

Spotlight Initiative

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

Annual Report

1 July 2017 - 31 March 2018

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Annual Report

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Foreword

**by the Deputy
Secretary-General**

Violence against women and girls is a global epidemic. The numbers are staggering: even the often-used statistic that one in three women and girls have experienced physical or sexual violence is a gross under-representation. Seventy per cent of human trafficking victims globally are women and girls. Early marriage continues to be a scourge on our human radar. When we consider women and girls facing multiple and intersecting violations, the numbers are even more disturbing. Women with disabilities, for example, are 10 times more likely to experience violence.

When the European Union approached us last year to join forces to end all forms of violence against women and girls and to further efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, we knew this was an endeavor whose time had come. We named this partnership the Spotlight Initiative to bring the issue of violence against women and girls out of the dark and to light a path to a better future for survivors and victims. We launched the Initiative in September 2017. Barely a month later, the #MeToo movement exploded. Since those cataclysmic early days of the movement, women from all parts of the world are showing extraordinary courage and rising in solidarity, refusing to be shamed and silenced any longer. From city streets to the corridors of power, women are calling out their abusers. I, too, said “#MeToo”.

Backed by an unprecedented €500 million commitment from the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative brings together the expertise and capacities of the United Nations, the European Union and our civil society and government partners – some of which have been working on these issues for decades and others who are new and important actors. We have designed a holistic Theory of Change that addresses root causes and invests in prevention efforts to counter the stereotypes that harm women and girls, as well as men and boys.

Photo: UN Photo/Mark Garten



For too long, critical work on women's rights and gender equality has been starved for funding, and available funds have been spread too thin, diluting impact and undermining efforts to achieve irreversible progress. The Spotlight Initiative intends in the first instance to target its investments on a focused set of countries in order to demonstrate how scaled up resources, effective partnerships and a comprehensive approach can enable a holistic response that has the potential to transform the lives of women and girls.

The Sustainable Development Goals, with firm targets on the elimination of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, will both guide our efforts and rely on our success. The equation is simple: we can only achieve the soaring ambition of the 2030 Agenda by achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and we can only achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ending violence against them.

While €500 million is an enormously generous amount of funding, it is also just a fraction of the needs. Our ambition is to use the evidence that will, in turn, secure greater, more sustained investments in women's rights and gender equality, so that the needs of all women and girls can be met and so that all actors doing this important work can rely on long-term and flexible funding.

The momentum is with us. Together we can shine a 'Spotlight' on the darkness. Together we can end violence against women and girls.

**“The Spotlight Initiative
is for the millions of
abused women and
girls around the world
who seek nothing
more than to enjoy
their human right to
participate equally
in society, unleash
their potential and
live lives of dignity.”**

Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations

Foreword

by the EU Commissioner for
International Cooperation
and Development

The EU has always championed women's and girls' rights, both within Europe and globally. Gender equality is a core European value, which has been enshrined in EU law for more than 60 years. However, we know that true gender equality will remain beyond our grasp, as long as one billion women every year – that we know of – are touched by violence.

As we have seen too clearly, this is one of the most widespread and shameful forms of violence. And it is most likely to affect those left systematically behind – women and girls in rural areas, from

minority populations, displaced by conflict, disabled, and the young and the old in particular. When multiple factors combine, the risk of violence multiplies.

The promises we made as an international community in 2015 are clear. None of the Sustainable Development Goals will be met until all of the Goals are met. And we can be certain that no Goal will be met until no woman or girl is left behind.

It is for this reason that the European Union - together with the United Nations - launched this unprecedented global movement to end all forms of violence against all women and girls in September last year. The Spotlight Initiative translates our firm commitment - to make a real and lasting difference for millions of women and girls all over the world - into concrete action.

Given the tidal wave that was unleashed in the following weeks and months, through campaigns like [#MeToo](#) and [#TimesUp](#), our [Spotlight Initiative](#) could not have been more timely. There has perhaps never been a better opportunity to harness this global momentum and to turn the darkness into light. Brave women - and men – across continents, languages, communities, and social media have had



Photo: European Commission

“Today more than ever, when the world is facing countless challenges, the EU and the UN are determined to strengthen our global partnerships - and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to leave no woman or girl behind.”

Neven Mimica
European Commissioner for International
Cooperation and Development

grassroots activists, celebrities, politicians, women and girls, men and boys.

The initial €500 million of seed-money provided by the European Union will help to target the most prevalent forms of violence - wherever they exist. But if we are really going to call time on gender-based violence – once and for all - then we need all of our partners to act, now. Together we can spark a genuinely global movement, which ensures that all women and girls can truly shine!

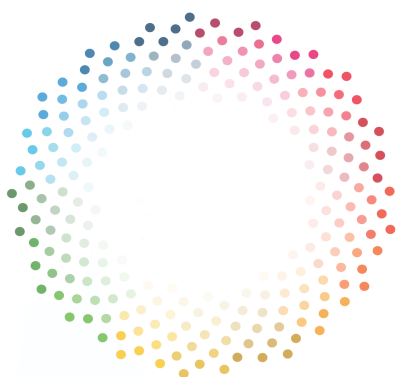
the courage to speak out. Now we must have the courage to answer their call.

Since we announced our Spotlight Initiative, we have not wasted a moment in putting it into practice. We have already launched a programme to empower female migrant workers who make up the backbone of the informal economy in Asia; we are preparing a programme to tackle femicide in Latin America, which claims 12 women’s lives every day; and a programme to tackle sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, which affect over three-quarters of women in some parts of Africa. Additional programmes for the Caribbean and the Pacific will follow shortly.

Our actions are based on decades of experience and evidence of what really works when it comes to tackling gender-based violence. And they will be combined with new ways of working – across the whole UN family and all sectors of societies, with partner countries,

Report Structure

This Annual Report covers the period from 01 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 and describes the vision of the Spotlight Initiative, its design and set-up, including progress on the design of Country and Regional Programmes and contains no development results at this early stage. Financial information is presented in adherence with the requirements specified in the contract. Information on communications and visibility efforts undertaken to promote the Initiative are provided in some detail. Since the Initiative is in its inception, the report also includes information on planned work for the next reporting period.



Spotlight Initiative

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

UN Women/Ryan Brown



Executive Summary

The Spotlight Initiative is a global partnership between the UN and the EU to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). In line with the ambitions and human rights obligations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Initiative will provide large-scale, targeted support, leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships and galvanize high-level political commitments to engender transformative change and tackle the root causes of VAWG. Capitalized by an initial commitment of €500 million from the EU, the Spotlight Initiative was launched on 20 September 2017.

While the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change (ToC) and Global Results Framework are grounded in decades of evidence on what works to end VAWG, the Initiative will model "a new way of working." It will draw on the mandates and collaborative advantages of UN agencies, funds and programmes and the expertise and capacities of the EU, civil society and government partners. The Initiative will drive progress through innovation, particularly through: a comprehensive ToC; leveraging the SDGs; assuring political buy-in and national ownership; engaging civil society; and a multi-stakeholder, collaborative approach.

The Spotlight Initiative will catalyze and fortify multi-sectoral responses to

end one of the world's most pervasive human rights violations: specifically by strengthening legislative and policy frameworks; building gender-responsive state institutions; supporting evidence-based prevention programmes to promote gender equitable social norms, attitudes, and behaviors; ensuring essential, quality services to victims; closing gaps in data; and strengthening women's rights groups and civil society organizations working for change.

The Spotlight Initiative will be inclusive. It will address the needs of all women and girls, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and it will put those furthest behind first. It will empower women and girls to act as agents of change, as well as engage civil society actors as equal partners in programme design and implementation. Interventions will also target men, boys and others with a responsibility to act. It will enable their participation by providing models of positive masculinity and changing the harmful social norms that sustain gender-based discrimination and prevent women from realizing their human rights.

Comprehensive country programming in a limited number of countries will be complemented by Regional Programmes that benefit a larger number of countries and amplify impact. The Initiative is set to work in five regions initially, with an intention to eventually be universal in line with the principles of the SDGs. The

Spotlight Initiative will focus efforts in thematic areas, including sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, domestic violence and femicide, that will serve as entry points to address the continuum of VAWG.

On 17 November 2017, the first programme under the Spotlight Initiative, titled 'Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region' was launched in Bangkok, Thailand. The €25 million UN Joint Programme led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) works towards safe and fair labor migration in 10 origin and destination countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. In these countries, the Spotlight Initiative will strengthen rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to labor migration governance; address vulnerabilities to violence and trafficking; and the support the delivery of essential services to women migrants who experience abuse. The five-year programme, which began on 1 January 2018, is focusing in its inception period on establishing governance structures and mechanisms to oversee its implementation and multi-stakeholder consultations to inform programme design.

In the Latin America region, the Spotlight Initiative programme countries are Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Following the convening of a virtual civil society consultation and a regional technical meeting in Panama, the Operational Steering Committee (OSC) approved the Latin America Investment Plan on 9 March 2018. Full-fledged Country and Regional Programme development is expected to

conclude in July this year.

Africa was the second region to begin Spotlight Initiative programming. Based on rigorous evaluation of criteria the following countries were selected: Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Two virtual civil society consultations and two regional technical meetings have been convened to feed into the Regional Investment Plan. The Africa Investment Plan is scheduled for approval in June 2018, with full-fledged Country Programme development expected to commence shortly thereafter. A regional component will also be developed.

Finally, the Spotlight Initiative has made important strides in raising its visibility through communications and outreach. Its brand identity has been developed and a vibrant visual identity established. A UN-hosted website (www.spotlightinitiative.org) was launched early in 2018, with an autonomous website to be rolled out in the summer of 2018. Messaging using the hashtag [#SpotlightENDViolence](#) has garnered traction. Facebook and Twitter launches are planned for the spring of 2018.

In addition, a global Communications Work Plan was developed and other milestones included: press, high profile events, and enhanced visibility on relevant UN international Days, including mention in a Forbes Magazine article on International Women's Day; and the launch of the Spotlight Initiative's digital game: [#HerStoryOurStory](#), backed by an interactive campaign with social media and a dedicated website (HerStoryOurStory.net).

Vision & Objectives

Violence against Women and Girls: A Global Epidemic

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most rampant and devastating human rights violations in the world, affecting women and girls of all ages, races, religions and socio-economic backgrounds. It is an assault on a range of women's universal human rights and freedoms and prevents women and girls from reaching their full potential.

It is estimated that 35 percent of women have experienced violence at some point in their lives, mostly by an intimate partner.¹ In some countries, this figure is as high as 70 percent.² Domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains the most prevalent form of violence against women and reportedly causes more deaths than civil wars.³ According to data from 2012, almost half of female homicide victims were killed by a family member or intimate partner.⁴ VAWG includes harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).⁵ At least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM/C. More than 700 million women alive today were married before the age of 18 and, of those, more than a third were married before the age of 15.⁶

1 WHO Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women (2013)

2 UN-Women, 'Violence against women prevalence data: surveys by country' (2012)

3 Human Rights Council 29/40 Report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice

4 UNODC, 'Global Study on Homicide' (2013)

5 UNICEF, 'FGM/C, A Global Concern' (2016)

6 UNICEF, Ending Child Marriage, Progress and Prospects, 2014

No



Key Statistics

50%

Almost half of female homicide victims were killed by a family member or intimate partner

35%

of women have experienced violence, as high as 70 percent in some countries

200m

women and girls alive today have undergone FGM/C

700m

women alive today were married before the age of 18 (more than a third before the age of 15)

More

deaths are caused by domestic violence, the most prevalent form of violence against women, than civil wars

**“No continent is spared.
Every culture, every country
- including our own European
Union – still harbors forms of
discrimination and violence.
Three out of four women in
a professional job have been
victims of sexual harassment,
including through the internet.”**

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission

Momentum has been growing globally to eliminate and prevent all forms of VAWG, primarily due to the sustained efforts of women's rights movements. Most notably, this has resulted in the development and adoption of various international and regional policy and legal agreements. The most recent, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, affirmed the importance of gender equality as both a driver and a goal of sustainable development and underscored the importance of a human rights-based approach and the principle of 'leaving no one behind.' The SDGs contain clear targets (SDG 5.2 and 5.3) on the elimination of all forms of VAWG.¹

Significant challenges, however, persist. These include: inadequate law enforcement leading to high levels of perpetrator impunity, insufficient allocation of resources and weak monitoring and coordination of initiatives. The essential multisectoral services needed to help survivors and bring offenders to justice (health, police, justice, and social services) are often inadequate, inaccessible and of varying quality and poorly coordinated. This is especially true for adolescent girls and women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Further, most initiatives addressing these issues are ad hoc, under-resourced and fragmented, and therefore unable to engender lasting change.

Beyond these significant obstacles, social norms, attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate negative stereotypes and discrimination are the foremost challenge to eliminating VAWG. Concerted efforts are needed to redefine masculinity and foster acceptance of gender equality and women's empowerment into the fabric of

society. Addressing these ingrained and structural causes of VAWG lies at the heart of this work.

The Spotlight Initiative: Action and Impact for Transformative Change

The Spotlight Initiative is a global partnership between the UN and the EU to eliminate all forms of VAWG. It was launched on 20 September 2017 at a high-level event during the 72nd UN General Assembly. Capitalized by an initial commitment of €500 million from the EU, the Initiative is a visible political and financial investment in multilateralism.

The Initiative will provide large-scale, targeted support, leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships, galvanize political commitments at the highest levels and contribute to achieving the SDGs. Grounded in the ambition and human rights obligations embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the governing principles of the Initiative are inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, consensus-based decision making and country participation.

The Spotlight Initiative will build the evidence base and demonstrate that deep investments in gender equality can make a significant difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs.

“The Spotlight Initiative we launch today is truly historic. This fund is a pioneering investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

¹ These include CEDAW General Recommendations No. 19 and 35, Convention of Belém do Pará (1994), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the Maputo Protocol (2003), the Istanbul Convention (2011), and the recently agreed 2030 Agenda (2015)



A Human Rights Approach

Spotlight Initiative interventions will promote and protect human rights, with key programming principles focusing on equality and non-discrimination and participation and inclusion. Women and girls as rights holders will be partners and agents of change, participating in the design and implementation of all interventions. The Initiative will ensure that all interventions prioritize confidentiality and non-discrimination. They will be culturally- and age-appropriate, and they will adopt a ‘victim/survivor-centered’ approach. The Initiative will equally target duty bearers, who have a responsibility to act to end VAWG.

The Spotlight Initiative will cover the following **regions** and use the **focus areas** as entry points to combat the continuum of VAWG:

- Africa – sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices (HP) addressing links to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Asia – trafficking and sexual and labour exploitation
- The Caribbean – family violence
- Latin America – femicide
- The Pacific – domestic violence

The Initiative will target a focused number of countries to strengthen progress thus far, address remaining gaps, and scale up good models and programmes towards making a real and lasting difference for women and girls. Building on recommendations from civil society, the Initiative will support and complement existing mechanisms, such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (UNTF). Other mechanisms such as the

Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund and women’s funds, could be considered to ensure that efforts are coordinated and coherent.

A ‘Whole of System’ Approach and a New Way of Working

The Initiative will model a “new way of working” that draws on the mandates and collaborative advantages of all relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes and the expertise and capacities of the EU, civil society and government partners. Civil society partners will include autonomous women’s organizations, local and grassroots organizations, progressive faith-based organizations, men and boys, the media, academia and the private sector. Sustainability of results will be the foundational principle steering all of the Spotlight Initiative’s partnership efforts.

“It is our intention...that this is a new beginning for us as well; that we shine a light on ourselves. And that we highlight the constituencies of women that might not have had enough attention paid to them in the past, and who therefore were in that sense invisible, even though they endured the violence that we are wanting to fight, and to end.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN Women

Design & Set-up

The Spotlight Initiative is an inter-agency, multi-stakeholder effort led by the UN and the EU. Three UN agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs) with the relevant mandates, experience and expertise were identified as core agencies to support the design and development of the Initiative under the coordination of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General – UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) serves as the Administrative Agent of the Initiative. A Pre-Secretariat, comprising staff seconded from UNFPA, UN Women and the MPTFO, was responsible for the design and set-up of the Initiative from July 2017 to March 2018, working closely with the focal points of the core agencies, the EU services as well as civil society partners.

The Initiative will balance targeted investments with broader reach by undertaking (i) comprehensive country programming in a limited number of countries, selected according to mutually agreed criteria, and (ii) the development of joint regional programmes that can benefit a larger number of countries and amplify the impact of the Initiative.

“This Initiative comes at just the right time – women around the world are being vocal and visible and standing up to say enough is enough.

By capitalizing on this momentum and galvanizing the efforts of many stakeholders, we can end the violence that denies millions of women and girls the right to reach their full potential and live the lives they choose.”

Natalia Kanem
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director UNFPA

Spotlight Initiative Innovations

Scale, focus and a comprehensive Theory of Change (ToC)

Leveraging the SDGs

Political buy-in

Civil society engagement and participation

UN system working together and a multi-stakeholder approach

Governance of the Spotlight Initiative

The governance structure of the Spotlight Initiative includes a Governing Body, Operational Steering Committee (OSC), Global Secretariat and Administrative Agent at the global level, and Country and Regional Programme Steering Committees in Spotlight countries and the five regions in which the Initiative will operate.

The highest tier of governance of the Initiative is the Governing Body, which provides high-level strategic direction, advocacy and positioning. It is co-chaired by UN and EU principals: UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini. Other members of the Governing Body are the Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the EU's Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation, Neven Mimica, and an

eminent civil society representative.¹

The second tier of governance is the OSC, tasked with the effective management and coordination of all operational and technical aspects of the Initiative. This includes decisions on country selection and resource envelopes as well as the formal approval of all Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes. The OSC is co-chaired by a representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Director-General of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO). Other members include UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (as an Observer) and another UN entity (as a rotating Observer); and four representatives of the EU. The EOSG coordinates the Initiative and a nine-person global Secretariat works in close collaboration to support all operations.

The Technical Unit is hosted by UN Women as the normative and technical lead on gender equality in the UN system (comprising a Senior Technical Advisor, Technical and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Public Information, Communications and Visibility Officer, Technical and Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Specialist and Programme Associate). It ensures the technical quality and coherence of all Spotlight Initiative programmes, oversees implementation, drives communications and visibility and knowledge management efforts, promotes South-South cooperation, and engages strategically with global and regional civil society partners.

¹ The civil society representative has an Observer role on the Governing Body; as the Global Civil Society Reference Group has yet to be constituted, Hakima Abbas, the Co-Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) served as the provisional civil society representative at the second Governing Body meeting which took place on 09 March 2018

The Management Unit is located in the MPTFO, the center of expertise for pooled financing in the UN system (comprising a Senior Programme Fund Manager, Reporting Officer, Coordination Officer and Programme Associate). It is responsible for the oversight of programming cycles, support to the Spotlight Initiative's programme development and programme budgeting, reporting on the Initiative's results, resource mobilization and partnerships building, the Initiative's operating procedures, and programme and budget revisions. It functions as the Secretariat of the Governing Body and the OSC.

The MPTFO is the Administrative Agent of the Initiative, using a pass-through arrangement. In this role, it provides the Secretary-General and Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) with fund administration and other support services, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Secretary-General and MPTFO.

Additionally, multi-stakeholder Country and Regional Steering Committees oversee and coordinate implementation of the Spotlight Initiative's Country and Regional Programmes. The Committees, co-chaired by the government and the UN, comprise government, civil society, and UN and EU representatives.

Designing the Spotlight Initiative's Theory of Change and Global Results Framework

The Initiative places SDG 5 on gender equality at the center of its efforts (alongside SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions), with the aim of providing an enabling environment for the implementation of all the Goals. The Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive Theory of Change (ToC) and Global Results Framework are grounded in decades of evidence on what works to end VAWG. The ToC and Results Framework were also informed by consultations with global civil society organizations and activists. Most notably, this resulted in the addition of a dedicated area of work on building strong women's movements, given their crucial role in advancing progress on eliminating VAWG.

Importantly, the human rights-based ToC addresses unequal power relations between men and women and the root causes of VAWG, such as damaging socio-cultural norms and stereotypes.

“Largely, the problem is a problem of power. A male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture, and this is a power question.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations



Spotlight Initiative Theory of Change

ROOT CAUSE

Patriarchal systems and gender inequitable social norms, attitudes, behaviours and harmful practices

Control over women's bodies, their bodily integrity, sexuality and reproduction, harmful practices

UNDERLYING CAUSES

Discrimination against women and girls

Historical and structural power imbalances between men and women

Gender inequality causing women and girls' lack of power and control

Restrictions and limitations on women and girls' freedoms, choices and opportunities (including safe spaces)

DRIVERS

Lack of punishment (impunity) for perpetrators of violence

Witnessing or experiencing abuse as a child

Substance (including alcohol) abuse by perpetrators

Low levels of education for perpetrators

Limited economic opportunities for women

Femicide

📍 *Latin America*

SGBV and Harmful Practices

📍 *Africa*

Domestic Violence

📍 *Pacific*

Trafficking

📍 *Asia*

Family Violence

📍 *Caribbean*

Mainstreaming women's empowerment

Essential to promoting gender equality and the rights of women and girls

Leaving No One Behind

All women and girls irrespective of marginalization and exclusion due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, profession should live free of violence

CSO engagement and participation

A key part of a human rights based approach and principle of participation and accountability

REGIONAL
FOCUS

CROSS
CUTTING
OBJECTIVES

FRAMEWORKS

Legislative and policy frameworks in line with human rights standards

Assumptions

Political will and commitments at the highest levels demonstrated through VAW/HP legislative and policy frameworks that align to international human rights standards and harmonization of all other laws and policies to be gender equitable including family law; linkages across policies on migration, disability, poverty, ethnicity, age, location, education, overall violence and conflict.

Signature Indicator

Proportion of CEDAW, CRC, UPR recommendations regarding laws and policies on VAWG/HP, that have been fully implemented in line with HR standards

SDG TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

INSTITUTIONS

National and sub-national institutions strengthened

Assumptions

Governance, institutional and critical bottlenecks addressed to allow transformation of institutions; develop and full financed national action plan on VAP/HP; institutions are gender responsive/human rights based; VAW/HP is integrated into other sectors; linkages across institutions on migration, disability, poverty, ethnicity, age, location, education, overall violence and conflict.

Signature Indicator

Percentage of national budget being allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP

SDG5
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

NORMS, ATTITUDES, BEHAVIOURS

Gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours

Assumptions

Political will and commitments at the highest levels demonstrated through investment in national programmes and interventions aimed at addressing root causes and gender transformative results across relevant sectors; An integrated/multi-pronged approach to prevention is effective to change social norms and attitudes which results in changes in behaviors.

Signature Indicator

Percentage of people who think it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife (by sex and age); Percentage of people (men, women, boys, girls) aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM and think the practice should end (DHS); Percentage of men and women who think child marriage is acceptable (MICS)

SDG16
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SERVICES

Available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services

Assumptions

Political will and commitment at the highest levels demonstrated through investment of national funds towards multisectoral services at the national level; Quality services will increase women's confidence in seeking support and increasing their access to such services, including SRH services, commitment and resources to collect data and coordinate services; there is political will to address impunity and prosecute perpetrators; integrate VAWG into education and training

Signature Indicator

Percentage of victims/survivors of violence (including trafficking) that have received efficient, effective and gender responsive services from relevant institutions including to address their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

End violence and discrimination

DATA

Quality, disaggregated, comparable data

Assumptions

Political will and commitment at the highest levels demonstrated through investment of national statistical systems to improve data production, analysis and use, including data on gender related-targets; there is political will and commitment to invest in the collection of data on VAWG/HP; freedom of information is respected and governments are increasingly open to sharing data on VAWG/HP with all stakeholders; VAWG/HP data will be used to inform policy making and budgeting.

Signature Indicator

Existence of globally comparable data from VAWG prevalence surveys.

All women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable, live free from violence and harmful practices.

WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

Autonomous women's movements strengthened

Assumptions

Norms and frameworks aligned to international standards as the necessary enabling environment for women's organization and civil society organizations involvement in policy making and delivery of programmes on VAWG/HP; autonomy, agency and role of women's rights organizations and civil society recognized by government and partners; women's organizations represent the diversity of women and girls, survivors of violence and all groups facing intersecting forms of violence and discrimination

Signature Indicator

Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination / marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on EVAWG

INITIATIVE GOAL

The Global Results Framework (please refer to Annex) foregrounds the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ and incorporates targets on VAWG embedded in the SDGs, which are the global development roadmap for integrated and cross-sectoral planning and action. The results achieved by the Initiative will be measured against a set of indicators at Impact, Outcome and Output levels contained in the Global Results Framework.

Civil Society and the Spotlight Initiative

For decades, women’s rights organizations have been on the frontlines of the fight to end violence against women and girls, and their efforts have secured the greatest gains. The Spotlight Initiative will forge vital partnerships with civil society at global, regional and national levels. Meaningful and creative collaboration, participation, representation and consultation with these organizations will be essential to the success and sustainability of the Initiative’s results.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) will be engaged in the design, oversight and implementation of the Spotlight Initiative’s Country and Regional Programmes and the strengthening of women’s movements and women’s organizations is a key element of the Initiative’s Global and Regional ToCs.

The following formal mechanisms will be set up to ensure the Spotlight Initiative’s meaningful engagement with civil society at all levels:

- A Global Civil Society Reference Group
- National Civil Society Reference Groups in all Spotlight Initiative countries
- Regional Civil Society Reference Groups in all Spotlight Initiative regions

Leaving No One Behind – A Central Principle

Inclusion is at the core of the Spotlight Initiative. It speaks to the notion of empowerment and the principle of non-discrimination. More specifically, Spotlight Initiative interventions will address the needs of all women and girls, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including women and girls living in rural areas, from indigenous communities and ethnic minorities, living with HIV/AIDS, living with disabilities, LBTQI persons. These and other marginalized groups will be put first and engaged in the Spotlight Initiative’s design and delivery.

“We will engage beyond governments with civil society organizations and local communities. This is not going to be the traditional development aid because a change in attitudes, a change in culture, a change in lives can only grow from the heart of every society and community.”

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/
Vice-President of the Commission



The principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ will guide the set-up of the Civil Society Reference Groups to ensure that the full range and diversity of organizations working on these issues are represented. The Groups will serve as advisory and advocacy partners to the Spotlight Initiative, in their respective levels.

The Governing Body of the Initiative will include one civil society representative in an Observer role, nominated by the Global Civil Society Reference Group. The multi-stakeholder Country and Regional Programme Steering Committees will include a minimum of 20% representation of civil society nominated by the Country and Regional Civil Society Reference Groups.

Numerous consultations have been held with civil society organizations and activists to date (see graphic below) in different parts of the world and the Spotlight Initiative has received various recommendations, many of which have already been taken on board. As mentioned earlier, a key civil society recommendation that has shaped the design of the Initiative is the addition of a dedicated Outcome on building women’s movements and in the Global ToC. Additionally, in response to another key recommendation from civil society, discussions are ongoing to earmark a percentage of Spotlight Initiative funds allocated to Country and Regional programming envelopes for disbursement through the UNTF or other relevant UN and women’s funds. As a dynamic and evolving initiative, the Spotlight Initiative will engage in continued dialogue with women’s rights organizations and CSOs in the years ahead and draw inspiration from their vast experience and leadership in this area.

Women’s rights organizations and CSOs, including at the local and grassroots levels

and women’s funds, will also be engaged directly by Recipient UN Agencies to contribute to results across all Outcomes of the ToC in Country and Regional Programmes, including the dedicated Outcome on building strong women’s movements which focuses on building their institutional capacities. Modalities of funding will include direct procurement and other local processes available to UN agencies to contract CSOs in programme delivery.

“One thing that I know for sure -- in every country where we have seen a very dedicated fight to end violence against women, it has been because civil society has had the space and the support to lead on it.”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN Women

Engagement with Civil Society

as of 31 March 2018





Change the Picture
CRPD women

Inclusion of Women
with disabilities

Participation of Contributors in the Spotlight Initiative

Additional contributions to the Spotlight Initiative are being sought to ensure broader geographic coverage and expanded thematic focus within regions.

Contributions to the Spotlight Initiative account can be made at the global and/or country level. The contributions can be received from UN Member States, regional legislative bodies, inter-governmental and nongovernmental organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals.

The Spotlight Initiative Account in the UN MPTFO will accept any contribution amount with no minimum. However, thresholds for participation in the governance structure of the Initiative at the global and country levels are being developed.

Update

on the Spotlight Initiative's Operations

Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee Activities

Since the launch of the Spotlight Initiative, the Governing Body has met twice, in September 2017 and March 2018, and the Operational Steering Committee three times in October and December 2017 and March 2018. Key meeting decisions are presented in the timeline below.



Governing Body #1
17 September 2017

- Governance structure approved
- Principle of the vital role and participation of civil society in the Initiative confirmed
- Endorsement of Spotlight Initiative ToC
- Thematic focus by region endorsed
- Decisions on country selection criteria delegated to the OSC

Operational Steering Committee #2
13 December 2017

- Civil society engagement proposal approved
- Five Latin America countries approved for programming (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico [tentatively])
- Initial agreement on Resource Mobilization Strategy reached
- Communications and Visibility Strategy endorsed
- Africa Investment Plan and Africa short-list scheduled for approval in early 2018

Governing Body #2
12 March 2018

- Endorsement of 5 Spotlight Initiative countries for Latin America and timeline (including launch during the UNGA 2018)
- Agreement on 8 Spotlight Initiative countries for Africa, reserve list and timeline (including launch on 25 November, the International Day to End Violence Against Women)
- Request for Communications and Visibility Action Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy to be prepared

**Summary of Spotlight Initiative
Programme Development Decisions**

Operational Steering Committee #1
24 October 2017

- 2017-2018 Secretariat budget approved
- ASEAN programme included in the Initiative
- Country selection criteria approved
- Latin America Investment Plan outline approved
- Conceptual framework for Africa Regional Theory of Change agreed
- Civil society engagement to be strengthened in Initiative's governance mechanisms agreed

Operational Steering Committee #3
9 March 2018

- Latin America Investment Plan approved
- Approval of Mexico as a Spotlight Initiative programming country
- Agreement on 7 Africa countries reached (Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe)
- Launch of Latin America programmes during the UNGA 2018 and Africa programmes on 25 November, the International Day to End Violence Against Women, proposed
- Resource Mobilization Modality paper endorsed and development of Resource Mobilization Strategy requested

Country and Regional Programme Development Process

The development of Spotlight Initiative Regional and Country Programmes is being undertaken in a phased manner across the regions in which the Initiative will operate, beginning with Latin America and Africa and followed by the Pacific, the Caribbean and Asia.

The key documents required for the formal approval of Country and Regional Programmes in a specific region are a Regional Investment Plan, Country Programme Outlines, and Country and Regional Programme Documents.

Spotlight Initiative countries are selected based on the following primary and secondary criteria approved by the OSC:

- Prevalence of the particular form of violence in the region
- Gender Inequality Index (GII)
- Level of government commitment towards ending VAWG
- Absorption capacity at national level
- Presence and capacity of UN country teams to deliver
- Presence and capacity of EU delegations in country to engage
- Enabling environment in country, in particular for civil society
- Existing initiatives on VAWG at regional/country levels with the potential to be scaled-up
- Possibility to produce ‘models’ for replication in other countries and capacity to influence others in the region (i.e. domino or support effect)

Regional Investment Plans

The consultative development of a Regional Investment Plan is the first step for programming in a region. The Plan outlines the programmatic framework of the Initiative’s investments, contains information on the regional context, progress, opportunities and gaps, informs priority areas of focus and includes the regional results framework and Theory of Change. The Plan additionally includes indicative information on the broad scope of the Country and Regional Programmes and provides details on the country selection process. Once approved by the OSC of the Initiative, Regional Investment Plans form the basis of the Regional and Country Programmes.

Country Programme Outlines

In parallel with the Regional Investment Plan, countries are requested to consult with a range of stakeholders to develop Country Programme Outlines. Indicative in nature, the Country Programme Outlines are developed in a short timeframe and serve to inform the Regional Investment Plan. They are expected to change as more broad-based consultations and validation workshops are undertaken during the process of preparing the Country and Regional Programme Documents.

Country and Regional Programmes

Following the approval of the Regional Investment Plan by the OSC, Country and Regional Programmes are developed over a three-month period through a multi-stakeholder engagement process to define the overall objectives and results of the Programme and develop specific actions to be undertaken along with associated budget allocations. The approval of the Country and Regional Programmes by the OSC will lead to their formal launch and the start of implementation in a country.

ASEAN Regional Programme Update

On 17 November 2017, the first programme under the Spotlight Initiative, titled ‘Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region’ (Safe and Fair) was launched in Bangkok, Thailand. The EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, addressed the audience of government representatives, trade unions, non-governmental organizations working on migrant rights and violence against women, students, and UN agencies. He condemned the scourge of human trafficking that predominantly affects women and girls.

The €25 million UN Joint Programme led by UN Women and ILO works

“Too often these terrible crimes go unnoticed - unseen and unspoken. And the cycles of violence continue to thrive in silence, in the darkest corners of our society. So, it’s up to each and every one of us - women and men alike - to stand up and to speak out! To drive out the darkness and to break the walls of silence. This is exactly what our new Spotlight Initiative aims to do.”

Neven Mimica
European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

towards safe and fair labor migration in the following 10 origin and destination countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Women migrant workers make significant contributions to the economies of the countries in which they work and to economies of their countries of origin. However, they are particularly vulnerable to labor and human rights violations, including violence and exploitation, such as forced labor. They are typically employed in lower paid, informal sectors, such as domestic and care work, and have few, if any, labor protections. Many women migrants are trafficked and forced into the commercial sex industry, while many others are victims of domestic servitude. Women migrants who survive violence and human trafficking face many barriers to accessing health care, legal, justice, police, and social services.

To help address these challenges, the Spotlight Initiative Safe and Fair programme:

- Supports the strengthening of rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to labor migration governance
- Addresses women migrant workers’ vulnerabilities to violence and trafficking, and
- Supports the delivery of essential services to women migrants who experience abuse

The five-year programme, which began on 1 January 2018, focused in its six-month inception period on establishing governance structures and mechanisms that will oversee its implementation, including a Regional Programme Steering Committee. Preliminary work undertaken also included initial consultative meetings



UN Women/Staton Winter

with stakeholders and the commissioning of background research.

In the upcoming months, the programme will host consultative dialogues in the 10 programme countries to identify key programmatic priorities and define the approach to implementation in each country. The methodology for monitoring and evaluation of results will be developed, followed by the collection of baselines, with the final baseline report for the programme anticipated by end of the first quarter of 2019. Scoping studies will be conducted to better understand the country contexts for women migrant workers who may experience violence as well as public attitude surveys towards women migrant workers' rights and their contributions. All programme oversight bodies will be formally constituted

at the regional and national levels. Communications materials will also be developed to promote the visibility of the programme, including to coincide with the European Development Days, which will take place in Brussels, from 5-6 June 2018.

Portfolio Development in Latin America

Regional Focus

In Latin America, the Spotlight Initiative’s focus area is the elimination of femicide. Data from the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) show that, on average, at least 12 women are killed daily in the region because they are women. Though femicide in Latin America is complex, often intertwined with other challenges such as intimate partner violence, organized crime, trafficking and migration, it is ultimately driven by pervasive gender inequality and discrimination.

Prevalence of Femicide

The Initiative used several indicators to ascertain the prevalence of femicide in the region. Due to significant challenges – for instance, the need to improve access to information and data comparability between countries and differences in the classification of crimes and the treatment of the information – three different indicators were used to create a composite measure of the prevalence of femicide in Latin America.



UNDP El Salvador

Table 1: Composite Measure for Prevalence of Femicide

Female homicide victims (2010–2015) Source: The Small Arms Survey Database on Violent Deaths (weight of 10 percent)
Rate of femicides per 100,000 women (2016) Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC ¹) (weight of 7.5 percent)
Percentage of female intentional homicide victims (latest available year 2010-2015) Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (weight of 7.5 percent)

Virtual Civil Society Dialogue

On 29 November 2017, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened a virtual civil society consultation with activists and experts in the Latin American region. The inputs provided insights into the regional dynamics of femicide and trends in gender inequality. They also allowed for the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

Regional Technical Meeting

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened a Regional Technical meeting of the UN (core agencies + other relevant UN agencies) and civil society experts in Panama, from 7-8 December 2017, to gather inputs for the Regional Investment Plan. Individual sessions on the Regional Theory of Change, proposed Regional Programme and country selection discussions yielded rich material to strengthen the Plan, including from the perspective of ‘leaving no one behind.’

1 Data unavailable for two out of 17 countries



UN Women/Sahand Minae

Spotlight Initiative in Latin America:

Spotlight Initiative countries:
Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala,
Honduras and Mexico

OSC approval of Latin America
Investment Plan: 9 March 2018

Funding ask: US\$83.5 million for 5
countries and a Regional Programme

Funding availability: Earmarked allocation
of €50 million (approx. US\$59 million)

Funding gap: US\$25.5million to be
mobilized from other donors

Full-fledged Country and Regional
Programme development:
Commenced on 23 March 2018 and
expected to end in July 2018

Portfolio Development in Africa

Regional focus

Africa is the second region to embark on Spotlight Initiative programming, where the focus is on eliminating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices (HPs), and addressing their links to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In some parts of Africa, up to 76 percent of women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Most affected are marginalized groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. In terms of harmful practices, more than 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), mostly in African countries, while annually, 3.9 million girls are at risk of enduring FGM globally. African nations account for 17 of the 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriage in the world. The region also has the highest rates of unmet family planning needs, adolescent pregnancies, maternal deaths and HIV/AIDS.



MINUSMA/Marco Dormino

Prevalence of SGBV and HPs

Given the broad focus area for Africa, a total of 10 indicators were identified and weighted to arrive at a composite measure for the prevalence of SGBV and HPs for each country.

Table 2: Composite Measure for Prevalence of SGBV and HPs¹

Prevalence of Sexual Violence against Women and Girls (any perpetrator, lifetime)

Source: United Nations, 2015. The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics. New York: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division.
Sales No. E.15.XVII.8, Statistical Annex

Prevalence of Physical Violence against Women and Girls (any perpetrator, lifetime)

Source: United Nations, 2015. The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics. New York: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division.
Sales No. E.15.XVII.8, Statistical Annex

Perceived Justified Wife Beating (age 15-49, male and female and average where both are available)

Source: United Nations, 2015. The World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics. New York: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division.
Sales No. E.15.XVII.8, Statistical Annex

Child Marriage (under age 15)

Source: UNICEF database
(updated in November 2017)

¹ Two additional indicators, maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rate were also deemed relevant but were not included in the prevalence calculation as they are already part of the five indicators used to calculate the Gender Inequality Index (the second primary criterion for country selection, as noted above)

Female Genital Mutilation (between ages 15 and 49)

Source: UNICEF database
(updated in November 2017)

Unmet needs for family planning
(women between ages 15 and 49)

Source: UNFPA 2017 Dashboards

SDG Indicator 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive healthcare

Source: SDG Indicators Global Database

SDG Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, and key populations

Source: SDG Indicators Global Database

Virtual Civil Society Dialogues

On 11 January 2018, the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened two virtual civil society consultations with activists and experts in the Africa region – one for West and Central Africa and the other for East and Southern Africa. The consultations generated valuable feedback on the regional challenges related to gender inequality, violence against women and girls, the need to take into consideration the sub-regional realities within Africa, as well as the importance of community mobilization in addressing some of the barriers.

Regional Technical Meetings

The Spotlight Initiative Secretariat convened two Regional Technical Meetings for the Africa region between the UN and external experts from civil society and regional intergovernmental

bodies. The first meeting was held from 29-30 January for West and Central Africa region (in Dakar, Senegal), and the second from 1- 2 February (in Nairobi, Kenya) for the East and Southern Africa region. The Meeting elicited feedback on the Regional Theory of Change and the selection of Spotlight Initiative countries in Africa, as well as the proposed Regional Programme, including from civil society activists representing women and girls with disabilities and adolescent girls.

Spotlight Initiative in Africa:

Draft Africa Investment Plan scheduled to be approved in June 2018

Spotlight Initiative countries: Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe

Funding availability: Earmarked allocation of €250 million (approx. US\$293 million) for 8 countries and a Regional Programme

Full-fledged Country and Regional Programme development: Expected to commence in June 2018 and end in September 2018



Communications & Visibility

Communications and visibility, including the role of the EU, have been major elements of the Spotlight Initiative from its inception. Promotional and outreach activities have leveraged a wide array of tools, tactics, products and platforms. All the Initiative's communications and visibility activities are supported by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) in New York (along with the global network of UN Information Centres and focal points from partnering agencies) and by the Communications Unit at DG DEVCO in Brussels, in coordination with the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat.

The Spotlight Initiative's brand has been developed and a vibrant visual identity established. A UN-hosted website (www.spotlightinitiative.org) was launched early in 2018, with an autonomous website to be rolled out in the summer of 2018. A video on the Initiative was produced for the high-level launch in New York and a variation of it produced for the launch of the ASEAN programme in Asia. Two more videos are planned for the second quarter of 2018 on femicide in Latin America and the core principle of 'leaving no one behind.' These videos are used at key events, posted online and promoted via social media.

Messaging using the hashtag [#SpotlightENDViolence](https://twitter.com/SpotlightENDViolence) has been an ongoing conduit for stakeholder engagement and yielding a total potential

reach of over 225 million impressions in September 2017 and March 2018 alone.¹ Facebook and Twitter launches are planned for spring 2018.

A global Communications Work Plan, including events in participating regions and Europe, has been developed and communications guidelines, templates, and channels (social media, newsletters) will be established and strengthened as the Initiative gains momentum. UN Resident Coordinators are being provided with two-way communications channels and encouraged to contribute news and information (including video, photos, and audio) from the field of participating Spotlight Initiative countries, to strengthen content production and promotion.

On 17 November 2017, Commissioner Mimica participated in the launch of the first programme under the Spotlight Initiative. The Regional Programme titled ‘Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region’ covers 10 ASEAN

1 Owing to publicity generated around the launch and CSW side events

UNIC Lagos/ Oluseyi Soremekun

countries² and addresses women migrant workers’ vulnerabilities to violence. A press release and video from the launch were promoted via EU and UN channels.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November),³ UN Information Centres in Baku, Beirut, Brazzaville, Dar-es-Salaam, Kathmandu, Lusaka, Lagos, Ouagadougou, Panama, Rabat and Rio de Janeiro shared information about the Spotlight Initiative during UNiTE Campaign⁴ activities and media outreach.

On 10 December 2017, Human Rights Day, the heads of UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP issued a joint statement titled ‘Freedom from Fear: Ending Violence Against Women’ that highlighted the Spotlight Initiative (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/speeches/2017/a-joint-statement-for-human-rights-day.html>).

2 Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

3 The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women each year kicks off the ‘16 Days’ campaign to end VAWG and will remain a critical leveraging point for promoting the Spotlight Initiative

4 The UNiTE campaign to End Violence against Women was launched by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2008 and is an important pathway for engaging civil society with the Spotlight Initiative



“It is not human nature to be the way we are, we invented gender, we invented race... we can disinvent it.”

Gloria Steinem
Women’s rights activist



UN Women/Ryan Brown

High-level Launch of the Spotlight Initiative on 20 September 2017

The Spotlight Initiative launch, at a high-level meeting during the 72nd UN General Assembly, featured eminent speakers and panellists, including interventions by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, EU High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Renowned former CNN news anchor Zain Verjee moderated the event, which featured a series of dynamic conversations exploring various dimensions of VAWG and the Spotlight Initiative's response. They included:

Conversation between a father and a daughter: Malala Yousafzai and Ziauddin

Yousafzai, moderated by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (UNDP Goodwill Ambassador)

Conversation on multi-stakeholder engagement for a cause: Ashley Judd (UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador), Berta Zuniga Caceres, Madeleine Tolno and Dina Smailova

Inter-generational conversation on gender equality and EVAWG: Gloria Steinem, Jayathma Wickramanayake (Secretary-General's Youth Envoy), Priyanka Chopra (UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador) and Kathryn Relang

The launch received wide coverage by international newswires and European media outlets¹, including a UNTV interview with the Deputy Secretary-General and the EU Commissioner. A video of the event was posted on the UN (bit.ly/2Kajf6p) and Spotlight Initiative websites (bit.ly/2Fjs5Le).

¹ Such as Deutsche Welle (Germany), El Dia-rio (Spain), Maxima (Portugal) and Reuters

On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2018), messages by senior UN officials, including the Deputy Secretary-General and the Executive Directors of UN Women and UNFPA, referenced the Spotlight Initiative and its aim to eliminate harmful practices including FGM/C. Social media content from UN Women and UNFPA and a dedicated page on the UN website also highlighted the Initiative. (<http://www.un.org/en/events/femalegenitalmutilationday/>).

The Spotlight Initiative also featured in observances of International Women's Day (IWD), on 8 March 2018. UN Secretary-General Guterres referred to the Spotlight Initiative at a high-profile event at UN Headquarters titled, 'Time is Now: Rural Urban Actions.' Organized by UN Women, it featured a 'fireside chat' with Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon and 'Black Panther' actress Danai Gurira, moderated by Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka. The event received substantial international media coverage.

International Women's Day also saw the launch of the Spotlight Initiative's digital game: [#HerStoryOurStory](#), backed by an interactive campaign with social media and a dedicated website (HerStoryOurStory.net) with additional content and resources. Also on IWD, UN Women offices in 84 countries organized local IWD observances that included information on the Spotlight Initiative.

Social media cards (see below), including with quotes from the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, Commissioner Mimica and Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka were also developed for the occasion and posted on the UN and partner agency social media channels. They have been used and reposted on a regular basis since.



Forbes Magazine (bit.ly/2HPHqJ3) featured the Initiative calling it, "one of the forward-looking global solutions to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls, including in rural areas."

On 12 March 2018, the opening day of the 62nd Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62), at UN Headquarters in New York, the Spotlight Initiative hosted a side event, attended by an audience of over 500. The event was widely recognized both for the calibre of its speakers and its positive reception by civil society.

CSW 62 had a special focus on rural women and girls and its final declaration specifically called for "accelerating action

#HerStory OurStory

Spotlight Initiative Digital Game

As part of the Spotlight Initiative's global engagement and outreach, the digital game '#HerStoryOurStory' and accompanying website (HerStoryOurStory.net) were launched in March 2018, on International Women's Day to raise awareness of VAWG among younger audiences.

Featuring bold graphics and vibrant animation, the interactive game shows how everyone can act to help end discrimination and VAWG. The game targets youth age of 10 and up and uses hypothetical problem-solving as a learning tool that puts players in the shoes of by-standers and loved ones.

Phase 1 of the game focuses on child marriage, sexual assault, sexual coercion at school and sexual harassment at work. The game's four main characters, Kali, Mina, Sara and Ava, reflect a diversity of cultures to highlight the universal nature of the issues. Players select a character who is placed in scenarios depicting common situations in which women and girls experience

discrimination and violence. For example, in the Child Marriage/Harmful Practices Scenario, a father wants to introduce his daughter to his friend, clearly with the intention of marrying her to him. The player is asked to take on the role of the character's mother with three choices: a) agree to the meeting, b) refuse to allow the meeting or c) talk her husband out of it.

At the beginning of the game, players are urged to seek help immediately if they or someone they know is experiencing or at risk of violence. The home page of the HerStoryOurStory website provides statistics and links to help and resources.

At the end of each game, players are led to a website where they can:

- Make a pledge to end VAWG
- Learn more (statistics on VAWG), and
- Find resources/help for someone in trouble

The game has been widely disseminated on UN and EU communications platforms.

In Phase 2, the game will broaden its scope in line with the wider Spotlight Initiative communications strategy and objectives, challenging harmful norms and stereotypes that normalize and perpetuate violence. It will cover domestic violence, human trafficking, girls in non-traditional sports and women in non-traditional work fields.

Phase 2 will also include **a global competition** for players to suggest scenarios on "How to End Violence." It will kick off at the European Development Days in Brussels, from 5-6 June 2018, with the competition launch. The competition will also be promoted on 12 August (International Youth Day) with deadlines for entry in early September. Winning scenarios will be recognized in **Phase 3, which will launch on 25 November**, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.



to end all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.”

“From the voices of young indigenous women, we want it to be taken into account that the violence they experience includes historical violence and structural violence.”

Tarcila Rivera
Peruvian indigenous
women’s rights activist

Tarcila Rivera, an indigenous rights activist from Peru underscored the special challenges faced by women and girls from indigenous communities. Miki Wali, a trans and youth activist from Fiji, urged wider efforts for inclusion of the LGBTQI community in policies and programmes on eliminating VAWG.



UN Women/Ryan Brown

CSW 62 Side Event: Under the Spotlight - Ending Violence against ALL Women and Girls

The 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62) at UN Headquarters in New York provided an opportunity to promote the Spotlight Initiative at the UN’s largest annual gathering on gender equality and women’s rights. The side event, titled ‘Under the Spotlight: Ending Violence Against ALL Women and Girls,’ was held on the opening day of the CSW in an overflowing ECOSOC Chamber filled with representatives from civil society, government delegations, the EU and the UN.

The event aimed to raise awareness of the Spotlight Initiative and its vision and facilitate a substantive discussion on intersectionality. The principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ embedded in the 2030 Agenda considers each SDG unmet until it reaches all segments of society, including those furthest behind. Panelists explored the challenges of placing women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination at the center of policies and programmes aimed at eliminating VAWG.

The event unfolded in two segments. The first was a high-level segment with opening remarks by the EU Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation, Neven Mimica, a keynote by Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and remarks by Helga Schmid, the Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

“Violence against women and girls has nowhere to hide. We’re coming for it, in all its forms and manifestations, and around the world,” said the Deputy Secretary-General, noting that women and girls are disproportionately subjected

to violence, including femicide, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, human trafficking and harmful practices.

“Violence against women and girls is one of the worst violations of human rights. We must address it in all forms, everywhere. With the Spotlight Initiative, we say enough is enough,” Commissioner Mimica said during his opening remarks. In her statement, Helga Schmid emphasized the need for a collective response.

“We need to engage as many [actors] as possible, international, regional organizations, individual states, but very importantly, non-state actors and civil society organizations.”

Helga Schmid
Secretary General, European
External Action Service

The second segment featured a panel of experts including Ana Leticia Aguilar Theissen, Presidential Secretary for Women in Guatemala, who described the Spotlight Initiative as “good news” for her country, which loses 700 women to femicide each year. Lizzie Kiama, an activist from Kenya pointed out that women with disabilities were “ten times more likely to experience violence than women without disabilities,” and “have been facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence from birth.”

“We are hearing these voices that we need to stop doing business as usual, to change and be normative in order to address violence against women -- to shed a ‘spotlight’ but also to change social norms and attitudes,” noted Dubravka Šimonović, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

“We need to have real commitment and real engagement to find out how we can have some of those uncomfortable conversations.”

Miki Wali
Fijian trans and youth activist

The event was moderated by television news anchor and producer Munizae Jahangir from Pakistan, daughter of Asma Jahangir, a prominent human rights advocate and former UN Special Rapporteur who passed away recently. Delivering the closing remarks, the Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka paid tribute to the former Special Rapporteur and applauded the [#MeToo](#) and [#TimesUp](#) movements as having energized action on sexual harassment. She said, “We want to continue to forge an alliance with women who are in that [Hollywood] space so that their victory will be everyone’s victory.”

Finally, also during CSW 62, the three heads of the core agencies gave a joint interview, emphasising the importance of the Spotlight Initiative as a flagship initiative of the Secretary-General intended to spur a collective UN development system response in support of the SDGs.



MIKI WALI

The Way Forward

Going forward, the Spotlight Initiative will develop full-fledged Country and Regional Programmes for the Latin American and African regions. The Country and Regional Programme development processes will be supported by missions of the Spotlight Secretariat to its target countries. These missions will provide guidance and support to the development of high-quality programmes that: adhere to the Spotlight Initiative's vision and comprehensive Theory of Change; respond to country contexts and challenges; and complement ongoing VAWG programming in Spotlight Initiative countries.

“Together we can seize the momentum created by the Sustainable Development Goals and the Spotlight Initiative to address the scourge of gender-based violence with renewed vigor and commitment. Together we can ensure that women and girls everywhere can live free of violence.”

Achim Steiner
Administrator, UNDP

Country and Regional Programme development is expected to be completed in Latin America by September 2018 and in Africa by November 2018. The Latin America and Africa Country and Regional Programmes will be launched at the global and country levels, including at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018 and on 25 November 2018 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) respectively, through high-level events involving government, civil society, the EU, the UN and other partners.

Detailed timelines of the Latin America and Africa Country and Regional Programme development are summarized below.



Latin America: Provisional Timeline

April 2018

Regional Investment Plan approved in March 2018; Country and Regional Programme Development continues

May 2018

Country and Regional Programme Development continue

June 2018

Country and Regional Programme Development continues

July 2018

Country and Regional Programme Development continues

August 2018

Country and Regional Programmes finalized

September 2018

Country and Regional Programmes approved by the OSC

October 2018

Country and Regional Programmes approved by the OSC

November 2018

Country and Regional Programme Implementation begins

Africa: Provisional Timeline

April 2018

Country Programme Outline and Regional Investment Plan development commences

May 2018

Country Programme Outline and Regional Investment Plan finalized

June 2018

Approval of Regional Investment Plan by the OSC

Country and Regional Programme Development commences

July 2018

Country and Regional Programme Development continues

August 2018

Country and Regional Programme Development continues

September 2018

Country and Regional Programmes finalized

October 2018

Country and Regional Programmes approved by the OSC

December 2018

Country and Regional Programme implementation begins

Financial Report

**Consolidated Annual
Financial Report of the
Administrative Agent of
the Spotlight Initiative**

**(for the period 01 January
to 31 December 2017)**

Recipient UN Organizations

UNDP

UNFPA

UN Women

Contributors

European Union

Definitions

Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTFO 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'.

Indirect Support Costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Recipient Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Recipient Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTFO by a Recipient Organization.

Recipient Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTFO for a particular Fund.

Programme 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.

Programme 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.

Programme Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Recipient Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Programme Start Date

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTFO to the Recipient Organization.

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

Introduction

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **Spotlight Initiative** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTFO and the Recipient Organizations, and the Delegation Agreement with the European Union.

The MPTFO, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Recipient Organizations and Standard Contribution Agreements with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Recipient Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to the Operational Steering Committee and the contributors.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December **2017** and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of programmes of the **Spotlight Initiative**. It is posted on the MPTFO GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SIF00>).

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

2017 Financial Performance

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **Spotlight Initiative** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2017**. Financial information for this fund is also available on the MPTFO GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SIF00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2017**, the European Union deposited US\$ **21,288,600** in contributions and US\$ **19,560** was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **21,308,160**.

Of this amount, US\$ **1,415,313** has been net funded to the United Nations Development Programme Recipient Organizations, of which US\$ **151,652** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent direct cost has been charged on deposits and amounts to US\$ **990,410** of which US\$ **172,953** is reported as expenditures. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **Spotlight Initiative** as of 31 December 2017.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2016	Annual 2017	Cumulative
Sources of funds			
Contributions from donors	-	21,288,600	21,288,600
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	-	19,560	19,560
Interest Income received from Recipient Organizations	-	-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-
Total: Sources of funds	-	21,308,160	21,308,160
Use of funds			
Transfers to Recipient Organizations	-	-	-
Refunds received from Recipient Organizations	-	-	-
Net Funded Amount	-	-	-
		-	-
Secretariat Direct Costs	-	1,415,313	1,415,313
Administrative Agent Direct Cost	-	990,410	990,410
Bank Charges		7	7
Total: Uses of funds	-	2,405,730	2,405,730
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent		18,902,431	18,902,431
Opening Fund balance (1 January)		-	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	-	18,902,431	18,902,431
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	-	2,405,723	2,405,723
Recipient Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	-	329,623	329,623
Balance of funds with Recipient Organizations			2,076,100

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from the European Union to this fund as of 31 December **2017**.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December **2017** through the signed Delegation Agreement, and deposits made through **2017**. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2017**.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2017 Deposits	Total Deposits
EUROPEAN UNION	21,288,600	-	21,288,600	21,288,600
Grand Total	21,288,600	-	21,288,600	21,288,600

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 **2017**, fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **19,560**.

Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016	Current Year Jan-Dec-2017	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	-	19,560	19,560
Total: Fund Earned Interest	-	19,560	19,560
Recipient Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest			
Grand Total	-	19,560	19,560

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Recipient Organizations are approved by the Operational Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. Contributions to the fund were deposited on 28 December 2017. Therefore, as of 31 December 2017, no transfers were made to Recipient Organizations (see list below) for programme implementation. Direct cost transfers (Secretariat and AA) are recorded below.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund and Net Funded Amount by Recipient Organization, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Recipient Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016			Current Year Jan-Dec-2017			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
Grand Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year **2017** were submitted by the Headquarters of the Recipient Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTFO.

Programme expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organization and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTFO's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2017** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTFO GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SIF00>.

Table 5. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure and Financial Delivery by Recipient Organization, as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)

Recipient Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2016	Current Year Jan-Dec-2017	Cumulative	
Grand Total	-	-	-	-	-	0

6. DIRECT COSTS

The fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Recipient Organization to cover costs associated with the Administrative Agent services, the Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to US\$ **2,405,723**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2017**, US\$ **1,415,313** has been charged as Direct Costs for the Secretariat, and US\$ 990,410 for the Administrative Agent.

Table 6: Direct Costs

Services	Recipient Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate
Secretariat Management Unit	UNDP	1,415,313	151,652	11%
Administrative Agent	UNDP	990,410	177,971	18%
	Total:	2,405,723	329,623	14%

7. EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Programme expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency programme expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditures incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories.

**Table 7.1 Expenditure of the Secretariat
Direct Cost by UNDG Budget Category,
as of 31 December 2017 (in US Dollars)**

Category			UN AGENCIES Contribution
	Approved Budget	Total	
Staff & Personnel Cost	844,305	51,374	277,081
Suppl, Comm, Materials	-	-	
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn	-	-	
Contractual Services	60,000	7,838	
Travel	160,000	35,961	8,361
Transfers and Grants	-	-	
General Operating	258,417	56,480	
Programme Costs Total	1,322,722	151,652	285,442
Indirect Support Costs Total	92,590	-	
Total	1,415,313	151,652	285,442

**Table 7.2 Expenditure of the
Administrative Agent Direct Cost
by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31
December 2017 (in US Dollars)**

Category	Total
Staff & Personnel Cost	161,639
Suppl, Comm, Materials	-
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn	-
Contractual Services	-
Travel	-
Transfers and Grants	-
General Operating	5,017
Programme Costs Total	166,656
Indirect Support Costs Total	11,315
Total	177,971

8. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTFO has developed a public website, the MPTFO Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTFO 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 MPTFO 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 programme 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.

Annex

Spotlight Initiative Global Results Framework

The Spotlight Initiative will endeavor for data to be disaggregated at a minimum by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability and geographic location. Data disaggregation will also be pursued for other characteristics relevant in national contexts over the lifespan of the country programmes. “Other status” or characteristics include discrimination on the basis of age (with attention to youth and older persons), nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status (including HIV), place of residence, economic and social situation, and civil, political or other status.

Impact

All women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable, live a life free of violence and harmful practices

Impact Indicators

Direct (all regions)

- SDG 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical and/or, sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age; (Tier II, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC)

- SDG 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner since age 15 in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence; (Tier II, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC)

Direct (Africa)

- SDG 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18; (Tier II, UNICEF and UNFPA)
- SDG 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age; (Tier II, UNICEF and UNFPA)
- SDG 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care; (Tier II, UNFPA)

Indirect (all regions)

- SDG 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18; (Tier II, UNICEF)

Indirect (Latin America)

- SDG 16.1.1. Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age; (Tier 1, UNODC, WHO)

Indirect (Asia)

- SDG 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population by sex, age, and form of exploitation; (Tier II, UNODC)

Outcome 1 Theory of Change

1. 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

If (1) women and VAWG/HP experts are engaged in assessing, developing and implementing policies and legislation to VAWG/HP

(2) if the implementation of legislations and policies is monitored

then (3) an enabling legislative and policy environment on VAWG/HP and other forms of discrimination is in place and translated into plans, guaranteeing the rights of women and girls

because (4) effectively implemented legislative and policy frameworks address impunity and provide for coordinated action, including in the areas of prevention, services and data collection

(5) laws and programmes that integrate VAW/HPs into SRH services are developed, implemented and monitored

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>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</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 Proportion of target countries with laws and policies on VAWG/HP that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations¹</p> <p>Indicator 1.2 Proportion of target countries that have national and/or sub-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</p> <p>Indicator 1.3 Proportion of target countries that have laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda</p>	<p>Output 1.1 National and regional partners² 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 that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of inquiries conducted by human rights institutions on VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3 Proportion of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates</p>

	<p>Output 1.2 National and/or sub-national partners³ are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG in line with international HR standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of draft evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination with M&E frameworks and proposed budgets</p>
	<p>Output 1.3 National, sub-national and/or regional partners⁴ have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.1 Number of draft laws and/or policies developed that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.2 Proportion of draft laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda which have received significant inputs⁵ from women's rights advocates</p>

Outcome 2 Theory of Change

2. 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

If (1) relevant decision-makers and stakeholders in all sectors of government are informed and mobilized to address VAWG/HP

if (2) institutions at all levels and relevant stakeholders have strengthened capacity on VAWG/HP

if (3) national and subnational bargaining processes are effective in overcoming the hurdles of collective action to address and prevent VAWG/HP and

if (4) adequate budgets are allocated

then (5) institutions will develop, coordinate and implement programmes that integrate the elimination of VAWG/HP and other SDG targets into development planning processes,

because (6) institutional change requires appropriate capacity, adequate funding as well as political engagement and leadership to sustainably address VAWG/HP

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>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</p> <p>Indicator 2.1 Proportion of countries that have functioning national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups</p> <p>Indicator 2.2 Proportion of countries that allocate x% or more of national budgets to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP</p> <p>Indicator 2.3 Proportion of countries where VAWG/HP is integrated in⁵ other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards</p>	<p>Output 2.1 Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions⁶ are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including in other sectors</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of countries with internal and external accountability mechanisms within relevant government institutions in place to monitor GEWE and VAW/HP</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.3 Number of strategies, plans and programmes of other relevant sectors that integrate efforts to combat VAWG developed in line with international HR standards</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.4 Proportion of other sectors' programmes and/or development plans developed with significant inputs from women's rights advocates</p>

	<p>Output 2.2 Multi-stakeholder national and/or sub-national coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened that are adequately funded and include multi-sectoral representation and representation from the most marginalized groups</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1 Proportion of supported multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans</p>
	<p>Output 2.3 Partners (Parliamentarians, key government officials and women's rights advocates) at national and/or sub-national levels have greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.1 Proportion of dedicated and multi-sectoral programmes developed that include proposed allocations of funds to end VAWG</p>

Outcome 3 Theory of Change

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

If (1) multiple strategies such as community mobilization, key stakeholders' engagement and education strategies are carried out in an integrated and coordinated manner based on a shared understanding and approach in line with international standards and evidence on preventing VAWG/HP

then (2) favourable social norms, attitudes and behaviours will be promoted at community and individual level to prevent VAWG/HP

because (3) multi-pronged prevention initiatives that mutually reinforce each other can effectively shift individual and socio-cultural norms including those affecting women's sexuality and reproduction

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>Gender equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices</p> <p>Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/ intimate partner (to violence), by sex and age</p> <p>Indicator 3.2 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM, b. Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage</p> <p>Indicator 3.3 Proportion of countries with at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner</p>	<p>Output 3.1 National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1 Proportion of countries with draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in in and out of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights⁷</p>

	<p>Output 3.2 Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes,⁸ including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transforming harmful masculinities</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1 Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces</p>
	<p>Output 3.3 Decision makers in relevant institutions⁹ and key informal decision makers¹⁰ are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.1 Number of news outlets that develop standards on ethical and gender-sensitive reporting</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.2 Number of relevant non-state institutions that have developed and/or strengthened strategies/policies on ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with international HR standards</p>

Outcome 4 Theory of Change

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

If (1) service providers have the capacity to deliver essential services, including SRH services, and to prosecute perpetrators in line with international human rights standards and guidelines

(2) if these services are made available and accessible to women and girls

and if (3) women and girls are informed and empowered to exercise their rights to services (including SRHRs and access to justice)

then (4) women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices will increase their use of services and recover from violence, while perpetrators will be prosecuted

because (5) underlying barriers to women and girls' access to services have been addressed

(6) including in relation to gender and socio-cultural norms affecting women's sexuality and reproduction

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable, and quality essential services including for long term recovery from violence</p> <p>Indicator 4.1 Proportion of women, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence who seek help, by sector¹¹</p> <p>Indicator 4.2.a Number of cases of VAWG reported to the police, b. proportions of cases reported to the police that are brought to court, c. proportions of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators, all during a specific time period (e.g. past 12 months)</p> <p>Indicator 4.3 Proportion of countries which have a dedicated management information system (MIS) on VAWG at national level which can measure number of women/girl victims/survivors of violence that have received quality, essential multi-sectoral services</p>	<p>Output 4.1 Relevant government authorities and women's rights organizations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRH services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of violence, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of countries with centralized risk assessment systems and/or early warning systems in place bringing together information from police, health and justice sectors</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.2 Number of women and girls with access to programmes developed to integrate VAWG response into SRH, education and migration services</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.3 Proportion of countries that have developed and/or strengthened national guidelines or protocols in line with the guidance and tools for essential services</p>

Output 4.2 Women and girls' survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer term recovery services and opportunities

Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girls' survivors of violence that have increased knowledge of and access to quality essential services

Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girls' survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased knowledge of and access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services

Outcome 5 Theory of Change

5. 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

If (1) Measurement and methodologies for VAWG/HP data collection are improved and strengthened (including monitoring and reporting requirements for SDG target 5.2 indicators)

(2) the capacity of national institutions to collect disaggregated VAWG/HP data in line with globally agreed standards is strengthened

and (3) disaggregated data (including to extent possible on age, ethnicity, location, socio-economic status, disability) are made accessible and disseminated to be used by decision makers and civil society

(4) then laws, policies and programmes will be based on evidence and better able to respond to the specific context and realities of women and girls, including those most marginalized

(5) because they will be based on quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>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</p> <p>Indicator 5.1 Proportion of countries that have globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time</p> <p>Indicator 5.2 Proportion of countries with publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level</p> <p>Indicator 5.3 Proportion of countries where national statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</p>	<p>Output 5.1 Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government¹² and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Indicator 5.1.1 Number of National Statistical Offices that have developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 5.1.2 Percentage of targeted countries with a system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, in line with international standards, across different sectors</p>

Output 5.2 Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making

Indicator 5.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making

Indicator 5.2.2 Number of pieces of peer-reviewed qualitative research published

Outcome 6 Theory of Change

6. Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, 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

If (1) the knowledge, expertise and capacities of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination is drawn upon and strengthened,

and (2) the space for women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination's expression and activity is free and conducive to their work,

and (3) multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks are established at local, national, regional and global level with women's rights groups and autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

then (4) women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations will be able to influence, sustain, and advance progress on GEWE and ending VAWG policies and programmes that respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination,

because (5) the activism of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination is a crucial driver of progress on efforts to end VAWG

Global Outcomes	Global Core Outputs and Output Indicators
<p>Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, 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</p> <p>Indicator 6.1 Proportion of countries where women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, ¹³ increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 6.2 Proportion of countries where there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage efforts to end VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG</p>	<p>Output 6.1 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs,¹⁴ have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels</p> <p>Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination</p> <p>Indicator 6.1.2 Number of official dialogues with relevant government authorities with the meaningful participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination</p>

	<p>Output 6.2 Women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG and GEWE more broadly</p> <p>Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women’s right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms¹⁵ for advocacy</p>
	<p>Output 6.3 Women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalisation have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG</p> <p>Indicator 6.3.2 Number of women’s rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG</p>

Annex References

- 1 Progress towards international standards will be measured through an analysis of specific components (“degree to which”) as described in the Methodological Notes
- 2 Parliamentarians, human rights institutions and women’s right advocates
- 3 Key government/national decision makers (Heads of State, Finance Ministers, Ministries of Justice and Police, Security Ministers and relevant planning institutions) including women’s rights advocates
- 4 Key government officials and women’s human rights defenders
- 5 Written submissions, public events and other visible actions
- 6 E.g. justice, statistics, police, health, community based, etc.
- 7 Including peer-to-peer, promoting gender transformative and human rights-based attitudes/beliefs, respectful and equitable relationships and the expression and exercise of their rights, including reproductive rights
- 8 Including informing parenting skills around gender socialization through early childhood development programmes
- 9 Including the media, sports, workplaces, etc.
- 10 Will differ from region to region and includes decision makers from informal institutions, e.g. traditional, religious and community leaders
- 11 This indicator should be measured for women seeking services within the past 12 months, in order to measure progress and change over time—as lifetime prevalence of violence is not a sound measure of change over time.
- 12 Statistics offices, justice, security and health sector
- 13 Including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization
- 14 Including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization
- 15 E.g. the CEDAW, UPR shadow reports, and social accountability mechanisms such as social audits, citizen report cards, etc.

