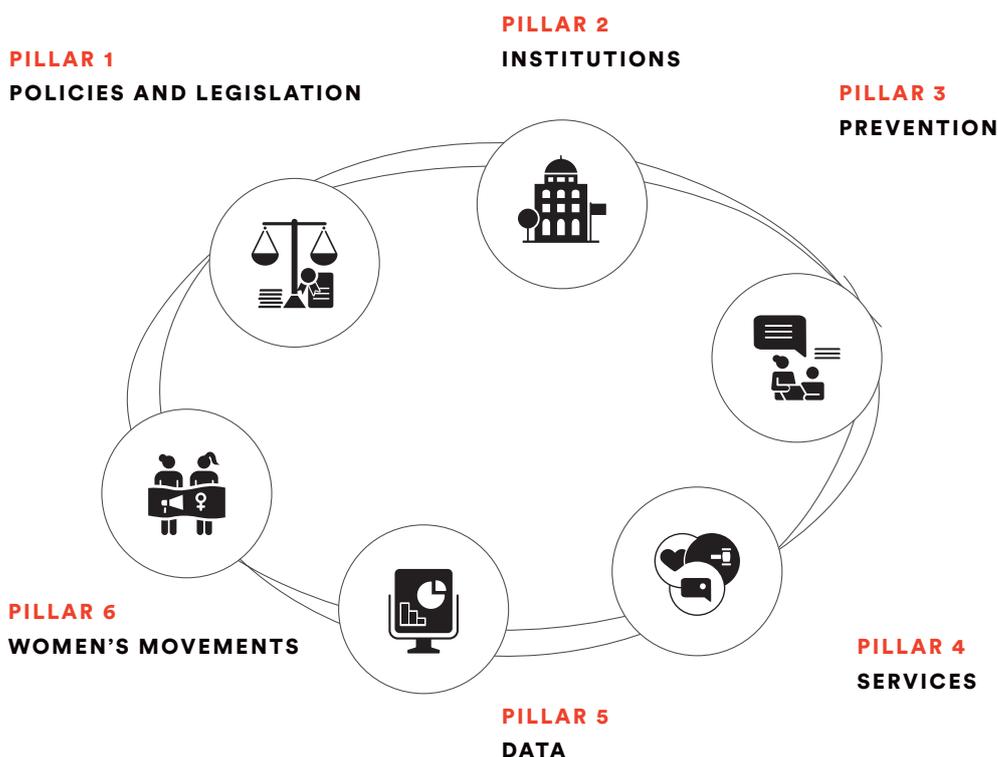
Together with its broad base of partners, the Spotlight Initiative focuses on achieving results across six outcome areas or Pillars.

Ending violence against women and girls requires a comprehensive approach accompanied by financial commitments that are equal to the enormity of the crisis (see Section 4.3 below). As such, the Spotlight Initiative is structured around the six Pillars of the Theory of Change, with programmes working strategically across all Pillars. Spotlight programmes deliver integrated

interventions that address unequal laws and policies, fortify institutions that promote gender equality and women's rights and tackle the intersecting factors that lead to violence against women and girls including harmful social norms, practices and beliefs. Additionally, Spotlight programmes provide essential services to rights holders and survivors to ensure their full social, economic and political inclusion. They invest heavily in generating a robust evidence base and data to track and promote global efforts to end violence against women and girls. Mainstreamed throughout the Initiative's work is the support of women's movements (Pillar 6) as evidence demonstrates that when women are mobilized, mass movements are more likely to succeed in achieving a more democratic and equitable society.

While occurring globally, violence against women and girls differs across contexts, requiring localized responses in the regions in which the Spotlight Initiative works. The results captured in this chapter demonstrate the immense progress and impact the Spotlight Initiative has made towards ending all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as the ongoing effort towards full eradication.

Spotlight Initiative – working across 6 Pillars



3.3

Spotlight Initiative Funding Allocations

3.3.1

Overall Funding Allocations

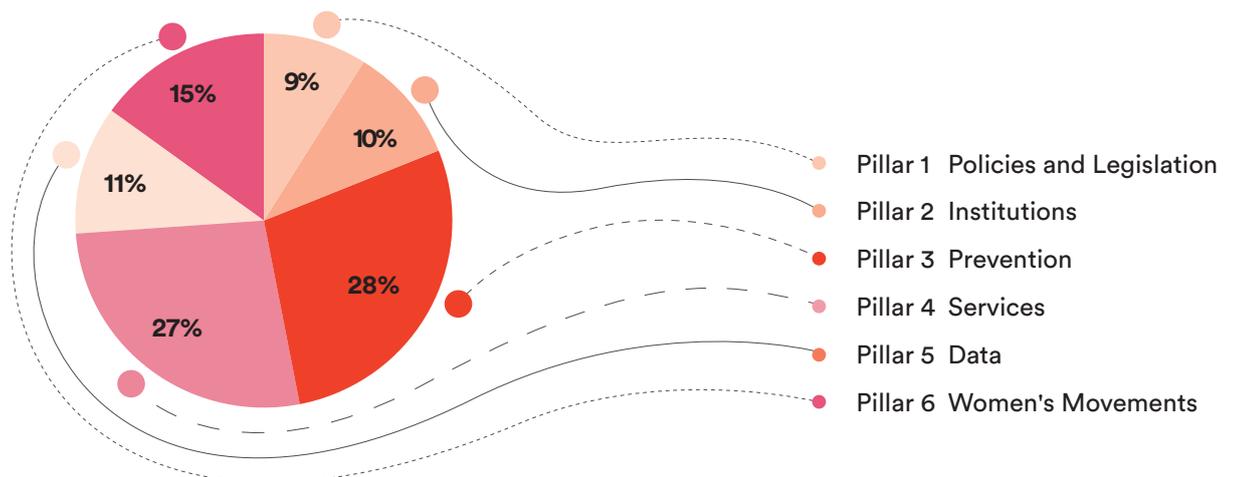
Overall, as of the end of 2022, the Spotlight Initiative has budgeted USD 504.7 million across its 26 country programmes; five regional programmes and the Safe and Fair programme in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and two Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes, partnering with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) for programmes in Africa and Latin America, and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) for programmes in Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea. This includes USD 32.2 million in additional Phase II programming approved by the Spotlight Initiative’s Operational Steering Committee to 14 country and regional programmes in Asia,

the Caribbean and the Pacific throughout 2022. This is captured in the global map presented in [Chapter 2](#), which highlights Spotlight Initiative’s reach and programme portfolios. Allocations by country or regional programme and other financial information may be found in [Chapter 7](#), the 2022 Annual Consolidated Financial Report.

The Spotlight Initiative funding by outcome area

The Spotlight Initiative invests across the six Pillars of its comprehensive Theory of Change. Cumulatively, from the start of the Spotlight Initiative, the Fund has allocated the largest share of resources towards work on prevention, to address the underlying causes that perpetuate violence against women and girls, followed by investments in services, improving accessibility, availability and quality. The pie chart below illustrates the proportion of allocated investment across all six pillars.²⁶ The third most significant area of allocation is Pillar 6, investing in civil society and strong women’s rights movements to amplify the advancements and complement the efforts made across the other five pillars.

Spotlight Initiative allocated investment globally by Pillar as of December 2022



26. Data comes from budgeted programme outcome costs (activity costs) in OSC-approved Phase I+II budgets for programmes in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific (EU funding only). For programmes in Ecuador, Afghanistan, Caribbean Regional Programme and the Africa Regional Programme, the OSC-approved phase I budget is used. The data does not include the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, and the Safe and Fair programmes.

And as this year's theme – “Unite: Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls” – reminds us, it means standing with activists around the world who are calling for change and supporting survivors of violence. I call on governments to increase funding by 50 per cent to women's rights organizations and movements by 2026. Let's take a stand and raise our voices in support of women's rights. Let's proudly declare: We are all feminists. Let's consign violence against women and girls to the history books.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations²⁷

27. [Secretary-General António Guterres message for the international day for the elimination of violence against women.](#)

3.3.2

Funding for Civil Society and Feminist and Women's Rights Organizations

Autonomous women's and feminist movements are essential to advancing progressive policies to end violence against women and girls and, more broadly, to creating long-term societal transformations towards equality and justice.²⁸ Despite the centrality of their role, women's rights organizations and autonomous feminist movements remain severely and chronically underfunded. Studies show that less than 1 per cent of gender-focused aid from governments goes to autonomous women's rights organizations (USD 707 million of USD 56.5 billion) and only 4 per cent of total bilateral aid goes to advancing gender equality as the principal priority.²⁹

The Spotlight Initiative aims to address this resource gap by applying an inclusive, human rights-based, and feminist approach to funding that disrupts the existing landscape and deep-rooted power imbalances to shift money and decision-making power to grassroots and local women's organizations and movements. To do this, the Initiative invests in civil society through a twin-track approach: directly through its Pillar 6,

focused on supporting autonomous women's movements; and through mainstreamed support and partnership across all other Pillars of the programme. Fifteen per cent of Spotlight programmes' activity funds³⁰ (USD 48.5 million) have been allocated to Pillar 6, nearly exceeding the Initiative's target (10-15 per cent). This is an increase of USD 7 million from December 2021, and further strengthens and sustains organizational resilience to continue to do this important work. More information on funding to civil society (and their targets) can be found in the illustration below.

The Spotlight Initiative's Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes complement this approach in partnership with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. As a result, the Spotlight Initiative is globally channelling half of its programmatic funding to civil society organizations, and in particular, national and local women's organizations and organizations to sustain movements and advance efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls. Additionally, as noted in a box below, as well as in [Chapter 2](#) and further in [Chapter 5](#), the [WithHer Fund](#) targets resources directly to grassroots women's organizations working to end violence against women and girls in their communities.

Civil society funding commitments



28. S. Laurel Weldon & Mala Htun, [Feminist mobilisation and progressive policy change: why governments take action to combat violence against women](#) (2013), and, [The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective](#) (2012).

29. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): [OECD Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment: A 2021 snapshot](#), p. 4.

30. This ranges from 18 per cent in Central Asia to 12 per cent in Latin America. This figure does not include the Safe and Fair programme in the ASEAN region given its different programmatic structure, as well as the UN Trust Fund and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund programmes. If the UN Trust Fund and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund programmes, which allocate their entire activity costs to Pillar 6, are included, the overall amount for Pillar 6 is 85 million USD, or 23 per cent of the overall activity costs.

Motivated by [18 feminist recommendations](#),³¹ the Initiative set ambitious funding targets to ensure funding reached civil society and, in particular, local women’s rights organizations working to end violence against women and girls in their communities. Tracking this funding allows the Spotlight Initiative to highlight just how transformative the impact of providing quality funding directly to civil society is to the lives of women and girls.

Resourcing the key drivers of change: Funding civil society

Overall, Spotlight Initiative exceeded its targeted funding commitments to civil society organizations and local women’s rights organizations. During the reporting period, Spotlight Initiative continued to achieve its commitment of delivering 30–50 per cent of programme funds through civil society organizations. As of December 2022, cumulatively Spotlight Initiative programmes **allocated 48 per cent**, or about **USD 190 million**,³² of activity funds to civil society organizations.

This is an increase of approximately USD 11 million from the previous year. All five regions in which the Spotlight Initiative works are exceeding the minimum target of 30 per cent, with Central Asia leading at over 58 per cent.³³ Out of the USD 190 million allocated, a total of **USD 174 million** has been **delivered** to civil society organizations to date, an increase of **over USD 29 million from 2021**. This means that programmes have now delivered about 91 per cent of the total allocated funding for civil society organization.



Spotlight Initiative’s fund allocation to civil society as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Region ³⁴	Overall funds allocated (budgeted) to the civil society as of end of 2022	Overall funds delivered (awarded) to the civil society as of end of 2022
Africa	83,729,092	82,763,883
Latin America	14,941,813	14,323,183
Pacific	16,639,395	12,636,814
Caribbean	13,372,067	10,920,936
Central Asia	15,084,840	9,780,562
UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund ³⁵	36,796,862	36,698,934
Safe and Fair ³⁶	9,818,535	6,613,966
Global Total	190,382,604	173,738,279

31. Developed in 2018 by over 600 feminist and women’s rights advocates and shared with Spotlight Initiative by the Count Me In! Consortium (CMI!).

32. This includes USD 36.8 million allocated to CSOs by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

33. For the purpose of this analysis, Afghanistan is included in the Central Asia region.

34. The table provides a breakdown of the Spotlight Initiative’s fund allocation to civil society in each of the five regions. The Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, and Safe and Fair are presented separately.

35. The UN Trust Fund and Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund jointly delivered USD 36.7 million, USD 24.06 million by the UN Trust Fund and USD 12.64 million by the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

36. The Safe and Fair programme in the ASEAN region is structured differently in its programmatic and budget arrangements, which do not reflect the standard Spotlight Initiative’s six Pillars. This may affect comparability of data. Therefore, the programme is presented separately. Safe and Fair engages international, regional, and national CSO partners, including grassroots and community groups at the local level across the different countries in which it works.

Of the delivered funds, **79 per cent reached national, local and grassroots organizations, and 73 per cent was invested directly in women's organizations**, a slight increase from the previous reporting period, but crucial for sustained activism and movement-building. The methodology on Spotlight Initiative's funding of diverse civil society organizations and key definitions can be found in [Annex C](#).³⁷

Funding national, local and grassroots organizations

In line with the principle of localization, the Spotlight Initiative recognizes that civil society organizations and movements anchored in local communities are best placed to reach marginalized groups and to pursue sustainable solutions to end violence against women and girls in their communities. As of 2022, the Spotlight Initiative continues to exceed its target of delivering 50-70 per cent of civil society organization funding to national, local and grassroots organizations (as noted above, 79 per cent of funding delivered to civil society went to national, local and grassroots groups),³⁸ of which **USD 33 million or 19 per cent went exclusively to local and grassroots organizations**.³⁹ This is an additional **USD 8 million** from the previous reporting period, demonstrating the sustained and increased focus of the Initiative's support to local actors.

The Spotlight Initiative intentionally worked at the programme level to simplify grant-making processes and expand its outreach to diversify its partners and funding allocations. As a result, as of December 2022, the Spotlight Initiative programmes provided **34 per cent⁴⁰ of the delivered global civil society funding to new partners that had not previously worked with the respective United Nations agency**. Further addressing the challenges associated with getting United Nations funding to smaller, grassroots groups, in 2022, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat developed a [Learning Brief on Inclusive Civil Society Funding](#) that identified systemic barriers to inclusive funding (like onerous application and reporting processes and limiting funding criteria) and linked these with promising practices and recommendations on how to fund civil society organizations more holistically and sustainably.

Sub-granting and subcontracting

The sub-granting and subcontracting modalities are effective ways of expanding the grassroots outreach of the United Nations, allowing civil society partners to collaborate and channel funding to local and grassroots organizations that access funding and capacity-development opportunities that may not qualify under United Nations accountability and procedure standards. Indeed, the sub-grantor or subcontractor entity, often a larger national civil society organization, is usually better placed to ensure greater support

Support to **grassroots organizations**



37. Each year, country and regional programmes submit self-reported data on their formal funding-based partnerships with civil society organizations (that is, the civil society organizations contracted by a Recipient UN Organization as implementing partners, grantees or vendors of services). The reported data enables an analysis of how well the Initiative is meeting its targets on funding civil society, while also showcasing global and regional trends. The funding analysis presented here is cumulative from the start of the Spotlight Initiative, underscoring that funding commitments are for the programme as a whole, and in its entirety (and will not necessarily follow a linear or proportional increase year-to-year). The analysis presents funds "allocated" as funds budgeted and planned for civil society partners in a particular Spotlight Initiative programme. "Awarded" or "delivered" funds are any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement legally signed with a civil society organization. The funds that are directly attributable to implementing the programme's activities are referred to as "activity funds/costs" or "programme outcome costs".

38. In contrast, 7 per cent of the delivered funds were channelled to regional civil society organizations and 14 per cent to international civil society organizations.

39. See definition in the Methodology note included in [Annex C](#).

40. The relative decrease compared to 2021 data as presented in 2021 Spotlight Initiative Global Annual Report is likely a result of programme teams reporting contractual engagement with CSOs that they have cooperated with in previous years of the Spotlight Initiative programmes as "existing", even though they are "new" in the context of the full programme duration, i.e. the UN has not worked with the CSOs before the Spotlight Initiative programme began.

and flexibility and to open up opportunities for entities, which by virtue of their proximity, are naturally positioned to better reach and serve marginalized groups. As of December 2022, a total of 220 awards reported to have included sub-granting or subcontracting modalities, reaching an additional 911 sub-grantees or subcontractors, with at least USD 13 million.

For example, the **Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programme** prepared and fulfilled a comprehensive capacity-building plan for the Civic Participation Fund from Kyrgyzstan as a grant-making mechanism to act as the leader on resource mobilization and capacity building for grassroots organizations in the region that lack technical capacities to access funding from regional and international donors.⁴¹ The grant-making mechanism is expected to provide regional leadership and influence policymaking on addressing sexual and gender-based violence in Central Asia and will be linked with the Central Asian Alliance.⁴²

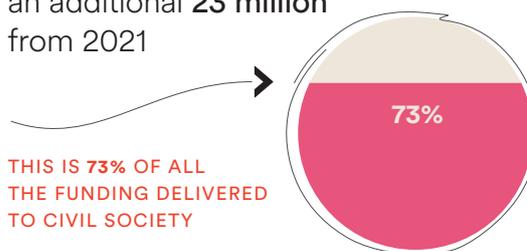
Funding women-led, women's rights and feminist organizations

As mentioned above, feminist and women's rights organizations and movements are critical to driving change and advancing women's human rights. To resource these organizations (and help address the chronic funding gap they face), the Spotlight Initiative has delivered **73 per cent (USD 127 million) of civil society funding directly to women-led and/or women's rights organizations.**⁴³ This is an additional USD 23 million from the previous reporting period. Deep and intentional (quality) investment in women's organizations accelerates change in the lives of women and girls and has a ripple effect across all of society.

Flexible funding – fuelling civil society, feminist and women's movements

Local women's rights organizations have for decades called for flexible, sustainable and

USD 127 million invested in women's organizations, an additional **23 million** from 2021



long-term funding. The Spotlight Initiative is continuously working to localize and decolonize resourcing by investing in grassroots women's movements and organizations, and to push for change in the way funding is allocated, making it more flexible and locally driven. To ensure sustainability of funding and support for civil society, the Spotlight Initiative scaled up core and flexible funding to civil society organizations more broadly, particularly women's rights organizations and grassroots community-based organizations. Flexible and feminist funding ensures greater women's agency and leadership at the community level, applies an intersectional lens to funding, and redistributes power to communities, allowing local organizations to make decisions about how to address the challenges they face in their own environments and ultimately enhancing their impact.⁴⁴ Spotlight Initiative is devoted to continuing its investments and partnerships with women's organizations and movements at an unprecedented scale and scope, while simplifying and adapting its processes to increase flexibility and access for grassroots and local women's and youth organizations.

Core institutional funding and small grants

Core institutional funding⁴⁵ is essential to local women's organizations' survival and their ability to respond to changing circumstances and contexts; especially for local organizations working in complex and politically sensitive environments and in spaces where attacks

41. The 2022 Central Asia Regional Spotlight Programme Report, page 37.

42. The Central Asia Alliance on ending sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices is a civil society-driven platform that will facilitate multi-stakeholder participation, pooling of resources, mutual reinforcement of outcomes, and sharing of good practices in the region.

43. See definition in the Methodology note included in [Annex C](#). This number includes awards delivered through the UN Trust Fund and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund grant-giving programmes.

44. Angelika Arutyunova and Cindy Clark, *Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots*, 7 October 2013. Page 25.

45. Core institutional funding can be defined by what it is not: it is not funding earmarked for specific programmatic activities or overhead costs related to delivering. Rather, the purpose of core institutional funding is to support an organization's overall institutional capacity. Core funding may cover general operations and core costs, such as paying staff salaries and office rent, purchasing equipment and ICT services. Institutional funding also provides psychosocial support and health insurance for staff to put in place new adaptive strategies and systems or even to raise staff awareness and develop their capacities in technical areas.

Of the
USD 174 million
 delivered to
 CSOs so far



and backlash against women’s rights (and women’s human rights defenders) threaten their work and existence. There is therefore a great urgency to fund the broad diversity of women’s rights and feminist organizations and movements and their transformative work sustainably. As of December 2022, USD 23 million has been invested in core institutional funding globally, of which USD 11 million comes from country and regional programmes and USD 12 million from the two Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes (through the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women). This corresponds to approximately 13 per cent of the total delivered amount to civil society organizations globally. The Spotlight Initiative is committed to continuing to increase this amount, ensuring that more core funding reaches civil society organizations and local groups.

Small grants policy is a funding mechanism used by some United Nations agencies to deepen their reach to national, local and grassroots organizations, which often face barriers to partnering with and being funded by the United Nations. During the reporting period, Spotlight Initiative programmes continued to use this mechanism⁴⁶ as a means to channel core

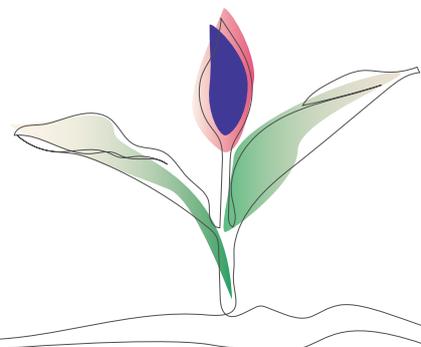
institutional funding to local organizations. Of the awards that included a core component, **18 per cent provided the entirety of the award as core support** (often through small grants). The Spotlight programme in **Mexico**, for example, used the small grants mechanism to provide flexible and accessible funding to feminist and grassroots organizations working with survivors of violence. In total, over 40 civil society organizations received funding, which has directly reached 3,450 women, and indirectly reached approximately 24,000 women and girls across the three years the Spotlight programme has used this grant modality.⁴⁷

The small grants mechanism has helped reinforce organizational capacity, and allowed for an expanded scope of work among groups that received core support. Core funding has also led to better networked women’s organizations, further strengthening prevention efforts.

Levels of core and flexible support demonstrate the Spotlight Initiative’s dedication to supporting the resilience and autonomy of civil society organizations. In the face of increasing and multifaceted crises, however, more (and better quality) funding is needed, specifically long-term, core institutional support; this would help

USD 23 million has been invested in **core support** to civil society

THIS IS **13%** OF TOTAL AWARDED CSO FUNDING



46. The small grants have a simplified application process and usually range between USD 2,500 to USD 50,000 (depending on the United Nations agency) and may be applied for in relation to programmatic activities or to support and strengthen the institutional capacities of civil society organizations.
 47. The 2022 Mexico Spotlight Programme Report, page 39.

sustain women's and feminist movements, and fortify civil society organizations (particularly local and grassroots groups) to continue to advance rights and justice in their contexts.

Funding that leaves no one behind

Guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, the Spotlight Initiative has worked to build inclusive and transformative partnerships with, inter alia, civil society. Partnering meaningfully and inclusively – within and across stakeholders – is necessary to ending violence against women and girls and, by extension, to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Spotlight Initiative continues to invest widely and deeply to reach and serve marginalized, vulnerable and traditionally left behind populations, and communities and individuals facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. As of December 2022, 34 per cent of all civil society awards reached adolescent girls, 24 per cent reached rural women, 23 per cent reached women and girls living with disabilities, and 60 per cent reached other marginalized groups.⁴⁸ To share a couple of examples of this, in **Vanuatu**, the Spotlight programme funded the Aelan Mama's Cuisine Virtual Restaurant, a social enterprise that addresses the professional development of women, particularly rural women and those living with disabilities who have been affected by physical and economic violence, through professional culinary skills development, nutrition education and financial literacy. The Spotlight programme in **Liberia** also supported civil society to engage in discussions with the Government of Liberia to overturn discriminatory laws and policies targeting marginalized populations. Civil society organizations advocated and lobbied for the revision of three laws: the Inheritance Law, the Rape Law, and the Domestic Violence Law with local authorities, and 23 key issues along with 15 recommendations were offered by civil society organizations to the Government of Liberia to address sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Grant-giving programmes: The partnership with the UN Trust Fund and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

To solidify its commitment to civil society, the Spotlight Initiative has channelled 10 per cent of each of the five regional investment envelopes to Civil Society Grant Giving Programmes..

The WithHer Fund: Mobilizing flexible financial support to frontline women's rights organizations

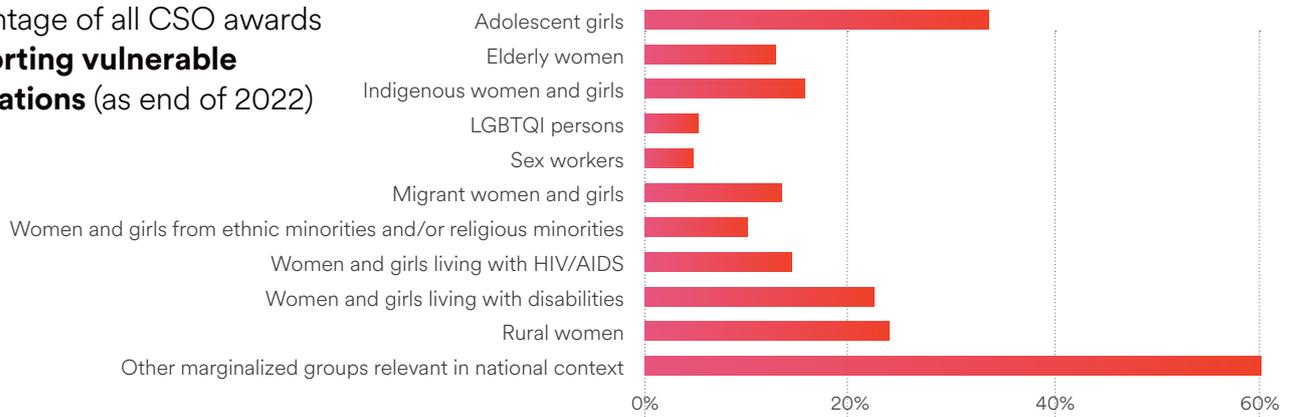
In partnership with the UN Foundation, the Spotlight Initiative launched the [WithHer Fund](#) in 2021. Operating under feminist grant-making principles (flexibility, trust and transparency), the WithHer Fund channels flexible core funding to grassroots and women's organizations working to end violence against women and girls in their communities. The fund addresses the barriers to funding that small organizations often face by streamlining the application process, simplifying reporting, and offering smaller grants. The fund also aims to complement existing international grant-making mechanisms by raising money from new or untapped sources, such as the private sector and the general public.

In 2022, the WithHer Fund continued to provide institutional funding to its first cohort of six grantees – working in **Argentina, Belize, El Salvador, Malawi, Mali, and Trinidad and Tobago**. From supporting deaf women in Argentina to ending child marriage in Mali, the organizations are proving that local organizations led by women are best suited to support survivors of violence and challenge harmful social norms in their communities. [The grantees are changing the lives of women and girls in their community.](#)

Seed funding for the first cohort of grantees was made possible with initial support from the UN Foundation, as well as The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation, and the H&M Foundation totalling USD 180,000. In 2022, the WithHer Fund mobilized additional funding through [new partnerships](#) with Liberty Latin America and Target Foundation. The UN Foundation and the Spotlight Initiative plan to scale up this funding in the months to come, broadening partnerships and continuing to mobilize resources with individual philanthropists, corporate foundations, private sector companies, the general public and other potential donors.

48. Responding to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination various groups face, each CSO award can report to have reached multiple marginalized, vulnerable and traditionally left behind populations at the same time. Therefore, the data presented in this section in Chapter 4 is counted against the total number of CSO awards reported, and is not mutually exclusive.

Percentage of all CSO awards supporting vulnerable populations (as end of 2022)



In 2019, the Spotlight Initiative partnered with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund to better fund and resource smaller and grassroots feminist organizations and to support women’s rights movements in various countries in **Africa** and **Latin America**, as well as in **Haiti**, **Afghanistan**⁴⁹ and **Papua New Guinea**.⁵⁰

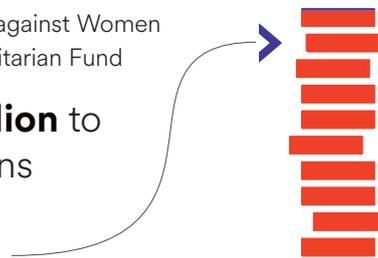
Across the past three years, as noted in the figure below, these two grant-giving programmes have jointly allocated USD 36.8 million in civil society grants to support women’s movement-building and address violence against women and girls, out of which 99.7 per cent has been awarded to civil society organizations as of December 2022.⁵¹ Of this, 82 per cent went to national, local and grassroots organizations and 94 per cent supported women-led, women’s rights and feminist organizations.

Importantly, in 2022, funding provided by these two grant-giving programmes jointly reached 32,119,356 people, contributing to significant

changes in the lives of women and girls.⁵² In **Zimbabwe**, for example, the UN Trust Fund partnered with Family AIDS Caring Trust Zimbabwe, a women-led organization dedicated to improving the lives of marginalized communities through health and poverty reduction interventions. The UN Trust Fund-supported project “Voices from the Fringes” addresses violence against young women, adolescent girls and self-identified female sex workers, and works to promote their sexual and reproductive health and rights in five districts across Zimbabwe. Family AIDS Caring Trust reported that, of the 137 self-identified female sex workers with whom they worked, 98 per cent reported that their sense of safety had increased since the project’s inception.⁵³ In **Honduras**, where femicide rates are among the highest in Latin America, a UN Trust Fund grantee, Centro de Estudios de la Mujer-Honduras (CEM-H) (Women’s Studies Centre-Honduras), trained teachers from ten educational centres on the prevention of violence against women and girls, and referral pathways. At the same time, CEM-H worked with nearly 180 young people,

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund allocated **USD 36.8 million** to civil society organizations

99.7% HAS ALREADY BEEN AWARDED



49. In Afghanistan, due to the Taliban takeover in August 2021, the Partnership Cooperation Agreements and implementation was paused until January 2022.
 50. For the Caribbean, Central Asia and the Pacific, the 10 per cent regional allocations for civil society grants were partly channelled through Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund in Afghanistan, Haiti and Papua New Guinea as noted, and partly integrated into the regional programmes by adding a Pillar 6 that focuses on strengthening women’s movements, including both programmatic activities and direct grants.
 51. The UN Trust Fund and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund jointly delivered USD 36.7 million, USD 24.06 million by the UN Trust Fund and USD 12.64 million by the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund.
 52. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2022 Grants to Civil Society in Africa and Latin America: Results, page 2
 53. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2022 Grants to Civil Society in Africa and Latin America: Results, page 2.

engaging them in feminist political schools to learn about new masculinities and existing advocacy spaces to push for social change. As a result of this work, those trained increased their ability to strategically advocate for the elimination of violence against women and girls, challenging harmful social norms and promoting positive behaviour changes. Concurrently, CEM-H participated in inter-institutional roundtables on femicide, leading to 12 proposals for legislative reforms, public policies and revised budgets put forward to President Xiomara Castro.

Similarly, in 2022, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund grantees worked to advance the rights of women and girls, with a focus on leaving no one behind. Projects supported included those by civil society working to strengthen social accountability mechanisms to better monitor incidences of violence against women and girls, and strengthen prevention efforts. For example, in **Afghanistan**, where women’s rights organizations face extensive threats and risks to their lives following the takeover of the Taliban in 2021, two civil society organizations helped establish community-based monitoring systems, in coordination with 13 women-led and women’s rights organizations. These systems aim to raise awareness on

violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, and help refer survivors to local health and psychosocial support facilities. Several new volunteer networks have also emerged, working with these systems to help monitor violence, and expand access to services in extremely remote areas. In **Uganda**, several civil society organizations (supported through a grant from the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund) came together to jointly manage cases of violence against women and girls, and advance sexual and reproductive rights. This helped fast track cases (and relieve pressure on the public justice system), supporting the effective resolution of disputes. As a result, over 2,600 domestic cases were settled through mediation and reconciliation via robustly trained women’s networks and groups, community development officers, probation officers, family elders and community based organizations in the target areas.

Taken together, the **partnerships with the UN Trust Fund and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**, underscore the Spotlight Initiative’s commitment to better resourcing local civil society and women’s rights organizations, and fostering more locally owned, sustainable change.

The Spotlight Initiative’s fund allocation to civil society as of 31 December 2022:

Regional overview of selected data

Regions	Percentage of activity funds allocated to CSOs	Percentage of delivered funds to national, local and grassroots organizations	Percentage of delivered funds to local and grassroots organizations	Percentage of delivered funds to women-led, women’s rights and feminist organizations	Percentage of delivered funds to new partners to the UN agencies
Africa	43%	80%	10%	64%	28%
Latin America	44%	73%	15%	69%	47%
Pacific	41%	75%	20%	63%	19%
Caribbean	36%	79%	35%	80%	26%
Central Asia	58%	77%	16%	92%	24%
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund	100%	82%	39%	94%	54%
Safe and Fair ⁵⁴	36%	70%	0%	68%	28%
Global total	48%	79%	19%	73%	34%

54. It is important to note that Safe and Fair is structured differently and its budget is not aligned along the lines of Spotlight Initiative’s six pillars, which can affect comparability of data. Safe and Fair engages international, regional and national CSO partners, including grassroots and community groups at the local level across the different countries in which it works.

3.4

The Impact of the Spotlight Initiative: Critical Results toward Ending Violence against Women and Girls

3.4.1

Overarching Results: The Importance of Investing in a Comprehensive Model

Showcasing the synergistic effects of a comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls, Spotlight Initiative programmes have contributed to results that go above and beyond individual outcome areas, and lead stronger, more sustainable change. Results under each Pillar have often demonstrated positive spill-over effects on interventions in other Pillars, allowing the Spotlight Initiative to broaden its scope of impact, strengthen its reach to marginalized communities and further strengthen political commitment to ending violence against women and girls at the national level. The following section outlines several examples of key results achieved in 2022 that cut across and go beyond the Spotlight Initiative's specific outcome areas.

RESULT: A comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls fostered synergistic impact.

A hallmark of the Spotlight Initiative, Spotlight programmes implement a comprehensive model to end violence against women and girls. By working across Pillars - including on laws and policies, prevention, services and data - and nurturing partnerships, particularly with civil society, the Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive approach has been shown to be 70 to 90 per cent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence against women and girls than siloed, single-pillar approaches.⁵⁵ Indeed, holistic partnerships across all relevant stakeholders, including governments, the European Union, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Recipient UN Organizations, and the Civil Society National Reference Group members, along with civil

society more broadly, faith-based organizations, academia, village councils, women committees, youth groups, and activists - a truly whole-of-society approach - better ensures the inclusion of women and girls who are not well integrated into existing efforts to end violence (including prevention efforts), and helps to engage with people in their own contexts and communities. An innovative approach to whole-of-society partnerships, this way of working helps advance the principle of leaving no one behind across all Pillars and end violence against women and girls. This is demonstrated by, for example, the Spotlight programme in **Samoa**, which won the [inaugural leaving no one behind award](#) at the Spotlight Initiative Global Learning Symposium in recognition of the programme's commitment to the principle.

By working holistically, progress made under one outcome can promote results under another, generating more powerful, sustainable change in the lives of women and girls. A comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach to end violence against women and girls has, for example, allowed for expanded reach to vulnerable and marginalized populations. In **Belize**, the Spotlight programme leveraged existing prevention programmes in schools and communities, established under the programme's Pillar 3, to reach nearly 28,000 women and girls - including survivors and those facing multiple forms of discrimination - with information on quality essential services at the national and community levels. These efforts were coupled with capacity-building under Pillar 6 that further positioned women's rights advocates as key drivers of change within the hardest-to-reach communities. As a result of these collective efforts, women and girls, including youth and women from rural, migrant and indigenous communities, were better able to access quality services (Pillar 4). The programme in Belize also engaged faith leaders in dialogues focused on ending violence against women and girls, strengthening their knowledge of gender-based violence. This subsequently leveraged their role as opinion leaders in prevention efforts, contributed to transforming attitudes, and enhanced efforts to pass key policies and legislation at the national level, such as the National Gender Policy and the Revised Domestic Violence Act, advancing change across both Pillars 1 (laws and policies) and 3 (prevention).

55. Dalberg ["Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time, fosters peace & stability, and supports people reach full potential, all of which advances us towards the SDGs"](#)

Similarly, in **Uganda**, the Spotlight programme supported the Ministries of Gender and of Local Government to convene a stakeholder dialogue with government representatives from 12 districts. The dialogue prompted high-level advocacy to tackle violence against women and girls in the districts, and the development of district-specific strategies for increased funding for prevention and response. Concurrently, the Spotlight programme also helped build the capacity of both public and private institutions to better integrate gender-based violence interventions into district development plans (Pillar 2), resulting in a provision to ensure access to quality services for survivors (Pillar 4). Through these efforts, the Ugandan Government also committed to mainstreaming prevention and response (including to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights) into planning and budgeting processes, developing gender-based violence ordinances, conducting awareness campaigns, and strengthening local government committees on gender-based violence. Several government institutions targeted under Pillar 2 gained additional knowledge and skills to continue to advocate for social norm change within their communities (Pillar 3).

Likewise, in **Mozambique**, Spotlight Initiative's investment in multiple, and mutually reinforcing, Pillars has resulted in seeing the actions carried out under one outcome showing important results in others. An example is the investment in disseminating existing laws (Pillar 1) through social mobilization aiming at transforming social norms, attitudes and behaviours at the community and individual level (under Pillar 3). In 2022, the Spotlight programme in Mozambique reached a total of 311,600 people across multiple awareness-raising sessions seeking to prevent gender-based violence and child marriage. In addition to awareness-raising and prevention outcomes, these sessions also led to tangible results in terms of increasing the reporting of cases and access to services among survivors, including women's economic empowerment (Pillar 4).



RESULT: The position of ending violence against women and girls on political agendas was elevated.

As part of its efforts to champion a whole-of-society approach, Spotlight programmes worked to ensure that the issue of violence against women and girls was high on the national political agenda. By securing high-level buy-in and elevating the political importance of addressing violence against women and girls, Spotlight programmes fostered the engagement of non-traditional actors in agenda-setting, secured buy-in from a wide range of national stakeholders and strengthened the commitment to evidence-based policymaking. Political visibility and momentum have also increased, resulting in, at times, unprecedented funding allocations to address violence against women and girls within national budgets. In **Mexico**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative leveraged its myriad partnerships to promote the importance of addressing violence against women and girls - and femicide in particular - through public policy and discussion. Additionally, by forging strategic alliances with national partners, the programme contributed to the development of contextually relevant knowledge products, and strengthened the capacity of a range of national actors to address femicide (resulting, as well, in synergistic changes under Pillars 1 and 2).

Similarly, in **Kyrgyzstan**, the Spotlight Initiative actively strengthened the Parliamentary Council on the Rights of Women, Children, and Gender Equality in its role as the liaison between women's rights organizations and state actors. These efforts included the development of a strategic action plan for 2023-2026, aimed at strengthening civic engagement in law-making by facilitating the participation of women's rights groups, survivors of gender-based violence, civil society organizations, and other activists in the design of legislation and policies. Building on existing parliamentary commitments, the Spotlight Initiative's efforts helped further ensure that the issue of violence against women and girls continued to be prioritized in the national agenda. As a positive spillover effect, parliamentarians also reported increased interest from constituents on issues related to ending violence against women and girls.



RESULT: Spotlight Initiative engaged in participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting for increasingly responsive, rights-based programming to end violence against women and girls.

Participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting aims to ensure that Spotlight Initiative interventions are relevant, rights-based and responsive to the needs of a broad range of stakeholders. A participatory approach to programming recognizes women and girls, rights holders and community members as active agents of change and engaged partners rather than passive “beneficiaries” of United Nations programming. Anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind, participatory monitoring evaluation and reporting focuses on engaging a wide range of individuals and groups in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting phases of the programming cycle, with particular emphasis on capturing the voices of structurally marginalized groups, to meaningfully inform United Nations programming and ensure it is guided by an inclusive approach.

Committed to this participatory and inclusive approach, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat held a dedicated, in-person session on “Building meaningful partnerships and capturing critical change through participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting” at the 2022 Global Learning Symposium (GLS). This session built on previous learning and knowledge-exchange sessions on the topic (the [Spotlight Initiative 2021 Global Annual Report](#) has more details on these sessions). Collectively, these exchanges and the work carried out throughout 2022, have helped to develop tailored guidance on implementing an inclusive, participatory and rights-based approach to monitoring and evaluation and reporting (see, for an example of guidance, the [Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Guidance Note](#) shared with the Spotlight Initiative programme teams).

Moreover, in alignment with the [Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Note](#), the Spotlight Initiative actively sought to meaningfully engage civil society organizations – particularly feminist and women’s rights groups and local community organizations. In **Malawi**, under Pillars 2 and 6, the programme supported programme stakeholders (rights holders) in the development of scorecards to assess the performance of

sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights service providers. These scorecards allow communities and service providers to collectively identify and resolve challenges that arise, as well as enhance accountability of duty-bearers to rights holders. Critically, the programme found that engaging in participatory monitoring, evaluating and reporting throughout the various stages of programme design, implementation and closure improves programme implementation and ensures its alignment with needs on the ground, by making beneficiaries’ views systematically available to inform decision-making and programme improvement.

In **Honduras**, the Spotlight programme integrated participatory monitoring and evaluation processes into CREARTE, a mechanism that captures information on the ways in which the Spotlight Initiative’s artistic and cultural activities have contributed to challenging gendered social norms and promoting behaviour change in target communities. By inclusively engaging a range of stakeholders (including particularly young people) in consultations and focus group discussions on this topic, the programme was able to gather information on the extent to which its interventions have helped challenge gender norms in a variety of settings, including vis-à-vis care and domestic work, in the workplace and on the topic of sexuality. This participatory approach has helped ensure the programme’s interventions are relevant and responsive to community needs, strengthening efforts to advance normative change.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Spotlight programme organized a multi-stakeholder joint monitoring visit to two regions with a group of representatives from several ministries, the Office of the President, members of the Spotlight Initiative’s Civil Society National Reference Group, United Nations agencies and media representatives. Stakeholders met with over 300 individuals from schools, health departments, district administrations, women councils and local municipalities. As a result of these visits - and through the development of a common vision and action plan - the Spotlight programme contributed to a range of results at individual, community and local levels. More on this can be found on [Kyrgyzstan’s 2022 Annual Programme Report](#). Furthermore, strengthening grassroots organizations’ capacity to monitor national commitments to ending violence against women and girls has further supported civil



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society in Kyrgyzstan to develop evidence-based recommendations for the law of the Kyrgyz Republic on protection from domestic violence (under Pillar 2), which is in turn expected to improve the quality of services, ensuring they are responsive to diverse needs (Pillar 4).

The widespread use of participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting across Spotlight programmes has progressively strengthened programmes, and built a more nuanced understanding of the intersecting, contextually specific drivers of violence and rights violations more broadly, and their differentiated impact on different women and girls.

3.4.2

Contributing to Changes at the Outcome Level

This section captures the high-level results under the Spotlight Initiative's six outcome areas (or Pillars) during the reporting period (as well as cumulatively in some cases),⁵⁶ drawing out illustrative examples of the impactful work being done across Spotlight programmes. It also presents the Initiative's contribution to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights through its programmes in **Africa**. To gain a more in-depth look at the transformative work being done across programmes, please refer to Spotlight programmes' annual reports, as well as their two-page summaries ([Annex B](#)).

56. It is important to note that programmes have had different start dates; as such, comparison to "baseline" may include baseline data from different years. This does not, however, affect the assessment of the Initiative's cumulative contribution.

PILLAR 1: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Analysed existing legislation and legal frameworks to identify gaps and promote gender-sensitive laws and policies
- Strengthened existing, or established new, laws or policies that address intersectional issues to end violence against women and girls
- Strengthened the ability of key partners and stakeholders to advocate for reforms at grassroots, local, subnational and national levels

Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans.

Countries are obligated under international legal and policy frameworks to address violence against women. While some countries have made significant progress in the enactment of legislation to address violence against women, numerous gaps and challenges remain. A range of countries do not have meaningful laws and policies in place that fully protect women and girls from violence and harmful practices, or that address impunity. Similarly, while countries may have policy frameworks in place, they fail to implement them at the national and local levels, which perpetuates a culture of impunity.

Impunity arises from a lack of political will and existing discriminatory social norms; as such the Spotlight Initiative focuses on ensuring that strong legal and policy frameworks are in place, that they are implemented and that duty bearers are held accountable. Legal and policy framework advancements made in 2022 appear below.

RESULT: Analysed existing legislation and legal frameworks to identify gaps and promote gender-sensitive laws and policies.

After an initial phase focused on analysing existing national and legal frameworks and the extent to which they align with international standards, the Spotlight Initiative programmes mobilized a range of partners to advocate for change in existing legal and policy frameworks. Applying a gender lens to legal and policy analysis is crucial to ensure that evolving legal frameworks serve women and girls in all their diversity, and that intersecting forms of discrimination can be addressed.



© Spotlight Initiative in El Salvador.

prosecution of perpetrators of domestic and family violence acts. In **El Salvador**, an analysis of the legal framework, followed by consultations with local government and grassroots civil society organizations, fed into a report to the *Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer* (ISDEMU) (the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women - the most important national gender institution), highlighting gaps and shortcomings that will be used for future reform efforts and planning, highlighting the sustainability interventions, as the programme in El Salvador transitions to national ownership.



RESULT: Strengthened existing, or established new, laws or policies that address intersectional issues to end violence against women and girls.

Numerous Spotlight Initiative programmes – including in **Mexico, Jamaica, Timor-Leste** and **Trinidad and Tobago** – conducted assessments of existing legal and policy frameworks addressing violence against women and girls and examined legal frameworks related to gender equality more generally. In most countries, these analyses focused on key barriers to implementation – including inadequate funding or capacity to implement – and areas of policy omissions. A wide range of stakeholders, including survivors, activists and marginalized groups, contributed their perspectives, providing a rich evidence base to guide law and policymaking and to support informed action planning to ensure successful implementation. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Spotlight Initiative programme conducted a “gap study” of the Domestic Violence Act, passed in 2020 with support from the Initiative, to analyse its roll-out and identify gaps and bottlenecks. This included a thorough review of implementation mechanisms, analysis of cases and extensive consultations, including with civil society organizations and survivor groups. The gap study has been identified as a model, one that can be replicated in other Spotlight programmes. In **Grenada**, an analysis conducted by the Spotlight Initiative programme was used to draft amendments related to cohabitation and common-law marriages, increasing the protection of survivors, and expanded the

To ensure women and girls are able to live a life free from violence, Spotlight programmes supported new or worked to strengthen existing laws and policies to end violence against women and girls. **Through interventions implemented by Spotlight Initiative country and regional programmes, in 2022, 174 laws and policies were signed or strengthened across 21 Spotlight programmes that address violence against women and girls or aim to improve gender equality and women’s rights.**⁵⁷ Overall, since the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative, more than 477 laws across the world have been adopted or strengthened due to the Spotlight Initiative’s contributions.



Since the start of the initiative,

477

LAWS OR POLICIES

were signed or strengthened to end violence against women and girls

57. Africa Regional Programme, Argentina, Belize, Central Asia Regional Programme, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Safe and Fair, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe .

174 laws and policies

were signed or strengthened across
Spotlight Initiative programmes in 2022



FOUR EXAMPLES OF THE
NEW LAWS AND POLICIES PASSED

Recognizing that the root causes of violence against women and girls reside in systemic and deep-rooted patriarchal and gendered norms, the Spotlight Initiative contributed to the development of laws directly addressing gender-based violence, in addition to laws that more broadly protect women and girls. As such, important legislation and policies in family laws, labour laws, marriage, divorce, child custody, reproductive health access and inheritance, to name a few, were made.

The **Safe and Fair** programme contributed to strengthening numerous laws and policies related to labour migration, including violence and sexual harassment in the world of work, significantly expanding and strengthening the legal framework protecting the rights of women migrant workers. During the reporting period, the Safe and Fair programme supported the revision of seven laws related to violence against women and girls, in **Indonesia**, the **Philippines**, **Thailand** and **Vietnam**, to better include protections for women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly women migrant workers. In each country, these revisions were supported by the adoption of standard operating procedures (SOPs), which are particularly crucial for the enactment of these laws. In **Malawi**, the Ministry of Justice adopted amendments to the Gender Equality Act guaranteeing the safety and protection for whistle-blowers, complainants or witnesses of acts of sexual harassment in the workplace, while in **Grenada**, the Spotlight Programme - in consultation with civil society and the Grenada Bar Association - advocated for a policy that would establish a “first of its kind” National Sex Offenders Register. Such a Register

would help prevent violence and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted. Advocacy for its establishment continues, with further consultation on the policy and passage expected in 2023.

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind and to protect the most vulnerable, several Spotlight Initiative programmes focused on strengthening legal protections for those who traditionally face intersecting forms of discrimination. In **Malawi**, the Spotlight Initiative played a crucial role in the long-awaited amendment of the Penal Code to enhance penalties in cases of abuse against women and girls living with disabilities, particularly those affected by mental disability. This amendment has long been a request of civil society and the mobilization of government ministers was crucial in moving this process forward. In **Mexico**, the state congress of Chihuahua adopted legislative reforms that would ensure that children orphaned by femicide receive services from childcare centres, have the right to comprehensive reparations for the damages they have endured and would have their rights and interests defended by the Office of the Procurator for Protection, the office responsible for representing girls, children and adolescents who have lost their lives as a result of a crime. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the programme is supporting the development of a National Child Safeguarding Strategy, in order to ensure specific mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence are integrated, and that child protection is effectively mainstreamed as a key component of children’s rights. The National Child Safeguarding Strategy is therefore a critical strategy within national child protection as it seeks to support

families and the child protection architecture in Trinidad and Tobago by mainstreaming child protection as a component in all child-related programming and training. The National Child Safeguarding Strategy would provide preventative measures for child abuse, bring awareness and educate the public on child protection, and implement various initiatives aimed at ensuring child protection is upheld throughout.

Spotlight Initiative programmes - including in **Grenada, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Timor-Leste** and **Vanuatu** - have also supported successful advocacy efforts to better reflect women's and girls' rights and improve protection for survivors in the process of drafting bills. In **Vanuatu**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Office of the Public Prosecutor to develop the Victims' Charter, helping to facilitate over 850 consultations. The charter sets out the rights of victims and the services they may access in the criminal justice system and through other providers. It also emphasises the Government's responsibilities and details minimum standards for service provision. In **Guyana**, the Spotlight Initiative supported the research on the legislative analysis of the current legal framework, that is, the Domestic Violence Bill and the research on New and Emerging Forms of Violence. Following the recommendations from these reports in 2021, the Forms of Violence Bill was drafted in 2022 and national consultations were conducted. The funds and leadership of both the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MoHSSS) and the United Nations was instrumental in accelerating the process, which to date, includes the possible submission to the Parliamentary agenda prior to December 2023 as well as driving new reforms in other areas, such as harassment. Additionally, with the vastly changing landscape of virtual and online spaces, Spotlight Initiative programmes – including the **Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programme, the Latin America Regional Programme, Belize, Honduras, Vanuatu** and **Zimbabwe** – have focused on protecting women and girls from online violence, including exploitation, bullying and abuse.

RESULT: Strengthened advocacy for legal and policy reform by key stakeholders and partners at grassroots, local, subnational and national levels.

Central to the Spotlight Initiative's approach is ensuring that partners are effective advocates,

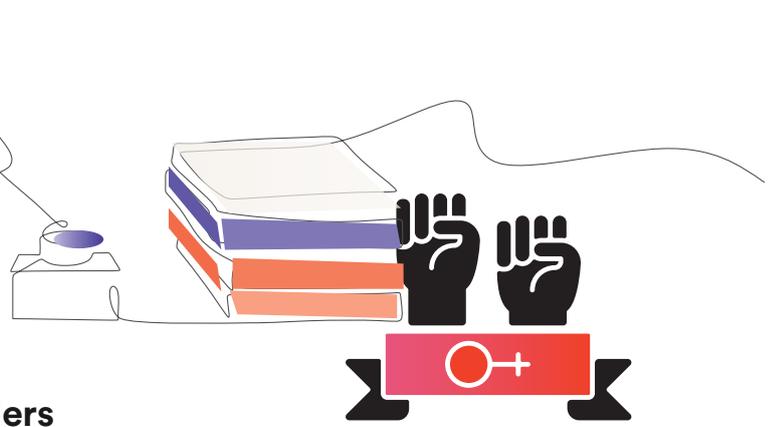
supporting legal and policy reform processes to end violence against women and girls. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative worked to build the advocacy capacity of partners, including civil society, survivors, grassroots activists and government, to promote change at all levels.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes – including those in Belize, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste,

among others – supported the engagement (and influence) of survivors, activists, marginalized groups and women leaders in legislative processes. In **Liberia**, for example, Spotlight Initiative worked with the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) to develop a 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) to shape their advocacy promoting the adoption of laws and policies that better promote and protect human rights, and end violence against women, children and marginalized groups. Similarly, the Spotlight programme in **Mozambique** focused on disseminating laws and policies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and child marriage. Over 34,000 community members were sensitized on laws and policies on sexual and gender-based violence, child marriage and harmful cultural practices through awareness campaigns conducted by the police, community sessions on existing gender-based violence legislation and on behaviour change, and campaigns held in public spaces. A total of 407 officials and service providers were trained on gender-based violence and on the implementation and monitoring of instruments for ending violence against women and girls. Finally, to promote sustainability of this work, government partners were supported in developing gender strategies and gender-based violence action plans, and the Spotlight Initiative strengthened the capacity of 400 government officials on gender-sensitive planning and budgeting. In **Malawi**, a country where customary laws play a crucial role, close to 60 by-laws were finalized in Spotlight Initiative districts focusing on ending sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage and supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Spotlight Initiative built the capacity of 104 district-level officials and 156 community leaders, using the sexual and gender-based violence guidelines to support the implementation of the Chief's Policy Guide. This national-level ministerial document guided and formalized the involvement of traditional leaders in handling sexual and gender based violence matters, which is a major achievement of the Spotlight Initiative. Following the adoption of

IN 2022,

22 laws and policies were developed to protect women human rights defenders



the by-laws, there was a surge in the number of cases communities reported between August and September of more than 200 acts of violence.

Through these and other efforts, the Spotlight Initiative **strengthened the ability of nearly 33,600 women’s rights advocates in 2022 to draft legislation and policies that end violence against women and girls, and promote women’s human rights and gender equality more broadly.** As a result, since the beginning of 2022, **102 draft laws or policies across 18 countries** were developed with significant inputs from women’s rights advocates, improving their quality and strengthening the effectiveness (and responsiveness) of legal remedies for survivors.

In addition to strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders and partners, including women’s rights advocates, to shape laws and policies, specific support was also provided to networks and alliances of human rights defenders. In **Papua New Guinea**, for example, following years of advocacy for a legal framework to recognize and protect women human rights defenders, the Spotlight Initiative supported the Constitutional and Legal Reform Commission to undertake extensive consultations on this topic, leading to the decision to draft the first of its kind “Policy on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders”, establishing sustainable administrative arrangements for the protection of human rights defenders, with specific provisions protecting women. In Liberia, the Spotlight programme also supported a range of participants - including human rights defenders, staff of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), and government partners - from five counties to draft a Human Rights Defenders Protection (HRDP) Policy to address threats, intimidation, discrimination, and abuse faced by human rights defenders, especially those working on a range of sensitive human rights issues (including FGM, rape, and sexual orientation). The policy document is

expected to be validated by stakeholders in 2023 and submitted to the Cabinet for endorsement.

Across programmes, in total, **over 24,000 women human rights defenders were better able to participate in legislative processes, contributing to the development of laws and policies and, as such, improving their relevance and responsiveness to marginalized groups.** This work also helped facilitate the establishment of accountability mechanisms enhancing the safety of individuals and groups advocating for women’s rights, particularly those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. As a result of this effort, and to guarantee formal legal protection, **22 laws and policies were developed to guarantee the ability of women’s rights groups, civil society organizations and women human rights defenders to advocate for and advance human rights, including in Papua New Guinea, Argentina, Mexico, Nigeria and Liberia.**

The Spotlight Initiative is also working closely with existing national human rights institutions to ensure that they are involved in efforts to end violence against women and girls and are mobilized to advocate for the rights of survivors. This strategy is also aimed at strengthening the sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative’s interventions, considering that these actors will remain after the end of Spotlight programme activities. **In 2022, 9,069 staff from human rights institutions in national and regional programmes were supported to advocate for, draft, strengthen and implement legislation on ending violence against women and girls, gender equality and non-discrimination. In total, since 2019, the Spotlight Initiative has collaborated with close to 14,000 members of human rights institutions in Argentina, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Uganda and Zimbabwe, as well as the Africa Regional Programme and the Latin America Regional Programme.**

SINCE THE START OF THE INITIATIVE

Nearly 14,000 staff from human rights institutions

improved their ability to advocate for, draft, strengthen and implement legislation to end violence against women and girls, and advance gender equality and non-discrimination



The Spotlight Initiative also extended support to other government officials to increase their understanding and awareness of human rights obligations, and strengthen their capacity to develop laws and policies that protect civic space, advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls. In 2022, **over 1,400 government officials - including in Argentina, Honduras, Liberia and Nigeria - were trained in human rights standards**, with many then actively participating in the development of laws and policies to advance human rights. The Spotlight programme in **Liberia**, for example, strengthened the capacity of county development delegates, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and civil society organizations to better integrate international human rights standards and principles - including gender equality - in local county development agendas, while in **Haiti**, the Spotlight programme supported a comprehensive training cycle for more than 50 representatives of the Ministry of Local Government and representatives of local governments across 27 municipalities of the Grand'Anse and Sud Départements to increase understanding of issues related to violence against women and girls, and strengthen capacity to develop local policies. While national legislative processes were delayed as a result of political tensions, government officials at the local level felt that there was a crucial opportunity to adjust the legal and political frameworks locally following the training series. In total, **since the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative, over 7,000 government officials – including over 3,000 women – contributed to legislative and policy processes to advance the rights of women and girls and end violence against women and girls.**

Finally, parliamentarians were also trained to better advocate for, draft, strengthen and implement legislation on gender equality, non-discrimination and ending violence

against women and girls. In **Kyrgyzstan**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative organized awareness-raising activities within Parliament throughout 2022. The programme also trained parliamentarians and parliament officers, resulting in unprecedented parliamentary achievement toward ending violence against women and girls, including the expansion of legal aid modalities, amendments to the law on domestic violence to help reduce impunity and amendments to the labour code and criminal code to better recognize and address workplace harassment. The Spotlight Initiative also made significant progress towards the establishment of the Women Parliamentary Caucus in **Jamaica** as members of Parliament granted approval to amend the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, to allow the Women Parliamentary Caucus to be established as a sessional select committee, to sit jointly with a similarly composed committee from the Senate. The establishment of a women's caucus will provide a collaborative space for all women parliamentarians – regardless of party affiliation or the chamber in which they serve – to network, engage in a productive dialogue on issues of women's rights and gender equality and undertake actions to positively impact the inclusiveness of the legislature, legislative process and the country as a whole.



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE,

nearly **16,000**
parliamentarians

Case Study: Comprehensive approach to legislation reform on child marriage

The Spotlight Initiative in **Zimbabwe** has committed to ending child marriage in Zimbabwe and adopts a comprehensive approach that includes collecting best practices, engaging traditional leaders, policymakers, child rights advocates and women's rights groups, legal reform and developing monitoring mechanisms.

In 2021, the programme in Zimbabwe conducted a knowledge visit to the Spotlight Initiative in Malawi to learn more about developing strategies to engage traditional leaders and chiefs in ending child marriage and other harmful practices. Based on the lessons learned from the visit, the Spotlight Initiative in Zimbabwe organized dialogues to discuss the prevalence of child marriage within the targeted communities, which 34 traditional leaders and chiefs attended. During these consultations, synergies to existing cultural models such as the 'Peace Hut Model' and the creation of a Gender-Based Violence Fund were identified as potential models to replicate across ten targeted provinces in the effort to end child marriage. In addition, this initial engagement with traditional leaders and chiefs enabled the programme to also further efforts in developing a national framework for Traditional Leaders' Strategies on Ending Violence against Women and Girls and Early Marriages.

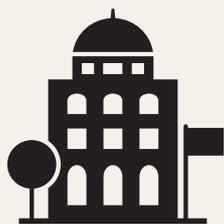
All these efforts culminated in the enactment of the Marriages Act 2022, which stipulates that the minimum age of marriage is 18 years old and is

in line with what is stipulated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This landmark decision indicated the successful efforts made towards eliminating one of the harmful practices that continue to enhance violence against women and girls. Furthermore, the Spotlight Initiative in Zimbabwe worked collaboratively with the Government to cost and implement the National Action Plan to End Child Marriages, which is now better strengthened by the Marriages Act 2022.

Further efforts were made to monitor and evaluate the extent to which the child marriage law is upheld through a collaboration between Spotlight Initiative Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe National Gender Commission. A National Inquiry on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups was launched to understand the experiences of survivors of violence and harmful practices like child marriage to help better understand the existing strengths and gaps of the current justice and social protection systems. This inquiry is set to be completed in 2023 and will significantly contribute to the continued efforts to monitoring the incidents of child marriage.

The Spotlight Initiative in Zimbabwe presents a model approach to addressing harmful practices like child marriage by demonstrating the need to take a comprehensive approach when advocating for change and implementation of the laws.

PILLAR 2: INSTITUTIONS



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Supported the integration of efforts to end violence against women and girls and harmful practices into sector development plans, and developed and/or strengthened national action plans to end violence against women and girls
- Strengthened institutional mechanisms or bodies designed to address violence against women and girls and harmful practices
- Improved the use of gender-responsive budgeting to eliminate violence against women and girls and increased budget lines for this work
- Enhanced the capacity of decision-makers to better address violence against women and girls at the local and national levels

National and subnational systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including in other sectors.

Strong institutions play a critical accountability role in countries and regions and help to ensure that laws and policies to end violence against women and girls, and advance women's rights more broadly, are implemented and adequately funded. A coordinated, multisectoral approach helps to ensure coherence across different levels of government and supports effective strategies to address violence against women and girls.

RESULT: Supported the integration of efforts to end violence against women and girls and harmful practices into sector development plans, and developed and/or strengthened national action plans to end violence against women and girls.

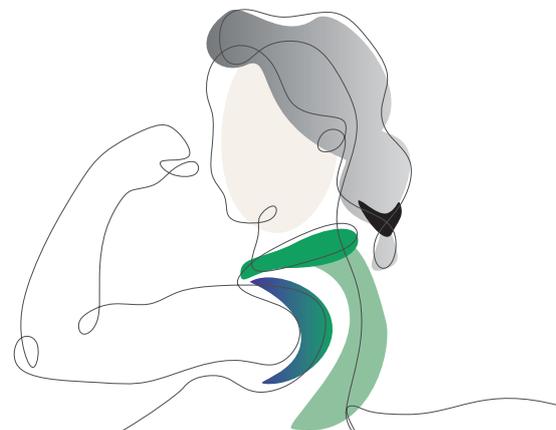
National action plans and alignment with international treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), demonstrate government commitment to gender equality and their accountability to rights holders.

The Spotlight Initiative contributed to the development and strengthening of national action plans to eliminate violence against women and girls and advance gender equality in 43 countries since the start of the initiative.

Strong national action plans are those that are developed in a participatory manner, feature a monitoring and evaluation framework and respond to the rights of all women and girls (in the spirit of leaving no one behind). They are also evidence-based, properly costed and funded.

Across multiple programmes, the Spotlight Initiative has contributed to stronger national action plans and development plans through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including with government, civil society and other national stakeholders (including EU Delegations).

43 countries strengthened their **National Action Plans** to eliminate violence against women and girls since the start of the Initiative



In 2022, **80** new plans, strategies or programmes to address violence against women and girls were developed **across 6 sectors**



In 2022, the **Safe and Fair** programme, for example, helped in drafting the ASEAN Guidelines for Developing National Standard Operating Procedures for a Coordinated Response to Violence against Women and Girls (ASEAN SOPs Guidelines), collaborating with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Secretariat. This coordinated work aims to ensure consistency in addressing and responding to cases of violence against women across countries in the region. The guidelines were developed with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), in collaboration with the UN Women’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and ASEAN Member States’ support and in response to the findings from the [mid-term review of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). Deepening work from 2021, the **Africa Regional Programme** in 2022 provided capacity analysis and support to develop and implement national action plans to end child marriage and end gender-based violence, while in **Papua New Guinea**, the Spotlight Initiative supported advancements in protecting children from violence through the first provincial by-law for the protection of children with a costed action plan and the development of a draft children’s sector plan. A total of 833 cases of domestic violence were addressed in 2022,

with 20 of those related to child abuse against boys and girls. The [2021 Spotlight Global Annual Report](#) (p. 36) has more examples of national action plans that were implemented, as does the two-page summaries of programme annual reports in this report in [Annex B](#).

Over 2022, 80 new strategies, plans or programmes were developed by government and non-governmental institutions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls across eight countries, contributing to a total of 234 since the Spotlight Initiative began.

In addition to developing national action plans, Spotlight Initiative programmes supported local ownership through decentralization of plans at the subnational, municipal and provincial levels. The Spotlight Initiative programmes in **Argentina, Honduras, Grenada and Timor-Leste** strengthened local relevance and responsiveness of national action plans, by ensuring that diverse perspectives and stakeholders were integrated into decentralization processes, leaving no one behind. In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Spotlight Initiative supported the adoption of the first National Action Plan on Gender Equality, leading the Government to decentralize issues related to gender equality, including preventing and responding to violence to the local level, a first for a national strategy in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Government allocated funding from the National Budget to support this decentralization effort. The Spotlight Initiative programme in **El Salvador** focused on municipal-level change,

Countries that have national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner

Programme	Baseline	2019	2020	2021	2022
Africa RP	●●●●●●●●			●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Argentina	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Belize	●●		●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Ecuador	●●●●●●●●			●●●●●●●●	●●
El Salvador	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Grenada	●●●●		●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Guyana	●		-	●	-
Haiti	●●		-	●	●●
Honduras	●	●		●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Kyrgyzstan	-		●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Liberia	●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●		●●●●●●●●
Malawi	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	
Mali	●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	
Niger	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Nigeria	-	●	-	-	●●●●
Pacific Regional Programme	●●●●		●●●●	●●●●	●●●●
Papua New Guinea	-		-	●●●●●●●●	-
Safe and Fair	-		●●●●	●	-
Samoa	-		●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Tajikistan	-			●	●●●
Timor-Leste	●●●●		●●●●	●●●●●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Trinidad and Tobago	●●●●		●●●●	●●●●	●●●●●●●●
Zimbabwe	●●●●	●●●●	●●	●●●●●●●●	

● Evidence-based ● Costed ● Funded ● M&E framework ● Rights of all women & girls ● Participatory Development
 - Does not apply/there is no plan



© Lake Media / Spotlight Initiative in Papua New Guinea

working with the *Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer* to strengthen the gender units in the municipalities to prevent violence and develop a municipal plan for equality and violence prevention (CMIPV) 2022-2024. In **Belize**, in 2022, significant progress was made by the Government prioritizing gender equality with the establishment of the National Women's Commission as a statutory body and the Women's Parliamentarian Caucus. A significant achievement of the National Women's Commission in 2022 was finalizing the Gender-Based Violence Referral Pathway through engagement with the six district gender-based violence committees.

RESULT: Strengthened institutional mechanisms or bodies designed to address violence against women and girls and harmful practices.

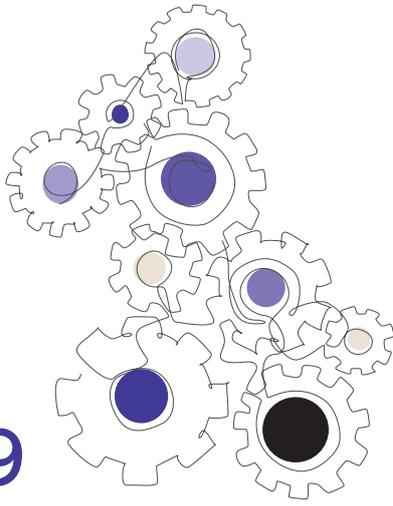
The Spotlight Initiative programmes focused on strengthening existing, or creating new, institutional mechanisms that foster a coherent, multisectoral approach to addressing violence against women and girls and provide appropriate responses. Nearly half of Spotlight Initiative

programmes have either established or strengthened multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in line with international standards.⁵⁸ In **Papua New Guinea**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative provided institutional funding to support the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee in order to promote an intentional and coordinated national gender-based violence response. The Spotlight Initiative and partners advocated for follow-on sustainable funding to support this institution in the long term from the Government. **All nine countries that developed new coordination mechanisms with the support of the Spotlight Initiative included representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on these mechanisms.**⁵⁹ Experience shows that the inclusion of survivors' perspectives makes a critical difference, better ensuring a survivor-centred and human rights-based approach that more effectively responds to women's and girls' needs. Acknowledging the complex nature of implementing comprehensive programming to end violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative in **Argentina** worked to facilitate improved communication

58. To be aligned with international standards means, among other things: to be established at the highest level and be composed of relevant stakeholders; to have a clear mandate and governance structure; and to develop and implement annual workplan

59. The 9 countries are: Argentina, El Salvador, Grenada, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea

Across 9 countries,



multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms now include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination

and coordination between civil society and government institutions to bridge existing gaps in collaboration. This resulted in improved dialogue across various stakeholders (with stakeholders viewing one another as legitimate), sustained through the formal establishment of an advisory committee, a body composed of government actors, as well as unions and civil society – under the Provincial Council of Women and Gender Equality.

Programmes also ensured that ending violence against women and girls was integrated into other sectoral plans and national objectives, including those related to education, health, justice, disaster preparedness and migration.

In 2022, for example, Spotlight programmes worked to integrate a gender analysis and issues of violence against women and girls into disaster response and preparedness plans, including in **Haiti**, where the Spotlight programme supported consultations with women and marginalized communities to understand their needs and then reflected their perspectives into the three-year Operational Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2022-2025. The plan has budgeted actions and monitoring and evaluation tools to address violence against women and girls that occurs after disasters, better protecting women and girls, including those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Employing a holistic and mainstreamed approach to gender equality and ending violence against

women and girls is critical to ensuring sustainable efforts. Gender mainstreaming was used as a strategy to strengthen institutions to advance gender equality and address violence against women and girls across multiple Spotlight Initiative programmes, including in the **Latin America Regional Programme** and in **Timor-Leste**. The Spotlight Initiative also engaged the private sector to mainstream gender in order to end violence against women and girls. The [2021 Global Annual Report \(p. 63\)](#) has additional examples of ending violence against women in workplaces - including through Women's Empowerment Principles in **Guyana**, UNDP's Gender Seal programme in **Ecuador**, the work of the **Safe and Fair** programme and the **Latin America Regional Programme**.

On the 8 March 2022, International Women's Day, the Parliament of **Mexico** unanimously adopted amendments to the national law to end violence against women and girls that improve the country's gender and femicide alert system. Unique in the world, the gender alert is a mechanism for the protection of women's human rights that allows for emergency governmental actions on femicide. These include legal measures and funding to programmes aimed at preventing and responding to femicide, accelerating the classification of violent crimes motivated by gender, centres to protect victims of gender-based violence and harsh sentences for those convicted of gender-based violence or femicide. The approved amendments allow the Government to declare the alert faster; the amendments also create intersectoral and inter-institutional committees to respond to the alert. Mechanisms for the creation of a Special Parliamentary Commission to monitor the response have also been included.

The Spotlight Initiative programme in **Mexico** provided ongoing support to the improvement of the gender alert, helping to ensure its (continued) relevance and responsiveness, and that it responds effectiveness to survivors, as well as to the families of those affected by gender-based violence and femicide (who are calling for justice and reparations).

Institutional progress has been reversed, however, in certain contexts, such as in **Afghanistan**.

The previous work of the Spotlight Initiative and the partnerships created across government

Status of multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms (2022)

	Established at the highest level	Composed of relevant stakeholders	With a clear mandate and governance structure	With annual work plans
Argentina	●	●	●	●
El Salvador	●	●	●	●
Grenada	-			
Guyana	●	●	●	
Haiti		●	●	
Honduras	●	●	●	●
Jamaica	●	●	●	
Kyrgyzstan		●		●
Liberia	●	●	●	●
Malawi	●	●	●	
Mali	●	●	●	●
Mexico	●	●	●	●
Mozambique	●	●	●	
Nigeria	●	●	●	●
Papua New Guinea	●	●	●	●
Tajikistan		●		
Timor-Leste	●	●	●	
Trinidad and Tobago	●	●	●	
Uganda	●	●	●	●
Zimbabwe	●	●	●	●
Caribbean Regional Programme	●	●		

agencies, ministries and duty-bearers, such as the police, related to gender equality have been dissolved by the Taliban. This reality shows the tenuous nature of gender equality in the face of opposing and repressive governments and (continues to) reveal the grave importance of this work and ensure it is robustly funded, despite political setbacks.

RESULT: Improved the use of gender-responsive budgeting to eliminate violence against women and girls and increased budget lines for this work.

Gender-responsive budgeting is a critical tool to ensure that programmes and services addressing violence against women and girls are

adequately funded. During the 2022 reporting period, **14 countries prioritized gender-responsive budgeting-related activities, as described below, including in Guyana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda.**

In total, **420 parliamentarians, 4,668 government officials and 792 women's rights advocates** were trained on gender-responsive budgeting in 2022 and, as a result, are better able to advocate for the allocation of resources to end violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative programmes – including in **Guyana, Jamaica, Timor-Leste and Uganda** – trained ministries and women's rights organizations to hold government bodies accountable for gender budgets and budget lines associated with ending violence against women.



© Helio Miguel / UN Women, Scout & UN Women hosted two-day round table discussion & sharing information on actions required to end violence.

In **Timor-Leste**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative's successful advocacy and training on gender-responsive budgeting led to a significant increase in the national budget allocated to efforts to end violence against women and girls, as well as the approval of the new National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (2022–2032). The increased budget and national action plan will support more transparent and accountable work in preventing violence against women and girls and advance gender equality and inclusion. In Guyana, the Spotlight programme collaborated with universities - including the Institute of Gender Studies & University of Guyana - to develop an intensive Professional Development course on gender responsive approaches (including gender responsive budgeting) to better address the psychosocial needs of girls and boys, while in Nigeria, the programme supported the use of gender disaggregated data to highlight which groups receive funding from government budgets (and importantly, which don't). It is expected this will have an impact on the 2023 budget, increasing funding for ending violence against women and girls. The 2-page summaries in [Annex B](#) have more information.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes also supported advocacy for dedicated budget lines within national budgets to advance gender equality and eliminate violence against women and girls. In **Papua New Guinea**, the Spotlight Initiative built on gains made in 2021, helping to ensure the Government's allocation of Papua New Guinea Kina (PGK) 7.9 million (over USD

2.2 million) to address gender-based violence in the 2022 National Budget. Additionally, the programme supported the development of a 2023 National Gender-Based Violence Budget proposal – endorsed by the Government at the end of 2022 – which scales up the Government's allocation even further to PGK 9.8 million (or nearly USD 2.8 million) in 2023. Concurrently, the Spotlight Initiative in Papua New Guinea offered technical support to the Department of Community Development and Religion, which was then able to provide grants to 13 national civil society and women's organizations to further advance efforts to end violence against women and girls. This work has had a positive spillover effect in strengthening the links between the work of civil society, the United Nations and government actors in-country and has further fostered sustainability.

The amount allocated (in national budgets) to end violence against women and girls has increased ten fold since the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative, with 94 percent of targeted countries maintaining or increasing their budget allocations to end violence against women and girls. **In 2022 alone, Spotlight programmes registered a 16 per cent increase (from 2021) in the amount allocated (in national budgets) to efforts to end violence against women and girls.** On average, 0.78 per cent of the national budgets of **Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Niger, Timor-Leste** and **Uganda** were dedicated to ending violence against women and girls.

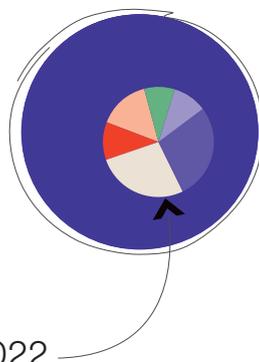


to address violence against women and girls since the start of the initiative. During this period, **94%** of targeted countries have maintained or increased budget allocations.

Complementing gender-responsive budgeting efforts, the Spotlight Initiative programmes also advocated for national resourcing of national plans and programmes to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls. As a result, in 2022, **100 per cent of national programmes developed with support of the Initiative include proposed financial allocations by national or local governments (47 per cent higher than in 2021).**⁶⁰

The Spotlight Initiative also focused on the capacity of ministries and civil society to advocate for and monitor government budgets and ensure that adequate resources are in place to address violence against women and girls. In **Liberia**,

100% of dedicated and multi-sectoral programmes developed in 2022 include a proposed allocation of funds



for example, the Spotlight Initiative supported trainings for local government officials and civil society to better understand the issue of gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This work laid the foundation for greater local funding for these issues and, after the training, a number of women's rights organizations received USD 5,000 in grants to continue tracking local government expenditure and to support gender-inclusive development processes in their communities.

RESULT: Enhanced the capacity of decision-makers to better address violence against women and girls at the local and national levels.

The Spotlight Initiative placed a focus on raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of decision-makers in key institutions – including within government ministries, the judiciary, village leaders and local police – to address the issue of violence against women and girls, improving their ability to prevent and respond to it. In 2022, training and capacity-building of duty bearers occurred across a range of Spotlight Initiative programmes, including in **Belize, El Salvador, Liberia and Nigeria** and through the **Latin America Regional Programme** and the **Safe and Fair** programme. In **El Salvador**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened the capacity of the justice sector and the public ministry to address cases of femicide. Processes were put in place to improve criminal investigations into cases of violent deaths of women and girls and provide investigative tools that better respect and protect families of the victims. In addition, in 2022, the *Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (PDDH) (Office for the Defence of Human Rights) was strengthened and a protocol to address femicide cases was approved. This tool provides guidelines to defend the rights of femicide victims, and contains directives and specific actions. Finally, the **Safe and Fair** programme conducted a gender-responsive criminal justice training for **Thai** police cadets. Following the training, capacity and understanding increased, with 90 per cent of police cadets saying women should not be blamed for domestic violence, compared to 77.4 per cent prior to the training.

⁶⁰. Since the start of the initiative, 113 multisectoral programmes, with support of the Spotlight Initiative, include proposed allocations by national or local governments for gender equality or ending violence against women and girls.



© Spotlight Initiative Latin America Regional Programme.

With the support of nine Spotlight Initiative programmes, a range of key decision-makers – including 2,350 government officials – strengthened their capacities to develop and deliver programmes to prevent violence against women and girls. Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative also worked with training institutions and universities to educate decision-makers and civil servants. **Since 2019, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, 78 training institutions for public servants (including for nurses, judges and police officers) across 12 countries integrated gender equality and the issue of violence against women and girls in their curriculum, including 19 in 2022. This represents 71 per cent of targeted national and subnational training institutions for public servants.**

These efforts included the design of specific curricula focused on the elimination of violence, harmful practices and discrimination, and the inclusion of experts, activists and survivors of violence in training processes. For example, to support broader awareness and attention of gender-based violence in **Guyana** a university course was created, engaging and educating students. Through the **Latin America Regional Programme**, for example, many countries in the region made progress in strengthening the clinical management of sexual violence and intimate partner violence through virtual online courses co-designed and built with the ministries of health of 11 countries. Over 18,600 people participated across six countries (Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru) in these training sessions, strengthening their capacities to develop and deliver programmes that address violence against women and girls and specifically sexual violence and intimate partner violence.

As a result of the Spotlight Initiative's support to capacity development, **nearly 2,000 key government officials have increased knowledge on, and the ability to advance, human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including those facing multiple forms of discrimination. Since the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative, over 15,000 civil servants have been trained on this.** For example, in **Honduras**, 52 officials were trained in multidimensional analysis of violence from a legal sociology and administration of justice perspective. Officials now have the analysis and technical capacities to incorporate attention to gender and address violence against women and girls more thoroughly in their work.

Since 2019, **78 training institutions for public servants** (including for nurses, judges, and police officers) across 12 countries integrated gender equality and VAWG in their curriculum, including 19 in 2022.

This represents 71 per cent of targeted national and sub-national training institutions for public servants.



Case Study: Monitoring Mechanisms for strengthening institutional response to GBV

The Spotlight Initiative **Safe and Fair** programme in Indonesia is committed to strengthening monitoring mechanisms that can support decent working conditions for migrant workers. Since 2021, the Safe and Fair programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower and *Jaringan Buruh Migran* (the Indonesia Migrant Workers Network), has developed guidelines, monitoring tools and standard operating procedures to ensure that the recruitment and placement of Indonesian migrant workers abroad is in accordance with the 2020 government decree, which lays out protective measures for the recruitment of Indonesian migrant workers (Ministry of Manpower Decree No. 294/2020). The standard operating procedures in particular address the roles and responsibilities of the technical and vocational training centres and the private placement agencies that send migrant workers abroad. These standard operating procedures adopt occupational safety and health (OSH) principles and follow a rights-based and survivor-centred approach to address complaints of violence and harassment and other labour rights violations. This support proved successful as the standard operating procedures were formally adopted as the Director-General's Decree on Workforce Placement and Job Opportunity Expansion.

Building on this work, in 2022, the **Safe and Fair** programme together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), supported the development of monitoring tools to strengthen the implementation of the standard operating procedures adopted by the Ministry of Manpower. Through policy advocacy and training, over 200 key service providers developed their capacity on how to utilize the standard operating procedures to provide gender-responsive services to women migrant workers.

Another approach that the **Safe and Fair** programme supported during the process was the establishment of a virtual help desk to inform and assist government officials in training service providers and other stakeholders on the standard operating procedures and their implementation. A consultative process was

adopted to ensure an inclusive approach to developing the tools, through engagement with women migrant workers, civil society organizations, trade unions and private placement agency associations. Overall, garnering the support of the Government has been critical to the adoption and launching of the monitoring tools: the Indonesian Minister of Manpower expressed her commitment to securing the rights and well-being of migrant workers, and recognized the positive contributions of women migrant workers and the need to address their vulnerability to safeguard their rights and identify their vulnerability to different forms of violence during the labour migration process.

The monitoring tools – in the form of a labour inspection checklist – are a first. Prior to this, the Government did not have any tools to monitor the compliance of placement agencies and technical training institutions with government regulations on such training and recruitment practices for overseas employment. Following the technical assistance and capacity support provided by the Safe and Fair programme, this checklist now integrates gender-specific considerations for the protection of women migrant workers. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded in 2022, it continued to be essential that the Ministerial Decree No. 294/2020 and the standard operating procedures, which seek to protect Indonesian women migrant workers' rights during the placement process, be properly implemented. The monitoring tools – developed through government and community consultations – enhances such implementation.

The Spotlight Initiative Safe and Fair programme recognized that policies and operating standards on their own are not enough to guarantee the safety of migrant workers and identified the need to advocate further for the establishment of concrete monitoring mechanisms. Monitoring mechanisms are good practice for ensuring that the laws and policies set to protect the rights of women and girls are upheld.

PILLAR 3: PREVENTION



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Invested in changemakers through targeted grants to diversify and expand innovative approaches to prevention
- Partnered with academia, civil society, government and rights holders to develop and institutionalize curricula and strategies to educate and socialize norms that promote gender equality
- Strategically engaged social and traditional media to deliver persuasive behaviour change campaigns aimed at positively shifting public attitudes and practices related to violence against women and girls
- Positioned communities at the heart of prevention efforts, mobilizing survivors, men and boys, traditional leaders, parents, youth and marginalized groups to actively foster equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours

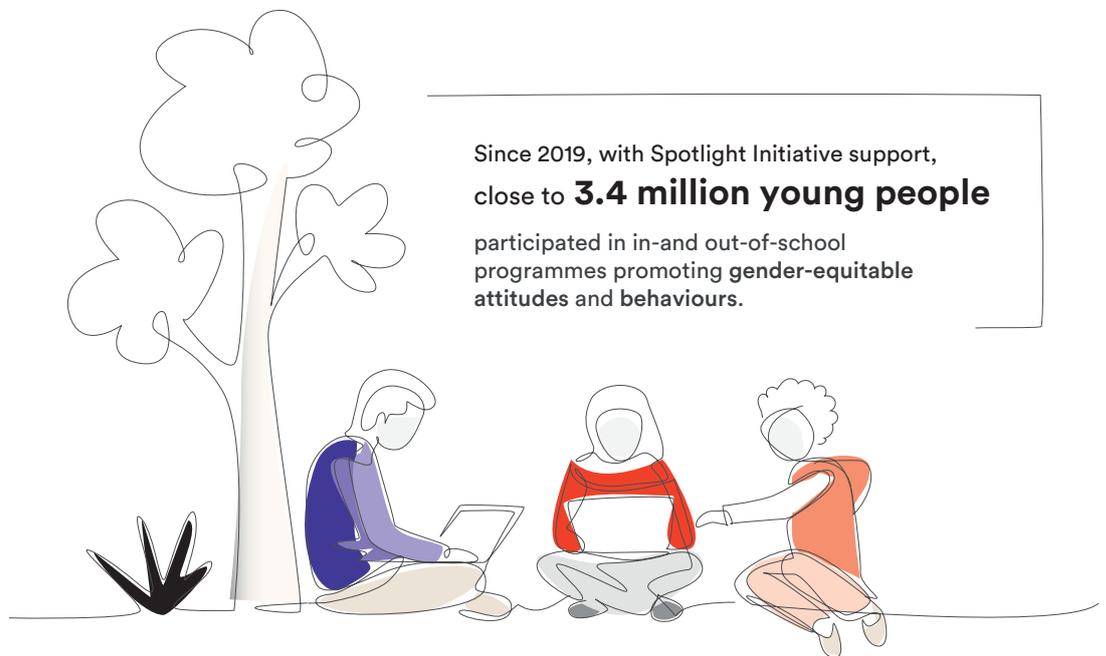
Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices.

Violence against women and girls and harmful practices are upheld due to persistent social norms, beliefs and attitudes. As such, under Pillar 3, the Spotlight Initiative supported prevention strategies that address harmful norms, beliefs and practices found across and within communities, systems and structures, and promote those that support equality, inclusion and safety.

With support from the Spotlight Initiative, 40 per cent of targeted countries (29 per cent more countries than in 2021) have at least three evidence-based, transformative, comprehensive prevention strategies or programmes that are focused on uprooting the drivers of violence against women and girls and nearly 7,000 key formal and informal decision-makers, including nearly 3,500 women, demonstrated increased knowledge of, and ability to advance, human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

RESULT: Invested in changemakers through targeted grants to diversify and expand innovative approaches to prevention.

Through the provision of targeted grants, Spotlight Initiative programmes supported changemakers to innovate and address harmful social norms in their own communities. The Spotlight Initiative programmes in **Afghanistan, Malawi Tajikistan and Uganda** identified and invested in changemakers' education through scholarship programmes, economic empowerment and skills training, and social empowerment through capacity-building in advocacy, communication and leadership skills, to name a few.



In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative **Pacific Regional Programme** supported Cookhouse Confidential in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to administer small grants focused on efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health.⁶¹ One such grant funded three women tailors in Ebeye, in the Marshall Islands, to produce reusable menstrual pads. These pads in turn were distributed to 250 sixth graders in Ebeye, Ebandon and Mejatto communities, along with menstrual and sexual and reproductive health education, promoting both the health and economic empowerment of women and girls. Another grant sponsored a medical team to deliver sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions and supported clinical check-ups for 63 women and girls in Ebon Atoll, providing remote services for individuals who would normally not have received health education or care. This focus on traditionally underserved populations is critical to ensure equity and reach (historically access to services to these populations have been limited).

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Spotlight Initiative equipped secondary school students with leadership, advocacy and communication skills and, in partnership with the Heroes Foundation, supported these students with mini-grants to implement projects to address violence against women and girls. Thirty schools nationwide participated with 382 children and young people (233 girls, 149 boys) completing at least 60 per cent of the training sessions.



© Limbani Ngwata



**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION EFFORTS
HAVE DIRECTLY REACHED**

over 5 million community members through dialogue and conversations, since the Initiative began (more than 600,000 in 2022 alone)

61. Cookhouse Confidential is an informal group of women from multiple organizations and agencies that work together to discuss and tackle women's menstrual health issues in the Marshall Islands.



© UNICEF Belize/NVISION. Christa Salam (left), leads a youth group that does community and environmental work.

Refugee and migrant children, as a particularly marginalized population, were targeted, benefiting 106 Venezuelan students. Following the training, 35 group projects (including social media campaigns, community walks and creating safe spaces) focused on gender-based violence, bullying and abuse were implemented, reaching nearly 10,000 people.

RESULT: Partnered with academia, civil society, government and rights holders to develop and institutionalize curricula and strategies to educate and socialize norms that promote gender equality.

As a precursor to education and raising awareness on harmful social norms, the Spotlight Initiative programmes in **El Salvador, Liberia** and **Uganda** worked in partnership with key stakeholders (including education ministries, schools, civil society organization partners, feminist movements, rights holders and communities) to develop curricula, strategies and educational tools to raise awareness on the issues of violence against women and girls and harmful practices. These efforts benefited youth, teachers, community leaders, parents, survivors, teenage mothers, duty bearers and government stakeholders.

With the support of the Spotlight Initiative in **Papua New Guinea**, the first evidence-based, cross-sectoral National Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy aimed at addressing social norms that contribute to violence against women and girls, sexual assault and violence within relationships was developed. The social and behavioural change strategy was adopted by the National Office of Child and Family Services (NOCFS) and integrated into their first corporate strategy document. Furthermore, for the first time, the National Office of Child and Family Services established parenting and social and behavioural change positions in its human resources organigram and, together with provincial administrators, committed to addressing social norms and harmful practices that contribute to violence against women and girls through an action plan launched on 1 Dec 2022.

In **Samoa**, the Spotlight Initiative facilitated the finalization of the Family Life Education curriculum for grades 1-8 and 9-12, ensuring that it aligned with international standards. The Samoan Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture instituted the micro-credentialing in Family Life Education for in-service teachers, thus strengthening curricula in career subjects, and included Family Life Education as a minor

COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE

Close to

260
million people

were reached through campaigns to prevent violence against women and girls in at least 30 languages, since the start of the Initiative



in the Bachelor of Education programme offered by the National University of Samoa, fostering the sustainability of the programme.

RESULT: Strategically engaged social and traditional media to deliver persuasive behaviour change campaigns aimed at positively shifting public attitudes and practices related to violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative magnifies the reach of behaviour change campaigns by engaging the media (including social, printed and radio) with special attention to media that have the ability to reach a range of actors, ensuring that localized messages on the prevention of violence against women and girls reach a diverse audience.

Over the course of the initiative, over 650 campaigns were launched across 24 countries, reaching nearly 260 million people (more than the population of Nigeria or Pakistan, and twice as many people as the population of Mexico) with locally designed messages and behaviour change methodologies, in at least 30 different languages.

For example, the Spotlight Initiative in **Belize** continued to increase knowledge and raise awareness on violence against women and girls through the national social and behaviour change communication campaign “It ends with me”. The campaign challenged harmful social norms and gender stereotyping and addressed some of the root causes of violence against women and girls

by debunking common gender stereotypes in the home, school, community and workplace that contribute to violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative in Belize collaborated with key groups including rural women’s groups, indigenous men, urban and rural youth and gender-based violence committee members to ensure that all communication products were impactful, respectful and localized. In **Mozambique**, a total of 311,600 people were reached through various initiatives, from national TV and radio debates and campaigns, to door-to-door community sensitization campaigns, including mentorship sessions and mobilization in schools, which has continued to contribute to the reporting of cases of gender-based violence and child marriage. These initiatives reached 98,714 community members, 1,384 activists and 838 community and religious leaders. It also reached 2,728 women and men who were mobilized through safe spaces and mentorship sessions and 28,920 women, girls, as well as men and boys (including those affected by conflict). In schools, 12,500 students were engaged in school clubs that included activities targeting prevention and reporting of sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage and 636 teachers, directors and council members were trained to integrate sexual and gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming in planning instruments.

An innovative use of a popular medium was employed by the **Kyrgyzstan** Spotlight programme. The use of a mobile game “Secrets of Sary Kol,” designed to raise awareness of the dangers of child marriage, reached over 39k players.



© Johana Alarcón / Spotlight Initiative in Ecuador. Members of the Afroandina Training School of Azuay. Photography: Johana Alarcón / Spotlight Initiative in Ecuador

This game was developed as a follow-up to the successfully designed and launched “Spring in Bishkek” mobile game in 2021, which focused on forced marriage. Both games were jointly designed with adolescent girls. According to a survey of players of Secrets of Sary Kol, the game has significantly influenced players’ belief that child marriage is a crime (86 per cent of players), improved the willingness of players to help a friend who encounters a forced marriage (86 per cent) and made girls more confident that they can engage in constructive dialogue to convince their parents to refuse the marriage (61 per cent). According to the same survey, 80 per cent of girls noted that the game had taught them a lot and the game provoked thinking; 52 per cent said they learned about child marriage and places to turn to for help; and 82 per cent noted that the game increased girls’ confidence on the importance of independent decision-making.

In **Ecuador**, the Spotlight Initiative continued to implement its comprehensive prevention strategy, including the communication campaign **#EseTipoNo**. The campaign reached an estimated audience of 10,162,700 people at a national level and 7 million at the regional level, likely contributing to increased awareness of, and a strengthened ability by a range of stakeholders to identify and prevent, violence against women and girls and femicide.

“

SINCE THE START OF THE INITIATIVE,

617 news outlets

across 8 countries, adopted standards for ethical and gender-sensitive reporting.

The **Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programme** partnered with TikTok to launch regional campaigns to address harmful social norms. Based on the multi-stakeholder evidence collected, the Spotlight programme partnered with five social media influencers and produced 15 TikTok videos. These videos were widely disseminated with an estimated target audience of 200,000 social media users, likely contributing to heightened awareness of, and an improved understanding on, the issues of gendered violence, harassment, gender stereotypes and discrimination. Additionally, the programme launched the first HeForShe Central Asia communication campaign, targeting young men, recent fathers and husbands aged 16-40, as well as secondary audiences, with tested key messages about the importance of gender equality and healthy masculinity, including mental health. It also partnered with TikTok to increase visibility for the Regional Programme’s behaviour change campaigns.

While it is difficult to capture the full impact of these strategies and campaigns - and the change they contribute to will take time to emerge - across 19 countries, **Spotlight programmes noted that, since the start of the Spotlight Initiative, close to 4.5 million women and girl survivors of violence reported an increased knowledge of quality essential services and longer-term recovery services**, due (at least in part) to effective messaging and widely disseminated campaigns.



WITH THE SUPPORT OF SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE,

2,041 villages and communities

developed advocacy platforms to prevent violence in 2022

RESULT: Positioned communities at the heart of prevention efforts, mobilizing survivors, men and boys, traditional leaders, parents, youth and marginalized groups to actively foster equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes engaged in diverse grassroots mobilization efforts to position communities at the heart of prevention efforts. Behavioural change research demonstrates that engaging influential leaders and representative champions, those with whom communities can identify, positively impacts the success of behaviour change strategies at the community level. As such, the Spotlight Initiative invested in recruiting, capacitating and collaborating with key community-level influencers, as well as parents and traditional leaders to shift social norms. Grounded in community collaboration and, with **Spotlight Initiative support, over 2,041 villages and communities across 17 Spotlight Initiative programmes established advocacy platforms to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours.** Aimed at transforming harmful social norms

and stereotypes and promoting behaviour change, community engagement reached more than **600,000 community members in 2022, with over 5 million community members participating in community dialogues since the start of the Spotlight Initiative.**

Spotlight programmes engaged in broader partnerships to shift attitudes and norms. The Spotlight Initiative in **Timor-Leste** and trade unions jointly campaigned to raise awareness on gender-based violence and domestic violence in the workplace through the magazine *Lafaek*. The *Lafaek* magazine produced a special edition on prevention of violence and harassment in the workplace and shared key contacts for referral groups that can provide social and legal support. The magazine reached roughly 42 per cent of households (101,189 magazines were distributed to 1,620 schools and 2,661 magazines distributed to municipalities, administrative posts, health centres, the National Police of Timor-Leste, village offices, libraries and safehouses). In **Niger**, following the successful African Girls Summit in 2021, the feminist organization *Fada de Filles* (Girls' Fada) was founded. A "Fada" is a traditional community space used for dialogue and speech, decision-making and solidarity, normally reserved for men and boys. These spaces are used to take collective decisions on community dynamics and how communities function. In the spirit of peer-to-peer mentoring, the concept of the Fada des Filles emerged from the need for girls to appropriate these spaces and contribute to transforming social norms for a more favourable environment for the advancement of their rights. The Fada des Filles is composed of 30 young girls from various professional and academic backgrounds who have benefited from capacity-building sessions supported by the Spotlight Initiative in Niger. Utilizing their skills, they raise awareness, publicly advocate for social norm change and serve as role models and "elders" for young girls and boys.



SINCE THE START OF THE INITIATIVE,

8,480 journalists are better able

to sensitively report on issues related gender equality violence against women and girls

The Fada des Filles led talks on themes related to female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, climate change and the environment, disaster risk reduction and menstrual hygiene management, positioning gender equality at the heart of solutions to these challenges. In total, the talks reached 2,457 people (including 1,972 girls and 574 female students). [Malika, the Fada des Filles coordinator explains her commitment to her work on Facebook.](#)

Spotlight programmes also made a concerted effort to engage men and boys in efforts to end violence against women and girls. In **Afghanistan**, for example, the Spotlight initiative established 47 men and boys’ networks regularly attended by over 1,000 members.⁶² The men and boys’ networks helped facilitate women’s and girls’ access to critical life-saving services and promote good parenting and positive masculinities. Eliminating violence against women and girls requires men and boys to strive for equitable norms and relationships as well, and these networks also support participants’ acceptance of women’s rights and female agency. In both **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan**, programmes adopted the Gender Action Learning System approach to train champions to transform public attitudes towards VAWG. In **Kyrgyzstan** for example, 22 new champions (15 women and 7 men) initiated gender equality and harmful social norms awareness-raising activities in six target villages. As a result, 40 per cent of fathers improved communication with their families and 70 per cent of champions revised their attitudes towards the role of women and men in the family, with greater support for equal sharing of responsibilities. This is significant, as

baseline data collected in 2020 revealed deeply rooted discriminatory practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes in target communities.

Engaging men and boys who play influential roles as traditional leaders is also a prerequisite to changing behaviours and ending harmful social norms, which is why the Spotlight Initiative builds meaningful partnerships with traditional leaders. For example, in **Liberia**, the programme actively engaged traditional leaders as well as young men and boys groups in advocacy efforts to change negative social norms affecting the lives of women and girls. Nearly 450 traditional leaders have contributed to changing community mindsets on female genital mutilation and their efforts are bearing fruit. The programme supported the [adoption of a policy statement suspending FGM](#) for three years and, together with traditional leaders, advocated for the passage of an anti-FGM law. Two bills are now before the legislature for review and passage into law. This was followed by the closure of 65 bush schools that were operating against the policy. While shifting mindsets and promoting structural change for alternative livelihoods takes time (and commitments can be broken), an additional 300 traditional Zoes⁶³ (97 head Zoes and 203 practitioners) committed to ending the practice and shifting to alternative sources of income, utilizing new skills and knowledge acquired through Spotlight Initiative programme interventions. The Spotlight programme, in collaboration with partners, is regularly monitoring and reporting on the closure of bush schools and the enforcement of the ban. Thus far, there has been no reports of any of the 300 Zoes performing female genital mutilation.

SINCE THE START OF THE INITIATIVE

Nearly **2 million men and boys** were educated on:

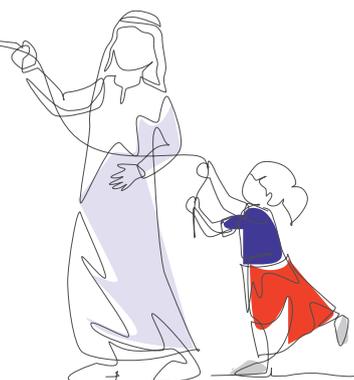
Non-violent conflict resolution



Positive masculinity



Respectful family relationships and parenting



62. Attendance was by exactly 1,116 members (578 men and 538 boys ages 15 to 24 years).

63. The traditional leader in the women’s secret society, often tasked with performing the procedure of female genital mutilation.

Case Study: Promoting coexistence and positive gender norms through art

In **El Salvador**, the Spotlight Initiative supported the development of a music diploma, ¡Soy Música!, that integrates gender and principles of peace, inclusion and co-existence, including awareness of violence against women and girls into its curriculum. The diploma equips teachers and community educators with the skills to teach ¡Soy Música! in a classroom setting structured for children and adolescents. Teachers and community educators receive a music diploma certification after completing a total of 144 hours. To ensure that the music diploma is offered beyond the Spotlight programme, the National Directorate Training of MINEDUCYT has officially adopted the diploma programme. In 2022, 110 teachers (77 men and 33 women) initially received their certification; however, when peer-to-peer knowledge exchange took place between teachers, the ¡Soy Música! curriculum's reach within the school system expanded, with more than 400 teachers teaching it in their respective classrooms. As a result, over 6,000 children benefited from the ¡Soy Música! curriculum. The Spotlight Initiative in partnership with the schools that have adopted the ¡Soy Música! curriculum committed to helping train more teachers in additional schools in different municipalities to further magnify its impact and sustainability.

When reflecting on the impact of the ¡Soy Música! curriculum, teachers expressed how the lessons assisted teachers in connecting with the students personally and helped students better manage any personal or family-related conflicts.

Teachers and community educators, in close coordination with the Spotlight Initiative **El Salvador** and Oxfam, worked to replicate the ¡Soy Música! and implemented it within creative spaces like dance, theatre, art and puppet workshops. The workshops integrated issues on the prevention of violence and social norm change that reached 1,450 children and adolescents. Similar workshops were also designed for students and their parents emphasizing positive parenting and issues of trafficking and early marriage. Reaching 756 parents, parents reflected on how these workshops enabled them to understand how to instil values of self-positivity and equal responsibilities within the household. Having started as a diploma, *¡Soy Música!* is a model that has demonstrated scalability and replicability as a prevention strategy, shifting attitudes and norms and contributing to the elimination of violence against women and girls.

PILLAR 4: SERVICES



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Ensured that essential quality services to address the needs of women and girls, are accessible, available and affordable
- Expanded the one-stop comprehensive care centre model and improved referral pathways to further facilitate the delivery of quality coordinated essential services
- Strengthened the institutional infrastructure that governs and guides the delivery of essential services for improved service provision
- Improved the capacity of government, civil society, duty bearers and service providers, to better provide quality essential services for women and girls

Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services including for long-term recovery from violence.



HEALTH



JUSTICE AND
POLICING



SOCIAL
SERVICES

In 2022 alone,

More than 2 million survivors of violence

against women and girls know more about the essential services available to them

Adequate support for, and availability of, essential services to address violence against women and girls is necessary at the government and regional levels. However, these efforts are often hampered by inadequate funding, weak staffing, and capacity, coordination and implementation challenges, affecting the ability of women and girls to access services.

In 2022, under Pillar 4, the Spotlight Initiative programmes continued to improve the availability and accessibility of rights-based, survivor-centred essential services that adequately addressed the needs of marginalized communities. Activities undertaken by the Spotlight Initiative not only supported the provision of essential services but also enhanced the capacity of service providers, strengthened the institutional infrastructure that governs the delivery of services and improved the integration of services.

RESULT: Ensured that essential quality services to address the needs of women and girls are accessible, available and affordable.

Survivors of violence require a range of essential services to ensure their long-term mental and physical recovery and well-being, including access to legal services to facilitate protection and seek justice against perpetrators and access to economic and social services that



© UN Women/Eva Sibanda. Rose Mary Tiep a beneficiary of TPO support in Omugo II Refugee Settlement Terego District West Nile.

advance their economic rights and improve social integration and inclusion. The Spotlight Initiative programmes invest heavily in the provision of these services and ensure that they are accessible, acceptable and affordable, guaranteeing that no one is left behind. Ensuring access to essential services **is critical given that, since the start of the Spotlight Initiative, the overall annual conviction rate doubled across countries where the Initiative works.**

In 2022, close to 900,000 women and girls accessed services that were directly funded and supported by the Spotlight Initiative, close to 2.5 million women and girls reached since the start of the Initiative. Notably, this number does not include women and girls who accessed services that benefited from Spotlight Initiative supported protocols and methodologies, or services staffed by providers trained by the Initiative. Including this would significantly raise the numbers of women and girls reached. A [modelling study](#), conducted by Dalberg and commissioned by the Spotlight Initiative, notes that “on average,

OVER THE COURSE OF 2022,
MORE THAN

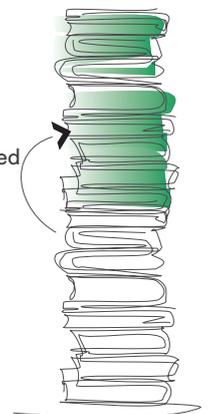
100,000

cases of violence against women and girls were reported to various institutions

IN 2022,
the number of cases reported (to the police)

doubled

compared to 2019



only 2 in 5 survivors of violence are able to seek any formal support through services.

Through fundamental improvements, such as holding perpetrators accountable and offering better services to survivors, the Spotlight Initiative’s work has led to 12 per cent more survivors seeking help every year (as of 2022),” with the number of women and girls benefiting from improved services potentially in the tens



© Spotlight Initiative in Tajikistan

of millions annually, with an overall projected estimated reach of more than **70 million by the end of the Initiative in December 2023.**

It is important to highlight the principle of leaving no one behind, which is central to the Spotlight Initiative programmes' efforts to deliver essential services. The Spotlight Initiative programmes – including in **Afghanistan, El Salvador, Guyana, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Timor-Leste** and **Uganda**, – ensured that essential services were available for women and girls living with disabilities, ethnic minorities, remote populations, LGBTQI+ persons, migrant workers, refugees and youth, among other populations. **Since the Initiative began, Spotlight Initiative programmes supported the design of 67 strategies to better address the needs of women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination in service delivery.**

One example of essential services provision is the Youth Health Line supported by the Spotlight Initiative in **Afghanistan**. The Youth Health Line is a nationwide, toll-free youth health line, providing telephone counselling health services, information on sexual and reproductive health and access to local gender-based violence services. The counsellors at Youth Health Line

are medical doctors, specifically trained in youth-friendly services. During the reporting period, a total of 175,951 young people (90,196 girls and 85,754 boys) from 34 provinces in Afghanistan were supported through the hotline. Of the callers, 51 per cent received counselling services, 27 per cent received information on different health issues and 28.6 per cent were referred to service delivery points throughout the country. Most importantly, the Spotlight Initiative in Afghanistan was able to achieve most results in relation to the provision of essential services in 2022 through the adoption of flexible approaches to meet increasing demands in healthcare and economic support, areas that are not controversial with the de facto authorities of Afghanistan. Specifically, mentoring and the use of current project spaces to deliver tangible benefits despite the context of instability and the growing restrictions on women's rights.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Tajikistan** worked in 45 schools and communities in target districts to establish functional complaint mechanisms, which offered a safe and accessible channel to report issues of violence, including sexual violence.

Spotlight Tajikistan trained 58 mentors on how to handle complaints received from children, including on the principles of confidentiality, do no harm and child-centred care. The complaint mechanisms, which include complaint boxes, a hotline and a Complaint Revision Committees (comprised of a mentor, two teachers, local police inspector and representatives of the local community), have managed complaints from nearly 95,000 people (94,888 exactly: 3,062 women, 954 men, 44,448 girls and 46,424 boys). Another example includes the Spotlight Initiative programme in **Mozambique**, where over 37,500 adolescent girls and boys were reached by comprehensive and personalized text-based information on HIV, sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage, a service that has been expanded across and beyond the initial Spotlight Initiative targeted districts.

RESULT: Expanded the one-stop comprehensive care centre model and improved referral pathways to further facilitate the delivery of quality coordinated essential services.

The United Nations adheres to the essential services package and uses this as a central guide to build and expand the one-stop model for comprehensive care and integrated referral pathways, ensuring that survivors receive the full range of legal, economic, social, psychosocial and health services. This approach takes advantage of evidence-based horizontal approaches to service delivery, with improved access and uptake for underserved and marginalized communities. Several Spotlight Initiative programmes, including those in **Afghanistan, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria** and **Zimbabwe**, deliver the essential services at a single location through the one-stop model.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Mali**, for example, worked to enhance the quality and availability of services offered through the ten one-stop centres opened in 2021. As a result of the Initiative's education and awareness activities, a substantial increase in the number of people using the centres and accessing care was seen in 2022. Further supporting longer term sustainability, and with support from the Spotlight Initiative, the centres are in the process of being fully integrated into national government structures through a sustainability plan (and are currently managed by the Government, as well). In **Nigeria**,

the Spotlight Initiative supported improved gender-based violence response service provision in the one-stop centres to ensure survivors received individualized, holistic services packages. As a result, at one-stop centres in Lagos and Sokoto, 1,463 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (218 women, 1110 girls and 135 boys) received professional and timely medical and psychosocial support; 137 women and their families were provided with shelter services in the one-stop centres in Adamawa State and the Federal Capital Territory; and government support, personnel and facilities have been mobilized for the forthcoming opening of a one-stop centre in Abakaliki, expected in early 2023. In **Mozambique**, the Spotlight Initiative continued the investment in mobile brigades for the provision of integrated services to survivors of violence and sexual and reproductive health services in the communities, with 401 mobile brigades carried out in 2022, reaching over 75,183 people (70 per cent of whom were women), which represents a 56 per cent increase from people reached in 2021. The clinics assisted 4,542 cases of violence and harmful practices against women. The mobile brigades continued to contribute to the reporting of gender-based violence cases, as they reached remote areas that are underserved, thus contributing to implement the principle of leaving no one behind.

RESULT: Strengthened the institutional infrastructure that governs and guides the delivery of essential services for improved service provision.

Institutions and coordination mechanisms are essential to govern and guide essential service delivery. The Spotlight Initiative programmes provided technical expertise and guidance to government and civil society in delivering the essential services package. This includes the development - with a wide range of partners, including survivors, grassroots organizations and marginalized groups - of standard operating procedures, guidelines, protocols, communities of practice and governance frameworks. As of 2022, 80 per cent of target Spotlight Initiative countries developed their national guidelines and protocols in line with the essential services package.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Jamaica**, for example, collaborated with partners to launch the Intersectoral and Inter-agency Referral Protocol and standard operating procedures. These instruments were developed in consultation with stakeholders from different sectors, ensuring the continuum of care for survivors who, regardless of the service access point, will benefit from increased coordination and improved access to services across the security, health, justice and social sectors. The launch was followed by in-person parish workshops, which established coordination platforms in the four Spotlight Initiative parishes.

These facilitated a seamless interface among state services for gender-based violence survivors and their families at the parish level, as well as better oversight on coordinated service provision. Similarly, the Spotlight Initiative in **Liberia** improved the access, availability and awareness of multisectoral integrated services through the roll-out and implementation of the integrated essential service package. This led to an increase in the number of service users, with 22,558 direct beneficiaries (7,479 women, 11,342, girls, 1,235 men, 2,502 boys) accessing multisectoral services at different service provision levels. These services included psychosocial support, counselling, referrals, family planning and survivor services (case management, counselling, access to justice and economic empowerment).

The Spotlight Initiative in **Mexico** developed technical operational tools to enhance public policies on violence against women and girls' care. This included strengthening the Model for Comprehensive Care and Protection for Women Living in Violence, as well as developing a Model of Justice Centres for Women and an Operational Manual for the Local Care Units, standardized to the essential services package. The manual was developed with the participation of 54 women and 24 men public officials of institutions in Chihuahua, Juárez, Chilpancingo, Naucalpan and Ecatepec, as well as representatives from 12 civil society organizations.

RESULT: Improved the capacity of government, civil society, duty bearers and service providers, to better provide quality essential services for women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes continued to build capacity across sectors and stakeholders, to strengthen the multisectoral response to



© Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica

violence against women and girls and ensure the design, delivery and quality of essential services for women and girl survivors of violence. **Across 22 Spotlight Initiative programmes, close to 20,000 government service providers improved their knowledge of, and capacity to deliver, quality and coordinated essential services and were able to integrate responses to violence against women and girls into other sectors' services, amounting to more than 50,000 service providers trained since 2019.**

For example, in **Uganda**, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative partnership with **the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund)**, women and girls living with disabilities can now access essential services with safety, dignity and confidence. Duty bearers received training on legal frameworks related to disabilities and gender-based violence by counsellors representing people with disabilities from the Integrated Disabled Women Activities. This resulted in the renovation and construction of ramps in police posts, health centres, schools and district judicial offices in the Mayuge district, as well as accessible toilets in two schools. Additionally, health centres began to provide information on disability and gender-based violence and the district security officer instructed police and other state actors to prioritize cases of gender-based violence involving women and girls living with disabilities during COVID-19. Similarly, in **Mozambique** the Spotlight Initiative has built on the work done since 2019 to strengthen the provision of long-term recovery services and initiatives to women and girl

survivors of gender-based violence, engaging over 6,900 women in economic empowerment activities to strengthen their agency and financial independence and the reintegration of sexual and gender-based violence survivors into society.

Strengthening the law enforcement and security response to violence against women and girls is crucial and has consistently been cited as one of the most challenging issues when responding to violence against women and girls. Positive initial contact with police, trauma-informed approaches and sustained trainings are critical to ensuring victims and survivors have confidence in this essential service. As such, the Spotlight Initiative in **Guyana** supported the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Guyana Police Force to deliver a training course in gender-based violence to 1,087 police officers in 2022, bringing the total number of officers trained to 1,422. In the coming year, the Spotlight programme plans to have the entire police force trained in gender-based violence response (through ongoing sessions). Once they complete their training, participants receive a badge, which allows them to be easily identified to gender-based violence victims. Officers are also held accountable for gender-based violence cases reported to them and monitoring of the police stations is done to assess the effectiveness of the training programme and identify areas required for strengthening. This capacity-building for officers is central to creating an environment of trust and accountability that encourages survivors of gender-based violence to report and seek assistance from the police.

The **Latin America Regional Programme** – together with the Behavioral Insights Team (BIT) and UNDP Country Office in Colombia – applied a behavioural sciences approach to encourage reporting (to the police) by survivors, targeting the process of issuing a police report at Family Police Stations across 22 municipalities in Colombia. This work has surfaced important lessons on the factors that encourage (or, alternatively, constrain) survivors' willingness to report and engage with the judicial process. The learning can subsequently be used to design capacity building interventions (targeting police and the justice sector) improving their ability to respond appropriately to survivors (and avoid re-victimisation). The **Malawi** Spotlight programme's Safe School Concept and the One School One Police Officer Initiative - in which trained officers are deployed in schools - increased sexual and gender-based violence reporting in targeted

schools and improved access to justice for child survivors. In 2022, 363 cases were reported, compared to 171 cases in 2021, representing a 112 per cent increase. In total, 52 survivors reported violence to the police through school complaints boxes placed in 135 schools by adolescent girls and boys. Thirty of the cases were related to rape and child marriage. Further, the Spotlight Initiative in Malawi linked mobile courts to schools, which enhanced access to justice for child survivors of violence and promoted a safe learning environment by facilitating police investigations and prosecution. Of the 52 survivors (represented through 37 cases), 37 girl survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and 1 woman accessed justice through mobile courts. Of the 37 cases, 25 were completed, of which 17 resulted in convictions and 8 in acquittals; the remaining 12 are still being handled in court. **As a result of these (and other) efforts across Spotlight programmes, data provided by 17 Spotlight programmes show that the overall annual rate of convictions of perpetrators of violence is twice as high compared to those in 2019. In total, since 2019, close to 10,000 perpetrators have been brought to justice, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative.**

While this number may appear low (more than 100,000 cases have been reported in these countries in 2022), barriers to conviction are extremely high (tampered evidence, victims withdrawing their report under pressure and cases dismissed or dropped on technicalities, as well as agreements between parties or their families to avoid trials), underscoring the significance of this figure.



Since the start of the Initiative, the overall annual conviction rate doubled across countries in which the Initiative works. $\times 2$

There have been nearly 10,000 convictions since the Initiative began.

Case Study: Community-owned resource for accessing essential services

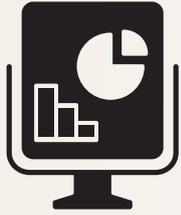
The Spotlight Initiative in **Malawi** supported the establishment of the **Community and Survivor Funds Initiative**, an innovative approach to support adolescent girls and young women survivors of violence with the financial means to access essential services. The funds are specifically managed by the community to ensure local ownership and agency. The fund structure operates within the Community Victim Support Unit (CVSU) under the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development through the area development committees (ADC) (smaller groups called community committees oversee the funds). As of 2022, there were operational funds in six Spotlight Initiative districts.

These funds aim to exclusively financially support adolescent girls and young women survivors to access legal and sexual rights and reproductive health services. This approach aims to further justice by providing integral support in prosecuting sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices-related cases. The fund structure also ensures accountability mechanisms and regular reporting. In addition, each community fund adopts a different way of ensuring that it continues to generate income, for example, identifying income-generating activities or having village savings and loans with an interest of 20 per cent, whereby 15 per cent is retained with the fund and 5 per cent is allocated to the Community Victim Support Unit to cover administrative costs. This approach guarantees that the fund is self-sustaining and the community fund model has been enshrined within the Ministry. Each area development committee member is trained on the community and survivor fund to ensure continuity and long term success.

The Spotlight Initiative also adopts this community fund model in **Haiti**, which supports the *Mutuelle de Solidarité* (Solidarity Mutual) that empowers survivors of violence. The Spotlight Initiative in Haiti and the *Centre d'Animation Paysanne et d'Action Communautaire* has developed a fund model that enables women to build their savings and also access credit with low-interest rates, all of which empower women economically and helps to alleviate their financial insecurity. Access to these financial services is simplified to ensure that women do not need collateral and can readily receive money to support their health, improve their socioeconomic situation and address emergencies.

The Spotlight Initiative in Haiti has successfully supported the establishment of 12 fund groups, most of which have implemented a range of community-based, income-generating activities. Three hundred and fifty members benefit from these groups and their lives have been positively impacted. These spaces have also hosted a series of dialogues on raising awareness on ending violence against women and enable survivors of violence to have access to financial needs to access essential services and be financially secure. This model can also be replicated elsewhere and, inter alia, used to raise awareness on violence against women and girls.

PILLAR 5: DATA



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Supported the development of robust data collection systems by building capacity, mapping gaps in data collection and improving data capture solutions
- Produced validated and comparable data on violence against women and girls that was multisectoral and inclusive of marginalized groups
- Developed comprehensive and innovative mechanisms to disseminate and leverage data to advance strategies to end violence against women and girls
- Promoted high-quality research on the underlying causes and current practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls

Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.

In order to comprehensively address and end violence against women and girls, decision-makers and activists must be equipped with the requisite skills, knowledge and access to quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on violence against women and girls and harmful practices. In 2022, under Pillar 5, the Spotlight Initiative made significant progress in developing and strengthening the infrastructure required to collect, store, analyse and leverage quality, comparable data. A wide range of interventions were employed to generate quality data, including developing comprehensive data collection systems, deepening the capacity of data users across sectors, launching original research, and translating data into action, through knowledge sharing, advocacy and evidence-based decision-making.

RESULT: Supported the development of robust data collection systems by building capacity, mapping gaps in data collection and improving data capture solutions.

Addressing violence against women and girls necessitates high quality data that identifies the prevalence, incidence, scope, impact and underlying or contributing causes of violence against women and girls. The availability of data facilitates stronger design of large-scale social, cultural and political interventions to end violence against women and girls. Reliable data can also be used by women, girls, allies and activists to advocate for their rights. As a prerequisite to data availability, Spotlight Initiative programmes have supported the development and strengthening of information systems and platforms to better collect and administer data

A GROWING DATA ECOSYSTEM

58%

of countries in which
the Initiative works

now have publicly available data on
femicide, reported on a regular basis.



under Pillar 5. In 2022, **with the support of the Spotlight Initiative, 71 per cent of targeted countries have improved systems to collect administrative data on violence against women and girls and harmful practices, disaggregated to better reflect multiple forms of discrimination and in line with international standards, across different sectors.**

The Spotlight Initiative in **Grenada**, for instance, worked towards strengthening national capacity to regularly collect data related to violence against women and girls, including intimate partner violence, contributing to the existence of publicly available, globally comparable data. In 2022, the online data system on violence against women and girls - WebMS - and related terms of reference, was designed in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office and the National Data Centre of Grenada and involved extensive consultation with civil society and key stakeholders in the public sector. The terms of reference for this system include the main guidelines, operations and schedules for future use and implementation across sectors, identifying both agency-level and staff-level roles and responsibilities in relation to technical hosting and management of the system, data entry, data processing and management, analysis and dissemination.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes globally have also supported efforts to build the capacity of data users to collect, manage and use data. **Since the start of the Spotlight Initiative, over 18,000 individuals, including government personnel and women's rights advocates, have been trained to collect, analyse and disseminate prevalence and incidence data,**

with a focus on women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination.

The **Africa Regional Programme** finalized a curriculum on violence against women and girls' data literacy, and trained professionals from academia, civil society organizations and governments to use data to combat violence against women and girls. Three rounds of capacity-strengthening workshops were delivered in **Ghana, Kenya and Senegal**, attended by 121 participants from 16 anglophone and 7 francophone African countries, along with members of the African Union and United Nations. The training programme strengthened the capacity of regional actors, women's rights organizations and national partners to: (1) plan and regularly collect data related to sexual and gender-based violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation, in line with international and regional standards; and (2) to use data to inform laws, policies and programmes and track progress towards national, regional and continental commitments to address these harmful practices and violence against women and girls. A survey administered six months post-training confirmed trainees were implementing the skills and knowledge they gained from the training workshop. As a direct result of the training, participants reported submitting research proposals for funding, helping to design or revise programmes based on evidence, conducting national surveys, updating data collection tools, and correcting research projects, as well as increased proficiency in key skills such as management, evidence-based grants and proposal writing, and research methods. As a result of these and other efforts, **58 per cent of countries in which Spotlight**

programmes supported efforts have publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on femicide. A further 65 per cent have data on intimate partner violence, and 75 per cent have data on female genital mutilation.⁶⁴

RESULT: Produced validated and comparable data on violence against women and girls that was multisectoral and inclusive of marginalized groups.

Building on the development of data systems, Spotlight Initiative programmes focused on producing validated and comparable data, in line with international standards, on violence against women and girls and harmful practices. **To date, 11 national statistics offices have developed, adapted and contextualized methods and standards to generate national-level prevalence and incidence data on violence against women and girls, with support from the Spotlight Initiative. Since the start of the Spotlight Initiative, a total of 765 national statistics officers (364 women and 401 men) strengthened their ability to produce data on the prevalence of violence against women and girls, harmful practices and incidents.**

In 2022, across the Spotlight Initiative - including in **Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana** and **Mexico**, as well as through the **Latin America Regional Programme and Africa Regional Programme** – Spotlight programmes progressed the production of nationally comparable and robust datasets on the prevalence of violence against women and girls. For example, the gender-based violence data management system *InfoViolência* supported by the Spotlight Initiative in **Mozambique**, saw a three-fold increase in the number of sexual and gender-based violence cases entered from 2021 (the platform has roughly 6,000 registered cases). The Spotlight programme continued to invest in collecting quality data on sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practises by expanding the platform to all target districts and training police officers and government officials in the use and management of the system, promoting ownership and sustainability. In **Trinidad and**

Tobago, the Spotlight Initiative completed a study on the economic costs of family violence on the national economy. The purpose of this study was to produce data that would support the evidence-based design of programmes, policies and strategies to address family violence (and its relationship to and effect on the workplace). Ninety-eight women responded to the survey instrument, of which 57 identified as victims of family violence. The costing analysis was based on the survey results, with two primary types of costs considered: survivor and perpetrator. Costs related to other actors such as government, community-based organizations, and businesses were also considered. The study concluded that the combined annual cost per incident of family violence, excluding estimated loss of income due to forced absence from work, ranges from the Trinidad and Tobago dollar (TT\$) 22,917 (USD 3,378) to TT\$ 49,495 (USD 7,297).⁶⁵ Considering that the average annual salary in the country is TT\$ 117,440 (USD 17,290), with 25 per cent of the population earning less than TT\$ 64,560 (USD 9,500), the cost of family violence is economically crippling.⁶⁶

The **Nigeria** programme launched a national gender-based violence data situation room in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs. As a result, the ministry now has the capacity to coordinate gender-based violence data collection and analysis from the 36 states to the gender-based violence data hub, through state Ministries of Women Affairs nationwide. This intervention has brought various gender-based violence programming stakeholders and donor organizations in Nigeria together. At present, the federal Ministry of Women's Affairs is galvanizing other donor agencies to support this initiative and currently, Jhpiego, USAID Nigeria and other stakeholders are funding the Situation Room. As of today, 13,933 cases have been reported including: 532 fatal cases, 731 closed cases, 4,410 open cases, and 33 convicted perpetrators.

64. The list of countries (reporting that "yes" they have publicly available data on IPV) are the following: Africa Regional Programmes, Argentina, Belize, Ecuador, El Salvador, the Pacific Regional Programme, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, the Latin America Regional Programme, Liberia, Mozambique, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

65. For more on this study, please see [Trinidad and Tobago's 2022 Annual Programme report](#).

66. [Average Salary in Trinidad and Tobago for 2023](#).

National level data on violence against women and girls

Type of data disaggregation by programme

	Africa RP			Argentina			Belize			El Salvador		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
1) Income	○	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	○	○
2) Sex	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3) Age	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4) Ethnicity	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○
5) Disability	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
6) Geographic Location	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7) Forms of violence	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○

	Honduras			Latin America RP			Malawi			Nigeria		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
1) Income	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○
2) Sex	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3) Age	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
4) Ethnicity	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
5) Disability	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○
6) Geographic Location	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
7) Forms of violence	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	●

	Pacific RP			Papua New Guinea			Uganda			Zimbabwe		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
1) Income	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2) Sex	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
3) Age	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4) Ethnicity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
5) Disability	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	○
6) Geographic Location	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●
7) Forms of violence	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

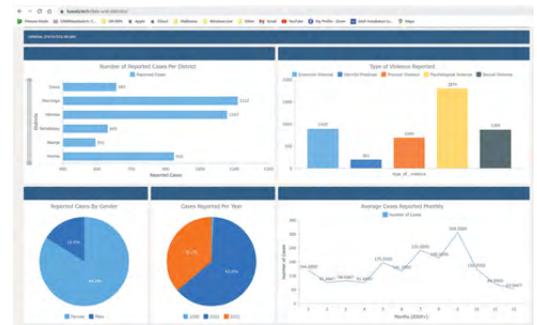
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2022 > Milestone
- 2020-2022 did not achieve Milestone



© UNICEF Nigeria. The resident coordinator lead the National Steering committee members to Sokoto, Nigeria, for a two-day high-level monitoring visit to community.

RESULT: Developed comprehensive and innovative mechanisms to disseminate and leverage data to advance strategies to end violence against women and girls.

Translating data into action is an essential component of Pillar 5. The Spotlight Initiative programmes focused on identifying impactful and innovative channels to disseminate and promote data to key stakeholders in government, civil society (including women-led and grassroots organizations), communities, survivors and rights holders. Further, programmes facilitated the sharing and strategic use of data to create evidence-based knowledge products, strategies, interventions and behaviour change activities. For example, the Spotlight Initiative in **Jamaica**, in collaboration with government stakeholders, established a victim data dashboard and geographic information system (GIS) providing the security, health and justice sectors with data related to violence against women and girls. The Early Warning Awareness and Response System (EWARS) enables law enforcement to map and triangulate violence against women and girls hotspots, conduct risk assessments and perform predictive analysis through heat mapping across all parishes in Jamaica. Data collected will inform the design and implementation of effective prevention measures to reduce the incidence of violence against women and girls in Jamaica.



The Spotlight Initiative in **Malawi** continued to improve the Kuwala Knowledge Management Platform, which facilitates information sharing, knowledge exchange and cooperation on issues related to gender equality and violence against women and girls. One useful feature of the platform is its ability to visualize trends in violence month-to-month, broken down by region and types of cases reported. This allows users to identify trends over time, and spot increases, like those seen in September 2022 in the visual, to investigate the reasons behind the increase, and get resources to the right people at the right time. In addition, to ensure cohesion across the Spotlight Initiative interventions, the Kuwala Platform was linked to the Data Observatory Hub, and work is progressing to achieve real-time data syncing between the two systems.

In 2022, the **Latin America Regional Programme** was able to map and collect 688 gender-based violence prevention strategies from 18 countries, generating important recommendations on effective gender-based violence prevention strategies. The results and recommendations of this research were shared in 12 political dialogues, four with public servants and government authorities, four with regional social, feminist and women's organizations, and four with key regional institutions. As a result, data was translated into two policy briefs,⁶⁷ a technical note, a full report with an executive summary, several knowledge products and graphic materials for social networks, audiovisual campaigns and podcasts. The programme also contributed to the development of innovative analysis tools to improve the gendered analysis of data. Developed collaboratively with the National Justice Council (CNJ) of Brazil and the UNDP Country Office in Brazil, the programme helped develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that strengthens the gender responsive analysis of femicide data by the justice sector. The tool reinforces the ability of the justice system to identify and address cases of femicide in the region, and, as a result, strengthens its response to survivors.

RESULT: Promoted high-quality research on the underlying causes and current practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

There are significant gaps in the existing data and knowledge related to the factors that lead to violence against women and girls in different contexts, and the prevalence of underlying harmful social norms and attitudes. As such, Spotlight Initiative programmes, including the **Caribbean Regional Programme and the Latin America Regional Programme**, prioritized research into specific attitudes, behaviours and norms in relation to violence against women and girls in order to generate data to inform policymaking and programming. Building on the work done previously, the **Latin America Regional Programme** published and shared eight multidimensional studies on femicide in highly vulnerable contexts. These studies highlight the intersectional impacts (particularly on vulnerable population groups)

of new forms of violence (in specific contexts), and provide qualitative and quantitative data for strengthened public policies and legal frameworks to address femicide.

Recognizing the importance of trend research, the **Africa Regional Programme** completed an analysis of government financing of child marriage interventions in 13 countries (that are part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and the Spotlight Initiative), including child marriage trends and drivers of the practice. As a result, a methodology was developed that identifies high impact investment areas to end child marriage as well as options for accelerating and amplifying efforts to end child marriage. This year, the methodology was tested in two countries, **Burkina Faso** and **Malawi**, resulting in a strategy notebook that captures lessons from each country.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Haiti** supported the Determinants of Violence Against Women and Girls study, which highlighted the political and economic sociocultural factors (values, religious beliefs, attitudes and behaviours) that instigate or support violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence. The results informed the “Pathways for a Prevention” strategy, which will feed into the national violence against women and girls prevention model and the national education programme for the elimination of domestic violence against women and girls, planned for the Haiti Spotlight programme’s Phase II.⁶⁸

67. [Policy Brief: A look at the issue of intersectionality](#) and [Policy Brief: The Role of Local Governments in Prevention of Gender-Based Violence](#).

68. For more details related to these studies please see the [programme annual reports](#) for Afghanistan, Africa Regional Programme and Haiti.

Case Study: Innovative data collection on femicide for improved response

In order to inform responsive strategies, the Spotlight Initiative in **Ecuador** supported efforts to make quality data on femicide and violence against women available in the country. Employing innovative approaches to raise awareness of the need for more robust and inclusive data on violence against women and girls, three promising approaches were used. The first approach was a study on the hidden realities and invisible data on femicide in Ecuador. Through an intersectional lens, this study collected specific data on femicides against indigenous women, Afro-Ecuadorian women, women with disabilities and trans women. The study highlights the importance of reflecting intersectionality in data through the categorization of cases according to ethnic-cultural identity, gender and disability. The study also called for nationwide data to integrate the principles of leaving no one behind.

For the second approach, the Spotlight programme collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) (the national body that oversees national data, including data on femicide), the Alliance on Mapping Femicides, ALDEA Foundation, and the *Asociación Red de Familias de Víctimas de Femicidios* (REDFAVIVE) to gather information to improve the existing national indicators on femicide. These stakeholders provided critical perspectives that helped bridge the existing gaps in data collection and dissemination and brought forward specific changes to how femicide is quantified in administrative processes.

In the third approach, the Spotlight Initiative programme in Ecuador supported the design of *Flores en el Aire*, an innovative social mapping tool that shares stories about the daily lives of victims of femicide, and their relatives' testimonies to help raise awareness of the issue in society, including among government officials (more on this in [Chapter 5](#)). The Spotlight Initiative partnered with the Asociación Red de Familias de Víctimas de Femicidios (REDFAVIVE) to scale up this social mapping to four other cities. *Flores en el Aire* demonstrated the need for more stringent femicide-related prevention and justice approaches. This tool also created a space for dialogue among different stakeholders, including grassroots groups and policymakers, to jointly reflect on femicide in Ecuador and the interventions needed to end this form of violence against women. Finally, *FFlores en el Aire* was presented as an innovative tool in addressing femicide at the XIV Ministerial Forum on Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Ecuador, demonstrating its potential replicability in other countries.

PILLAR 6: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY



The main results achieved in this Pillar include:

- Enabled more civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, to have greater influence and agency in their efforts to end violence against women and girls, particularly via strengthened engagement with planning processes, formal legislative and policy processes, and accountability structures
- Supported extensive mappings of the existing civil society landscape – including available civic space – to better support groups' efforts to end violence against women and girls
- Promoted coalition-building, collaboration and advocacy across regions for improved connections among civil society organizations, deeper networking and stronger knowledge exchange
- Amplified the capacity and impact of women's rights organizations and movements at the local level
- Resourced and strengthened capacities of young feminist activists and youth-led networks
- Increased the funding for civil society organizations including women's rights and feminist grassroots organizations

Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination or marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on gender equality and women's rights and ending violence against women and girls.

Diverse feminist, women's rights and social justice movements have (and continue to be) at the forefront of progressive change, challenging intersecting supremacies (including colonialism, racism, sexism and able-ism, among others) and imagining alternatives. Through Pillar 6, the Spotlight Initiative prioritized direct support to women's rights and feminist organisations and movements and, in particular, grassroots organizations (in addition to weaving civil society support, partnerships and collaboration through all Pillars). The following section highlights a broad range of results that occurred in 2022.

RESULT: Enabled more civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, to have greater influence and agency in their efforts to end violence against women and girls, particularly via strengthened engagement with planning processes, formal legislative and policy processes, and accountability structures.

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative supported the efforts of civil society organizations to end violence against women and girls through participation in official dialogues and via shadow reports and accountability mechanisms. Through Spotlight Initiative-supported training on accountability mechanisms, women's rights groups, among others, were better able to engage with accountability mechanisms and influence approaches for prevention and response to violence against women and girls and gender equality across programmes, including

AMPLIFYING ACTIVISTS' VOICES

Nearly
1,800 local
and grassroots women's
rights organizations

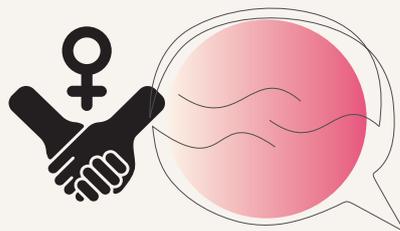
reported having greater
influence and agency in 2022



in the **Africa Regional Programme, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea** and **Uganda**.

In **El Salvador**, for example, the women's rights organization, *El Instituto de Estudios de la Mujer* (CEMUJER) (the Institute for Women's Studies), produced a shadow report on the Salvadoran state's compliance with the recommendations issued by United Nations Treaty Bodies on violence against women and girls. Mechanisms for women's engagement were developed in three municipalities, which enabled consultative processes (to capture a variety of perspectives) and a consolidation of information on sexual violence against women and girls (including on prevention efforts, existing services for survivors and access to justice). The shadow report includes concrete recommendations and serves as an advocacy tool to hold the state

accountable to its commitments. Similarly, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative through the **Africa Regional Programme**, the Alliance for Africa in Nigeria and the Network Against Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania mobilized nearly 50 local organizations (21 in Nigeria and 28 in Tanzania) to develop a shadow report on the rights of women and girls in Africa. Developed collaboratively among various local organizations, including women's rights and feminist groups and community-based organizations (CBOs), as well as academics and professional bodies working on women's rights, the shadow reports highlighted the need to promote and disseminate the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo protocol) further, given that many women's rights organizations were not aware of the protocol or its legal frameworks, and the responsibility of the state; and governments themselves found it difficult to engage in meaningful consultations with stakeholder vis-à-vis its obligations). The shadow reports provide information (and recommendations) to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with regard to Nigeria's and Tanzania's state reports. In addition to submitting the shadow reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the two shadow reports will likely be repackaged and disseminated more widely (as technical or policy briefs), strengthening the accountability of rights holders and duty bearers (governments).



IN 2022,

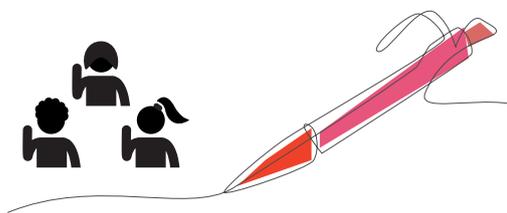
154 official dialogues were held

across 19 countries with the participation of governments, women's rights groups, and other civil society organizations (including those representing communities and individuals facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination).

CLOSE TO 600 DIALOGUES HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE INITIATIVE.

In **Uganda**, as a result of training on the balanced scorecard (BSC) to demand improved service delivery and social accountability, the women's network, the National Associations of Women's Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU) successfully advocated for the passage of an ordinance on the prevention of gender-based violence in Amudat district. Seventy-five women from

a cross-section of sub-movements gained knowledge on how to influence duty bearers through effective advocacy and lobbying, and key duty bearers were identified to facilitate community access. As a result, district community development officers committed to prioritize groups of women with disabilities for government programmes. In **Kyrgyzstan**, six grassroots organizations received sub-grants to monitor and analyse the implementation of national commitments to end violence against women and girls. Pro bono lawyers provided training on the national and international legal framework and mentorship throughout the monitoring process. Based on the findings, the organizations developed recommendations for the Kyrgyz Republic on the law on safeguarding and protection from domestic violence.



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE INITIATIVE,

330 jointly agreed recommendations to end violence against women and girls were developed,

through multi-stakeholder dialogues which included representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination

Overall, since the start of Spotlight Initiative, over 3,000 women's rights groups and other relevant civil society organizations, increased their use of citizen audits, shadow reporting and other accountability mechanisms to demand an end to violence against women and girls. Moreover, with Spotlight Initiative support, 1,783 local and grassroots women's rights organizations and relevant civil society organizations reported having more influence and better ability to work on eliminating violence against women and girls.

RESULT: Supported extensive mappings of the existing civil society landscape – including available civic space – to better support groups' efforts to end violence against women and girls.

Spotlight programmes, including in **Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Tajikistan** and **Timor-Leste**, supported extensive mappings of the existing civil society landscape – including available civic space – to better support groups' efforts to end violence against women and girls. Mappings were developed jointly with civil society to build upon and strengthen existing initiatives and amplify critical grassroots knowledge, and help the Spotlight Initiative programmes and others to better reach traditionally left behind communities and rights holders.

For example, in **Liberia**, a mapping of civil society organizations implemented by a local partner showed that 576 organizations are actively working across five Spotlight Initiative counties in Liberia. Of these, 318 are women-led organizations, 158 are youth-led and 100 organizations represent groups facing intersecting forms of vulnerabilities (including for example persons living with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, among others). The mapping ensured that the National Civil Society Council of Liberia and the Government of Liberia have a full picture of the civil society landscape. It also identified gaps and needs, helping to integrate civil society organizations (including community-based organizations and women's rights organizations representing vulnerable and marginalized groups) into coalitions and networks to strengthen their collective agency. To sustain and strengthen movement-building, the Spotlight Initiative in **Guyana** recruited a civil society capacity-building expert, who extensively mapped and developed a database of national and local civil society organizations. Building on this, the Initiative launched a comprehensive capacity-building programme, with grants, for civil society organizations. A core part of this work aimed at strengthening grantees' internal capacity, to support sustainable and meaningful growth beyond the life of the Spotlight Initiative programme in Guyana.

RESULT: Promoted coalition-building, collaboration and advocacy across regions for improved connections among civil society organizations, deeper networking and stronger knowledge exchange.

Strengthening and supporting coordination across civil society organizations and movements is vital for ending violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative - including in **Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Malawi, Nigeria, Zimbabwe** and through the **Safe and Fair programme, the Africa Regional Programme, the Pacific Regional Programme** and the **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund partnership** with the Spotlight Initiative in **Afghanistan** - played a key role in these efforts, supporting communities of practice and increasing opportunities for knowledge exchange.

In **Malawi**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative strengthened women's movements in three regions (north, central and southern regions) and supported the formation of a national-level movement: The Women's Manifesto, coordinated by civil society organizations. Aligning with the principle of leaving no one behind, the movement's leadership includes rural women, survivors of violence, persons with disabilities and persons with albinism. Sixty five leaders from the movement developed their ability to use community scorecards (as a social accountability tool), create action plans and advance evidence-based advocacy and contributed to the development of a movement-building tool kit, which was used to update and establish 116 women's groups and 11 girls' groups (encompassing a total of 1,426 women and girls). As a result of their advocacy, 187 cases related to sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights and harmful practices were resolved by women's rights advocates, who used a scorecard to hold district officers accountable on delays in case handling. Consequently, one district commissioner issued a directive to the rural hospital to ensure privacy and to enable access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Similarly, 2,194 women migrant workers created ten community-based peer networks in Viet Nam with the support of the **Safe and Fair programme** and grants from the **UN Trust**

Fund funded under the Spotlight Initiative reached nearly 29.5 million women and girls and strengthened collaboration and coalition-building among local and grassroots women's rights organizations.⁶⁹ In the **Pacific Regional Programme**, the Spotlight Initiative partnered with 39 national, local and grassroots women's rights organizations across ten countries in the region, establishing new and unique partnerships with communities through the Pacific People's Advancing Change (PPAC) grant-giving programme. These partnerships further enabled civil society organizations to engage with government entities. As an example, the Makefu Women's Council, an organization focusing on the protection of LGBT rights in Niue, partnered with the Public Safety and Health sector and, through this collaboration, ensured their 24-hour help line was operational for the LGBT community to access services.

With support of the Spotlight Initiative programmes, a total of 439 civil society organizations – representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination – across 11 countries were able to join coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society to deepen work to end violence against women and girls.

RESULT: Amplified the capacity and impact of women's rights organizations and movements at the local level.

Facilitating collaboration and networking, knowledge exchange and organizational capacity-building, the Spotlight Initiative programmes globally worked to support movement-building and lay the groundwork for cross-movement collaboration. In 2022, significant progress was made in **Haiti, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda** and, through the **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund** partnership with the Spotlight Initiative in **Nigeria** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, to improve the institutional strength of civil society organizations, as well as feminist advocates and women human-rights defenders. **Overall in 2022, over 2000 women's rights groups, networks and relevant civil society organizations engaged in capacity-strengthening activities, with a total of 1319**

69. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women 2022 Grants to Civil Society in Africa and Latin America: Results, page 2.

women's organizations reporting strengthened ability to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on eliminating violence against women and girls across 17 Spotlight Initiative programmes.

In **Mozambique**, the Spotlight Initiative provided support to local organizations to improve community-based coalition and movement-building. This support resulted in over 25 local civil society organizations and community-based organizations exchanging their experiences on best practices and challenges on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage. District platforms were created, in alignment with the country's policy of decentralization, to promote the human rights of women and girls. These platforms led to 285 people trained, and to the development of 18 community women's and girls' associations in four key districts. In **Papua New Guinea**, a local civil society partner provided institutional capacity-building support to six community-based organizations working with safe houses and women living with disabilities, and supported them to implement key community interventions. The support included development of strategic workplans, by-laws, organizational restructuring, basic financial management and defining basic personnel duties to ensure growth and sustainability. As a result of this support, the community-based entities were formalized and strengthened to better respond to violence against women and girls. The local organization further established advocacy networks and worked with local communities to change negative behaviours and norms.

RESULT: Resourced and strengthened capacities of young feminist activists and youth-led networks.

Young feminist activists and youth-led networks are initiators and leaders of innovative practices and cutting-edge activism. Despite this, they are often excluded from traditional philanthropic processes and vital sources of funding. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative supported and enhanced the coalition- and movement-building work of young activists in, for example, **Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Mali and Trinidad and Tobago** and through **the Africa Regional Programme**, to ensure sustainable impact and lasting social change.

For example, in **Mali**, the Spotlight Initiative worked to strengthen the impact and partnership among three different youth organizations, enabling over 300 young people, including 200 women and 100 men, to improve their knowledge of reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and gender-based violence. This knowledge exchange and partnership-building also served as an opportunity to disseminate information on women's political and social rights and on services for survivors of gender-based violence. In **Kyrgyzstan**, girls increased their leadership skills, implemented their own activities and engaged in inter-generational dialogue. Over 650 girls are now members of 12 girls' leadership clubs established by the Spotlight Initiative. Each club has held a school debate on the topic of girls' rights and girls' leadership and organized workshops with the participation of local council members introducing girls to feminism, gender stereotypes, women's rights movements and activism. Intergenerational linkages between women activists and girls were strengthened through these workshops and, as a result, women local council members have identified priority issues related to girls for advocacy in their communities.

Case study: A community of feminists co-creating and collectively working to address violence against women and girls

A community of practice (COP) within the violence against women and girls and gender-based violence ecosystem is a network of gender activists who share the goal of furthering gender equality and working to eliminate all forms of violence and harmful practices. The development of the **Pacific Feminist Community of Practice (PacFemCom)** fosters concepts of co-creation and delivering on feminist principles in the effort to end violence against women and girls beyond the Spotlight Initiative. As a partner of the **Spotlight Initiative Pacific Regional Programme**, [Diverse Voices and Action \(DIVA\) for Equality](#) - a unique and radical feminist collective - leads PacFemCom and is driven by the mandate to create a space to connect with other groups and movements, and advocate across the Pacific region to collectively work on addressing violence against women and girls.

Prior to the formation of PacFemCom, a series of consultations were held with over 90 participants in 2021 who helped shape the vision for this community of practice. In 2022, PacFemCom was launched together with 20 civil society organizations and 80 activists, creating a diverse community that collaboratively amplifies the voices of women and girls across the region. The community of practice includes leading established activists who have been working in this space for longer, along with new and small grantee awardees. PacFemCom represents all 22 small islands and territories and is a platform where members can network, receive peer-to-peer training and discuss other issues intersecting with violence against women and girls, including economic vulnerability and climate change across the [humanitarian development nexus](#).

PacFemCom has carried out activities that include creating six “freeskool”⁷⁰ sessions on movement-building and programming for rights holders with diverse needs. Furthermore, PacFemCom has also proved strategic in helping coordinate grassroots inputs in strategic international convenings like the sixty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#), which took place in March 2022, the 2022 Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and through the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls. During the 16 Days of Activism, PacFemCom organized a regional dialogue that brought members together to share lessons learned and how best to replicate this model in other regional areas.

PacFemCom is a model of the impactful role a community of practice can play in the ecosystem for ending violence against women and girls, fostering good practices, strengthening movement-building and offering a critical space to amplify the voices of rights holders and advocate for change.

70. A “freeskool” is often referred to as an autonomous space that does not conform to any hierarchical structures intended to exchange knowledge and skills without any payments needed.

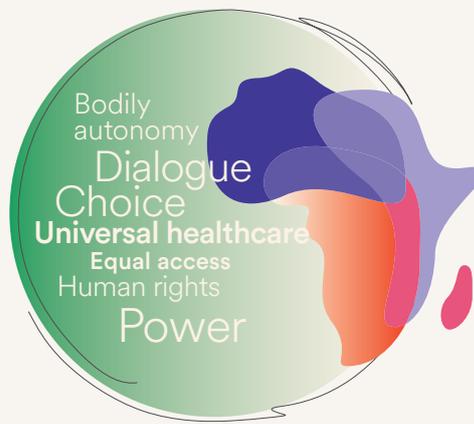
3.4.3

Spotlight Initiative Programmes in Africa: Promoting and Funding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

An integral part of preventing and ending violence against women and girls is advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The Spotlight Initiative has committed to allocating USD 100 million to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights across the Initiative's programmes in Africa. The overall budget allocation for sexual and reproductive health and rights work in these programmes is over USD 117 million,⁷¹ well beyond the USD 100 million target. To foster sustainable change in SRHR, Spotlight programmes focused on embedding sexual and reproductive health and rights within policies and legislative frameworks, strengthening advocacy skills and knowledge through capacity-building activities, utilizing schools and girls' spaces to build good practices, improving access to integrated services and building data to implement more evidence-based interventions. Programmes also ensured that leave no one behind principles were central to all their interventions. To date, the majority of funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights was allocated under Pillar 4 on services (32 per cent), strengthening integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and rights and Pillar 3 on prevention (29 per cent), supporting raising awareness and information through various community-wide channels. In 2022, the Initiative contributed to safeguarding women and girls sexual and reproductive health and rights in targeted approaches that are described below.

Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights through laws, policies and plans

The Spotlight Initiative programmes committed to fostering sustainability and lasting impact by embedding sexual and reproductive health and rights within policies and legislative frameworks. The development and implementation of a series of bylaws on sexual and gender-based violence were supported by the Spotlight Initiative in **Malawi** through the Chief's Policy Guide. The guide explicitly outlined the role of traditional leaders in safeguarding sexual and reproductive



Funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Africa

Allocated USD 117 million

TARGET: USD 100 MILLION

health and rights. To support implementation of the policy guide, the programme also focused on building skills on sexual and reproductive health and rights amongst district-level decision-makers to continue lobbying for more inclusive policies. Similarly, the Spotlight Initiative in **Uganda** supported a series of policy documents that outlined sexual and reproductive health and rights integrations in the health and education sectors, including the Adolescent Health Implementation Plan and the Sexuality Education and Disability Policy.

To better integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights into gender-based violence legislative considerations, the Spotlight Initiative in **Niger** supported the validation of a legislative framework report that resulted in the discussion of the revision of the procedures for the penal code. This led to a campaign that brought 400 stakeholders together who furthered the regional and national declarations presented to the Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic.

Another example of advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights through policy, plans and legislation is the African Union accountability framework on harmful practices that was finalized and endorsed by the African Union specialized technical committee. The **Africa Regional Programme** supported the African Union's efforts to support policy and

71. USD 117 million was budgeted in total, out of which USD 111 million came from EU funding and USD 6 million came from UN funding. For Africa country programmes, OSC-approved Phase I+II budgets were used for the analysis. For the Africa Regional Programme, the OSC-approved phase I budget was used for the analysis. No information is available on SRHR allocations for UN Trust Fund and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund grant-giving programmes in Africa.

legislation reforms through the adaptation of policy instruments by the specialized technical committees as a push factor for member state-level implementation. The Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-4) was held from 4 to 8 April 2022, Under the theme ‘Building Forward Better Well Being and Living Standards in Africa’, the Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) Commissioner Health presented key strategies on ending harmful practices at the experts’ meeting. The framework was endorsed for adoption at the ministerial meeting and the content of the strategies commended. The accountability framework on harmful practices became official after the decision taken during the Executive Council meeting in Lusaka in July. The accountability framework has been drafted in five languages.

Collaborating with diverse stakeholders to increase the ability of groups to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Spotlight Initiative programmes continued collaborating with multiple stakeholders to advance best practices in sexual and reproductive health and rights. The **Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme** collaborated with the Southern African Development Community to strengthen parliamentarians’ ability to advocate for and develop national policy documents on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The **Africa Regional Programme** also worked to build the capacity of national human rights institutions across the continent by holding a workshop on applying a human rights-based approach to addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights and preventing harmful practices. The workshop yielded strong outcomes to enhance accountability mechanisms at regional and country levels to address child marriage and other harmful practices. Another example includes the finalization of the African Union report on female genital mutilation, titled [‘Getting to Zero Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: Strengthening Human Rights, Accelerating Efforts and Galvanizing Accountability’](#), which was supported by the **Africa Regional Programme** and launched on 11 October 2022 through a virtual event attended by 471 people. The report analysis and discussions are underpinned by human rights, and seeks to highlight good practices on the ground, while emphasizing the need for accountability at all levels if Africa is to get to zero female genital mutilation within a generation.

In **Mali**, the Spotlight Initiative engaged around 1,300 individuals from a wide sector of society – including from watch committees, model husband clubs, domestic helpers and women and youth groups – to increase knowledge of and capacity to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, address gender-based violence and embrace positive masculinities, while the Spotlight Initiative in **Zimbabwe** supported community-based groups to conduct door-to-door conversations with community members, raising awareness on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights. In order to reach influential leaders in communities, the Spotlight Initiative in **Nigeria** embedded sexual and reproductive health and rights information into its social and behavioural change programme targeting religious leaders.

A good practice to highlight also comes from **Nigeria**, where boys’ clubs have proven to be a viable approach to addressing sexual and gender-based violence. The boys’ clubs, with membership of 40 boys each, have been institutionalized in boys’ secondary schools as an extracurricular activity with the theme “stop violence against women and girls”. A coordinator and a supervisor, both teachers in the school, support the boys in planning activities. The clubs identify and initiate opportunities for developing diverse, inclusive and equitable activities that promote gender sensitivity, equality and protection against gender-based violence, by facilitating productive conversation within their peers and leading conversations aimed at attitudinal change and positive masculinities. The boys also exchange ideas and experiences with local women groups and advocates in communities. The boys’ clubs are working closely with other local structures within the communities to garner support for women and girls in their communities. The networks include women’s groups and other advocacy committees to ensure a synergy in their approaches towards ending violence against women and girls.

Education and information sharing on sexual and reproductive health and rights to strengthen capacity

The Spotlight Initiative programmes in Africa – including in **Liberia, Malawi, Niger** and **Uganda** – continued to support safe spaces for girls and peer educators within schools to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights and specifically on menstrual hygiene management, which helped improve attendance rates and

build self-esteem among girl students. In **Niger**, for example, the programme supported the construction of 54 gender-segregated latrine restrooms for girls and boys across 24 newly built schools to enable girls to experience better menstrual hygiene management. In **Liberia**, the Spotlight Initiative supported six safe spaces that provided life skills and sexual and reproductive health and rights information that reached 8,000 adolescent girls and young women. In **Uganda**, the Spotlight programme helped improve knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights among students through sex education training, including topics on sexuality, gender, early pregnancy, forced marriage and menstrual hygiene. These sessions have not only increased girls' confidence, self-esteem and life skills, but has resulted in a trainees further disseminating knowledge to their peers. Thirty of the girls that participated in the training began to make sanitary pads from local materials as a source of income.

The [Tenth Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights](#) in Sierra Leone convened over 900 participants under the theme of “Accelerating the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence in Africa”. As a strategic event to build knowledge and share good practices, strengthen partnerships, generate solutions on ending violence against women and girls and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, the **Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme** partnered with Purposeful and the African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights, supporting the engagement of youth partners. The Initiative supported a youth pre-conference and sponsored a youth delegation and speakers. Representatives from Spotlight Initiative-funded youth initiatives such as the Global Youth Consortium against Female Genital Mutilation and the End Female Genital Mutilation Innovation Initiative played key roles during the youth event. They spoke on panels, interacted with high-level representatives from United Nations agencies and other civil society organizations and networked with a wide range of young people to build stronger youth networks to collectively advance sexual and reproductive health and rights and address violence against women and harmful practices. A call to action and youth manifesto was jointly developed at the youth pre-conference and later shared with high-level representatives from the United Nations and the donor community, ensuring that youth voices and perspectives are centred in efforts

to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights and end violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight programme in **Nigeria** integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights capacity-building into an entrepreneurship programme that covered courses on how to use sales, marketing and technology to end violence against women and girls and harmful practices, while in **Zimbabwe**, the Spotlight Initiative supported the collaborative efforts of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to develop a position paper outlining the barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities when accessing sexual and reproductive health services. The paper was geared to raising awareness, lobbying for policy changes and increasing the capacity of providers to ensure sexual and reproductive health services are appropriate for persons with disabilities.

Integrated access to services

Spotlight Initiative programmes also adopted various strategies to facilitate better access and delivery of integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and rights and to address violence against women and girls. For example, in **Malawi**, the Initiative improved the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights into the chief's action plans. Chiefs have been conducting awareness campaigns against gender-based violence and carrying out gender-based violence patrols to identify and refer cases, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and child marriage. Updates to workplans further prioritized awareness-raising and sexual and reproductive health service delivery for women and girls. The programme in **Malawi** also supported the development of the National Male Engagement Strategy, which includes encouraging men and boys to embrace positive masculinities that promote women and girls' access to services for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Liberia** advanced the Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for sexual and gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. By fostering coordination among diverse service providers, the programme helped to ensure a well-coordinated system, increasing access to quality services.⁷²

72. There are 27 service-provision centres, including one-stop centres and Integrated Essential Service package centres (both types of centres are located in Spotlight Initiative counties).

Health centres are now equipped to provide integrated, timely services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors alongside other sexual and reproductive health services, including counselling, treatment and medical services for women and girls. Moreover, together with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in **Liberia**, the Spotlight Initiative advocated for standards to be adopted by the Government, ensuring quality care is institutionally embedded and sustained. The Spotlight Initiative in Liberia also reported that in 2022, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services for sexual and gender-based violence survivors increased by 26 per cent compared to the previous reporting period. In **Nigeria**, the Initiative supported two areas contributing to integrated access to services, which included establishing maternity waiting homes and Young Mum's Clinic to curb the high maternal mortality rates and directly addressing the stigma young mothers face when accessing services. Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative included sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness-raising activities and services in shelter programmes through the one-stop centres.

Data to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights

The collection, disaggregation and use of sexual and reproductive health and rights data is important to develop tailored policies and evidence-based programmes and services. In **Malawi**, for example the Spotlight programme supported the availability of sexual and reproductive health and rights data through the National Observatory Hub and District Observatory Hubs, and these can be used to implement evidence-based sexual and reproductive health and rights policies and programming. In **Uganda**, the Spotlight Initiative generated data on the perception of sexual and reproductive health and rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services through the U-Report polls that also collect data on gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Finally, 2022 was the second year that the **Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme** hosted the female genital mutilation Hacklabs, which select young Africans who have developed incubator hubs to generate innovative solutions to eliminate female genital mutilation. In 2022, the winning innovative solutions included a tool to track school attendance in prevalent areas and a platform to disseminate community

sexual and reproductive health information and on female genital mutilation specifically.

3.5

Responding to Challenges to Advance Results

While the Spotlight Initiative programmes collectively made meaningful - and often unprecedented - contributions, they also encountered common challenges owing to the complex environments and structures in which they operate. The following section outlines some key challenges faced by Spotlight programmes in 2022, together with how programmes were able to adapt to deliver results for women and girls. The section is broken into contextual challenges, followed by operational and programmatic ones and rounds out with the technical obstacles programmes faced. Boxes with mitigating measures are included.

3.5.1

Contextual Challenges

While not a comprehensive list, this subsection shares a snapshot of some of the most pressing contextual challenges faced in 2022, along with the measures the Spotlight Initiative programmes have taken to address them and (continue to) deliver for women and girls. The [2022 Programme Annual Reports](#) and previous [Global Annual Reports](#) offer a more comprehensive overview of the challenges programmes faced and actions taken to address these.

The following contextual challenges were identified as prominent in 2022:

- Political instability and security threatened the advancement of women's and girls' rights in some contexts.
- There were continued consequences of the global health pandemic and the increase in violence against women and girls.
- The ongoing climate crisis, natural disasters and disease further exacerbated violence and threats to women's and girls' rights.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES

In situations of political instability and insecurity, the threat of harm to vulnerable groups, especially women and girls and those facing intersecting forms of discrimination, escalates, as do threats to women human rights defenders. This is coupled with the obstacles posed to programme delivery and monitoring, including movement restrictions and threats to staff, partners and rights holders. To deliver on its commitment to eliminate violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative programmes adopted responsive programming strategies and provided the flexibility required to respond to the myriad challenges caused by instability. Some tenets of responsive programming included:

- **Further leveraging partnerships:** Where access was affected, programmes shifted delivery to civil society and grassroots organizations, equipped and positioned to serve as the frontline provider, carrying out community-level essential services and prevention activities.
- **Further leveraging technology:** Where possible, online platforms were used to raise awareness and build capacity, and provide essential services in contexts impacted by insecurity.
- **Leveraging systems:** Programmes invested heavily in the creation of robust alternative and civil society systems, such as funding mechanisms, data, networks and communities of practice, and made use of said systems to support implementation activities when state infrastructure was constrained by instability.

Instability and insecurity

In line with previous annual reports, ongoing political instability and new insecurities affected several Spotlight Initiative programmes, creating a unique set of challenges for the delivery of the programmes' interventions. Countries such as **Afghanistan** continued to face a dire humanitarian crisis, and attacks on women's and girls' rights continued. Other countries, such as **Haiti**, faced an upsurge in conflict, violence and insecurity in 2022, with clashes between armed gangs, increased criminal activity and kidnappings heightening the risk of gender-based violence and creating obstacles for the normal delivery of programmes. Finally, some countries, such as **Vanuatu**, were confronted with cyber insecurities, when, for example, the Vanuatu Public Service was brought to a standstill by a ransomware attack that halted the use of all donor funds that passed through the government finance system.

Ongoing consequences of COVID-19 and the shadow pandemic

The Spotlight Initiative programmes continue to confront the consequences of the global pandemic, particularly the economic fallout (and impact on livelihoods) and the "shadow pandemic," defined

as the surge in violence against women and girls, gender inequality and discrimination of marginalized groups. Spotlight programmes, such as those in **Honduras** and **Mexico and countries reached by the Spotlight Initiative-funded UN Trust Fund grants** reported rising discrimination and violence against women and girls from marginalized groups, including indigenous, rural or isolated communities, disabled, lesbian, bisexual and trans communities, human rights defenders and sex workers. Other Spotlight programmes, including those in **Vanuatu**, the **Latin America Regional Programme** and **Malawi** faced the fallout from widespread lockdowns, which included the (political) deprioritization of efforts to address violence against women and girls, academic setbacks for girls and challenges to the delivery of essential services. The economic fallout of COVID-19, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, and the resultant cost of living crisis, had a profound impact on the livelihoods of women and girls. For example, in some countries in Southeast Asia where the **Safe and Fair programme** is active, women and girls seeking better job opportunities and better quality of life, may find themselves more vulnerable to traffickers and smugglers due to the high costs associated with regular migration pathways.⁷³

73. For more information, please see UNODC's global reports: [here](#) and [here](#).

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES WORKING IN THE (POST) COVID-19 CONTEXT

In 2022, Spotlight Initiative programmes adopted mitigation strategies that addressed the long-term social, economic, health and political consequences of the pandemic, and the impact that COVID-19 had on gender equality and violence against women and girls. Key examples of adaptive strategies included:

- **Combining technology with innovation:** Spotlight programmes found innovative ways to leverage existing technology, such as social media, teleconferencing, e-commerce and online platforms to meet the needs of women and girls. For example, programmes formed virtual community COVID-19 task forces, mobile cash transfer programmes, mobile apps providing essential services, as well as apps and hotlines for victims and survivors to report incidences of violence.
- **Adapted responses:** The consequences of the pandemic shifted the needs and related challenges in responding to violence against women and girls, including particularly in services and education. Spotlight programmes have adapted accordingly by, for example, introducing new (and additional) educational opportunities to close education gaps for girls due to school closures.
- **More advocacy:** Spotlight Initiative programmes embraced advocacy efforts to ensure that gender is at the heart of all COVID-19 recovery efforts. This included advocating for the expansion of women's representation and leadership, deepened support for feminist movements and women's rights' organizations, calling for (more) real time gender data to ensure timely gender-sensitive responses and centring and addressing the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

The threat of the climate crisis, natural disasters and disease

In 2022, the threat of devastating climate events, disease and natural disasters continued to challenge Spotlight programme delivery and exacerbate existing economic, social and gender inequalities. For example, **Malawi** and **Niger** suffered from outbreaks of cholera, meningitis and polio. Destructive hurricanes,

floods, typhoons, tropical storms, drought and tsunamis affected countries such as **Belize, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda** and countries in the **Safe and Fair** programme. The collective result of these crises is the adverse impact on communities, disrupted livelihoods and loss of life and property, which are often felt more deeply by women and girls, increasing their vulnerability to violence, discrimination and abuse.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: ADJUSTING TO A NEW REALITY

With the understanding that natural disasters and disease are no longer infrequent or isolated events, but rather part of an increasingly hostile environment caused by climate change, Spotlight programmes have readily adapted to crises and humanitarian contexts (organically working across the development-humanitarian-peace nexus). Spotlight programmes systematically advocated for gendered responses to disasters and disease outbreak, and worked flexibly to respond to the needs of women and girls affected by the climate and other crises (see the box above for more information on responsive programming strategies). Some of these adjustments include:

- **Gender-responsive humanitarian systems:** Spotlight programmes advocated to include gender at the core of humanitarian government response efforts and to strengthen the ability of governments (duty bearers) to prevent and manage gender-based violence in humanitarian crises.
- **Reallocation of funds:** Flexible funding mechanisms allowed for reallocated funds to meet the immediate needs of disaster-affected women and girls (by providing shelter, food, education, etc.), ensuring their safety, rights and livelihoods.

3.5.2

Challenges

In this section, some of the most common operational and programmatic challenges of 2022 are shared, along with the measures the Spotlight Initiative programmes have taken to address them. As noted above, this is not a comprehensive list, but instead provides a snapshot of some of the most significant obstacles faced. The [2022 Programme Annual Reports](#) and previous [Global Annual Reports](#) offer a more comprehensive overview of the operational challenges programmes faced and actions taken to address these.

The following operational and programmatic challenges were prominent in 2022:

- Operating as one UN and delivering under the UN Reforms posed challenges in sustained inter-agency collaboration and cooperation.
- Securing and sustaining government engagement particularly during government transitions and shifting political priorities proved challenging
- Consistently (and across programmes and contexts) engaging civil society meaningfully, as both partners and as civil society reference group members was a difficult.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: STREAMLINING INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION FOR GREATER IMPACT

In the spirit of streamlining inter-agency coordination, several Spotlight Initiative programmes established standing meetings with Recipient UN Organizations to jointly identify priorities and maximize collaboration, resulting in stronger, more harmonized interventions. Simple but effective practices, such as regular meetings of Resident Coordinators with heads of agencies responsible for Spotlight Initiative implementation have proven to have real impacts. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, for instance, the Resident Coordinator, Programme Coordinator and heads of agencies engage in quarterly meetings to address bottlenecks, share achievements and jointly identify acceleration measures. At the working level, the Spotlight Initiative programme coordination unit meets on a monthly basis with implementing United Nations agencies to enhance synergies and maximize impact in eliminating violence against women and girls. This includes engaging in joint procurement processes, developing standard operating procedures and utilizing a joint stakeholder engagement strategy to address any gaps in coordination. Via regular meetings with Recipient UN Organization teams and through other inter-agency coordination mechanisms (such as the business operations strategy, joint procurement activities and long-term agreements), the Spotlight Initiative programme in **Ecuador** was able to identify and tap into each agency's comparative advantage and maximize effectiveness across specific interventions and contexts. Additionally, the programme developed a tool to identify and collect joint results on ending violence against women and girls across agencies, in line with the established Spotlight programme indicators. Similarly, Spotlight programmes deepened use of the Pillar lead system - whereby one or two agencies lead on a particular Pillar, but all agencies come together to ensure technical coherence and coordination across Pillars, including in **Mozambique**, where the Spotlight programme noted the strength of this approach to deliver effectively as one UN. In 2022, in Mozambique, two Pillar lead workshops were held, bringing together United Nations agencies implementing Outcomes 3 to 6, serving as an opportunity to identify synergies and strategies to avoid duplication of efforts and to implement effectively.

Moreover, several Spotlight programmes addressed potential delays or gaps in coordination by developing a variety of tools and mechanisms to streamline processes, including: standard operating procedures; joint calendars; and channels to proactively share annual workplans, communications strategies, knowledge products and reports. Spotlight programmes in line with Secretariat guidance and best practice, have co-located operations in one common space, enhancing day-to-day coordination, fostering cost-effectiveness and streamlining operations more generally. In addition, Spotlight programme teams have found significant value in the use of the business operations strategy, which facilitates the use of long-term agreements for procurement processes, minimizing transaction costs and enhancing efficiency by allowing agencies to leverage existing relationships and contracts with service providers.

Operating as one UN and delivering under the UN Reforms in the face of inter-agency collaboration challenges

In line with UN Reform principles, the Spotlight Initiative programmes have deepened inter-agency collaboration to increasingly “deliver as one”. However, in 2022, Spotlight programmes reported several obstacles to this including, for example, bottlenecks related to administrative and financial processes, as well as the impact of internal procurement processes on staffing levels. Several Spotlight programmes also noted challenges to streamlining programmatic processes as they worked to operationalize the new way of working to deliver as one UN. Despite these (and other) challenges, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the Spotlight Initiative programmes adapted and continued to streamline coordination and foster a collaborative approach to programming. Some examples are described below in the box. Further details on how the Initiative has fostered interagency collaboration and advanced UN Reform can be found in [Chapter 2](#) under governance and partnerships, and in [Chapter 4](#) under lessons learned.

Securing government engagement during political transitions

As part of its efforts to further a whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach to programme

implementation, the Spotlight Initiative programmes actively work to secure and sustain support from government counterparts, including at the highest level. Despite overwhelming success across programmes, the Spotlight Initiative programmes have faced challenges with securing and maintaining government buy-in, most notably owing to high turnover of government personnel and political transitions (described, as well, in the section below on technical challenges).

In **Tajikistan**, for example, although working with government institutions built the capacity of national institutions, strengthened political will to end violence against women and girls and enhanced the sustainability of interventions, the programme found that delays inherent to internal government mechanisms and procedures hindered efficiency, agility and timeliness of the Spotlight programme delivery, including on the approval and implementation of the programme’s Behaviour Change Communication Strategy. In **Honduras, Mexico, Timor-Leste** and **Uganda**, the changes in administration led to more lead time than hoped in implementation. It takes time to build relationships with new governments and to mobilize their support for the Spotlight Initiative’s programme of work. Details on how these programmes adapted to continue to deliver are provided in the box just below.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT

Throughout the reporting period, programme teams continued to invest in and build new partnerships - and strengthen existing ones - with government actors at all levels, in order to foster more efficient, effective and sustainable programming. Several examples include the following:

- In **Tajikistan**, the Spotlight Initiative programme and the Committee on Women and Family Affairs agreed to approve the Behaviour Change Communication Strategy as an internal document of the council, which ensured activities under it could continue beyond the framework of the Spotlight Initiative and therefore allow enough time for impact to emerge, including shifts from harmful social norms.
- In **Timor-Leste**, to address the transition in governments, the Spotlight Initiative team engaged in discussions with parliamentarians, new government officials, development partners and civil society organizations, in order to raise awareness and secure fresh commitments to end violence against women and girls. Similarly, in **Honduras**, the programme was able to leverage the change in administration as an opportunity to discuss the Spotlight Initiative with different ministries at the highest level and to facilitate new spaces for coordination and dialogue between entities that include ending violence against women and girls as part of their mandate.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY REFERENCE GROUPS TO ADVANCE THEIR CRITICAL ROLE

In order to address the challenges noted above, the Spotlight Initiative identifies – and follows up on – the key recommendations and actions put forward through the survey and meetings. Recommendations that surfaced in 2022 include ensuring fair implementation of new compensation modalities for Civil Society Reference Group members. As an SDG Demonstration Fund, the Spotlight Initiative is committed to fostering a new way of working, including by pioneering fair practices that respond to the needs of civil society, as a critical partner in advancing transformative change. Toward this end, Spotlight Initiative has developed a [Guidance Note on the Compensation of Civil Society Reference Group members](#), which is being rolled out across a range of programmes, including in **Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Uganda**.

Coordinated advocacy strategies were developed based on research conducted by the Global Civil Society Reference Group, including on decolonising funding. Additionally, the Global Civil Society Reference Group also provided support for in-country shadow monitoring by reference groups and facilitated quarterly follow-up meetings with the Civil Society Reference Group focal points.

A [civil society sustainability guidance note](#), discussed in [Chapter 2](#) as well, was developed as a result of the survey, meetings and a discussion on the [SHINE Hub](#), an online knowledge hub on ending violence against women and girls produced by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative. The guidance note provides a series of recommendations to better engage civil society, and particularly Civil Society Reference Group members, in the transition and exit phase of the Spotlight Initiative programmes. Civil society partnerships have been fundamental to the Initiative's way of working and should continue to be centred as Spotlight programmes focus on sustainability, including through the development of sustainability plans and actions.

Taken together, these actions and mitigating measures help the Spotlight Initiative better monitor and track trends and improvements in Civil Society Reference Group members' participation and develop more relevant guidance for Spotlight programme teams to ensure more meaningful engagement of reference groups in all levels of the programme. This is critical for relevant and responsive programming and for programming that leaves no one behind.



© Spotlight Initiative in Trinidad and Tobago

Meaningfully engaging civil society

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative continued to prioritize meaningful engagement of civil society in all phases of programming and at all levels (in governance and decision-making, in implementation, and in monitoring and accountability), as described in [Chapter 2](#). Spotlight Initiative programmes proactively identified gaps in civil society engagement in order to pre-emptively address challenges and ensure continued engagement. In **Jamaica**, for example, to address the gaps in the ability of civil society organizations to access United Nations funding and report on it, the Spotlight Initiative hired a business coach to support proposal writing, budgeting and reporting on grant money. During the reporting period, the programme in **Trinidad and Tobago** implemented a comprehensive programme to strengthen capacities of new civil society organizations and small grassroots grantees, including by pairing civil society organizations with mentors and coaches. However, the depth and duration of the Spotlight programme presented challenges as civil society organization representatives communicated that increasing fatigue and information overload was ultimately leading to disengagement and members of civil society dropping out of the programme. To address this, the Spotlight programme facilitated asynchronous work aimed at fostering increased flexibility around scheduling and enabling increased participation. The Spotlight Initiative also continued to facilitate space for active and meaningful engagement of global, regional and national Civil Society Reference Groups. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative held two regional civil society forums - in June and December - building on efforts carried out over the previous year (the [2021 Global Annual Report](#) has further details). Ahead of these forums, two surveys were shared with the Civil Society Reference Groups. The surveys asked about the level of engagement of reference group members, in order to identify areas for improved engagement. The following challenges were identified through the survey and the regional civil society forum discussions:

- Recurrent and pressing need for **compensation of Civil Society Reference Group members.**

- Lack of time and **conflicting priorities of Civil Society Reference Group members** to fully engage in the group's work.
- **Covid-19 restrictions** that continued to hinder full participation of members.
- Lack of or limited space for the **inclusion of traditionally left-behind rights holders** and **lack of inclusive processes** for vulnerable groups to participate.
- Room for greater engagement and collaboration between **government and civil society.**
- Lack of **sustainability** considerations of the Civil Society Reference Group mechanism and its work once the programme ends.

KEY STATISTICS FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY GLOBAL REFERENCE GROUP SURVEY (DECEMBER 2022)⁷⁴

- Around 71 per cent of respondents noted that they are actively engaged in realizing the key objectives of the Reference Group, and about 87 per cent shared that they are able to provide meaningful feedback, inputs and suggestions to the Spotlight Initiative programme team. Both these figures show substantial improvement from the previous year.
- Approximately 70 per cent of respondents stated that their role on the Reference Group was clear— representing an increase of nearly 20 per cent compared to 2021 data.
- Around 93 per cent of Reference Group members submitted a budgeted workplan or are in the process of developing one.
- Close to 55 per cent of respondents feel that the Reference Group offers space for members and their communities to be heard.
- Around 57 per cent of respondents felt that adherence to principles of leaving no one behind, transparency and inclusivity in the engagement of the Civil Society Reference Group has been high.

74. The December 2022 survey had a low number of respondents at 68 (compared to 117 in June 2022 and 126 in Nov 2021).

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: EVIDENCE-BASED ADAPTATIONS TO TECHNICAL OBSTACLES

To help overcome some of the technical challenges discussed above, the Spotlight Initiative programmes utilized creative, evidence-based measures to continue to implement comprehensive programming.

To mitigate technical challenges on obtaining quality data, the Spotlight Initiative in **Malawi** supported the Unified National Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Observatory Hub that digitizes and unifies sexual and gender-based violence-related data across hospitals and the police and judiciary case management systems in Malawi. In **Liberia**, to address the gap in data, the Spotlight programme supported the design and roll out of a digital platform (the Kobo Collect Toolbox) to enable service providers to report on gender-based violence incidents and data digitally and to bridge gaps while a comprehensive system was developed and launched. While reporting capacities of partners were being built, the Spotlight programme provided continuous mentoring and capacity-strengthening workshops in results-based management, to strengthen the quality of reports.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the Spotlight Initiative collaborated with the National Statistical Office to analyse the 2016-2018 Demographic and Health Survey data on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The resulting report will be complemented, in 2023, by a literature review of existing studies and available research to strengthen the interpretation of findings, as well as further contextualize and inform advocacy for preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea. Similarly, in **Jamaica**, the programme reached an agreement with key stakeholders to support the development of a common “minimum dataset” - in response to the lack of consolidated data across the security, health, social and justice sectors - aimed at fostering evidence-based decision-making.

3.5.3

Technical Challenges

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact women, girls and communities, many Spotlight Initiative programmes were less affected by disruptions, lockdowns and school closures in 2022. Spotlight programming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, however, continues to face unique technical challenges, with common patterns emerging across regions.

The Spotlight Initiative programmes addressed these challenges by skilfully adapting technical programming to ensure women and girls, and particularly those from marginalized groups, continue to be served. A few common technical challenges, and mitigating measures, are presented below. As noted above, this is not a comprehensive list, but rather a high-level snapshot of some of the more significant technical challenges faced. The [2022 Programme Annual Reports](#) and [previous Global Annual Reports](#) provide a more detailed overview of other challenges and ways programmes worked to address them.

The following technical challenges were prominent in 2022:

- Gaps in quality data on gender-based violence posed challenges to evidence-based decision-making and advocacy efforts.
- Limited technical expertise in programming to end violence against women and girls and advance gender equality and women’s human rights, more broadly, in certain regions led to human resource gaps.
- Shifts in the political priorities of governments led to challenges in implementing comprehensive programming to end violence against women and girls.

Bridging gaps in data collection and availability

As part of its comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative champions the widespread availability and use of quality data to help inform

interventions and ensure they follow a rights-based approach and respond to the needs of Spotlight programme stakeholders, including rights holders and traditionally marginalized communities. However, some Spotlight programmes had difficulty meaningfully implementing the principle of leaving no one behind due to gaps in the availability of robust, quality data on gender-based violence.

While the Spotlight Initiative programmes work to build national capacity to measure the prevalence of violence against women and girls, capacity remains weak in some Spotlight Initiative programmes, including in **El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mali** and **Niger**. The Spotlight Initiative in **Guyana** and **Tajikistan** also faced challenges in ensuring the statistical production of quality data on ending violence against women and girls, while in **Mexico** and **Nigeria**, the Spotlight Initiative continued to face challenges capturing and reporting on data at the subnational level. In **Liberia**, the lack of a quality mechanism to facilitate the timely and effective generation of gender-based violence data created a data gap for evidence-based gender advocacy and programming at the

national level, while in **Papua New Guinea** the lack of baseline data on violence against women and girls has been a consistent challenge.

Limited technical expertise regionally

While there were major gains among Spotlight programmes, a common challenge, particularly across the **Africa, Pacific, Caribbean** and **the Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programmes**, was finding sufficient technical expertise to drive efforts for ending violence against women and girls through the Spotlight Initiative. Limited availability of research institutions able to take on complex regional studies on gender equality and women's human rights was also identified as a key challenge. Expertise in ending violence against women and girls is critical, beyond having a general background or experience working on gender more broadly, and the Spotlight Initiative in **Tajikistan**, for example, faced difficulties in finding expertise for either. Similarly, in **Grenada**, demands for technical coherence grew as Spotlight Initiative partners, such as government and civil society, needed support in navigating the complexities of programming for ending violence against women and girls.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: INVOLVEMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL RESEARCHERS AND EXPERTS IN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE COALITIONS

To address these gaps and foster sustainability, Spotlight Initiative programmes partnered with academia to develop curricula (aligned with internationally agreed norms and standards) to contribute to ending violence against women and girls (as described above as well). In the **Caribbean Region**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative has partnered with a consortium of staff and experts from the University of the West Indies to develop relevant curricula for medical, nursing and other students and to conduct research on various aspects of the Spotlight Initiative's programme to end violence against women and girls.

The **Caribbean Regional Programme** is also partnering with Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to fund a "young researcher attachment," for five young researchers based in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) region to shadow the lead researchers conducting a study on the economic costs of violence against women and girls. In support of a participatory approach to data collection efforts at the regional level, the objective of this work is to expand the pool of young researchers in CARICOM with the skill sets required to undertake studies on this topic, as analyses of economic costs will generate an understanding of the wider effects of family violence on society, beyond the immediate victim.

Continued on the next page ...

The Spotlight Initiative programmes, including those in Central Asia and the Pacific, have also supported the capacity of local researchers and universities and strengthened research institutions, by ensuring that programmes partnered with them to deliver work under Pillar 5 (including conducting studies and assessments). This approach invests in local expertise to expand, over time, the pool of qualified thematic experts globally. Similarly, the **Africa Regional Programme** continued to support the strengthening of the African Union Commission's regional data and research gender observatory and scorecards platform, in order to ensure quality, inclusive and periodic research is produced on violence against women and girls and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

To address burnout felt by those civil society organizations partnering with multiple United Nations agencies in contexts marked by limited civil society organizations with specific expertise in gender and ending violence against women and girls, Spotlight programmes, including the Africa Regional Programme, promoted increasingly effective and robust coordination across the United Nations agencies and the civil society organizations. This, in turn, fostered improved collaboration among civil society partners and strengthened delivery.

Finally, at the global level, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat worked to strengthen technical expertise by ensuring all teams conducting Spotlight Initiative programme mid-term assessments included local researchers and evaluators. This not only ensured that local contexts and specificities were better captured, but also aimed to strengthen the capacity of experts from different countries.

Limited capacity and Shifts in the political priorities of governments, leading to challenges in implementing comprehensive programming in ending violence against women and girls.

Maintaining support at community and national levels to end violence against women and girls has been a challenge in certain contexts, including particularly **securing governments' full ownership**, as noted above, as well.

Staff changes in government institutions at the national level impacted negatively on the delivery of interventions, particularly under Pillars that require extensive engagement of this vital partner: advancing progressive laws and policies under Pillar 1; strengthening institutions under Pillar 2; and supporting the collection, use and dissemination of data under Pillar 5. Even in countries with strong government ownership, delivery was often affected by limited human resources and staff capacity. For example, due to limited governance capacity, in some contexts, services are uncoordinated (including particularly public health, judicial and psychosocial services) affecting the ability of survivors to access these services in a timely manner. Similarly, some Spotlight programmes also reported low public service capacity on adolescent issues as a challenge.

Shifts in political priorities (as governments change) and among populations can also slow the momentum built around ending violence against women and girls. In **Malawi**, various Spotlight Initiative interventions experienced challenges due to difficulties surrounding community leadership. In Dzaleka Refugee Camp, for instance, community leaders focused on personal benefits from the programme rather than advancing the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women. Similarly, parents and community members in **Haiti** were initially unsupportive of setting up the Girl Space, designed to facilitate positive mentorship activities. In **Uganda**, the Spotlight programme shared that awareness of existing laws on ending violence against women and girls and gender equality and non-discrimination is quite low among the population, primarily due to a lack of dissemination of these laws to both rights holders and duty bearers, especially at the subnational level. There is also a general backlash on women's rights organizing, which has generated a sense of fear around addressing particular subjects (like the sexual offences and marriage bill). Mitigation measures to overcome these are detailed in the box below.

MITIGATING THE CHALLENGES: EVIDENCE-BASED ADAPTATIONS TO OBSTACLES TO GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY BUY-IN

To garner government and community support and buy-in in ending violence against women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative programmes adapted in myriad ways. In response to lower government engagement, the Spotlight Initiative programme in **Papua New Guinea** adopted an in-person mentoring strategy to help increase motivation and participation levels from government stakeholders to build lasting partnerships. The Spotlight Initiative in **Vanuatu** assigned a technical expert responsible for coordinating communication with a specific government agency, strengthening engagement. To ensure a sense of ownership among stakeholders, the Spotlight Initiative **Caribbean Regional Programme** brought together all stakeholders - including government - to co-design the approach to the Essential Services Package Community of Practice, while in **Tajikistan**, to strengthen community support for efforts to end violence against women and girls, the Spotlight programme sought support through parent-teacher associations that focused on positive parenting and sexual and gender-based violence and how to better support their children to be advocates against violence. Finally, to address low awareness and backlash, the Spotlight Initiative in **Uganda** trained Domestic Violence Coalition members and Members of Parliament to understand and address backlash, while engaging through collective platforms to minimize individual targeting.



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CHAPTER 4

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Spotlight Initiative has placed significant attention and investment on ensuring that knowledge gained, lessons learned and evaluation findings are documented and shared to enhance programming and improve evidence-based decision-making. This chapter provides insight into what these activities have yielded over the past year. The chapter begins with an overview of the global knowledge management activities in 2022, including contributions from evaluations and studies, and then shares key lessons learned, both cross-cutting and Pillar-specific, as well as those related to coordination and management.

4.1

A Dedicated Focus on Global Knowledge Management to Strengthen Learning and Evidence-Based Programming

4.1.1

2022 Knowledge Management Activities

The Spotlight Initiative remained committed to identifying best practices and lessons learned, promoting innovation and building the evidence base on ending violence against women and girls to continue serving as a knowledge platform.

Scaling up knowledge exchange and the uptake of lessons learned

In 2022, the Secretariat continued to scale up its knowledge management efforts, strengthening exchanges for catalytic and sustainable impact across the Spotlight Initiative's stakeholders and beyond. The Secretariat shared regular updates on the latest resources to inform evidence-based programme implementation, including information on continued adaptation to the COVID-19 context. Through [SHINE](#), an online knowledge hub on ending violence against women and girls, produced by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) in collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative, described further below, the Community of the Spotlight Initiative (COSI), and its monthly newsletters, the Secretariat

provided a one-stop shop for stakeholders, sharing up-to-date information on all Spotlight Initiative tools, platforms and resources.

Throughout 2022, the Secretariat also continued implementing the Global Platform, initially rolled out in late 2021, which offers the combined power of a knowledge hub, a community of practice and an advocacy platform. The Global Platform aims to amplify knowledge, lessons and promising and good practices from the Spotlight Initiative to inform global policy, programming and advocacy on ending violence against women and girls, and to model comprehensive programming. The platform also supports diverse connections and strengthens a coalition of key actors from the United Nations, the European Union, civil society, donors, private sector, practitioners, academia and others, creating direct links between stakeholders, including local civil society groups and government (duty bearers). This work moves beyond the Spotlight Initiative's current stakeholders to engage the wider global community for increased decision-making power and impact on ending violence against women and girls.

Through a partnership with the UN Trust Fund, [SHINE](#) was introduced to the public on 1 March 2022 as a multi-stakeholder online hub for global exchange on ending violence against women and girls. [SHINE](#) is part of the Global Platform and is the first online knowledge exchange hub on ending violence against women and girls to bring together government, civil society, the United Nations, the European Union and other practitioners for active engagement to end violence against women and girls, and in the co-creation of knowledge. Accessible in more than 50 languages, SHINE supports the creation, collaboration and amplification of knowledge on ending violence against women and girls and provides a strategic online space to engage in discussions, learn about the latest resources and share knowledge.

To date, a total of **1,550 users** have registered, surpassing targets, and over eight online discussions were held, including on the topics of sustainability, engaging the private sector and Civil Society Reference Group sustainability. These discussions offered an online space for users to share insights on these topics which were collected, analysed and distilled to support development of knowledge products. To ensure a wide audience is aware of and engages with SHINE, demonstrations of the

hub were conducted for over **100 Civil Society Reference Group members** from **Argentina** and the Latin America and the Caribbean region and the **Africa Regional Programme**, as well as for European Union gender focal points, technical agency focal points, and participants of Spotlight Initiative's Global Learning Symposium held in Mexico in September 2022. To deepen the connection across the digital ecosystem of efforts to end violence against women and girls, a mapping of relevant existing platforms dedicated to ending violence against women and girls was undertaken. Global and regional platforms across Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Pacific and Caribbean have been linked to SHINE for increased accessibility to knowledge and to sustain the efforts of the Global Platform.

Strategic convening and knowledge exchange on ending violence against women and girls

In 2022, a series of global knowledge exchanges were held including one on “Engaging the Private Sector to End Violence Against Women and Girls”, a collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative in **Zimbabwe**. The exchange enabled sharing of experiences and lessons on how to ethically and effectively engage the private sector, and strengthen the development and implementation of policies and programmes to end sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls. An exchange on “Resiliency to Crises: Lessons from civil society organizations in the prevention of violence against women and girls” was also held, in collaboration with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, bringing together more than 1,080 participants from the United Nations, civil society and other stakeholder groups.

Building on this exchange, the Spotlight Initiative programme in **Trinidad and Tobago** and the **Caribbean Regional Programme** also shared their experiences in engaging with the private sector on developing gender-based violence workplace policies and toolkits. Following this, the Spotlight Initiative led an online discussion on SHINE, on Engaging the Private Sector to End Violence Against Women and Girls in February 2022. The SHINE community reflected on the ways in which the private sector could be a strategic partner in addressing violence against women and girls, but needed to be held accountable and ‘walk the talk’ to further gender equality principles, including by addressing sexual harassment in the workplace and promoting

equal pay. Following the online discussion, [a knowledge brief on the private sector](#) was developed providing insights from the online discussion as well as the webinar on lessons and good practices on the private sector.

The Secretariat also played a pivotal role in fostering cross-regional and intraregional knowledge exchanges. The most significant in-person convening since the start of the Spotlight Initiative was organized by the Secretariat in 2022. The **Global Learning Symposium (GLS)**, which took place in Mexico, drew over **200** participants from the United Nations, government, civil society and other stakeholders, and aimed to consolidate the gains made over the past five years of the Initiative. A total of **45 plenary and thematic sessions** were organized, providing a space for deep reflection and sharing of results, lessons learned and best practices across contexts, which could be scaled up to eliminate violence against women and girls and further foster a global community working to end violence against women and girls. As a follow-up to the Global Learning Symposium, a survey was conducted, the results of which highlighted the importance of such convenings and the need for continued learning. Moreover, a [Global Learning Symposium Resource Package](#) was developed and disseminated widely. The resource package summarizes key highlights from each session, and shares all presentations, relevant tools and resources from each session, allowing those unable to attend to access the rich knowledge shared.

Strengthening knowledge production on ending violence against women and girls

In 2022, a number of knowledge briefs highlighting key results, lessons and good practices on various topics related to ending violence against women and girls through the Spotlight Initiative were developed and shared widely. These include: [comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls](#), [ending child marriage](#), [engaging the private sector for ending violence against women and girls](#), [female genital mutilation](#), [sustaining the gains of ending violence against women and girls](#), and [sexual and reproductive health and rights](#). A critical [Technical Guidance Note: Sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative](#) to support sustainability efforts was also produced and shared. Critically, two repositories – the [Global Knowledge Product Tracker](#) and the [Global Secretariat Technical Repository](#) – consolidating

more than 1000 knowledge products from across Spotlight programmes including the Secretariat were developed. The Community of the Spotlight Initiative and monthly newsletters continue to enable the Secretariat to share resources with a broader network working to end violence against women and girls.

Overall, 2022 demonstrated the strategic contribution of the knowledge management portfolio in reflecting on the progress towards ending violence against women and girls through the Spotlight Initiative, supporting programme sustainability and generating further insights for evidence-based and quality programme implementation. All these efforts have resulted in enhanced knowledge, improved evidence-based programme implementation and strengthened connections beyond the Spotlight Initiative community.

4.1.2

Monitoring and Evaluation: Supporting Strategic Analysis and Sharing of Lessons Learned

In 2022, in addition to the critical knowledge management work described above, the Secretariat also continued to monitor the progress of the Fund, and assess and evaluate its impacts, surfacing important lessons (what's working and not working and why) to strengthen its programming. The Secretariat further expanded the Spotlight Initiative's tailored monitoring and reporting online tool (SMART platform), which allows all Spotlight programme teams to report qualitative and quantitative data on indicators and sub-indicators. The Spotlight Initiative also launched a series of studies, assessments and evaluations in 2022 aimed at capturing key lessons learned from the Initiative's achievements and challenges and informing decisions by the Initiative's stakeholders.

To increase accountability towards rights holders and better ensure alignment with the core principle of leaving no one behind, the Spotlight Initiative played a critical role in advocating for (system-wide) change in how the United Nations carries out monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities. Building on the work done in 2021, in 2022, the Secretariat updated the Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Guidance Note, as mentioned in [Chapter 3](#), providing additional

guidance to programmes on implementing an inclusive, participatory, feminist and rights-based approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The note also captures helpful examples of participatory approaches being implemented across contexts, and includes a list of resources to support these efforts in others.

Additionally, at the end of 2022, the Spotlight Initiative held a series of dedicated conversations with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) on ways to support their efforts to deepen system-wide implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) guiding principles (namely, a human rights-based approach, gender equality and leaving no one behind). As a result of these discussions, the Spotlight Initiative's cutting-edge participatory approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) was identified as a concrete way to operationalize these principles, and will be featured in the UN Moderated Course on the UNSCDF Guiding Principles: Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Leave No One Behind (LNOB). The course will be available for system-wide learning through the UN System Staff College in 2023. The Spotlight Initiative's transformative way of approaching monitoring, evaluation and reporting was leveraged to support learning across the United Nations, further institutionalizing this practice to improve the relevance and responsiveness of programming.

Mid-term assessments and meta-review

Following the assessments conducted in 2021, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat finalized the mid-term assessment (MTA) of the Spotlight Initiative programmes for the Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia regions. The majority of mid-term assessments were completed and presented to the Operational Steering Committee by the end of 2022.

Conducted by Hera, an evaluation and research company based in Brussels, the mid-term assessments offer an opportunity to assess the performance of each programme, improve programme management, and identify lessons learned that help test the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change and strengthen programming. The assessments are also a critical source of information to guide the Operational Steering Committee's decisions on additional budget allocations for Phase II.

Following the completion of the mid-term assessments, a meta-review of the assessments was developed, analysing the learning and results from Phase I across regions to surface common building blocks and driving forces for successful programmes to end violence against women and girls. Important insights on constraints or barriers faced across programmes were also shared in order to more effectively address these. The recommendations of the meta-review are being taken on, shaping operations and programming as the Spotlight Initiative moves into its final year of the current funding window.

While the final draft of the updated meta-review – which includes results from the Pacific, Central Asia and Caribbean regions – is still under review, several updated findings and lessons learned can already be identified. A critical lesson that has emerged is that **implementing a multi-stakeholder, multidimensional, gender-transformative programme that includes meaningful involvement of civil society, combined with the operationalization of the United Nations development system (UNDS) reform, requires time and (the right) incentives** for all partners to be on board and feel ownership. The success of Spotlight Initiative ultimately rests on the dedication and determination of countless individuals. A few additional key findings of the meta-review, which will inform programming, include the following:

- The meta-review reconfirms the proof of concept of the Spotlight Initiative model in its comprehensive and global approach. The report finds that this approach proves to have **a competitive advantage as compared to other joint programmes**.
- The Spotlight Initiative is predicated on the commitment and ownership of its stakeholders. Central to this is the **conductive partnership between the United Nations and the European Union**. Further, the Spotlight Initiative principles of inclusivity and national ownership that promoted **extensive, participatory stakeholder engagement** proved to be an essential driving force for success.
- The analysis of the impact of the global stakeholders on the Initiative highlights the positive role these stakeholders have played, underscoring the importance of

the concerted efforts made by all actors at the global level. **The Global Civil Society Reference Group (GRG), United Nations agency headquarters, the Secretariat and the European Union are all recognized for their critical contributions and commitment to the Spotlight programmes.**

Thematic evaluation: Assessing the Spotlight Initiative's transformative Theory of Change

During the final quarter of 2022, the Secretariat launched a thematic assessment, covering three interconnected dimensions of the Spotlight Initiative's work: the meaningful engagement of civil society organizations, particularly local and grassroots groups; the implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind; and support to movement-building. The thematic assessment offers the opportunity to surface critical learning on the extent to which the Spotlight Initiative has progressed in these three transformative dimensions of programming. Preliminary results are expected in the third quarter of 2023, with conclusions and recommendations emerging toward the end of 2023.

Dalberg study: Making the case for the imperative to invest

In addition to the mid-term assessments, the meta-review, and the thematic evaluation, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat commissioned a [modelling study conducted by Dalberg](#), a global development consulting firm, that models the potential long-term impact of implementing a comprehensive model (as the Spotlight Initiative has done) to end violence against women and girls. Drawing on a range of data to develop the predictive model,⁷⁵ the study shows that:

- By simultaneously working on multiple pillars - prevention, survivor support services and ecosystem building - and emphasizing civil society partnerships, the Spotlight Initiative's approach is 70 per cent–90 per cent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence against women and girls, compared to a model that focuses on a single pillar or works in silos. This means that the Spotlight Initiative can prevent violence for almost 10 million more women and girls than it would have if it had taken a single pillar or siloed approach.

75. This includes the Spotlight Initiative's own monitoring and reporting data, expert interviews and more than 100 meta-experimental and quasi-experimental studies of interventions that the Initiative emulates.

Imperative to invest

Reduce violence and foster peace and stability

Prevent 21 million women and girls from facing violence by 2025



Reduce violence 70%–90% more effectively than single-pillar or siloed interventions



Reduce escalations of conflict and foster national/global peace and stability



Improve perpetrator accountability and survivors' access to quality support



Save at least 5 women's and girls' lives every day



Save the lives of 330,000 children



Preempt critical physical injuries for 2,500 women and girls and the onset of serious psychological distress for 1,000 women and girls every day



Support people to realize their full potential

Keep 19 million more girls in school by 2050



Enable role modelling of gender-equal values and relationships for 70 million children



Safeguard survivors from losing 30% of their annual earning potential



Add back 39 million productive days a year



- The Spotlight Initiative could prevent violence for at least 21 million women and girls in its initial five-year investment. This number is equivalent to the complete eradication of violence against women and girls in 18 out of 26 of the countries in which the Spotlight Initiative programmes. If the Spotlight Initiative were to continue for another five years (in the same 26 countries) with an additional EUR 300 million, it could prevent violence for 47 million more women and girls.
- The Spotlight Initiative's work on prevention could prevent the death of at least 600 women every year or nearly two every day, and could result in 2,500 fewer cases of urgent medical attention and 320 fewer women experiencing depression daily. Moreover, in efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, preventing violence against pregnant women and mothers is expected, by 2030, to prevent 500,000 women from experiencing miscarriages, and also reduce the chances of newborn and infant mortality, saving the lives of 140,000 children.
- Preventing violence against women and girls leads to fewer school dropouts, higher net school enrolment, and better quality of learning. By 2025, the study predicts that the Spotlight Initiative will help almost 1 million girls stay in school; ripple effects could contribute to an additional 4 million girls completing school in the next generation.
- The Spotlight Initiative's work on prevention could also help avoid the burden of violence-related costs, which can amount to up to 30 per cent of the average annual earning potential of a survivor. Ending violence against women and girls could ensure that women and girls are healthier, adding back a total of roughly 43 million productive days a year.
- By promoting self-expression and raising awareness of inequitable gendered norms, the Spotlight Initiative could shift attitudes and beliefs in favour of equity and equality for almost 90 million children within the next generation.



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4.2

Lessons Learned from 2022 Programme Implementation

Over the course of implementation, Spotlight Initiative teams have adapted programming based on lessons learned, and the Secretariat has aimed to support them in these efforts.

Taking action on lessons learned completes the learning cycle and is critical to improving existing programmes and informing future ones. The following subsections present a selected overview of high-level cross-cutting and pillar-specific lessons captured throughout 2022. Programmes have identified a much wider range of lessons within their particular contexts, which are documented in their annual reports.

4.2.1

Cross-Cutting Lessons Learned

Over the course of 2022, a range of cross-pillar learning has been generated and captured across Spotlight Initiative programmes. These lessons corroborate the existing evidence base, reaffirming (and further nuancing) lessons that have emerged over several years. They demonstrate how the Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive model is essential for effective programming and transformative impact over time to end violence against women and girls. The lessons include:

- A **whole-of-society** approach fosters collective action and well-rounded efforts from all the key stakeholders who work concertedly to end violence against women and girls.
- Engaging **community structures and local authorities and community-centred approaches** promotes accountability, local ownership and utilization of services, as well as increasing participation of rights holders of the programme. This also guarantees **long term and systematic commitment**, which contributes to positive changes in attitudes and social norms.

- Investing in strengthening local capacity of skills across all grassroots movements, government, activists and other key stakeholders ensures **sustainable outcomes** beyond the Spotlight Initiative.
- **Leveraging the innovative approaches** that developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as technological approaches and virtual platforms, helps to scale up efforts to end violence against women and girls.
- Recognizing the value of strengthening **existing community-based structures and networks** can help further the work on ending violence against women and girls.
- **Participatory monitoring** integrates the voices of the rights holders, providing a sense of **agency in co-designing** appropriate interventions.
- Ensuring sufficient time (to build processes and trust), fostering implementing partner buy-in, and focusing on interventions that will continue on **helps improve engagement in participatory monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes.**
- Advocating for the implementation of the **leave no one behind principles** to be enshrined in the legal and policies frameworks when collecting data, conducting capacity development activities and creating spaces fosters inclusivity within the movement to end violence against women and girls.

4.2.2

Pillar-Specific Lessons Learned

PILLAR 1: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION



- Dedicating sufficient time for continuous advocacy, building trust and raising awareness on key international human rights instruments is crucial to secure buy-in from lawmakers, community members and leaders at all levels to advance policy and law reforms, including

developing and updating national plans to end violence against women and girls.

- Strategic stakeholders - primarily cultural, community and religious leaders, the government and civil society - should be meaningfully engaged from the start of the design and development of any policy or law and in advocacy and lobbying processes to ensure policies are relevant and responsive (needs-driven), and concretely benefit those being served. This is also useful to improve ownership of, and buy-in for, the passage and implementation of related laws and policies.
- Building the capacity of women's human rights defenders, survivors and women's movements is key for speedy (and sustained) law reform and implementation on ending violence against women and girls.



PILLAR 2: INSTITUTIONS

- Sustainable institutional change to address violence against women and girls requires coordinated engagement and collaboration across multiple sectors through various coordination platforms, as it allows for synergies to be leveraged, gaps to be better addressed and risks mitigated. Integration of violence against women and girls' targets and indicators in national planning frameworks requires a whole-of-government approach through high-level national ownership, leveraging national initiatives and generating and maintaining political will at all levels of government.
- Strengthening coordination between civil society, and particularly among women's movements and government institutions, is key to driving and sustaining change to end violence against women and girls and advance women's human rights more broadly. This coordination fosters dialogue and allows for progressive feminist and women's rights movements and groups - experts in efforts to end violence against women and girls - to remain the primary stakeholders and influencers on matters related to pervasive rights violations.



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**PILLAR 3:
PREVENTION**



- Social norms change requires long-term engagement from communities, institutions and governments. Community mobilization strategies promoting positive social norms, attitudes and behaviours are more likely to succeed and spur behaviour and social norm change if a wide range of actors participate regularly through sustained dialogues and other collaborations connected to existing community structures at the local or district government levels, such as chief councils, community groups, etc.
- Engaging men and boys as agents of change and allies through open dialogue, gender-transformative approaches, and peer-to-peer learning on positive masculinities is critical for addressing violence against women and girls and ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Engagement and empowerment of youth and facilitating youth-led initiatives can be drivers for innovative solutions to further efforts on ending violence against women and girls.

- Engaging religious and traditional leaders in community outreach and consultative dialogues is an effective strategy for combating harmful practices.
- Combining essential services with economic justice initiatives can further facilitate effective reintegration and long-term recovery of survivors of violence.

**PILLAR 4:
SERVICES**



- One-stop centres, integrated health facilities and safe spaces are conducive to providing quality services efficiently and holistically. Innovative mobile services (including mobile clinics and mobile courts) continue to be critical for service delivery and reaching remote and hard-to-reach communities, and, at the same time, can further behaviour change efforts by raising awareness on gender-based violence. Fostering community and national ownership helps ensure the sustainability (and continuity) of these centres and spaces (which can be challenging in some contexts, including humanitarian

contexts), as does the development of standard operating procedures, training packages, capacity-building sessions and the integration of services into national plans.

- Building the capacity of service providers and duty bearers is an ongoing process and should be embedded in broader institutional capacity development plans for frontline service providers as it further fosters sustainable and quality essential services.
- To be effective, do no harm, and avoid re-traumatization, extensive psychosocial training and psychosocial support is needed for facilitators of gender-based violence discussions (in which participants may share experiences of their abuse or exposure to violence.) This training also helps ensure meaningful support of the facilitator's own (as they may be survivors as well) and participants' emotional responses.
- Institutional strengthening must be integrated as one of the core components of grants to ensure effectiveness and sustainability. It is important to work with civil society and grassroots organizations to set expectations and provide orientation meetings as well as to share lessons from previous grantees to make sure that proposals are realistic and feasible given the timeframe and the resources available.



PILLAR 5: DATA

- Standardized data collection enhances coordination and lessens the burden on survivors: bringing together service providers as data collectors provides an important platform for coordination and can ease the stress on survivors and avoid re-traumatization.
- The involvement of rights holders (programme stakeholders and beneficiaries) in evaluations and research yields important insights on a programme's strategy of implementation and its effectiveness and relevance.
- Data disaggregated by, inter alia, age, disability, gender and ethnicity provide

meaningful insights on existing gaps, and access and equity issues that may otherwise have been obscured, allowing programmes and policies to better reach marginalized communities and those experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination.

- The digitization of gender-based violence data increases its use, including to monitor progress against national targets on gender-based violence and gender equality. In areas with limited digital capacity, focused advocacy (and capacity-building) targeting government institutions helped build momentum for the required infrastructure to digitize data.
- National policies and plans are strengthened when they include a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation framework that identifies the extent to which the policy or plan has addressed the root causes of inequalities and power imbalances, and identifies population groups that are meant to benefit from the plan or policy through an intersectional and intercultural lens.



PILLAR 6: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

- The engagement of civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and women's rights groups representing vulnerable and marginalized populations leads to an increased reach of rural communities with information on preventing violence against women and girls, and improves access to essential services and referrals.
- The voluntary engagement of women survivors of violence with community networks - as, for example, counselors or watchwomen - can further facilitate their social reintegration and rehabilitation process, with their own experiences and knowledge positively influencing the rehabilitation of other survivors.
- Civil society mechanisms, especially networks and coalitions, are reliable and sustainable mechanisms that promote better coordination and accelerate efforts on the elimination of violence against women and girls and harmful practices.



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- Civil Society Reference Groups, as a model for ensuring participation of civil society in governance and decision-making on ending violence against women and girls, is a critical component of the national response on violence against women and girls.
- Supporting independent women's funds is an effective entry point to support movement-building and foster the sustainability and growth of smaller civil society organizations.

duplicative efforts. One way to do this is by adopting UN Reform inter-agency tools, such as the United Nations-wide Business Operations Strategy framework or the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Provision and Use of Common Services, which help the Spotlight Initiative teams achieve more responsive, integrated implementation.

- Strong leadership by the UN Resident Coordinator helps establish a broader culture of coordination and collaboration. Formal mechanisms dedicated to inter-agency collaboration - such as the UN Country Team Human Rights and Gender Advisory Groups, or Deputies Group, which can serve as a platform for strategic engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Results Group - can further help dismantle siloed programming and strengthen joint planning and coherence among Recipient UN Organizations' interventions. The support of Resident Representatives of the Spotlight Initiative Recipient UN Organizations can further strengthen these coordination efforts.

4.2.3

Coordination and Management Lessons Learned

Joint inter-agency programme implementation

- Through integrated planning and partnership-building, the Spotlight Initiative teams are better placed to meaningfully deliver and achieve comprehensive results for women and girls, while also saving time and resources of governments and civil society by reducing

- Implementing a Pillar-lead system – whereby one or two agencies lead a particular Pillar but all agencies come together to ensure technical coherence and coordination across Pillars – provides a platform to identify synergies across agency interventions, and fosters smoother programme implementation.
- Clearly defined and well-communicated roles and responsibilities for the Spotlight Initiative teams - including for the Spotlight Initiative coordinator, technical coherence lead, and United Nations agency staff - promotes smoother delivery and better programming by effectively leveraging capacity and avoiding duplication.
- Identifying additional opportunities to harmonize processes, templates and platforms across the Spotlight Initiative Recipient UN Organizations helps strengthen coordination and programme delivery, especially in the absence of a comprehensive set of harmonized procedures. As an example, developing inter-agency standard operating procedures in Spotlight Initiative programmes helps facilitate common understanding and expectations.
- Ensuring Spotlight programmes have dedicated, full-time finance, administrative and operations staff within the coordination unit drives more effective and efficient programme and budget management, including better monitoring of budget needs, higher quality Phase II proposals and more timely inter-agency coordination on key operational issues.

LESSONS LEARNED:

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND JOINT PROGRAMME DELIVERY THROUGH THE USE OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE IN GRENADA

The Spotlight Initiative in **Grenada** used the [essential services package for women and girls subject to violence](#) as a foundational framework to draft both the National Standard Operating Procedures for Gender-Based Violence, developed under Pillar 4, and the Gender-Based Violence Victims' and Survivors' Rights Policy, developed under Pillar 1.

The use of a single, common framework promoted effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination, and strengthened Spotlight programme delivery under these Pillars. As an example, two Spotlight Initiative Recipient UN Organizations – UNICEF and WHO/PAHO, with technical support from two others (UNDP and UN Women) – partnered to jointly run capacity-building sessions for first responders (including for the police, justice, health and social sectors) to strengthen survivor-centred responses. This joint approach to training first responders helped address burnout among partners, by reducing the need to engage the Spotlight Initiative's partners in separate training activities focused on complementary topics.

LESSONS LEARNED:

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION BETWEEN REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PROGRAMMES TO ACHIEVE GREATER RESULTS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

The Spotlight Initiative in **Grenada** also collaborated with the Spotlight Initiative at the regional level (through the **Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme**) to ensure that Grenadian civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, benefit from regional capacity-building resources, networking and movement-building support to strengthen and galvanize their own local efforts to mobilize resources and end violence against women and girls. Through this collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme, Grenadian civil society organizations were able to participate in a regional civil society retreat, together with 24 civil society organization representatives from ten Caribbean countries.

Following the retreat, several Caribbean civil society organizations were inspired to continue the momentum and formed the Caribbean Gender Alliance, a regional partnership of organizations working to promote healthy gender relations. In an additional layer of collaboration and robust coordination, the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative Programme also supported research on the economic costs of violence against women and girls in Grenada, providing valuable insights on this dimension of the impacts of violence against women and girls, and more broadly for the sustainability strategy of the Spotlight programme in Grenada.

LESSONS LEARNED:

ADOPTING INNOVATIVE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES FOR ENHANCED PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The Spotlight Initiative programmes adopted innovative operational practices that enabled teams to benefit from economies of scale and share administrative costs, as shared in [Chapter 3](#) (adapting processes to mitigate challenges). In **Uganda**, for example, the Spotlight Initiative co-located the team in a common office space and established an arrangement to access logistical and procurement support from UNDP. Co-locating the team fostered greater cohesion and coherence among United Nations agencies working on the Spotlight Initiative and streamlined work planning and day-to-day communication, improving programme effectiveness. Building on existing UN Reform tools, the Spotlight Initiative team in Uganda also drafted a joint Memorandum of Understanding in 2022 to enhance efficiency and enable strategic partnerships on behalf of all Recipient UN Organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect in 2023, strengthening the coherence of the Spotlight Initiative's successor programme, "Gender for Development in Uganda."

The Spotlight Initiative programmes – including in **El Salvador, Liberia, and Tajikistan** – also used UN Reform tools like the Business Operations Strategy and existing assessments and agreements to facilitate joint procurement processes and enable harmonized transaction costs. Utilization of the Business Operations Strategy in El Salvador and Liberia, for example, resulted in streamlined processes, greater transparency among Recipient UN Organizations, and programme savings, while in Tajikistan, through Recipient UN Organizations' mutual recognition of previously conducted partner capacity assessments, the Spotlight Initiative team increased operational efficiency and streamlined the selection of implementing partners.



© Spotlight Initiative in Niger

Partnering with national governments

- High-level political commitment of governments to the elimination of violence against women and girls significantly increases the impact and sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative’s interventions.
- Approaching government partnerships through a one UN interface – whereby the UN Resident Coordinator leads the United Nations Country Team in coordinating with key partners – enables programmes to streamline communication and make more effective use of their collective time and resources. As a result, Spotlight programmes build stronger partnerships that drive national ownership at the highest level.
- The political support of the European Union supports stronger partnerships and ensures high-level political commitment.
- Strategically communicating and advocating the added value of the Spotlight Initiative can convince governments to further engage with and take leadership over the Spotlight programme’s efforts, a critical step in ensuring the long-term continuity of the Initiative.
- Identifying focal points or “champions” within government entities who are committed to advancing collaboration with the Spotlight Initiative is critical to maintaining regular engagement as well as to securing the necessary buy-in for national ownership over the elimination of violence against women and girls.

- The Spotlight Initiative can play a critical role in bringing government and civil society together, particularly in terms of lobbying for civil society representation and leadership in national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Advancing the UN-EU partnership

- The partnership between UN Country Teams and EU Delegations through the Spotlight Initiative enables programmes to benefit from the combined lessons learned and good practices of the two multilateral organizations. In **Kyrgyzstan**, for example, the collaboration between the Spotlight programme team and the EU Delegation has had important spillover effects, strengthening coordination and collaboration among other development programmes for a more sustainable, coherent approach to ending violence against women and girls and advancing gender equality and women’s rights in the country. Similarly, in **Afghanistan**, despite the extremely challenging context, the United Nations and European Union teams continued to collaborate closely and in line with the [Joint Operating Principles](#) (among the aid community engaged in humanitarian response), to collectively urge the de facto authorities at senior strategic levels to uphold the rights of women and girls.



© Johana Alarcón / Spotlight Initiative in Ecuador

- Maintaining open communication between UN Country Teams and EU Delegations, including in terms of programme strategies, guidance, procedures and key messages, builds a sense of mutual trust and facilitates coordination.
- Undertaking joint monitoring initiatives between UN Country Teams and EU Delegations is an effective way to strengthen Spotlight programme interventions and identify gaps and challenges in programming while bolstering the UN-EU partnership and elevating the joint visibility of the Spotlight Initiative among local communities.

Engaging civil society

- Spotlight programme teams adapted civil society partnership processes to enhance access to small, grassroots women's and youth organizations that are otherwise excluded from quality funding, as further detailed in the box below. Spotlight Initiative continues to work towards a civil society partner engagement process that is increasingly agile, flexible and responsive to civil society's needs under all spheres of its work.
- Dedicated capacity is needed for the Spotlight Initiative programmes to deliver in a meaningful and timely way against

the ambitious target of implementing 30-50 per cent of programme funds via civil society. Resourcing a civil society engagement function (such as a civil society organization engagement officer) can help ensure adequate management of civil society engagement within Pillar 6, across Pillars, and in terms of the Civil Society National or Regional Reference Groups.

- Meaningfully engaging Civil Society Reference Groups in the transition phase of the Spotlight Initiative - including in the development of sustainability strategies and plans, and in the visioning and roll-out of the next iteration of the Spotlight Initiative - improves the responsiveness and relevance of plans and further strengthens ownership of efforts (and the sustainability of those efforts).
- Through the development of costed workplans, the Civil Society National and Regional Reference Groups have formalized their engagement in Spotlight programmes, from representation in decision-making bodies to independent monitoring and advocacy that drives policy change. The Civil Society Reference Groups' compensation policy has also been a step forward, recognizing the leadership and expertise of civil society as a key and equal partner (see the text box below).

LESSONS LEARNED:

FUNDAMENTALLY ADAPTING UN SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES IMPROVES ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The recently completed meta-review of the Spotlight Initiative mid-term assessments in Latin America and Africa identified that the most significant obstacles to civil society participation were related to structural and administrative barriers that exist within the United Nations – financial rules and procedures that have been approved and mandated by agencies' respective Boards. This suggests a level of risk aversion by United Nations programme teams to trusting major interventions to national or grassroots civil society organizations, even when these organizations meet the United Nations' accountability requirements and demonstrate the expertise and experience required. When the United Nations adapts its process and procedures, civil society partnerships, including with local groups, are strengthened.

The Spotlight Initiative in **Trinidad and Tobago**, together with the Civil Society National Reference Group, held a series of field and virtual consultations with civil society organizations to brainstorm ways to simplify United Nations processes and funding approaches to make them more accessible for women's rights organizations and community-based organizations at the grassroots level. A range of civil society organizations were consulted – some in operation longer than others; some larger than others – with a significant proportion working in rural communities and representing marginalized groups.

The consultations addressed the administrative and managerial requirements attached to United Nations funding, which often constrain grassroots groups' ability to access much-needed funding.

Feedback from the civil society and women's rights organizations included the need to lengthen the timeframe for responding to advertisements, which was considered too short, contextualizing the requirements and simplifying the language of calls for proposals.

Following this, the Spotlight Initiative programme drafted easy-to-understand advertisements and bidding templates. 'Top tips' and guidelines for completing the submission templates were also shared. Proposals focused on building the capacity of community organizations and women's movements were encouraged, as were proposals that prioritized the inclusion of grassroots civil society organizations and civil society organizations representing marginalized and vulnerable groups. Pre-scheduled town halls accompanied each advertisement, providing a tailored and detailed walk-through of submission requirements. The timeframe for submission was lengthened, and rotating advertisements were posted with no submission deadline.

Concurrently, a Master Coach and Agitator-in-Chief was recruited to develop a comprehensive capacity-building programme for civil society organizations, including support for resource mobilization. The Master Coach will be joined by business-focused coaches who will be paired with civil society organizations to provide support through their engagement with a project.

Through these changes and the support received, organizations that felt that United Nations funding was previously inaccessible submitted successful proposals, and the Spotlight Initiative team funded 15 new organizations between 2020 and 2022. All organizations were new to the United Nations system, receiving funding for the first time to strengthen their existing services and systems, for internal capacity-building, and to deepen their programmatic expertise.

CHAPTER 5

AMPLIFYING

THE WORK:

COMMUNICATIONS

AND VISIBILITY

RESULTS

This chapter presents communication and visibility results for 2022. It opens with an overview of the communication objectives for 2022, followed by the Spotlight Initiative’s global communication reach, and closes with examples on how Spotlight Initiative communications challenged gender stereotypes and norms and raised awareness about violence against women and girls.

5.1

Overview

The Spotlight Initiative’s communication and visibility activities centre around four mutually reinforcing objectives: (1) to raise global awareness of violence against women and girls, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health and rights; (2) to illustrate and promote the impact and results of Spotlight Initiative-supported interventions; (3) to strengthen the role of communications in the prevention of violence against women and girls; and (4) to ensure visibility for the Spotlight Initiative, its donors and partners.

As part of its communications and visibility action plan, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat continued expanding its flagship [#WithHer campaign](#), improved national, regional and global communications capacity, and took advantage of lifting travel restrictions to host a handful of in-person events that challenge the culture of violence against women and girls.

5.2

Global Reach: Spotlight Initiative Analytics

5.2.1

Global Website

In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative [global website](#) published more than 140 news stories, press releases and publications in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese).

The site recorded more than 120,000 sessions, while the average session duration rose by 15 seconds from 1:41 in 2021 to 1:56 in 2022. The global site’s audience was located predominantly in the United States (21 per cent), Mexico (8.8 per cent), Nigeria (4.18 per cent), the United Kingdom (3.18 per cent) and Argentina (2.82 per cent), marking the first year that the UK and Argentina have appeared in the top five countries of audience origin.

The Spotlight Initiative continued to collaborate with Recipient UN Organizations’ communications teams, as well as UN News and the United Nations Development Coordination Office to ensure that Spotlight Initiative content was featured across multiple United Nations platforms.

Communications and visibility in 2022 Highlights: 1 January–31 December

1,200 media outlets 4.1 billion reach 100 countries
3,850 + articles

Spotlight Initiative specific articles were published in more than 1,200 media outlets, including the BBC, MSN, Yahoo News, El País, The Hollywood Reporter, Clarin, Infobae, Euronews, Forbes, Sohu News, Channels Television), etc.



120,000 website sessions



10,253 YouTube channel views



12,233 engagements 347,301 impressions



23,507 engagements 2,799,340 impressions



7,460 engagements 3,563,946 impressions



© UNICEF Nigeria.

Stories included an increased focus on the impacts of climate change on women and girls in support of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) that took place in November 2022. Content was also aligned with key thematic moments on the United Nations calendar, including the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Day of the Girl, and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The site continued to highlight the Spotlight Initiative's work across all six Pillars in the 26+ countries and five regions where the Initiative is implementing, elevating the voices of survivors of violence and activists through human interest stories.

5.2.2

Social Media

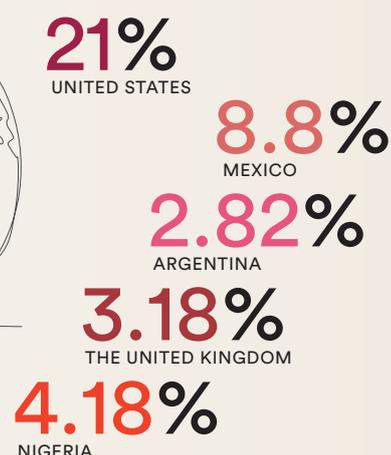
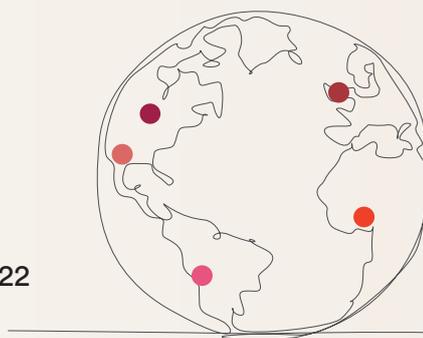
The Spotlight Initiative's social media presence continued growing in 2022. The Initiative now has almost 56,000 followers and achieved 7,000,000 impressions as detailed in the performance summaries of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Thanks to regular posting and tailored content, the Secretariat managed to grow its audience on all platforms: +7.1 per cent growth on Twitter; +1.4 per cent growth on Facebook; +42.9 per cent growth on Instagram.

The engagement rate (average number of interactions per follower) also grew on all platforms: +36 per cent on Facebook, +23 per cent on Instagram and +92 per cent on Twitter.

On Twitter, the number of followers has increased by more than 7 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching more than 20,000 individual followers. Twitter recorded almost 350,000 impressions and more than 12,000 engagements in 2022. Adding to its existing [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts in Spanish, the Secretariat also launched new social media accounts in Russian ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) that aim to reach the public based in Central Asia. These accounts are being administered by the Spotlight Initiative Communications colleagues working in the region.

The click-through rate for social media links has increased by 97 per cent on Facebook and 27 per cent on Instagram. This means that more people clicked on the links that we shared in our posts - most of them being links to our web stories raising the visibility of voices of women and girls pushing back against violence and inequalities and powerfully demanding their rights. This also allowed us to channel more social media traffic to our [website](#).

The average session duration increased by 15 seconds (14.8%), growing from 1:41 to 1:56 from 2021 to 2022



The global site's audience was located predominantly in the United States (21 per cent), Mexico (8.8 per cent), Nigeria (4.18 per cent), the United Kingdom (3.18 per cent) and Argentina (2.82 per cent).

The Spotlight Initiative shared more content on its [YouTube channel](#) to make all global and locally produced videos available to the public. The Spotlight Initiative YouTube channels can now count more than 100 videos and 971 subscribers (+11 per cent increase). In a year, the channels recorded more than 53,000 impressions.



2022 'Femicide Detectives' produced by the BBC Word Service.

5.2.3

Media Coverage

In 2022, more than 3,850 Spotlight Initiative-specific articles and stories were published by 1,200 media outlets across 100 countries, with an estimated reach of more than 4.1 billion readers.⁷⁶ Stories were published in top-tier media outlets including: the BBC, MSN, Yahoo News, El País, The Hollywood Reporter, Clarin, Infobae, Euronews, Forbes, Sohu News, Channels Television and Global Citizen.

Notable media coverage in 2022 included '[Femicide Detectives](#)' a BBC World Service episode and accompanying article that highlighted Spotlight Initiative support to activists in Ecuador fighting femicide (more details on this can be found below at 6.3.1 Raising Awareness and Challenging Gender Stereotypes: Country-Level Examples) and [an article in El País](#) on the suspension of female genital mutilation in Liberia.) [This media report](#) provides more detailed

information on Spotlight Initiative's global media coverage for 2022.

5.3

Raising Awareness and Challenging Gender Stereotypes through Spotlight Initiative Communications

The Spotlight Initiative communication campaigns aim to challenge existing gender stereotypes and raise awareness on the importance of gender equality and ending violence against women and girls to lead to action in laws, policies and services. While many countries lifted COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2022, country teams continued to build upon the digital strategies they implemented during the pandemic and complement these with in-person activities and workshops where useful.

76. Meltwater media keyword search (1 Jan - 31 Dec 2022). Raw data of all media hits available [here](#).

5.3.1

Raising Awareness and Challenging Gender Stereotypes: Country-Level Examples



© Flores en el Aire

Diverse country-level examples showcase how the shift to online and remote awareness-raising continued to play a critical role in the Spotlight Initiative's efforts alongside conventional communications strategies. For example, in **Ecuador**, the Spotlight Initiative team supported the development of [Flores en el Aire](#), a digital mapping tool that aims to humanize the country's shocking femicide statistics by sharing testimonies from the families of victims to create a virtual "memory map". *Flores en el Aire* was publicly launched with in-person events in three cities and a commemorative walk for femicide victims was held in Cuenca. The significant media attention sparked a national debate around femicide and the barriers families face in achieving justice. On 8 March 2022, International Women's Day, the Government of Ecuador issued a presidential decree that reformed the delivery of compensation for children orphaned by femicide, representing an important step towards reparations for victims' families. In **Guyana**, news personality Macaela Cameron used the Spotlight Initiative's #WithHer Talks format to interview fellow radio and TV host Feliz Robertson about her experience of gender-based violence, with each woman sharing the personal testimony to their more than 38,000 Instagram followers. This broke silence on the issue, and the hope is that more women feel comfortable speaking about the violence they faced and seek services. In ASEAN, the Spotlight Initiative's **Safe and Fair** programme supported the launch of a sixth-month media campaign in **Cambodia**, with awareness-raising initiatives implemented through the civil society organization partners Child Helpline Cambodia and the Women's Media Centre of Cambodia. Both mass media and social media platforms were used to promote public awareness of the contributions

by women migrant workers, address negative social and gender norms, and provide information on services for safe migration and on violence against women. Through this effort, which included a public forum, community engagement, mass media and social media outreach, 230,198 people were reached. The Safe and Fair programme also promoted [the My Journey mobile app](#), which connects Cambodian women migrant workers with reliable information about their rights and gender-based violence services. This was promoted both face-to-face and online to increase downloads and installations of the app, especially by women migrant workers, their family members and the youth. A [TikTok](#) account for the My Journey app was created and at the end of December 2022, there were 9,500 followers.

As part of 2022's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Spotlight Initiative in **Mozambique** organized an impactful photo exhibition under the theme "No to Violence against Women and Girls" which was highlighted by the Ministry of Gender as one of the 16 Days of Activism campaign's key activities and referenced at the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The exhibition aimed to raise awareness about gender-based violence in Mozambique and the actions of the Spotlight Initiative in three key areas of intervention: women economic empowerment, positive masculinities, awareness-raising and movement-building. The photo exhibition was launched with a high-level event that brought together the representatives of the Spotlight Initiative, members from the donor community, representatives from civil society and the Civil Society National Reference Group, as well as women and girls involved in economic empowerment interventions and gender-based violence survivors who shared their experiences in a powerful discussion panel. The photo exhibition was then showcased during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in three cultural centres in the country's capital, in outdoor and freely available spaces.



© Spotlight Initiative

5.3.2 Events and Launches

‘What were you wearing?’

The Spotlight Initiative built upon the success of its 2021 exhibition with RISE, a human rights organization founded by Amanda Nguyen, to host a high-profile exhibit in the United Nations visitors centre in New York. “[What were you wearing?](#)” invited United Nations visitors and diplomats to observe the outfits worn by survivors of sexual violence at the time of their attacks, subverting a victim-blaming phrase wielded against survivors to draw attention to the barriers they face in accessing justice. The original 2021 exhibit displayed just five outfits. In July 2022, it reopened with more than 100 outfits from around the world, representing the 1.3 billion survivors of sexual assault worldwide. The original five survivors who contributed to the exhibition shared their stories at the launch, many for the first time publicly. “Today, all five of the survivors have stepped out of anonymity to tell their story to the world at the United Nations,” said Ms. Nguyen in her opening address. “We can hold light up to this darkest corner of human experience and allow survivors at last to be seen, to be heard, to be believed and to be empowered.”

High-level guests at the launch included Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-chair of the Spotlight Initiative’s Governing Body, Amina Mohammed, President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid, and

European Union Ambassador to the United Nations Olof Skoog, while entrepreneur Paris Hilton shared a video message. The Spotlight Initiative supported RISE with the exhibition, which was part of their campaign to have the General Assembly pass a Survivors’ Bill of Rights. The platform brought together the UN system and Member States to learn about the issue and advocate for survivors. In September, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously voted to pass a standalone resolution recognizing rape in peacetime, and condemning all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

Initiated by the EU, the Spotlight Initiative’s partnership with the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls continued into 2022 and the Group of Friends kicked off the year with [a discussion](#) on the links between climate change and gender-based violence ahead of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66). This meeting resulted in the Group of Friends drafting key commitments for CSW66, in which they committed to working through the negotiation of the Agreed Conclusions, to spotlight the intersections between violence, climate change and disasters and to call for concerted efforts to address these issues.

In March, the Group of Friends and the Spotlight Initiative presented a television-style [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) dialogue](#) on the role and

“Thanks to the generous support of the European Union, the UN’s Spotlight Initiative has educated 880,000 men and boys and counting about positive masculinity, respectful relationships and non-violent conflict resolution. From taxi drivers to sports clubs, men are actively participating in programmes to prevent gender-based violence and support women survivors. Throughout, the United Nations is working with governments and legislators to strengthen laws and regulations to better protect women and girls – and provide protection and counselling services. And since its creation in 2020 in response to my call to action, the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls – now nearly 100 members strong – has been critical to this work.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations



responsibility of men and boys in ending gender-based violence, 'From perpetrators to allies'. It was moderated by UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming and featured European Union Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen, Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN Egriselda Gonzales Lopez, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations Collen Vixen Kelapile, UNFPA Executive Director Natalia Kanem and UN Global Advocate for the Spotlight Initiative Siya Kolisi. In a video address during the event, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on every Member State to develop an emergency plan to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and urged them to draw on the expertise provided by the Spotlight Initiative. The video was published on the United Nations YouTube channel to more than 2.66 million subscribers. The Secretary-General's speech can be seen in this [video](#).

5.3.3

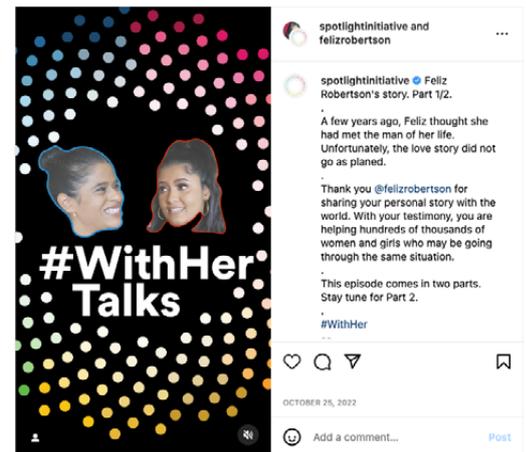
The #WithHer campaign

Now in its third year, Spotlight Initiative's flagship digital engagement campaign – [#WithHer](#) – consolidated its focus on curating online conversations among cultural influencers. The campaign reached more than 78 million users on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in 2022.

The [WithHer Fund](#), launched in partnership with the UN Foundation in December 2021 to provide resources directly to grassroots women's organizations working to end violence against women and girls, continued to channel funds where they are most needed. Digital art agency ArtRepublic partnered with the WithHer Fund during Women's Month to showcase an NFT collection of art created by globally recognized women photographers. A percentage of proceeds from auction sales was contributed to the Fund.

#WithHer on social media

More influencers joined [#WithHer Talks](#), a series of social media conversations around violence against women and girls that the Secretariat launched in 2020. New episodes in 2022 tackled topics such as [healing after domestic violence](#), [how to seek psychological support](#), and [colourism](#) in the Indian film industry. With the participation of international content creators, these videos reached 45,000 views on Instagram.



The Secretariat extended its [#WithHer](#) formats with the creation of [#WithHer Express](#), a format designed to let experts and influencers share their expertise and educate audiences on specific issues, and launched a series called "The Feelgood Playlist" highlighting three recent positive headlines about women's rights. Thanks to a strategic boosting campaign, the [final episode](#) of 2022 got more than 400,000 views.

The Initiative also expanded into new audiences by launching an inter-institution collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#)) in March 2022 exploring the impacts of climate change on violence against women and girls. During this week-long partnership, impressions rose by 92 per cent on Twitter, 173 per cent on Facebook and 320 per cent on Instagram compared to the previous week. Engagement went up 63 per cent on Twitter, 95 per cent on Facebook, 48 per cent on Instagram, while audience growth (new followers) rose by 429 per cent on Twitter and 48 per cent on Instagram. These activations had a flow-on effect to the website, with the articles developed for the campaign becoming the top two performing news stories that month.



Global advocates and influencers

Through the [#WithHer campaign](#) and its [Culture Change Commitment](#), the Spotlight Initiative continued to engage public figures who have the power, influence and platforms to reach audiences and help create a global culture free from violence. In 2022, the Spotlight Initiative and The Social Good Club - a non-profit think tank that brings together a network of social media content creators to reimagine the ways influencers tell stories and engage their audience - piloted the second phase of the WithHer fellowship programme. This programme curated eight influential creators and guided them through the process of developing one or more activations within their field. The approach was designed to integrate learnings from previous work (2021, Phase 1). Creators were given the freedom to explore any relevant topics relating directly to ending violence against women and girls in their own way. The topics covered included diverse themes, such as: family planning and parenting to build a more equitable world with women and girls; men's work and male responsibility; violence against women and girls in the fine dining industry and food systems as a whole; the connection between violence against women and girls, women's rights and

climate change; and the disproportionate rate of violence against women and girls for those with disabilities. This campaign got more than 600,300 views through the eight influencers' accounts.

United Nations Global Advocates for the Spotlight Initiative, actor Cecilia Suárez and Springboks Captain Siya Kolisi, helped raise awareness of gender-based violence and the Spotlight Initiative's work. Ms. Suárez shared the Initiative's content and messages of support to her more than one million Instagram followers, while Mr. Kolisi participated in the television-style [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) dialogue](#) on the role and responsibility of men and boys in ending gender-based violence, "From perpetrators to allies" (previously outlined in the 2021 Global Annual Report). He used his intervention to invite other men to join the push for gender equality and asked them to take action in their own communities, friendship groups and homes.

“Gender-based violence is stoppable and I will continue to work closely with the Spotlight Initiative to raise awareness of an issue that affects 1 in 3 women worldwide ... I will keep using my voice and my platform to advocate for the rights of women and girls in Mexico and around the world.”

– Cecilia Suárez

“When I was 5 years old, seeing things happen to my mother, things happen to my aunt, that’s really stuck with me. I was helpless at the time but now I have a platform and I want to use my platform in a way that [ensures] this doesn’t happen to other women ... I’m going to keep on fighting and I’m going to keep on using my voice.”

– Siya Kolisi, ‘From Perpetrators to Allies’ SDG Dialogue

CHAPTER 6

WAY FORWARD

A growing body of evidence shows that a comprehensive, multisectoral approach to ending violence against women and girls, one that centres civil society and movement-building magnifies impact, and reduces violence against women and girls 70–90 per cent more effectively than single pillar approaches.⁷⁷ This is the Spotlight Initiative’s approach, and it works.

This chapter focuses on the Spotlight Initiative’s plans for 2023 and the way forward - sustaining the Initiative’s transformative achievements, maintaining its existing infrastructure, and continuing to advocate for quality resourcing for comprehensive, rights-based programming to end violence against women and girls. The chapter begins with the planned work for 2023, building off the transformative impact of 2022. The next phase of the Initiative - Spotlight Initiative 2.0 - is discussed, with a focus on sustainability and scaling up efforts across contexts. The chapter ends with an important call to action, advocating for the continued investment in this evidence-based model.

6.1

Amplifying the Impact of the Spotlight Initiative’s Results and Investment

The Spotlight Initiative is well positioned to accelerate its efforts, expand its programmes to reach more communities and secure additional resources to further support global movements for transformative change in the lives of women and girls. As the Spotlight Initiative looks forward to 2023 and beyond, the Initiative hopes to sustain and build on its transformative results across contexts. By strengthening the UN-EU partnership and mobilizing new partners to bring substantial investments to scale up this proven model, the Spotlight Initiative can continue to implement across its current locations, and expand its programmes to new contexts.

Toward the end of 2022 and looking ahead, the Secretariat is working with UN Country Teams, the European Union, and other stakeholders, including the Global Civil Society Reference Group, to design a new model of collaboration – the Spotlight Initiative 2.0. The Spotlight Initiative 2.0 will leverage lessons learned from the past five years and feature more responsive technical assistance, more intentional knowledge exchange and global dissemination (through the Global Platform) and strengthened local and national ownership. Deepening the Spotlight Initiative’s alignment with the principles of UN Reform and improving the Initiative’s ability to leverage the whole of the United Nations system towards an integrated, comprehensive and scaled-up effort to end violence against women and girls will also be areas of focus.

The Spotlight Initiative will continue to weave together the best efforts across the United Nations to present a coordinated and comprehensive platform for change, delivering on its potential of significantly driving incidents of violence against women and girls to zero and creating gender equitable futures for millions of young people.

Throughout 2022, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat engaged in a broad range of global-level resource mobilization efforts, aimed at sustaining and scaling up the results achieved. The Secretariat conducted extensive donor mapping, in consultation with key United Nations and external stakeholders, identifying priority global donors, as well as providing support to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams. This has been done to develop partnerships with traditional and non-traditional donors to continue to leverage the Spotlight Initiative’s results into a new stage.

Critically, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat’s efforts were supported by civil society partners. Planning efforts have been carried out in coordination with the Global Civil Society Reference Group, and outreach has already been made by the Reference Group together with key stakeholders to target donors and the EU Commissioner. The Spotlight Initiative also received support from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls. The Secretariat intends to continue leveraging those partnerships as part of its resource mobilization strategy in 2023.

77. Dalberg “Imperative to Invest: How addressing violence against women and girls today reduces violence over time, fosters peace & stability, and supports people reach full potential, all of which advances us towards the SDGs”



© Spotlight Initiative in Zimbabwe. Capacity Building Initiatives for people with disability under Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe (LCDZ) for building a more inclusive society.

LEVERAGING NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SUSTAINED IMPACT

As highlighted, throughout 2022, the Spotlight Initiative programmes strategically mobilized national and regional funding contributions and ensured systems were in place to consolidate and sustain the results of the first stage of the Spotlight Initiative. The following examples highlight the efforts of the Spotlight Initiative programmes at leveraging national contributions for sustained impact.

Developed, detailed exit plans, with financing needs identified per country, yield concrete and actionable insights, which take forward the most important outcomes from the Spotlight Initiative work.

Some Spotlight Initiative countries, such as **Argentina, Timor-Leste** and **Zimbabwe**, have taken the lead in conducting an in-depth programme and financial exit analysis, identifying which activities should be continued, discontinued, or have some elements dropped. In **Zimbabwe**, this analysis was followed up with the amount of capital needed to continue

to implement desired selected activities in the future, and identify responsible parties and next steps. According to its analysis, the team wishes to continue fully with 43 per cent of activities, end 35 per cent and partially continue 22 per cent of them. In **Timor-Leste**, the programme has begun working with respective government counterparts on a formal handover, ensuring new systems and structures are operationalized and have allocated resources post-Spotlight Initiative. Furthermore, building on the European Union's "commitment to gender equality, human rights, the empowerment of women and girls and the eradication of gender-based violence" (EU Gender Action Plan GAP II) as well as furthering democracy, the EU Delegation will continue to leverage the existing political will and monitor efforts to end violence against women and girls beyond the Spotlight Initiative. In **Argentina**, the Ministries of Justice and Women, and Gender and Diversity have already taken ownership of several activities and programmes initiated by the Spotlight Initiative, providing both financial and technical support and ensuring their continuation.

Created, resourced and supported women's rights civil society organization networks and partnerships to collectively advocate for ending violence

against women and girls and sexual and gender-based violence create a sustainable advocacy base.

In **Nigeria**, a coalition of civil society organizations was created - the Network against Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls - to advocate for and educate the public on the harmful nature of sexual and gender-based violence. The coalition continues to strengthen and amplify voices within women's movements to address sexual and gender-based violence beyond the Spotlight Initiative investment. In **Niger**, the "Platform of Women Leaders of Niger" was established to support the ongoing networking and advocacy of women's rights organizations and to offer regional coordination around gender-based violence.

Influenced, high-level political leaders and local governments to support initiatives to end violence against women and girls helps build medium-term momentum and political support.

For example, in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan** and **Nigeria**, the President or Prime Minister has officially expressed their strong support for the elimination of violence against women and girls lending longer term priority and political commitment to this issue.

6.2

Maximizing the Sustainability of Investments and Results

To accelerate progress – and ensure achievements are sustained throughout 2023 and beyond – the Spotlight Initiative has focused on developing comprehensive sustainability plans across Spotlight programmes. The plans outline the transition timelines, roles and responsibilities of key partners (including government and civil society), and funding mechanisms and have been developed collectively with the Spotlight Initiative's key stakeholders (such as community actors, survivors, feminist movements, etc.). Plans adhere to the following critical principles, as outlined in the text box below.

To support efforts toward more effective delivery and sustainability, and further streamline operational processes, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat, together with its programmes,

deepened operational and management alignment with UN Reform. In 2022, the Secretariat updated the existing Operations Manual Compendium, which contains all relevant guidance issued since the Fund's inception. The newest version offers detailed closure guidance, including specific guidance on operational and financial closure as well as narrative reporting requirements. Using the updated compendium, the Secretariat, collaboratively with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and United Nations agency focal points - will support Spotlight programme teams throughout 2023 as they close this phase of programming (and look to expand).

As detailed above and echoed below, amplifying this model is a strategic investment in advancing women's rights and ending violence against women and girls. Despite this (and the evidence more generally), however, this work remains chronically under-resourced - with budgets to advance women's rights, tackle structural inequality and discrimination, and end violence often first cut when donors face funding shortfalls or shift political priorities. Ramping up efforts toward sustainability and continued investment and expansion of this proven approach, the Spotlight Initiative will focus on scaled-up investments, renewed European Union partnership, and diversified new donor partners in 2023 and beyond. Specifically - in line with the findings of the commissioned modelling study, "Imperative to Invest", conducted by Dalberg, which underscore that the "confetti" approach to funding for ending violence against women and girls does not work - the Spotlight Initiative will make the case for integrated, quality donor funding from multiple streams.

Sustainability principles

Plans aim to ensure that women and girls and other rights holders, as well as programme stakeholders more broadly, have the infrastructure and resources in place to build on the Spotlight Initiative's contributions, and that Spotlight Initiative's stakeholders are supported during the transition (and are not harmed). To ensure this:

- Sustainability plans are built collaboratively and solicit feedback and inputs from a wide range of stakeholders, including rights holders and community members, civil society organizations, implementing partners, members of civil society reference groups and governments, among others.



© Spotlight Initiative in Niger

- Plans feature internal review mechanisms that allow for real time adjustments (of the remaining activities planned, and those that will be taken forward) for a smooth transition.
- Plans are structured to ensure that the goals and contributions made (vis-à-vis the Spotlight Initiative’s results framework and rooted in its Theory of Change) continue and are owned and carried out by local, national and regional stakeholders, including government and civil society.
- Sustainability strategies describe how programmes intend to draw down on resources while ensuring that rights holders, survivors and programme stakeholders are not exposed to risk or actual harm.
- As relevant, sustainability strategies include reflection on how to mobilize additional resources to continue this life-saving work under other initiatives.

deepened backlash by authoritarian and antidemocratic actors, who popularize attacks on women and non-gender conforming communities as a political strategy. As a global community, we cannot afford to waste time.

The incredible results and transformative changes achieved by the Spotlight Initiative thus far should be built upon, and expanded, with additional funding for this proven model.

The data is clear, we have a solution to end violence against women and girls. As the [Imperative to Invest](#) study showed, a comprehensive, rights-based approach to ending violence – one which works across multiple intersecting pillars, and centres grassroots and local actors and feminist movements – has the potential to reduce violence against women and girls 70-90 per cent more effectively than other approaches. The study also demonstrated that even moderate investments can greatly reduce violence. For an additional roughly USD 317 million, for example, the Spotlight Initiative’s work could further reduce the prevalence of violence in target communities from one in three to one in five women and girls within a decade. Imagine what can be done with two or three times this amount.

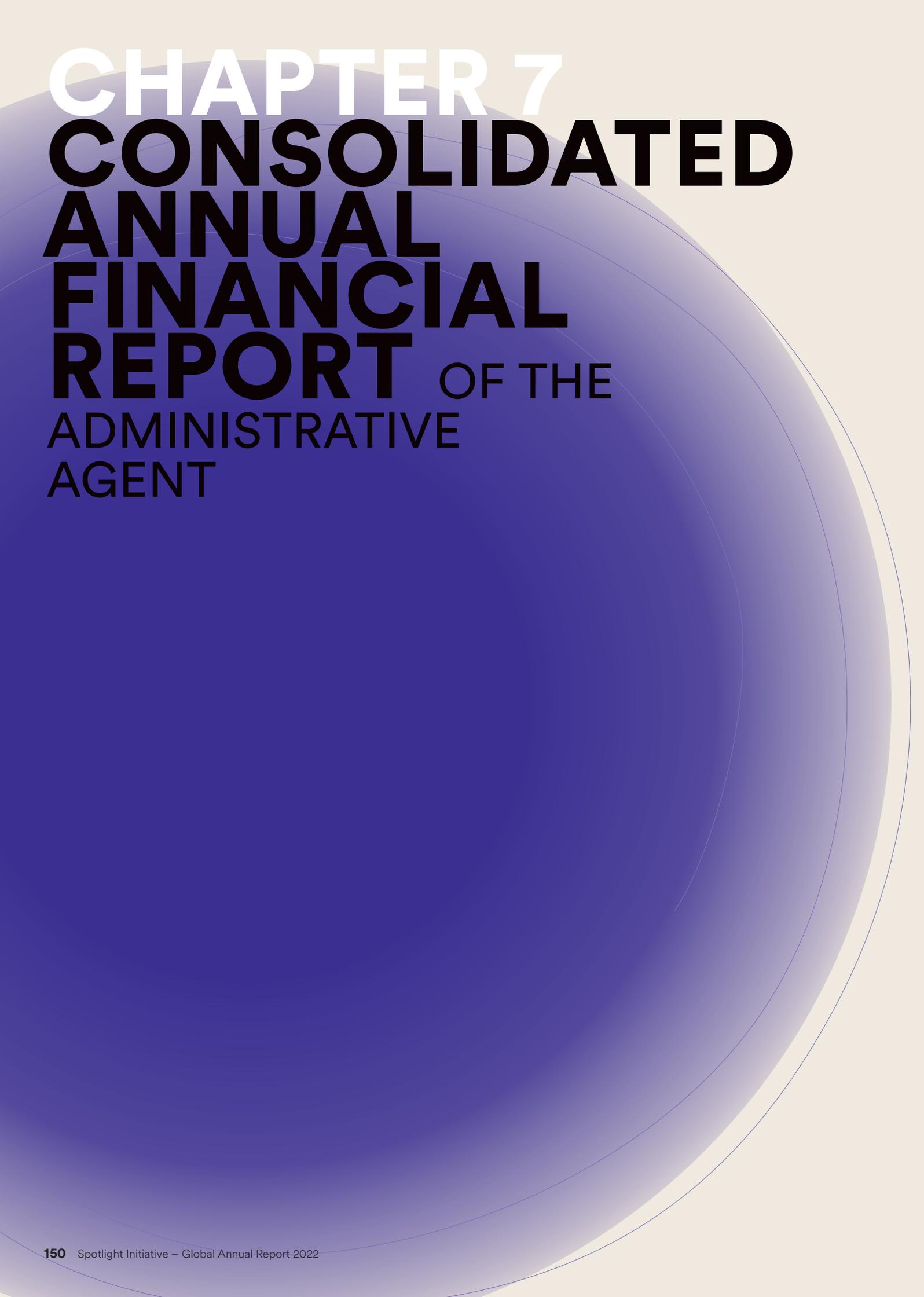
6.3

The Spotlight Initiative 2.0: A Call to Action to Invest

As this report has highlighted, the world continues to witness a rollback of the rights of women and girls and, in many places,

Ending violence against all women and girls around the world is possible; and together – with sustained and meaningful investment – we can do it.

We invite the donor community, governments, partners, experts, advocates – and all of us – to join the Spotlight Initiative and support what we know works!



CHAPTER 7

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE FUND FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
United Nations Development Programme
GATEWAY: <https://mptf.undp.org>

May 2023

INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the UN, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Recipient UN Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Recipient UN Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/sif00>)

2022

Financial Performance

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2022**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/sif00>.

DEFINITIONS

ALLOCATION

Amount approved by the Operational Steering Committee for a project/programme.

APPROVED PROJECT/PROGRAMME

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Operational Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

CONTRIBUTOR COMMITMENT

Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

CONTRIBUTOR DEPOSIT

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

DELIVERY RATE

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Recipient Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organizations.

INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Recipient Organizations. UNSDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs for inter-agency pass-through MPTFs.

NET FUNDED AMOUNT

Amount transferred to a Recipient Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Recipient Organization.

RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Recipient Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Recipient Organization follows for donor reporting.

PROJECT FINANCIAL CLOSURE

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

PROJECT OPERATIONAL CLOSURE

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Recipient Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

PROJECT START DATE

Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Operational Steering Committee.

US DOLLAR AMOUNT

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars

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1. Sources and Uses of Funds

As of 31 December 2022, 3 contributors deposited US\$ 526,918,054 and US\$ 2,325,999 was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 529,244,052.

Of this amount, US\$ 500,477,803 has been net funded to 11 Recipient Organizations, of which US\$ 386,680,418 has been reported as expenditure.

Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund** as of 31 December 2022.

Table 1
Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2021	Annual 2022	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	127,746,919	43,310,708	526,918,054
Sub-total Contributions	127,746,919	43,310,708	526,918,054
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	145,295	361,439	2,325,999
Total: Sources of Funds	127,892,214	43,672,147	529,244,052
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Recipient Organizations	93,952,038	93,287,751	482,302,326
Refunds received from Recipient Organizations	(2,477,109)	-	(2,477,109)
Net Funded Amount	91,474,929	93,287,751	479,825,217
Administrative Agent Fees	405	-	735
Direct Costs	5,647,668	4,464,798	20,652,585
Bank Charges	1,340	1,046	4,793
Other Expenditures	1,887,729	-	5,186,067
Total: Uses of Funds	99,012,071	97,753,595	505,669,398
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	28,880,144	(54,081,449)	23,574,655
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	48,775,960	77,656,103	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	77,656,103	23,574,655	23,574,655
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	97,122,597	97,752,549	500,477,803
Recipient Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	148,784,069	117,284,927	386,680,418
Balance of Funds with Recipient Organizations	(51,661,472)	(19,532,378)	113,797,385

2. Partner Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2022**.

The Spotlight Initiative Fund is currently being financed by **3** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December **2022** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2022**.

Table 2
Contributions, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022 Deposits	Total Deposits
Government of Albania	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
European Union	530,602,756	483,533,872	43,310,708	526,844,580
Government of Portugal	68,474	68,474	-	68,474
Grand Total	530,676,230	483,607,346	43,310,708	526,918,054

3. Interest Earned

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Recipient Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2022**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **2,325,999**.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3
Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

	Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Total
Administrative Agent				
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income		1,964,560	361,439	2,325,999
Total: Fund Earned Interest		1,964,560	361,439	2,325,999
Recipient Organization				
Total: Agency earned interest		-	-	-
Grand Total		1,964,560	361,439	2,325,999

4. Transfer of Funds

Allocations to Recipient Organizations are approved by the Operational Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December **2022**, the AA has transferred US\$ **482,302,326** to **11** Recipient Organizations (see list below) for the programme implementation in countries selected by the Operational Steering Committee: 8 countries and 1 Regional Programme in Africa, 6 countries Programme and 1 Regional Programme in Latin America, 3 countries and 2 Regional Programmes in Asia, 6 countries and 1 Regional Programme in Caribbean, 4 countries and 1 Regional Programme. in Pacific, 3 UNWomen CSOs Regional and 3 CSO Country Programmes. Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Recipient Organizations.

Transfer By Region/Countries

Table 4.1 provides additional information on the approved and net funded amounts per Region/Country.

Table 4
Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Recipient Organization (in US Dollars)

Recipient Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021			Current Year Jan-Dec-2022			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
ILO	14,974,753	-	14,974,753	4,235,475	-	4,235,475	19,210,228	-	19,210,228
IOM	479,062	-	479,062	156,065	-	156,065	635,127	-	635,127
OHCHR	1,698,369	-	1,698,369	308,484	-	308,484	2,006,853	-	2,006,853
PAHO/WHO	750,038	-	750,038	264,824	-	264,824	1,014,862	-	1,014,862
UNWOMEN	144,597,274	-910,137	143,678,137	26,129,219	-	26,129,219	170,726,494	-910,137	169,816,357
UNDP	71,637,988	-785,772	70,852,216	18,558,011	-	18,558,011	90,195,999	-785,772	89,410,227
UNESCO	3,647,204	-153,666	3,493,538	1,011,823	-	1,011,823	4,659,027	-153,666	4,505,361
UNFPA	84,775,150	-465,363	84,309,787	22,280,395	-	22,280,395	107,055,545	-465,363	106,590,182
UNHCR	3,256,694	-	3,256,694	429,438	-	429,438	3,686,132	-	3,686,132
UNICEF	61,903,554	-162,171	61,741,383	19,396,687	-	19,396,687	81,300,241	-162,171	81,138,070
UNODC	1,294,489	-	1,294,489	517,329	-	517,329	1,811,818	-	1,811,818
Grand Total	389,014,575	-2,477,109	386,537,466	93,287,751	-	93,287,751	482,302,326	-2,477,109	479,825,217

Table 4.1

Approved and Net Funded Amount by Regions/Countries, as of 31 December 2022
(in US Dollars)

Region / Project No.	Project Title	Total Approved	Year Jan-Dec 2021 Net Funded	Year Jan-Dec 2022 Net Funded	Total Net Funded
Africa					
119124	Africa Regional Programme	25,620,000	4,248,000	8,440,239	18,688,239
112285	Liberia Spotlight Programme	22,634,286	5,000,000	1,790,286	22,634,286
111640	Malawi Spotlight Programme	28,571,429	5,000,000	3,571,429	28,571,429
111641	Mali Spotlight Programme	25,714,287	-	7,714,286	25,714,286
111642	Mozambique Spotlight Programme	28,571,429	5,000,000	3,571,429	28,571,429
111643	Niger Spotlight Programme	24,285,715	-	7,285,715	24,285,715
112286	Nigeria Spotlight Programme	35,714,286	-	10,714,286	35,714,286
117245	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - AF	20,636,792	-	-	20,636,792
117247	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS WPHF	7,075,472	-	-	7,075,472
111644	Uganda Spotlight Programme	31,428,571	5,000,000	4,428,571	31,428,570
111645	Zimbabwe Spotlight Programme	30,000,000	5,000,000	3,999,999	29,999,999
Africa: Total		280,252,267	29,248,000	51,516,240	273,320,503
Asia					
119460	Afghanistan Spotlight Programme	16,500,000	-	2,602,907	7,552,907
119463	Asia Spotlight Regional Programme	5,309,298	2,748,980	-	4,248,584
119461	Kyrgyzstan Spotlight Programme	6,714,286	-	2,014,286	6,714,286
108309	Safe and Fair	29,370,587	6,212,514	6,382,407	29,370,587
123503	SPOTLIGHT WPHF AFGHANISTAN	2,000,000	800,000	500,000	2,000,000
119462	Tajikistan Spotlight Programme	7,000,000	2,940,000	2,100,000	7,000,000
Asia: Total		66,894,171	12,701,494	13,599,600	56,886,364
Caribbean					
119130	Belize Spotlight Programme	3,535,714	1,435,500	1,045,107	3,470,607
119464	Caribbean Spotlight Regional Programme	9,552,830	-	5,731,698	9,552,830
119131	Grenada Spotlight Programme	2,357,143	990,000	-	1,650,000
119132	Guyana Spotlight Programme	5,285,714	2,220,000	-	3,700,000
119133	Haiti Spotlight Programme	14,142,857	5,940,001	-	9,900,000
119134	Jamaica Spotlight Programme	9,428,571	3,960,000	2,828,571	9,428,571
123504	SPOTLIGHT WPHF HAITI	2,000,000	800,000	500,000	2,000,000
119135	Trinidad and Tobago Spotlight	5,285,714	2,220,001	1,585,714	5,285,714
Caribbean: Total		51,588,543	17,565,502	11,691,090	44,987,722
Latin America					
111637	Argentina Spotlight Programme	7,714,286	2,314,286	-	7,714,286
125139	Ecuador Spotlight Programme	2,900,000	1,739,999	-	2,900,000
112283	El Salvador Spotlight Programme	10,285,713	3,085,713	-	10,285,713
111638	Guatemala Spotlight Programme	5,400,000	-2,477,109	-	20,387
112284	Honduras Spotlight Programme	10,285,714	3,085,714	-	10,285,714
116744	Latin America Regional Programme	5,000,000	1,500,000	-	5,000,000
111639	Mexico Spotlight Programme	9,000,000	-	2,700,000	9,000,000
117246	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - LA	5,660,378	-	-	5,660,378
Latin America: Total		56,246,091	9,248,603	2,700,000	50,866,478
Pacific					
119129	Pacific Regional Programme	8,845,687	5,427,830	1,767,857	8,845,687
119125	Papua New Guinea Spotlight Programme	22,400,000	9,408,000	6,720,000	22,400,000
119126	Samoa Spotlight Programme	4,142,857	-	-	2,900,000
123505	SPOTLIGHT WPHF PNG	2,000,000	500,000	-	2,000,000
119127	Timor-Leste Spotlight Programme	14,142,857	5,940,000	4,242,857	14,142,857
119128	Vanuatu Spotlight Programme	3,535,714	1,435,500	1,050,107	3,475,607
Pacific: Total		55,067,115	22,711,330	13,780,821	53,764,151
Grand Total		510,048,187	91,474,929	93,287,751	479,825,217

5. Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Recipient Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2022** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/sif00>.

5.1 Expenditure Reported by Recipient Organization, Region / Countries

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **479,825,217** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Recipient Organizations amount to US\$ **368,995,598**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **76.9** percent.

Tables 5.1, 5.1a and 5.1b provide additional information on the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and financial delivery rates by Region and RUNO.

Direct cost transferred amounts and expenditures reported (Secretariat and AA) are reflected in the Section 8. Direct Costs.

Table 5.1
Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Recipient Organization,
as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Cumulative	
ILO	19,210,230	19,210,228	8,819,188	4,143,917	12,963,106	67.48
IOM	635,128	635,127	349,492	131,354	480,846	75.71
OHCHR	2,006,853	2,006,853	1,363,882	271,415	1,635,297	81.49
PAHO/WHO	1,174,381	1,014,862	430,721	254,237	684,958	67.49
UNDP	94,238,774	89,410,227	46,583,355	23,339,551	69,922,906	78.20
UNESCO	5,054,611	4,505,361	2,767,487	1,872,197	3,639,684	80.79
UNFPA	115,669,806	106,590,182	61,900,390	24,965,771	86,866,161	81.50
UNHCR	3,686,132	3,686,132	3,004,217	591,282	3,595,499	97.54
UNICEF	86,405,122	81,138,070	44,142,898	19,339,466	63,482,364	78.24
UNODC	1,811,818	1,811,818	1,112,606	209,262	1,321,868	72.96
UNWOMEN	180,155,332	169,816,357	86,454,613	37,948,297	124,402,910	73.26
Grand Total	510,048,187	479,825,217	256,928,849	112,066,749	368,995,598	76.90

Table 5.1a
Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Region and Recipient Organization,
as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

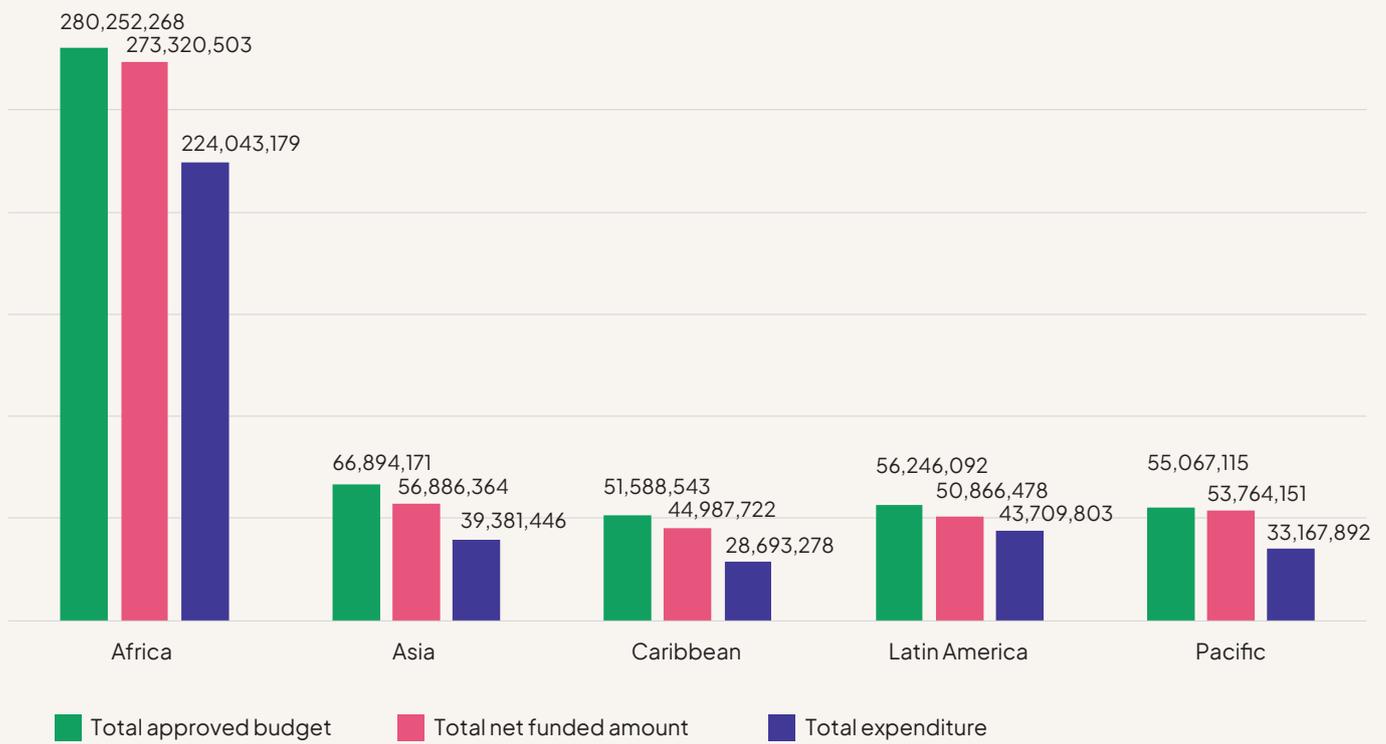
Region	Recipient Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Africa					
	ILO	1,177,208	1,177,208	972,027	82.57
	OHCHR	1,421,804	1,421,804	1,205,888	84.81
	UNDP	49,353,500	49,353,496	41,286,074	83.65
	UNESCO	3,755,362	3,755,362	3,008,947	80.12
	UNFPA	72,607,073	69,719,609	60,775,642	87.17
	UNHCR	3,686,132	3,686,132	3,595,499	97.54
	UNICEF	55,984,283	52,576,148	41,913,460	79.72
	UNWOMEN	92,266,906	91,630,744	71,285,642	77.80
	Africa: Total	280,252,268	273,320,503	224,043,179	81.97
Asia					
	ILO	16,334,125	16,334,125	10,666,676	65.30
	UNDP	6,349,361	5,523,887	4,104,421	74.30
	UNFPA	8,801,962	5,124,926	3,586,593	69.98
	UNICEF	6,156,711	6,156,712	4,621,553	75.07
	UNODC	391,555	391,555	295,182	75.39
	UNWOMEN	28,860,456	23,355,158	16,107,021	68.97
	Asia: Total	66,894,170	56,886,364	39,381,446	69.23
Caribbean					
	PAHO/WHO	1,174,381	1,014,862	684,958	67.49
	UNDP	12,747,305	10,793,822	6,599,322	61.14
	UNFPA	10,411,660	9,216,232	5,928,516	64.33
	UNICEF	9,973,853	8,740,141	6,657,187	76.17
	UNWOMEN	17,281,344	15,222,665	8,823,295	57.96
	Caribbean: Total	51,588,543	44,987,722	28,693,278	63.78
Latin America					
	ILO	744,821	744,820	734,847	98.66
	OHCHR	585,049	585,049	429,408	73.40
	UNDP	13,599,504	11,978,420	10,172,227	84.92
	UNESCO	341,480	-	-	N/A
	UNFPA	11,866,954	10,832,815	9,727,823	89.80
	UNICEF	5,191,078	4,830,697	4,711,912	97.54
	UNODC	1,420,262	1,420,263	1,026,686	72.29
	UNWOMEN	22,496,942	20,474,414	16,906,899	82.58
	Latin America: Total	56,246,092	50,866,478	43,709,803	85.93
Pacific					
	ILO	954,075	954,075	589,555	61.79
	IOM	635,128	635,127	480,846	75.71
	UNDP	12,189,103	11,760,602	7,760,863	65.99
	UNESCO	957,769	749,999	630,737	84.10
	UNFPA	11,982,156	11,696,600	6,847,587	58.54
	UNICEF	9,099,197	8,834,372	5,578,253	63.14
	UNWOMEN	19,249,687	19,133,376	11,280,053	58.95
	Pacific: Total	55,067,115	53,764,151	33,167,893	61.69
	Grand Total	510,048,187	479,825,217	368,995,598	76.90

Table 5.1b

Expenditure by Region/Project, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Region / Project No	Region	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Africa					
119124	Africa Regional Programme	25,620,001	18,688,239	11,980,784	64.11
112285	Liberia Spotlight Programme	22,634,286	22,634,286	18,885,121	83.44
111640	Malawi Spotlight Programme	28,571,429	28,571,429	24,769,712	86.69
111641	Mali Spotlight Programme	25,714,287	25,714,286	21,940,639	85.32
111642	Mozambique Spotlight Programme	28,571,429	28,571,429	24,915,677	87.20
111643	Niger Spotlight Programme	24,285,715	24,285,715	20,356,230	83.82
112286	Nigeria Spotlight Programme	35,714,286	35,714,286	27,873,484	78.05
117245	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - AF	20,636,792	20,636,792	14,619,847	70.84
117247	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS WPHF	7,075,472	7,075,472	6,017,478	85.05
111644	Uganda Spotlight Programme	31,428,571	31,428,570	26,591,099	84.61
111645	Zimbabwe Spotlight Programme	30,000,000	29,999,999	26,093,107	86.98
Africa: Total		280,252,268	273,320,503	224,043,179	81.97
Asia					
119460	Afghanistan Spotlight Programme	16,500,000	7,552,907	4,762,894	63.06
119463	Asia Spotlight Regional Programme	5,309,298	4,248,584	3,585,416	84.39
119461	Kyrgyzstan Spotlight Programme	6,714,286	6,714,286	5,489,387	81.76
108309	Safe and Fair	29,370,587	29,370,587	21,257,481	72.38
123503	SPOTLIGHT WPHF AFGHANISTAN	2,000,000	2,000,000	188,033	9.40
119462	Tajikistan Spotlight Programme	7,000,000	7,000,000	4,098,235	58.55
Asia: Total		66,894,171	56,886,364	39,381,446	69.33
Caribbean					
119130	Belize Spotlight Programme	3,535,714	3,470,607	2,141,750	61.71
119464	Caribbean Spotlight Regional Programme	9,552,830	9,552,830	4,724,134	49.45
119131	Grenada Spotlight Programme	2,357,143	1,650,000	1,382,907	83.81
119132	Guyana Spotlight Programme	5,285,714	3,700,000	2,301,770	62.21
119133	Haiti Spotlight Programme	14,142,857	9,900,000	8,505,870	85.92
119134	Jamaica Spotlight Programme	9,428,571	9,428,571	5,141,114	54.53
123504	SPOTLIGHT WPHF HAITI	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,446,920	72.35
119135	Trinidad and Tobago Spotlight	5,285,714	5,285,714	3,048,814	57.68
Caribbean: Total		51,588,543	44,987,722	28,693,278	63.78
Latin America					
111637	Argentina Spotlight Programme	7,714,286	7,714,286	6,526,359	84.60
125139	Ecuador Spotlight Programme	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,748,244	94.77
112283	El Salvador Spotlight Programme	10,285,714	10,285,713	9,947,964	96.72
111638	Guatemala Spotlight Programme	5,400,000	20,387	20,390	100.02
112284	Honduras Spotlight Programme	10,285,714	10,285,714	8,871,089	86.25
116744	Latin America Regional Programme	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,551,601	91.03
111639	Mexico Spotlight Programme	9,000,000	9,000,000	7,220,148	80.22
117246	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - LA	5,660,378	5,660,378	3,824,007	67.56
Latin America: Total		56,246,092	50,866,478	43,709,803	85.93
Pacific					
119129	Pacific Regional Programme	8,845,687	8,845,687	4,958,197	56.05
119125	Papua New Guinea Spotlight Programme	22,400,000	22,400,000	13,461,571	60.10
119126	Samoa Spotlight Programme	4,142,857	2,900,000	2,504,501	86.36
123505	SPOTLIGHT WPHF PNG	2,000,000	2,000,000	750,067	37.50
119127	Timor-Leste Spotlight Programme	14,142,857	14,142,857	9,461,671	66.90
119128	Vanuatu Spotlight Programme	3,535,714	3,475,607	2,031,885	58.46
Pacific: Total		55,067,115	53,764,151	33,167,892	61.69
Grand Total		510,048,187	479,825,217	368,995,598	76.90

Figure 1: Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditure by Region (USD, as of 31 December 2022)



5.2. Expenditures Reported by Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. All expenditure incurred are reported in the eight categories. See tables below (5.2a; 5.2b; 5.2c; 5.2d and 5.2e) for the reported expenditure by Region.

Table 5.2.
Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditures			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years Cumulative as of 31-Dec-2021	Current Year Jan-Dec-2022	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	28,843,445	13,304,834	42,148,279	12.22
Supplies, commodities and materials	7,704,602	1,667,429	9,372,031	2.72
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	6,820,499	1,562,749	8,383,248	2.43
Contractual Services Expenses	54,337,942	26,318,811	80,656,753	23.39
Travel	6,812,440	5,757,623	12,570,062	3.64
Transfers and Grants	110,609,281	45,062,879	155,672,161	45.14
General Operating	24,961,954	11,102,405	36,064,359	10.46
Programme Costs Total	240,090,163	104,776,730	344,866,893	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	16,838,686	7,290,019	24,128,705	7.00
Grand Total	256,928,849	112,066,749	368,995,598	-

Table 5.2a
Africa Region Expenditure Reported by Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Amount	Total Expenditure reported	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff and personnel costs	30,709,983	22,969,623	10.97
Supplies, commodities and materials	8,650,020	7,381,225	3.53
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	5,624,310	5,882,206	2.81
Contractual Services	40,937,823	30,498,964	14.57
Travel	13,299,357	9,244,410	4.42
Transfers and Grants	148,398,234	109,289,843	52.20
General Operating	14,298,280	24,118,831	11.52
Programme Costs Total	261,918,008	209,385,102	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	18,334,261	14,658,077	7.00
Total	280,252,268	224,043,179	

1. **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Recipient Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Table 5.2b

Asia Region Expenditure Reported by Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Amount	Total Expenditure reported	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff and personnel costs	13,939,593	10,066,199	27.35
Supplies, commodities and materials	114,979	273,960	0.74
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	567,177	343,325	0.93
Contractual Services	24,525,008	14,516,658	39.44
Travel	2,208,116	871,135	2.37
Transfers and Grants	17,808,611	7,318,312	19.88
General Operating	3,354,433	3,417,214	9.28
Programme Costs Total	62,517,916	36,806,803	100
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	4,376,254	2,574,643	7.00
Total	66,894,170	39,381,446	

Table 5.2c

Caribbean Region Expenditure Reported by Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Amount	Total Expenditure reported	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff and personnel costs	6,454,839	3,269,337	12.19
Supplies, commodities and materials	629,511	386,661	1.44
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	825,026	550,685	2.05
Contractual Services	14,543,179	9,770,214	36.42
Travel	2,556,383	637,709	2.38
Transfers and Grants	21,007,328	10,736,827	40.02
General Operating	4,270,895	1,475,952	5.50
Programme Costs Total	50,287,161	26,827,387	100
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	3,520,101	1,865,891	6.96
Total	51,588,543	28,693,278	

Table 5.2d

Latin America Region Expenditure Reported by Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Amount	Total Expenditure reported	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff and personnel costs	2,857,304	1,615,561	3.95
Supplies, commodities and materials	1,408,877	640,365	1.57
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	1,618,330	1,335,678	3.27
Contractual Services	23,555,728	17,846,525	43.69
Travel	1,139,871	530,770	1.30
Transfers and Grants	18,914,449	15,419,281	37.75
General Operating	3,071,879	3,462,110	8.48
Programme Costs Total	52,566,439	40,850,291	100
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	3,679,652	2,859,511	7.00
Total	56,246,092	43,709,803	

1. **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Recipient Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Table 5.2e
Pacific Region Expenditure Reported by Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Amount	Total Expenditure reported	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff and personnel costs	8,417,415	4,227,559	13.64
Supplies, commodities and materials	965,821	689,820	2.23
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	66,263	271,353	0.88
Contractual Services	12,382,878	8,024,391	25.89
Travel	2,018,270	1,286,037	4.15
Transfers and Grants	24,824,047	12,907,898	41.64
General Operating	2,789,900	3,590,252	11.58
Programme Costs Total	51,464,594	30,997,311	100
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	3,602,522	1,300,450	7.00
Total	55,067,116	33,167,893	

6. Cost Recovery

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Recipient Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNSDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2022, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee: 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2022, US\$ 735 has been charged in AA-fees.**
- **Indirect Costs of Recipient Organizations:** Recipient Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **7,290,019** was deducted in indirect costs by Recipient Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **24,128,705** as of 31 December **2022**.

7. Accountability and Transparency

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Recipient Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. Direct Costs

In the reporting period, direct costs transfers amounted to US\$ **4,464,798**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2022**, the total of US\$ **25,838,653** has been transferred as Direct Costs, including US\$ **19,885,248** as Direct Costs for the Secretariat, US\$ **767,337** for the Spotlight Global Platform and US\$ **5,186,067** for the Administrative Agent. Overall, US\$ **21,187,219** was reported in expenditure. This equates to an expenditure delivery rate of **82** percent for the Direct Cost.

Table 8.1
Total Transferred and Expenditure of the Secretariat and Administrative Agent
Direct Costs by RUNOs, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Recipient Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2021		Current Year Jan-Dec-2022		Total		Delivery Rate, %
	Transfers	Expeiture	Transfers	Expenditure	Transfers	Expenditure	
UNDP	6,832,311	4,437,746	2,372,385	2,000,994	9,204,696	6,438,739	69.95
UNFPA	65,190	63,408	0	0	65,190	63,408	97.27
UNWOMEN*	9,290,287	7,965,488	2,092,413	3,217,185	11,382,700	11,182,672	98.24
AA/UNDP	5,186,067	2,906,848	0	595,552	5,186,067	3,502,400	67.53
Grand Total	21,373,855	15,373,490	4,464,798	5,813,731	25,838,653	21,187,219	82.00

* Includes Spotlight Global Platform

Table 8.2
Total Approved and Expenditure amount of the Secretariat and Administrative Agent
by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2022 (in US Dollars)

Category	Secretariat Management Unit		Secretariat Technical Unit (incl. UNFPA and Global Platform)		Administrative Agent		TOTAL	
	Amount Approved	Expenditure Reported	Amount Approved	Expenditure Reported	Amount Approved	Expenditure Reported	Amount Approved	Expenditure Reported
Staff and personnel costs	6,203,788	3,955,988	6,988,387	6,470,336	3,835,268	2,867,804	17,027,443	13,294,128
Supplies, commodities and materials	0	0	426,637	25,251	0	0	426,637	25,251
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	41,689	26,551	76,000	21,769	0	0	117,689	48,320
Contractual Services	993,440	1,081,063	1,296,005	1,364,802	210,000	0	2,499,445	2,445,865
Travel	362,576	231,654	599,000	493,058	323,000	62,536	1,284,576	787,248
Transfers and Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Operating	1,001,027	722,279	1,312,933	2,135,140	478,524	342,931	2,792,484	3,200,350
Total Direct costs	8,602,520	6,017,534	10,698,962	10,510,356	4,846,792	3,273,271	24,148,274	19,801,161
Indirect Costs Total	602,176	421,204	748,927	735,725	339,275	229,129	1,690,378	1,386,058
Total	9,204,696	6,438,739	11,447,889	11,246,081	5,186,067	3,502,400	25,838,652	21,187,219

ANNEX 1. Expenditure By Project Grouped By Country

Table Annex 1
Expenditure by Project, grouped by Country

Country / Project No. and Project Title	Recipient Organization	Total Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Afghanistan					
00119460 Afghanistan Spotlight Programme	UNDP	1,268,797	824,718	475,136	57.61
	UNFPA	4,804,967	1,441,490	988,884	68.60
	UNICEF	3,084,040	3,084,040	2,279,738	73.92
	UNWOMEN	7,342,196	2,202,659	1,019,136	46.27
Afghanistan: Total		16,500,000	7,552,907	4,762,894	63.06
Argentina					
00111637 Argentina Spotlight Programme	ILO	744,820	744,820	734,847	98.66
	UNDP	2,434,295	2,434,295	1,929,159	79.25
	UNFPA	2,103,700	2,103,700	1,811,067	86.09
	UNICEF	202,230	202,230	147,060	72.72
	UNODC	64,200	64,200	1,831	2.85
	UNWOMEN	2,165,041	2,165,041	1,902,395	87.87
Argentina: Total		7,714,286	7,714,286	6,526,359	84.60
Belize					
00119130 Belize Spotlight Programme	UNDP	1,268,922	1,208,815	848,881	70.22
	UNFPA	888,725	883,725	459,586	52.01
	UNICEF	1,378,067	1,378,067	833,283	60.47
Belize: Total		3,535,714	3,470,607	2,141,750	61.71
Ecuador					
00125139 Ecuador Spotlight Programme	UNDP	698,079	698,079	696,130	99.72
	UNFPA	698,079	698,079	697,238	99.88
	UNWOMEN	1,503,842	1,503,842	1,354,877	90.09
Ecuador: Total		2,900,000	2,900,000	2,748,244	94.77
El Salvador					
00112283 El Salvador Spotlight Programme	UNDP	3,043,965	3,043,965	2,873,731	94.41
	UNFPA	2,315,828	2,315,828	2,307,897	99.66
	UNICEF	2,286,059	2,286,059	2,274,170	99.48
	UNWOMEN	2,639,861	2,639,861	2,492,167	94.41
El Salvador: Total		10,285,713	10,285,713	9,947,964	96.72

Global and Interregional

00108309	Safe and Fair	ILO	16,334,125	16,334,125	10,666,676	65.30
		UNWOMEN	13,036,461	13,036,461	10,590,805	81.24
		UNDP	1,501,795	1,501,795	1,384,997	92.22
00116744	Latin America Regional Program	UNFPA	1,501,795	1,501,795	1,413,020	94.09
		UNWOMEN	1,996,410	1,996,410	1,753,583	87.84
		UNDP	2,134,479	2,134,479	1,199,723	56.21
00117245	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - AF	UNWOMEN	20,636,792	20,636,792	14,619,847	70.84
00117246	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS UNTFEVAW - LA	UNWOMEN	5,660,378	5,660,378	3,824,007	67.56
00117247	SPOTLIGHT GRANTS WPHF	UNWOMEN	7,075,472	7,075,472	6,017,478	85.05
		UNDP	2,134,479	2,134,479	1,199,723	56.21
		UNFPA	10,625,993	7,738,530	5,996,329	77.49
00119124	Africa Regional Programme	UNICEF	9,404,872	5,996,737	2,949,730	49.19
		UNWOMEN	3,454,656	2,818,493	1,835,002	65.11
		IOM	190,571	190,571	189,394	99.38
00119129	Pacific Regional Programme	UNDP	1,031,764	1,031,764	765,126	74.16
		UNFPA	1,867,101	1,867,101	965,929	51.73
		UNICEF	978,890	978,890	612,594	62.58
00119463	Asia Spotlight Regional Programme	UNWOMEN	4,777,361	4,777,361	2,425,155	50.76
		UNDP	1,400,351	1,018,957	960,064	94.22
		UNFPA	1,001,569	688,010	645,711	93.85
00119464	Caribbean Spotlight Regional Programme	UNWOMEN	2,907,378	2,541,617	1,979,641	77.89
		UNDP	1,893,461	1,893,461	735,187	38.83
		UNFPA	1,480,025	1,490,725	821,856	55.13
00119464	Caribbean Spotlight Regional Programme	UNICEF	1,452,799	1,452,799	1,102,093	75.86
		UNWOMEN	4,726,545	4,715,845	2,064,998	43.79
		UNDP	2,000,000	2,000,000	188,033	9.40
00123504	SPOTLIGHT WPHF HAITI	UNWOMEN	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,446,920	72.35
00123505	SPOTLIGHT WPHF PNG	UNWOMEN	2,000,000	2,000,000	750,067	37.50
Global and Interregional: Total			123,071,043	115,078,569	77,903,966	67.70
Grenada						
00119131	Grenada Spotlight Programme	PAHO/WHO	531,729	372,210	345,127	92.72
		UNDP	519,318	363,523	294,002	80.88
		UNICEF	294,970	206,479	194,829	94.36
		UNWOMEN	1,011,126	707,788	548,948	77.56
Grenada: Total			2,357,143	1,650,000	1,382,907	83.81
Guatemala						
00111638	Guatemala Spotlight Programme	UNDP	1,641,474	20,387	20,390	100.02
		UNESCO	341,480	-	-	-
		UNFPA	1,034,140	-	-	-
		UNICEF	360,380	-	-	-
		UNWOMEN	2,022,526	-	-	-
Guatemala: Total			5,400,000	20,387	20,390	100.02
Guyana						
00119132	Guyana Spotlight Programme	UNDP	1,013,603	787,875	330,612	41.96
		UNFPA	1,748,030	1,223,524	775,194	63.36
		UNICEF	1,271,264	793,243	690,266	87.02
		UNWOMEN	1,252,816	895,358	505,699	56.48
Guyana: Total			5,285,714	3,700,000	2,301,770	62.21
Haiti						
00119133	Haiti Spotlight Programme	UNDP	4,289,009	2,777,156	1,941,688	69.92
		UNFPA	2,792,554	2,115,931	1,917,562	90.62
		UNICEF	2,601,974	1,934,775	1,902,340	98.32
		UNWOMEN	4,459,320	3,072,138	2,744,279	89.33
Haiti: Total			14,142,857	9,900,000	8,505,870	85.92
Honduras						
00112284	Honduras Spotlight Programme	UNDP	2,936,255	2,936,255	2,371,329	80.76
		UNFPA	2,062,007	2,062,007	1,832,540	88.87
		UNICEF	1,625,381	1,625,381	1,575,032	96.90
		UNWOMEN	3,662,071	3,662,071	3,092,189	84.44
Honduras: Total			10,285,714	10,285,714	8,871,089	86.25

Jamaica						
		UNDP	2,264,773	2,264,773	1,613,215	71.23
		UNFPA	2,244,654	2,244,654	1,184,418	52.77
00119134	Jamaica Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	2,351,198	2,351,198	1,509,394	64.20
		UNWOMEN	2,567,946	2,567,946	834,087	32.48
Jamaica: Total			9,428,571	9,428,571	5,141,114	54.53
Kyrgyzstan						
		UNDP	1,798,288	1,798,288	1,478,002	82.19
		UNFPA	1,271,898	1,271,898	1,096,128	86.18
		UNICEF	1,484,219	1,484,219	1,316,558	88.70
00119461	Kyrgyzstan Spotlight Programme	UNODC	391,555	391,555	295,182	75.39
		UNWOMEN	1,768,326	1,768,326	1,303,517	73.71
Kyrgyzstan: Total			6,714,286	6,714,286	5,489,387	81.76
Liberia						
		OHCHR	1,421,804	1,421,804	1,205,888	84.81
		UNDP	4,615,415	4,615,415	4,112,452	89.10
		UNFPA	6,208,800	6,208,800	5,243,425	84.45
00112285	Liberia Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	2,470,807	2,470,807	1,977,155	80.02
		UNWOMEN	7,917,460	7,917,460	6,346,201	80.15
Liberia: Total			22,634,286	22,634,286	18,885,121	83.44
Malawi						
		UNDP	7,163,251	7,163,250	6,168,001	86.11
		UNFPA	7,409,246	7,409,246	6,614,951	89.28
00111640	Malawi Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	5,941,806	5,941,806	4,857,865	81.76
		UNWOMEN	8,057,127	8,057,127	7,128,895	88.48
Malawi: Total			28,571,430	28,571,429	24,769,712	86.69
Mali						
		UNDP	3,071,802	3,071,802	2,538,703	82.65
		UNFPA	9,419,594	9,419,594	8,696,926	92.33
		UNHCR	910,987	910,987	910,987	100.00
00111641	Mali Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	6,549,740	6,549,740	5,435,011	82.98
		UNWOMEN	5,762,163	5,762,163	4,359,012	75.65
Mali: Total			25,714,286	25,714,286	21,940,639	85.32
Mexico						
		OHCHR	585,049	585,049	429,408	73.40
		UNDP	1,343,644	1,343,644	896,491	66.72
		UNFPA	2,151,406	2,151,406	1,666,060	77.44
		UNICEF	717,027	717,027	715,651	99.81
00111639	Mexico Spotlight Programme	UNODC	1,356,063	1,356,063	1,024,855	75.58
		UNWOMEN	2,846,811	2,846,811	2,487,681	87.38
Mexico: Total			9,000,000	9,000,000	7,220,148	80.22
Mozambique						
		UNDP	5,732,960	5,732,960	5,326,980	92.92
		UNFPA	8,925,741	8,925,741	7,414,408	83.07
00111642	Mozambique Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	5,472,843	5,472,843	4,508,626	82.38
		UNWOMEN	8,439,885	8,439,885	7,665,663	90.83
Mozambique: Total			28,571,429	28,571,429	24,915,677	87.20
Niger (the)						
		UNDP	5,887,686	5,887,686	5,119,151	86.95
		UNFPA	7,956,988	7,956,988	7,300,258	91.75
00111643	Niger Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	6,273,991	6,273,991	5,179,940	82.56
		UNWOMEN	4,167,050	4,167,050	2,756,881	66.16
Niger (the): Total			24,285,715	24,285,715	20,356,230	83.82
Nigeria						
		UNDP	8,862,687	8,862,687	6,223,813	70.22
		UNESCO	2,608,098	2,608,098	2,092,701	80.24
		UNFPA	9,020,459	9,020,459	7,892,246	87.49
00112286	Nigeria Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	4,998,326	4,998,326	4,080,276	81.63
		UNWOMEN	10,224,716	10,224,716	7,584,447	74.18
Nigeria: Total			35,714,286	35,714,286	27,873,484	78.05

Papua New Guinea						
		UNDP	5,417,820	5,417,820	3,143,167	58.02
		UNFPA	5,558,854	5,558,854	3,402,012	61.20
00119125	Papua New Guinea Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	4,444,079	4,444,079	2,718,024	61.16
		UNWOMEN	6,979,247	6,979,247	4,198,368	60.16
Papua New Guinea: Total			22,400,000	22,400,000	13,461,571	60.10
Samoa						
		UNDP	1,321,631	893,130	875,970	98.08
		UNESCO	957,769	749,999	630,737	84.10
		UNFPA	773,441	547,992	355,460	64.87
00119126	Samoa Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	451,005	186,180	165,819	89.06
		UNWOMEN	639,011	522,699	476,515	91.16
Samoa: Total			4,142,857	2,900,000	2,504,501	86.36
Tajikistan						
		UNDP	1,881,924	1,881,924	1,191,218	63.30
		UNFPA	1,723,528	1,723,528	855,871	49.66
00119462	Tajikistan Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	1,588,453	1,588,453	1,025,257	64.54
		UNWOMEN	1,806,095	1,806,095	1,025,889	56.80
Tajikistan: Total			7,000,000	7,000,000	4,098,235	58.55
Timor-Leste						
		ILO	954,075	954,075	589,555	61.79
		UNDP	3,509,421	3,509,421	2,444,664	69.66
		UNFPA	2,303,059	2,303,059	1,278,473	55.51
00119127	Timor-Leste Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	2,522,233	2,522,233	1,719,032	68.16
		UNWOMEN	4,854,069	4,854,069	3,429,947	70.66
Timor-Leste: Total			14,142,857	14,142,857	9,461,671	66.90
Trinidad and Tobago						
		PAHO/WHO	642,652	642,652	339,830	52.88
		UNDP	1,498,219	1,498,219	835,737	55.78
		UNFPA	1,257,673	1,257,673	769,900	61.22
00119135	Trinidad and Tobago Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	623,580	623,580	424,981	68.15
		UNWOMEN	1,263,590	1,263,590	678,365	53.69
Trinidad and Tobago: Total			5,285,714	5,285,714	3,048,814	57.68
Uganda						
		UNDP	7,423,367	7,423,367	6,605,074	88.98
		UNFPA	6,985,342	6,985,342	6,066,722	86.85
		UNHCR	2,775,145	2,775,145	2,684,512	96.73
00111644	Uganda Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	5,182,545	5,182,545	4,309,338	83.15
		UNWOMEN	9,062,172	9,062,172	6,925,452	76.42
Uganda: Total			31,428,571	31,428,570	26,591,099	84.61
Vanuatu						
		IOM	444,556	444,556	291,452	65.56
		UNDP	908,467	908,467	531,936	58.55
00119128	Vanuatu Spotlight Programme	UNFPA	1,479,701	1,419,594	845,713	59.57
		UNICEF	702,990	702,990	362,785	51.61
Vanuatu: Total			3,535,714	3,475,607	2,031,885	58.46
Zimbabwe						
		ILO	1,177,209	1,177,208	972,027	82.57
		UNDP	4,461,851	4,461,851	3,992,177	89.47
		UNESCO	1,147,264	1,147,264	916,246	79.86
		UNFPA	6,054,909	6,054,909	5,550,376	91.67
00111645	Zimbabwe Spotlight Programme	UNICEF	9,689,353	9,689,353	8,615,517	88.92
		UNWOMEN	7,469,414	7,469,414	6,046,763	80.95
Zimbabwe: Total			30,000,000	29,999,999	26,093,107	86.98
Grand Total			510,048,187	479,825,217	368,995,598	76.90

RECIPIENT UN ORGANIZATIONS

 <p>International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>	<p>The International Labor Organization (ILO)</p>	 <p>The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</p>
 <p>International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p>	<p>International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p>	 <p>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p>
 <p>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p>	<p>The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p>	 <p>The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</p>
 <p>Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)</p>	<p>Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)</p>	 <p>The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p>
 <p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>	<p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>	 <p>The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)</p>
 <p>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</p>	<p>The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</p>	

CONTRIBUTORS

 <p>ALBANIA</p>	 <p>EUROPEAN UNION</p>
 <p>PORTUGAL</p>	

Annexes

Annex A: Global Results Framework 2022

Annex B: Summaries of the 2022 Programme Annual Reports

Africa

1. Liberia
2. Malawi
3. Mali
4. Mozambique
5. Niger
6. Nigeria
7. Uganda
8. Zimbabwe
9. Africa Regional Programme

Latin America

10. Argentina
11. Ecuador
12. El Salvador
13. Honduras
14. Mexico
15. Latin America Regional Programme

Asia

16. Afghanistan
17. Kyrgyzstan
18. Tajikistan
19. Central Asia and Afghanistan Regional Programme
20. Safe and Fair

Caribbean

21. Belize
22. Grenada
23. Guyana
24. Haiti
25. Jamaica
26. Trinidad and Tobago
27. Caribbean Regional Programme

Pacific

28. Papua New Guinea
29. Samoa
30. Timor-Leste
31. Vanuatu
32. Pacific Regional Programme

Civil Society Grant-Giving Programmes

33. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
34. Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Annex C: Methodology for Civil Society Funding Analysis



Spotlight Initiative

