

Spotlight Initiative

To eliminate violence against women and girls

Annual Report

1 January - 31 December 2018

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Annual Report

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Glossary of Acronyms

Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ASEAN
Civil society organisations	CSOs
Country Programme Document	CPD
European Union	EU
Gender Inequality Index	GII
International Labour Organization	ILO
International Organization for Migration	IOM
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	UNAIDS
Memorandum of Understanding	MoU
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	OHCHR
Operational Steering Committee	OSC
Recipient United Nations Organisations	RUNOs
Resident Coordinator's Office	RCO
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UNESCO
United Nations General Assembly	UNGA
United Nations	UN
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP

United Nations Information Centres	UNIC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	UNODC
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN Women
World Health Organization	WHO



Foreword

**by the United Nations
Deputy Secretary-
General**

It has been almost two years since we launched the Spotlight Initiative - a pioneering partnership between the United Nations and the European Union to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

Over this year, we have worked with a range of stakeholders in 13 countries across Latin America and Africa to design comprehensive Country Programmes. In total, we have finalised programmes for an over US\$ 300 million investment in these two regions.

Spotlight is “a new way of working”. But what does this mean practically?

Quite simply it means working on ending violence against women and girls with all possible partners in new and different ways.

With government, it means supporting countries in their national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and promoting a multi-sectoral approach where all departments are encouraged to bring their collective capacities to serve women and girls harmed by violence. In Zimbabwe, this has translated into an all-of-government approach, with high-level and technical engagement of duty bearers. We have brought together representatives from the Office of the President and Cabinet and key government ministries, ranging from the ministries of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, and Finance and Economic Development to the ministries of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Health and Child Care, and Higher and Tertiary Education.

With civil society, this means that their leadership and expertise have helped shape our work, and that we have put in place mechanisms at the country, regional and global levels, with representation from civil society, selected through their own processes. The purpose of these bodies will be to inform the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Spotlight programmes, link civil society across the different levels, and consult widely to inform the Spotlight Initiative’s efforts from a civil society perspective. This also translates into greater transparency, accountability and partnership. For example, in 2019 we will have a Global Repository of all Spotlight vacancies and calls for proposals to engage civil society in the delivery of our Country and Regional Programmes available online for

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed
Credit: UN Photo/Mark Garten



“Spotlight aims to support governments, build on the leadership of civil society, and focus on the most urgent needs – such as preventing violence, providing services for survivors and reforming the criminal justice system.”

Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations

anyone to access, apply and further disseminate. At the country level, we have set up Spotlight interim Civil Society Reference Groups who partnered with us to design Country and Regional Programmes that are relevant and reflect country priorities and, within these Programmes, we have established minimum thresholds to ensure that significant resources go directly to civil society organisations who lead this vital work.

We are also engaging non-traditional partners. In Niger, the Spotlight Initiative organised awareness-raising caravans, with the participation of traditional chiefs and religious leaders, to advocate against child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence. In Malawi, we are working with journalists who have formed a Spotlight Media Network to report more sensitively and from a rights-based perspective on issues related to violence against women and girls.

To truly advance the principles of national ownership and *leaving no one behind*, country teams will be required to report every year on how new partners are being engaged, existing programmes complemented or scaled up, and, in particular, how local and grassroots organisations are receiving Spotlight Initiative funds.

With our main donor partner, the European Union, we are working as partners at all levels to

ensure that the expertise and experience of their delegations informs Spotlight Programmes and their implementation. We are jointly advocating to place work on ending violence against women and girls firmly on the agenda of key actors at global and country levels. In 2019, recognising that these funds are seed funding in our efforts to end violence against women and girls globally, we will be stepping up our efforts to engage new donors and new partnerships to deepen the reach and impact of the Spotlight Initiative.

And lastly, within the United Nations system, the Spotlight Initiative is a flagship programme of our development system reforms. It is modelling a new way of working together – that is more coherent, collaborative, inclusive and efficient – under the leadership of our Resident Coordinators to develop holistic, technically sound programmes that shatter silos and harness synergies and complementarities. This will increase the effectiveness of our programmes and our operational efficiencies and reduce transaction costs for our partners.

Working together in new ways has, and will continue to, require creativity and commitment. It entails a shift in how we operate, and demands that we be open to questioning existing ways of operating and listening to those we serve, especially to woman and girl survivors of violence and other vulnerable groups, and young people. All of this must result in a redistribution of respect and power. And a renewal of faith and rebuilding of trust which will go far to achieving our goal of ending violence women and girls by pursuing systemic and structural shifts.

At its foundation, a “new way of working” means challenging long-held assumptions and being comfortable with discomfort. The vision and the ambition of the 2030 Agenda will not be met through complacency and business as usual. So, I invite all of you to please, make yourselves uncomfortable.

Foreword

by the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

Violence against women and girls affects lives, families and communities in every corner of the world.

Global estimates in 2017 indicated that about one in three women worldwide experience physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. Every year, 15 million girls under the age of 18 are forced into marriage and 200 million girls are subject to female genital mutilation. These grave human rights violations unfortunately remain too widespread, too embedded in our societies.

Gender equality is a pre-condition to achieve the ambitious global goals set forward in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, in many places across the world, we are currently witnessing an alarming rise in attacks on gender equality. Women's and girls' rights, achieved through years of struggle, are being rolled back.

This cannot be. We all need to stand up for women's and girls' rights; and make sure that every woman and girl, everywhere, can lead her life knowing that she is free and safe.

For the European Union and its Member States, it is a non-negotiable priority. We are all well aware that we cannot do this alone. Coordinated efforts by all actors are required: countries at all stages of development, international organisations, political leaders and public figures, civil society organisations, grassroots activists, women and girls, and – crucially, also – men and boys.

This reality and the conviction that more needs to be done led me, in September 2017, to launch the Spotlight Initiative, an unprecedented global effort and unique model of partnership to end all forms of violence against women and girls, backed by an initial investment of EUR 500 million.

With this initiative, we have joined forces with the United Nations to ensure that women and girls are able to live free from violence and to participate fully in all aspects of society – political, social and economic. During the past 18 months we have all been working extremely hard to make this happen.



European Union Commissioner for Cooperation and Development,
Neven Mimica
Credit: European Union

Under the umbrella of the Spotlight Initiative in Southeast Asia, the European Union launched in 2018 the “Safe and Fair” programme, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the International Labour Organization. The Programme is targeted at promoting the safety, well-being and fair treatment of female migrant workers. In cooperation with governments, civil society organisations and service providers, the objective is to improve data collection on the rights and contributions of women migrants, advocate for labour law reforms, and ultimately put an end to gender-based violence and the trafficking of women and girls.

In Latin America, our Spotlight programmes focus on ending femicide. In a region where, on average, 12 women are killed every day, the major challenge is to change the underlying social customs that normalise and perpetuate violence. Country programmes have been finalised and are currently being rolled out in Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

In Africa, the Spotlight Initiative aims to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as child marriage, supported by a total envelope of EUR 250 million, and focusing on 8 countries (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe). It will also include a regional approach in order to scale up the existing initiatives on fighting female genital mutilation, child marriage and joint activities with the Africa Union.

In parallel, the consultation phase of the Initiative for the Pacific region was launched in March 2019, focusing on ending domestic violence in the region.

In the coming months, we will be finalising a number of Regional and Country Programmes in the Caribbean, the Pacific and on the Asian continent, and our dedicated support to women’s organisations will be put into motion. Today, more than ever, supporting women’s organisations and women’s movements is vital. Women need to get the means and the tools to fight back, to create networks and coalitions, and to be able to shape their own future.

For the European Union, the Spotlight Initiative also embodies our staunch support to effective multilateralism and the United Nations Secretary-General’s ambitious reform agenda. It represents a new way of working with the United Nations family, bringing down silos and maximising our effectiveness in our common fight against gender-based violence.

Through this new approach of togetherness, collaboration and partnership, I wish to see the Spotlight Initiative reach its full potential, bring more partners on board, and achieve a long-lasting impact – living up to our commitment to eradicate the scourge of violence against women and girls worldwide.

“The Spotlight Initiative is for the next generations of girls to grow up safe and equal and free to enjoy their full potential.”

Neven Mimica
European Union Commissioner
for International Cooperation
and Development

Report Structure

This Annual Report covers the period from 01 January to 31 December 2018, describing the operations of the Spotlight Initiative to design Country and Regional Programmes in Latin America and Africa, as well as early activities implemented in these regions between 26 July and the end of December 2018. It also presents progress made in Asia through the Safe and Fair Programme, as well as portfolio development in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. At the global level, this Annual Report highlights the communications initiatives undertaken in 2018 to promote and raise the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative. The closing section presents an overview of financial information in adherence with the requirements specified in the contract with the European Union (EU).

Executive Summary

In its inaugural year of operations, the Spotlight Initiative, a global partnership between the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), kickstarted its work to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. By the end of 2018, the Initiative was underway in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with Regional Programmes and Investment Plans planned for the Caribbean and the Pacific in early 2019. The Initiative approved funding for 13 Country Programmes, in Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in Latin America, and in Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe in Africa. It was also the first full year of implementation of the Safe and Fair Regional Programme in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

Diverse and productive multi-stakeholder engagement characterised the Initiative's operations in its target Latin American and African countries. Partnerships with, inter alia, civil society, national and local authorities, EU delegations, the media, the private sector and UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes informed the development of Country Programmes. Numerous meetings, consultations, validation workshops and the establishment of baselines and outreach initiatives fed into programme development and set the stage for implementation in 2019.

The Spotlight Initiative leveraged the collaborative and comparative advantages of its core agencies [the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the UN



The women of Tongoye village dance to express their joy at the abandonment of female genital mutilation in their village Kolokani Circle, Koulikoro Region, Mali
Credit: UNFPA/UNICEF Mali/Seyba Keita

Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA)], as well as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other relevant UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to roll out the Initiative. Together, they were instrumental in designing large-scale, high-quality Country Programmes, providing inputs on design and budget reviews, and undertaking technical field missions as needed. Resident Coordinators, charged with coordinating the Initiative at the country level, activated existing Gender Theme Groups and Technical, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Communications Groups, drawing on the expertise of the whole system to support the development of Spotlight Initiative Country Programmes.

With regard to civil society, by the end of 2018 all Spotlight Initiative countries in Latin America and Africa had established interim or formal Civil Society National Reference Groups. These Groups facilitated the inputs of seasoned civil society experts into programme design, assuring both their participation and support for operations on the ground. Regionally, the formal Latin America and interim Africa Civil Society Regional Reference Groups similarly engaged in the design of Regional Programmes. Further, the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat embarked on a transparent,

civil society-led process of establishing a Civil Society Global Reference Group, by constituting a Selection Committee to lead the process which is expected to be completed in mid-2019.

Strong partnerships were forged with government stakeholders in all Spotlight Initiative countries in Latin America and Africa whose political leadership and technical expertise are crucial to ensuring a coordinated, multi-sectoral response to ending violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative also worked hand-in-hand with EU delegations in Spotlight Initiative countries on the design and development of all Country Programmes in the two regions. In Mozambique, UN Women explored opportunities for resource mobilisation and collaboration with the private sector, in commercial banking, telecommunications, agribusiness, and the oil and gas industries. By assessing the private sector's internal and external contributions to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in the country, the Initiative opened new avenues for partnership and progress.

Early implementation of agreed on activities commenced in some countries in 2018. In Malawi, in one district, the Initiative supported the renovation of a Community Victim Support Unit and trained mentors and youth. It also provided community funds to help woman and girl survivors of violence afford medical reports and transportation to formal justice courts. It established mobile courts that began handling cases in October 2018 and successfully adjudicated two cases of violence against young girls resulting in imprisonment for the perpetrators. The Initiative's outreach campaigns, led by Group Village Heads, reached 4,165 people, and a mobile, youth-oriented U-Report polled 54,680 respondents, finding that 64% believed sexual and gender-based violence was an issue. This provided an important baseline against which the country will track progress. In Liberia, baseline surveys were conducted and provided critical data on sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and informed the selection of the target locations for the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme.

Regionally, the Safe and Fair Programme got underway, addressing violence against women migrant workers in the ASEAN region, including prevention and response initiatives. The

“With the Spotlight Initiative, the EU and the UN are working to galvanize broad collaboration with focused intent, across UN agencies, civil society partners and governments, so as to end violence against women and girls once and for all.”

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

“We need to focus on increasing visible services for women migrant workers.”

Dominador Tuvera
Coordinator of ASEAN Trade
Union Confederations

Programme spent much of 2018 in an inception period, undertaking scoping and baseline studies as well as national consultative meetings in eight of the ten countries it covers. Towards the end of 2018 the Programme supported capacity building towards improved data collection and service provision for women migrant workers by both national entities and civil society organisations (CSOs). Women’s networks capitalised on these capacity building efforts to relay information on safe migration to local migrant women workers. The Programme also reported results with regard to law and policy reform, networking and organising, knowledge production and communications campaigns.

In 2018, the Spotlight Initiative’s activities garnered important media and high-level political attention through three high-profile events. In March, the Initiative held an event during the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women. It focused on the principle of *leaving no one behind*, which is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The EU Commissioner of International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, delivered the opening remarks, followed by a keynote from Amina Mohammed, the UN Deputy Secretary-General. A number of civil society activists also spoke at the event including Lizzie Kiama, a Kenyan disability rights activist, Peruvian indigenous rights activist Tarcila Rivera, and Fijian trans and youth activist Miki Wali. In June, the opening ceremony of the European Development Days featured the Initiative, with UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa Jaha Dukureh giving keynote remarks. In September, the Initiative launched its Latin America investment on the margins of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini used this opportunity to announce a



Workshop with Mayan women on the prevention of violence against women. Sololá Village, Guatemala
Credit: UN Guatemala/Héctor Morales

€50 million commitment to the Initiative to end femicide in its target Latin American countries.

The Spotlight Initiative capitalised on these foundational milestones by rolling out its **Communications and Visibility Strategy** and its associated **Communications and Visibility Guide**. These products, along with a new global strategy for celebrity engagement, a **communications toolkit** and **updated Spotlight Initiative Brand Guidelines** offered important guidance with the Initiative poised for implementation in Latin America and Africa.

The Spotlight Initiative's website (spotlightinitiative.org) launched in 2018, along with the official Twitter account (@[GlobalSpotlight](https://twitter.com/GlobalSpotlight)). The #HerStoryOurStory digital campaign (HerStoryOurStory.net) kicked off on International Women's Day in 2018, with Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez promoting it. A series of '16

stories from 16 advocates' was released as part of the 2018 UNiTE Campaign '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence'. It shared the stories of grassroots activists working to end violence against women and girls.

Going forward, in 2019 Country and Regional Programmes will begin full-fledged implementation based on multi-stakeholder partnerships and high-level political commitment to tackle the root causes of violence against women and girls. Regional Investment Plans will be developed for the Pacific, the Caribbean and Asia, and Country and Regional Programmes designed and submitted for approval. A series of high-profile national and regional launches are also planned in Latin America and Africa, including with representation from Heads of State and prominent national and grassroots civil society activists.

“Ending violence against women and girls is on top of our agenda. With the Spotlight Initiative, we have a global coalition around this objective and are mobilizing all efforts and actions in education, awareness raising, prevention and delivering justice.”

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy, Vice President of the EU Commission

Update on the Spotlight Initiative's Operations

Governing Body and Operational Steering Committee Activities



Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee meeting in progress. New York, United States of America
Credit: Spotlight Initiative

The governance structure of the Spotlight Initiative includes a Governing Body, Operational Steering Committee, Secretariat and Administrative Agent (AA) at the global level. At country and regional levels, Country and Regional Programme Steering Committees serve as oversight and accountability mechanisms in all Spotlight Initiative 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 strategic direction, high-level 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 Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and a civil society representative.¹

The second tier of governance is the Operational Steering Committee, 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

¹ The civil society representative on the Governing Body is from and nominated by the Initiative's Civil Society Global Reference Group; it is expected that the Group will be set up and functioning by mid-2019

approval of all Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes. The Operational Steering Committee is co-chaired by a representative of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Director-General for International Cooperation and Development. Other members include UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF (as a permanent Observer), 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 of the Secretariat (comprising a Senior Technical Advisor, Technical and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Communications and Visibility Specialist, Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Specialist and Programme Associate), ensures the technical quality and coherence of all Spotlight Initiative programmes, oversees implementation, supports capacity development and knowledge management efforts, drives communications and visibility, promotes South-South cooperation and engages strategically with global and regional civil society partners.

The Management Unit (comprising a Senior Programme Fund Manager, Reporting Officer, Coordination Officer and Programme Associate) is responsible for the oversight of programming cycles, supporting the Spotlight Initiative's

programme development and budgeting, reporting on the Initiative's results, resource mobilisation and partnerships building, the Initiative's operating procedures, and programme and budget revisions. It functions as the Secretariat of the Governing Body and the Operational Steering Committee.

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

The aforementioned multi-stakeholder Country and Regional Steering Committees are co-chaired by the government/regional institutions and the UN, and comprise representatives of government/regional institutions, civil society, the UN and the EU.

Summary of Spotlight Initiative Programme Development Decisions

The Governing Body of the Initiative met once in March 2018. The Operational Steering Committee met thrice, in March, June and December 2018. The table below presents key meeting decisions.

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's Theory of Change
- Thematic focus by region endorsed
- Decisions on country selection criteria delegated to the Operational Steering Committee

Operational Steering Committee #2 13 December 2017

- Civil society engagement proposal approved
- 5 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 #12 12 March 2018

- Endorsement of 5 Spotlight Initiative countries for Latin America and timeline
- Agreement on 8 Spotlight Initiative countries for Africa, reserve list and timeline
- Request for Communications and Visibility Action Plan and Resource Mobilisation Strategy to be prepared

Operational Steering Committee #5 14 December 2018

- Funding for 8 Africa Country Programmes approved (Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe)
- Funding for 5 Latin America Country Programmes approved (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico)
- The CSO Africa envelope of €23.5 million to be invested as follows (via the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund):
 - €13 million dedicated to 8 programming countries and 5 reserve countries
 - €10.5 million to be invested sub-regionally

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 the Initiative's governance mechanisms agreed

Operational Steering Committee #3 9 March 2018

- Latin America Investment Plan approved
- Approval of Mexico as a Spotlight Initiative country
- Agreement on 7 Africa countries (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 for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, proposed
- Resource Mobilisation Modality paper endorsed and development of Resource Mobilisation Strategy requested

Operational Steering Committee #4 27 June 2018

- Africa Investment Plan approved
- The number of recipient UN Agencies is maintained at 3 to 5, with a maximum of 6 in exceptional circumstances
- The threshold for donor seats at the Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee and the Governing Body is set at US\$ 100 million
- Agreement for Africa to channel 10% of the regional envelope through existing UN trust funds
- Confirmation on inclusion of an Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group representative as an Observer



Nguyen Thi Thu, is a 24-year-old migrant worker from Ha Tinh, Vietnam, who works at a special farm in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia
Credit: UN Women/Staton Winter

ASEAN Regional Programme Update

Throughout the ASEAN region, the “Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities” Regional Programme, under the Spotlight Initiative, promoted safe and fair migration policies, labour rights and an end to violence against women migrant workers, as well as the provision of services to women migrant workers and trafficked women. The Programme covers both countries of origin (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam) and countries of destination (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand).

In close cooperation with a variety of stakeholders, the Programme works to achieve three inter-linked objectives: (1) women migrant workers are better protected by gender-sensitive labour migration governance frameworks; (2) women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking and benefit from coordinated, responsive quality services; and (3) data, knowledge and attitudes on the rights and contributions of women migrant workers are improved. The Programme mainstreams three cross-cutting approaches, namely, women’s voice and agency, rights-based approaches and the broad engagement of stakeholders, to ensure visibility, awareness raising and dialogue

promotion on changing norms around violence against women throughout the migration process. It also works to strengthen rights-based approaches to labour migration governance.

In the first year, a notable achievement of the regional Safe and Fair Programme was bringing together women migrant workers, along with governments, trade unions, employers and women-led civil society organisations in dialogues on ending violence against women, labour migration and trafficking. Stakeholders acknowledged that labour migration management must be more gender responsive. The need to address the continuum of violence through the mandates of different governmental and non-governmental organisations was a key output of region-wide discussions, including National Consultative Dialogues.

In 2018, through engagement with the above variety of key actors, the Programme established partnerships nationally and regionally. These included partnerships between UN agencies and with governments, trade unions, employers and civil society. Table 1 shows the diversity of actors that participated in National Consultative Dialogues held in 2018.

Table 1. Participants in Safe and Fair National Consultative Dialogues, 2018

Country	Government (%)	Trade Unions/ Employers (%)	CSOs/INGOs (%)
Thailand	55	6	39
Cambodia	23	23	54
Viet Nam	46	8	46
Lao PDR	90	0	10
Philippines	35	19	46
Indonesia	52	21	28
Myanmar	56	5	39
Malaysia	55	17	28
Average across all	51		49

National Consultative Dialogues in Brunei and Singapore were held in early 2019.

Inception

The inception period for the Programme was January to September 2018. It provided the necessary time for the establishment of programmatic activities which included, inter alia:

- Introducing the Programme and the critical and often sensitive issues it sought to address to a diverse range of stakeholders and developing country and regional work plans through consultative dialogues throughout the ASEAN region. Stakeholders acknowledged the contributions of women migrant workers to communities and countries and agreed that labour migration management needs to be more gender responsive.
- Organising a meeting to orient Safe and Fair focal points on the objectives, purpose and technical issues linking violence against women and labour migration. The meeting, held in November 2018, introduced new ways of working and enhanced the capacities of the Programme Team, and two of the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat members.
- Undertaking an evaluability assessment that included a review of the Theory of Change and the logical framework to ensure the quality and feasibility of the Programme
- Agreeing on approaches to baseline data collection and commissioning service providers to undertake remaining baseline data collection and key research
- Developing a Communications and Visibility Strategy for the Programme. The Strategy will ensure optimal internal and external communications, visibility, public awareness and information sharing, which will contribute to the change of behaviour and attitudes towards women migrant workers, and the effort of ending violence against women, including better access to knowledge and information.

“Domestic workers are already leading, but they need more opportunities to organize, to voice their rights.”

Pui Yu Ip
Regional Coordinator (Asia)
International Domestic
Workers Federation

Establishment of a Governance Framework

A rigorous governance framework was established to provide strategic and technical governance to the Programme at regional and national levels, through the Project Steering Committee, the Regional Programme Advisory Committee and the Multi-stakeholder National Programme Advisory Committees.

Progress and Results

From October to December 2018, the first three months of the Programme's full implementation, Safe and Fair achieved results in the areas of law and policy reform, capacity building, networking and organising, service provision, knowledge production, and communications and campaigns.

To support **laws and policies on safe and fair labour migration and on ending violence against women**, the Programme initiated support to relevant ministries in the region. Safe and Fair is contributing towards processes for reviewing, revising and/or developing labour migration policies.

For instance, in **Indonesia**, Safe and Fair is supporting the development of subordinate regulations for Law No. 18/2017 on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers. Along with technical support to the development of the subordinate regulation, Gender Responsiveness Guidelines for Tripartite plus Partners on the Implementation Law No. 18/2017 at national and subnational levels are also being prepared.



A Cambodian woman taps a rubber tree at a plantation in Rayong, Thailand, around 100 kilometres south-east of Bangkok
Credit: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

According to the Law and Policy Baseline Desk Review that the Programme conducted, not all ASEAN countries have national action plans on ending violence against women. Hence, the programme advocated for the inclusion of rights-based and survivor-centered approaches into national policies and plans.

In **Cambodia**, the Programme provided technical inputs and successfully incorporated the needs of women migrant workers in the 3rd National Action Plan to prevent violence against women (NAPVAW). The NAPVAW will lead towards reducing vulnerabilities of women migrant workers with a long term and sustainable view that the Programme advocated for the inclusion of rights-based and survivor-centered approaches into national policies and plans.

“Through the Safe and Fair Programme, we were able to create an enabling environment to discuss and draft the National Action Plan on Ending Violence against Women and Labour Policy in Cambodia, including women migrant workers.” - Robin Mauney

Safe and Fair also contributed to **capacity building initiatives for government service providers** through the development of a guidance note on coordinated essential services to address the needs of women migrant workers subjected to violence and the provision of support to other initiatives.

In **Thailand**, through a collaboration between Safe and Fair and IOM, 15 government officials (53 per cent women) enhanced their capacities in providing counselling and using art therapy with migrants, including trafficked persons, to provide better service and respond better to the beneficiaries. The workshop was organized in collaboration with IOM.

To enhance the capacities of front-line service providers to respond to the needs of women migrants experiencing violence and trafficking, Safe and Fair identified **16 essential measures** that need to be in place to ensure a coordinated quality response sensitive to violence against women migrant workers. This will contribute to a series of Trainings of Trainers among front line providers in health, social services, justice and police sectors.

Furthermore, the Programme strengthened violence against women data collection systems to better understand the needs of women migrant workers for future evidence-based advocacy, in recognition that data collection is a key component of essential services.

At the national level, in **Viet Nam** Safe and Fair contributed to increasing the capacities of local shelters to collect disaggregated data for survivors of all types of violence, increasing capacity to properly identify, respond to and refer women migrant workers. The upgraded data collection system developed by this pilot initiative will be introduced to other shelters and social service centres in the Mekong delta and across the ASEAN region.

The Programme is also working with labour organisations to implement cross-border efforts towards safe and fair migration. At a Safe and Fair regional meeting in November 2018, women leaders formed **new cross-border relationships and strategised innovative forms of organising, including among hard-to-reach labour sectors**, such as domestic work. Thirty representatives of trade unions, migrant and domestic workers groups and civil society organisations participated in the dialogue.

Women's networks followed on from the above national-level capacity building efforts to locally organise, including by distributing safe migration and information on ending violence against women to women migrant workers. In November 2018, Safe and Fair enhanced the capacities of 10 CSOs, NGOs and women's networks working in West Java Indonesia, through trainings on the links between ending violence against women, trafficking and migration, with the aim of providing information to women migrant workers. As a result, the networks were able to successfully provide women migrants with information in their own communities.

In late 2018, the Programme's first **service provision** initiative reached women migrants and trafficked persons. In Thailand, 79 Myanmar Muslim women migrant workers and survivors of trafficking were able to access primary health consultations, supplemental nutrition, non-food items and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services. Evidence collection initiatives took place at national levels to map women migrant workers' needs against services currently provided by a variety of stakeholders. These needs assessments will lead to the establishment of Safe and Fair-supported Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) in eight ASEAN countries.

Throughout the reporting period, the Programme produced 17 studies and **knowledge products** and initiated several other research initiatives.

Changing stigmatisation and patriarchal public attitudes is key to rights' realisation for women migrant workers. Towards this end, Safe and Fair led **campaigning and advocacy efforts** with a wide communications reach. Efforts focused particularly on the European Development Days, International Migrants' Day and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. **In total, 133,677 people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns to change attitudes and behaviours towards women migrants and 14,420 people were reached through campaigns to address violence against women, trafficking and gender-based discrimination against women migrant workers.** The Programme's regional meeting on changing public attitudes led to plans for further campaigning in the ASEAN region. The Programme also provided technical support and guidance to an ASEAN-led campaign against violence against women and trafficking. These outreach initiatives created buy-in for the Programme's objectives and generated visibility and awareness of the Spotlight Initiative.



Filipino women participate in the Safe and Fair Programme's media launch and public forum led by grassroots women's organisations leading the Migrants/Women Workers Oath ("Panata") to protect, promote and defend their rights as women, as workers and as migrants. They held cards to highlight the core rights and principles contained in their oath.

Credit: UN Women Asia Pacific

Story from the Field: From survivor to advocate, Lucile defends women migrant workers' rights in the Philippines

Manila, Philippines - When Lucile* left the Philippines to work as a caregiver in Singapore, she hoped that the new job would help her family financially. But after she arrived, her hopes quickly became a nightmare.

"While I was in Singapore, my employers never paid me," said Lucile. "They forbid me from eating without their permission. I often had to wait until the evening for my first meal. Sometimes, my employers would not feed me at all for a week."

Lucile's working conditions worsened with time. Her employers became physically violent towards her. After months of mistreatment, she decided to run away. With the help of a friend, Lucile went to the police to seek help. She feared that as a migrant worker, she might be jailed or fined for reporting her employers. "Luckily, there was a surveillance camera in the employer's house which confirmed that I had been enduring violence," said Lucile.

Lucile now works for the Victorias Overseas Foreign Workers (OFW) Federation where she supports women migrant workers on their journeys abroad. Victorias OFW Federation works in partnership with the Spotlight Initiative's Safe and Fair programme, a €25 million investment designed to eliminate the violence women migrant workers face in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

"Thanks to the Spotlight Initiative, I have learned how crucial it is to understand women migrant workers' needs before they embark on their migration journey," said Lucile. "I am now also able to share more information on violence against women and I can inform them of the services they must contact when they seek help. I don't want any other woman to go through what I have experienced," she added.

*Name changed for privacy reasons.

“I want to tell women who want to migrate: ‘You should get all the information you need, as much as you can. Knowledge and information will make you strong. Don’t look at the rosy side of the future only. Otherwise, you might come back home with tears. However, when you are crying, there is always some who you can talk to. We will be there to hold your hands.’”

Lucile (alias)
Former migrant worker and
survivor of violence

Country and Regional Programme Development Process

Given the scale and multi-stakeholder nature of the Initiative, all Spotlight Country and Regional Programme are developed following a comprehensive consultative nature, involving a wide-range of stakeholders, particularly government representatives, civil society (at global, regional and country level), EU Delegations and other development partners as well as experts in the field of ending violence against women and girls.

Programming steps include virtual and in-person consultation of civil society, regional technical meetings with key stakeholders and experts, the design of regional investment plans, virtual country dialogues (with the Executive Office of the Secretary General and in presence of representatives of the Government, EU Delegation and civil society) as well as national stakeholders workshops.

The selection of countries for implementation under the Spotlight Initiative follows a twin-track approach, using both quantitative and qualitative

Criteria considered:

- Prevalence of the particular form of violence in the region
- Gender Inequality Index
- Level of government commitment towards ending violence against women and girls
- 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 violence against women and girls 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)

criteria. In addition to taking into account levels of prevalence and indicators related to gender inequality, decisions are also informed by a desk review of qualitative indicators related to stakeholders’ capacity to deliver, enabling environment, ongoing initiatives in this sector and opportunity to have a catalytic effect.

Based on this analysis, the members of the Operational Steering Committee selected a mix of countries, investing not only in those that were progressing towards stronger action on violence against women and girls but also selecting countries that were further behind. This approach will allow the Initiative learning from the various contexts and should support the identification of “packages of interventions” that can be further replicated or scaled-up beyond the scope of the Spotlight Initiative.

In 2018, comprehensive Country Programmes were developed for all Spotlight Initiative countries in Latin America and Africa. The Country Programmes were the result of a collaborative approach to programme design that relied on the participation of a diverse array of stakeholders. Participants included, for instance, national and provincial government authorities, civil society organisations, trade unions, the private sector and academia, as well as groups of marginalised women and girls, such as indigenous women, women with disabilities, rural and migrant women, all of whom face multiple forms of discrimination. Open and honest consultations with such stakeholders and the finalisation of the Country Programme Documents (CPDs) were important milestones in each of the Spotlight Initiative countries this past year. Programme implementation will commence for all Spotlight Initiative countries in Latin America and Africa in 2019.



Guatemala has one of the highest femicide rates in the world and indigenous women like those of the Polochic valley experience heightened vulnerability
Credit: UN Women/Ryan Brown



The Ni Una Menos (Not One [woman] Less) movement which started as a campaign against femicide in Argentina has now spread to several Latin American countries
Credit: UN Women Mexico

Programme Development in Latin America

Following the approval of the Latin America Regional Investment Plan, the design of Country and Regional Programmes began in mid-March 2018. Early implementation activities reported on below took place between 26 July and 31 December 2018. Five Country Programmes for Latin America were formally approved by the OSC of the Initiative in December 2018. The development of the Latin America Regional Programme began in mid-2018 and is expected to be finalised in mid-2019.

Argentina Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 5,400,000	USD 475,803
Start Date End Date:	February 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UNFPA, ILO and UN Women

Partners: Office for Women, Under-Secretary of Access to Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of Production and Labor, Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family, General Public Prosecutor of the Nation, Provincial Institute of Gender and Sexual Diversity, Province of Buenos Aires, Under-Secretary of Gender Policies, Secretary of Parity, Secretary of Indigenous Affairs and Public Prosecutor

A three-phase consultation process led to the development of the Country Programme Document in Argentina, a main output during this reporting period. In the first phase of CPD development, which was preparatory, three consultations involving 85 people led to the development of a proposal with the government, civil society and the UN Country Team. During the second phase, formulation, one national and three provincial workshops were held with members of the government, civil society, the private sector, the EU and the UN. Approximately 254 people attended these workshops. During the third phase, validation, meetings with key national and provincial partners were held to validate the strategy and the priorities.

The consultation process, led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), involved the **core agencies of the Initiative** (UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP) and all key partners whose contributions to the development of the Country Programme are outlined in the table below.

Contributor	Contribution
National Women's Institute	Helped formulate the Programme in line with and to support the National Action Plan
EU Delegation	Played an important role in the agreements, the technical exchanges and the observations concerning the Programme strategy and helped develop the Initiative's Communication Strategy
Civil Society	Played a fundamental role in the formulation process, ensuring focus on the analysis of priorities and activities across all Outcomes to address multiple types of discrimination
UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (UNICEF, IOM, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNIC and WHO)	Supported the consultation process

CPD developed in 3 Phases

Phase I: Preparatory

- 3 consultations with 85 people

Phase II: Formulation

- 254 attend 1 national and 3 provincial workshops

Phase III: Validation

- National and provincial partners validated the CPD

Further, **three national government institutions** were consulted to develop the activities prioritised under Outcome 3 (prevention) of the Country Programme. These included the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of Education and SENNAF (National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family). The offices of the Under-Secretary of Access to Justice (Ministry of Justice and Human Rights) and the Prosecution Unit Specialised in Violence against Women under the Public Prosecutors Ministry provided inputs to the prioritisation of the access to services Outcome, specifically on access to justice for women and girls. Meanwhile, the provincial governments helped define priorities and common strategies.

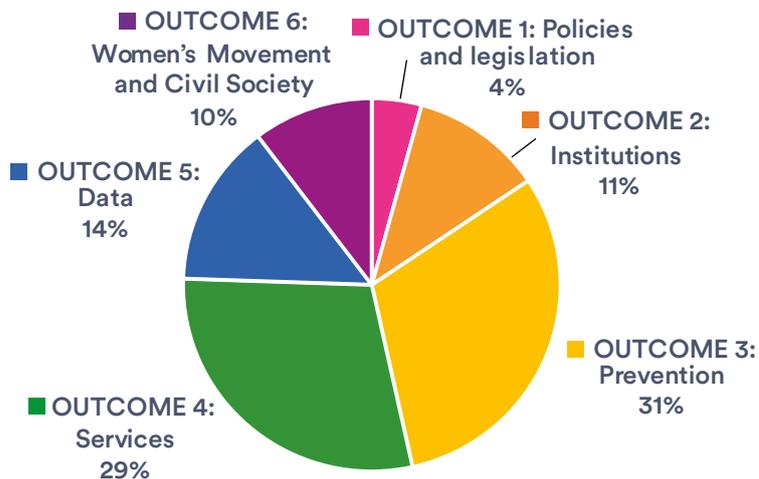
In 2018, **the interim Civil Society National Reference Group was formed with the selection of 17 representatives of women's organisations.** The main function of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group was to provide advice during the design and the implementation phases of the Initiative.

Established and active in Argentina

- Civil Society National Reference Group formed (17 Representatives)
- Communications Technical Committee (CTC)
- Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Committee (M&ETC)
- Work plans for each of the Programme's 6 Outcomes

In November 2018, the interim Civil Society National Reference Group held their first meeting, which fostered a rich discussion on the role of civil society and the women's movement in the implementation phase. All interim Civil Society National Reference Group observations and recommendations were taken on board for the final iteration of the Country Programme. In addition, the interim Group agreed on the mechanisms they will use for decision making and set up the procedure to choose their representation on the Steering Committee.

In December, **work plans for each of the Programme's six Outcomes were prepared through bilateral exchanges** with various partners. In addition, the Communications Technical Committee and the Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Committee were created. The Communications Technical Committee will have a key role in the organisation of the March 2019 launch event and in the development of the Communications Strategy. The Monitoring and



“We will work with governments and other partners to tackle the root causes of femicide... patriarchal attitudes, misogyny, sexism and objectification of women.”

Neven Mimica
European Union Commissioner
for International Cooperation
and Development

Evaluation Technical Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference for the collection of baselines and set out to evaluate the final baselines report.

This series of **participatory exchanges and consultations** with partners set the Initiative’s priorities, ensuring that communities are informed of the rights of women and girls and promoting the availability, quality and accessibility of prevention, care, assistance and reparation services. The actions planned will transform cultural norms,

attitudes and behaviours; promote policies on gender-based violence from a comprehensive and integrated perspective; and ensure consistency between enacted laws and implemented policies—all with the ultimate objective of reducing violence against women and girls and its most extreme manifestation, femicide, in Argentina.

The implementation of the Argentina Country Programme will commence in February 2019.

El Salvador Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 7,200,000	USD 395,384
Start Date End Date:	December 2018 December 2022
<p>Recipient UN organisations: UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP</p> <p>Partners: Institutions from the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches, civil society and non-governmental organisations and the private sector</p>	

In 2018, the design of the Spotlight Initiative’s Country Programme set the foundation for the national launch and implementation of the Initiative in El Salvador. The Recipient UN Organisations, namely UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA, worked to create an inclusive programme together with public institutions, CSOs, the private sector and international organisations, especially considering those “furthest behind.”

Key partnerships were established with stakeholders that played an important role in the design of the Country Programme. These included the:

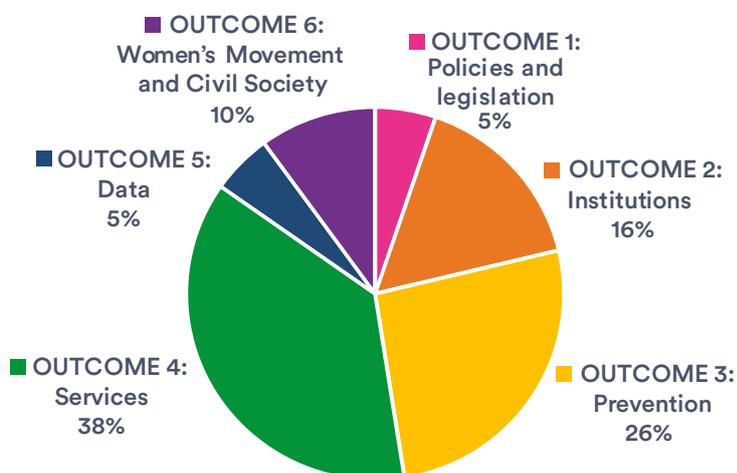
- European Union
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- El Salvador Institute for the Advancement of Women
- Technical and Planning Secretary of the Presidency
- National Council for Children and Adolescents
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Attorney General’s Office
- National Assembly
- Supreme Court of Justice

Consultations with partners created the conditions for programme execution, established alliances and coordination mechanisms with key stakeholders and resulted in the design of an action-oriented Communications Strategy to

In El Salvador partners designed specific interventions to overcome a culture of impunity

promote access to justice. Given the persistent culture of impunity and lack of societal recognition of the serious nature of violence against women and girls in El Salvador, partners designed specific interventions for the promotion of access to justice for survivors and victims of violence. The Initiative will also support access to multidisciplinary support services, taking into account women’s active participation and empowerment throughout the process.

A diverse Technical Team was established to meet these objectives. It included authorities of the specialised courts, the Supreme Court of Justice, target municipalities, public institutions linked to the coordination of essential services for women and girls (the El Salvador Institute for the Advancement of Women and the National Council for Children and Adolescents), as well as the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health and Education, and the Technical and Planning Secretary of the Presidency, which promotes programmes for those most in need. The EU delegation had a key political and technical role in the review and validation process.



The Violentometer measures women's and girls' exposure to violence and tells them how to get help

In 2018, the Programme supported the design of the **Supreme Court of Justice's campaign** to inform women and girls and the general public of the adoption of a new legislation creating special courts for gender-based violence, femicide and gender discrimination. The campaign educated women and girls on their rights and addressed impunity and obstacles to women and girls' access to justice. The campaign and slogan, "Love

is not...", targeted young women between 15 and 29 years of age, young men, and supported networks of female survivors of violence with key information on how to respond when confronted with violence. Campaign messages were designed to meet family, work and community contexts. They combined with an interactive social media tool called the "violentometer", which measured exposure levels of women to acts of violence and the resources available to them, including justice and security services.

At the end of the reporting period, the formal Civil Society National Reference Group was in the process of being established.

Guatemala Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 5,400,000	USD 971,551
Start Date End Date:	TBC

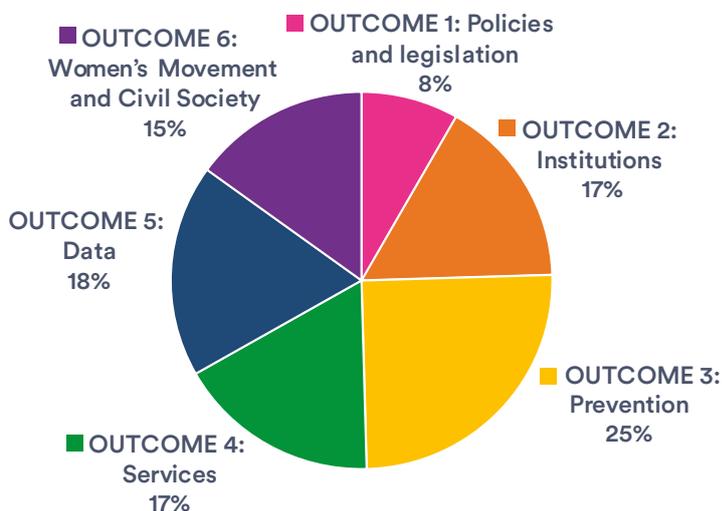
Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO

Partners: Congress of the Republic, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecutor of the District of Coban and the Municipality of Chinautla, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance Judicial Organs, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court National Attorney General, Secretariat of Social Welfare, Presidential Planning Secretariat, Secretariat of Social Works of the Spouse of the President, Presidential Secretariat for Women, National Coordinator for the Prevention of Intra-family Violence and Violence Against Women, National Women's Forum, the National Urban and Rural Development Councils, National Institute of Statistics, NGOs, CSOs, Academy/ Universities, national and communitarian communications media

In 2018, **targeted activities under the Spotlight Initiative focused on communications and outreach, laying the groundwork for the forthcoming national launch of the Initiative.** The launch is envisioned to take place in June 2019, just prior to the country's national and local elections.

During the reporting period, the Communications Team, comprising a representative from each of the RUNOs, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), met multiple times to **advance discussions on the central elements of a Communications Strategy** to raise the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative. The Team hired a consultant to develop the Strategy and held workshops and interviews to design its diagnostic elements. The Team undertook field visits to the Initiative's intervention sites and coordinated with the Technical Teams for each of the six Outcomes of the Initiative.

Further, the **Communications Team undertook outreach to national counterparts**, mainly the Presidential Secretariat for Women and the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency, as well as the Secretariat of Social Communication of the Presidency, which coordinates communications for more than 50 government offices. The Team also approached various CSOs, public institutions and universities, as well as journalists, columnists, communicators,



teachers and publicists to learn their perceptions on violence against women and girls. These exploratory exercises showed that journalists believed they were dealing with information on violence against women correctly. However, their

Raising awareness of the Spotlight Initiative in Guatemala

- Communications team assembled
- Communications consultant hired
- Workshops, field visits, consultations held
- Outreach to national counterparts
- Involvement of advertising agencies
- Exploratory exercises with journalists

“There has to be political will from the government to end violence against women and girls. In Guatemala, indigenous women and girls have been at the forefront denouncing violence.”

Otilia Lux de Coti, indigenous women's rights leader and MADRE Guatemala Programme Advisor

reporting lacked a gender and/or a human rights focus and often used disparaging concepts and messages. The Team identified this as a challenge to be addressed.

Finally, the Programme in Guatemala involved advertising agencies to **raise awareness on violence against women and girls** and to stop practices such as the use of subliminally violent messaging and images where women were shown as subordinate to men.

Honduras Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 5,400,000	USD 723,151
Start Date End Date:	December 2018 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women

Partners: OHCHR, Ministry of General Coordination of Government, Attorney General, Supreme Court of Justice, Ministry of Security (under Ministry of Prevention), National Information Center of the Social Sector, National Statistics Institute, National Institute of Youth, Ministry of Education, Directorate of Childhood Adolescence and Family, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (“Better Families” Programme), Ministry of Health, National Women’s Institute, Secretariat of Finance, Gender Commission of the National Congress, Secretariat of Human Rights, Justice and Governance, National Committee for Human Rights, NGOs, CSOs, academia and the private sector

The Honduras Country Programme was formally approved in December 2018, under the leadership of the RCO, and the contributions of the RUNOs (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP), civil society and government partners. The RUNOs commenced development of the Programme’s prevention strategy. It will aim to stop femicides and change social norms through community-based organisations at the local level. The prevention strategy also concentrates on health and education, decreasing the focus on security.

Key partners coordinated the design and set up of programme strategies to prevent violence against women and girls that will be implemented in the prioritized Honduran municipalities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, Intibucá and La Ceiba. Local implementation will include community-based approaches. Moreover, the Sub-Secretariat of Violence Prevention will mainstream gender-based violence prevention and social norms change through programmes in communities with high vulnerabilities to violence.

An inter-agency Communications Group was established to develop and validate the

Communications Strategy of the Initiative based on five communications approaches: institutional/corporate, advocacy, communications for development, knowledge management and dissemination of publications.

Furthermore, an inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation Group was set up, facilitated by the RUNOs’ monitoring and evaluation specialists. At the end of the year, the country had an inventory of indicators that the Honduras Country Programme will report against as well as a monitoring system in place. In addition, the Terms of Reference for the Initiative’s baseline survey was prepared, and baseline collection will be completed in 2019. The main criteria for the Programme to address intersectionality were also defined.

Prevention Strategy Priorities

- Femicide prevention
- Changing social norms
- Community-based organisations
- Health
- Education

The Spotlight Initiative in Honduras: 2018 highlights

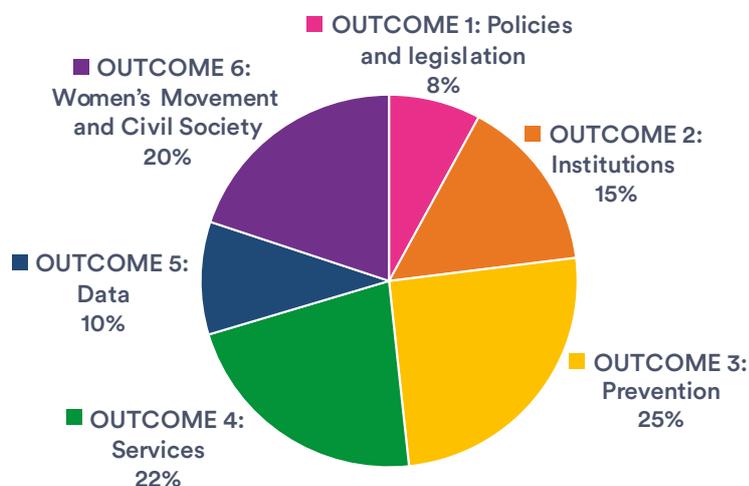
- Country Programme approved, December 2018
- Development of Prevention Strategy
- 6 Honduran municipalities prioritised
- Inter-agency Communications Group established
- Monitoring & Evaluation Group established
- Inventory of indicators for reporting set
- Terms of Reference for baseline survey prepared
- Criteria for intersectionality defined
- Civil Society National Reference Group established



Femicide claims the lives of 12 women in Latin America every day and the continent is home to 14 of the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide in the world
Credit: UNFPA Honduras

In 2018, municipal governments in the country made important advances in implementing the National System of Guarantees of Children’s Rights. Going forward, the municipalities will be priority partners at the local level and the Programme will support and strengthen their actions.

The UN also **established a formal Civil Society National Reference Group**, as a key entity in the Spotlight Initiative’s country governance structure. The Civil Society National Reference Group was established through an independent process led by civil society, facilitated by the UN and the EU. It will serve as an institutional mechanism to ensure systematic civil society engagement in the design and implementation of the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme in Honduras. The Civil Society National Reference Group will serve a dual function — to advise the Initiative and help realise its objectives.



Mexico Country Programme

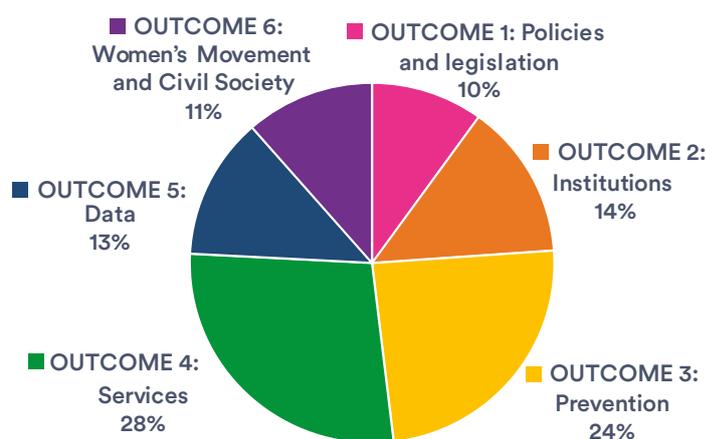
Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 6,300,000	USD 1,199,366
Start Date End Date:	April 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNODC and UNICEF

Partners: The National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women (CONAVIM), the National Women’s Institute, NGOs, CSOs and the private sector

In 2018, the Spotlight Initiative Mexico Technical Team focused on the development of the Country Programme and its approval by the Spotlight Initiative Secretariat. Key milestones achieved at the operational level included the **establishment of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group** and the **conclusion of national and sub-national workshops** that identified priority activities to be included in the Country Programme.

Government, CSOs and academia came together to define the Country Programme. **More than 40 CSOs participated in the creation of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group.** The interim Civil Society National Reference Group selected two CSOs to represent it in strategic meetings with the federal government: the National Citizens’ Observatory on Femicide and the National Network of Refuges. The Group also defined a **selection mechanism to establish the formal Civil Society National Reference**



Group. The call for nominations is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2019.

Following the result of the July 2018 general election and a new ruling party assuming power in Mexico in December 2018, the Technical Team closely followed the appointment of the new heads of the Comisión Nacional para Prevenir y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres and the Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres. However, by the end of December, no designated counterparts were officially in place, so discussions with these newly appointed authorities and **the presentation of the Spotlight Initiative to the new government will be pursued in 2019.**



Local consultation for the development of the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme, Toluca, Mexico
Credit: UN Women Mexico

Civil society participation in Mexico

- 40 CSOs participate in creation of interim Civil Society National Reference Group
- 2 CSOs selected for representation at the federal government level
- Selection mechanism for formal Civil Society National Reference Group established



**“Gender-related killings
of women are not isolated
incidents that arise suddenly
and unexpectedly but
represent the final stage of
violence after an extended and
ignored continuum of violence.”**

Dubravka Šimonović
Special Rapporteur on Violence
against Women

Programme Development in Africa

Following the approval of the Africa Regional Investment Plan, the design of Country and Regional Programmes began in July 2018. Early implementation activities reported on below took place between 26 July and 31 December 2018. Eight Country Programmes for Africa were formally approved by the Operational Steering Committee of the Initiative in December 2018. The development of the Africa Regional Programme also began in mid-2018 and is expected to be finalised in mid-2019.

Liberia Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 15,844,000	USD 2,821,681
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022
Recipient UN organisations: UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and OHCHR	
Partners: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Internal Affairs, NGOs and CSOs, Traditional Council of Elders and Chiefs and the private sector	

Based on the foundation set in 2018, **the national launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia was planned for June 2019.** During the initial implementation phase, **the Initiative completed a baseline study along with county and national consultations, and it finalized the CPD.**

The **baseline survey** (available [here](#)) provided **critical data that helped map the gaps in addressing sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights.** It canvassed ongoing interventions in the four counties of Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Bassa and Gbarpolu. The survey included desk reviews, consultations and focus groups with women, youth groups, community beneficiaries, government and civil society as well as other development partners. A selection of the most affected counties was made to help finalise the five target locations of Montserrado, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba and Grand Gedeh for the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme.

Short-term research experts were hired to support this process, including one international consultant who was supported by six national research assistants alongside the Technical Team. They provided technical expertise in results-based planning, appraisal of female genital mutilation, teenage pregnancy and early marriage to identify priorities, gaps and lessons from the region. **They**

The Spotlight Initiative Country Programme targets five counties

1. Montserrado
2. Lofa
3. Grand Cape Mount
4. Nimba
5. Grand Gedeh

“While there have been gains made in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, a lot is still desired to ensure that women and girls are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.”

Hon. Williametta E. Saydee Tar
Minister of Gender Children and Social Protection, Liberia



“Harmful practices such as female genital mutilation can deter development. Girls are snatched out of school and carried to Sande Schools against their wish. It is controversial and retards progress in all aspects.”

Cultural Leader, Liberia

Participation in programme development consultations

- 135 participants in the regional consultations
- 71 participants in the national validation event
- communities
- marginalised groups
- women’s rights groups
- religious leaders
- LGBTQI persons
- women and girls with disabilities
- the private sector
- development partners
- all levels of government

reinforced the need for an integrated approach to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Extensive national, regional and local level consultations were organized during the programme formulation phase. They were

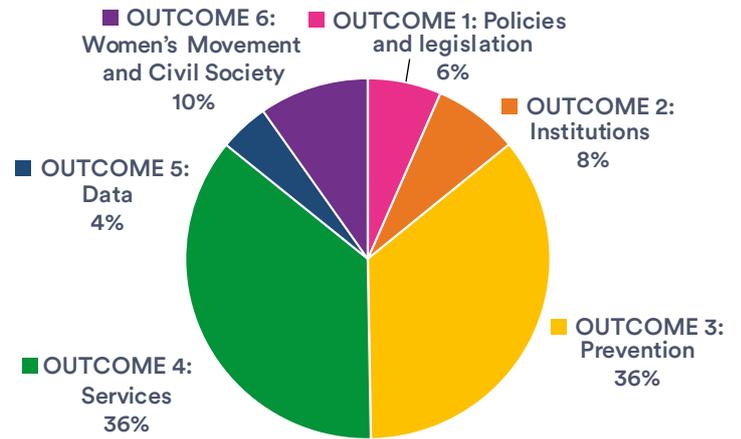
conducted in three out of the five selected counties with the aim of benefitting the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. **Over 135 people participated in the regional consultations and approximately 71 participated in the national validation event** (national consultation reports are available here for download).

The information from the baseline study as well as the county and national consultations informed the **finalisation of the Country Programme in December 2018**. It also provided data for the results as well as the monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including baselines, indicators and targets. The formulation of the Country Programme was based on priorities and activities sequenced to ensure coherence during implementation.

During this phase, the RCO provided overall coordination and guidance and involved the representatives of UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA OHCHR and UNICEF, with IOM and UNHCR as Associated Agencies. The process engaged the EU as an important partner and the Embassy

of Sweden, the sole donor to the ongoing Joint Programme on sexual and gender-based violence/harmful practices. The Joint UN and EU Technical Team worked in close consultation with the Government of Liberia, including ministers, deputy ministers and gender experts of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Information.

Further, an **interim Civil Society National Reference Group** was formed. In this process, rigorous consultations were held with over 44 national CSOs, women’s rights groups, advocates and representatives from marginalised groups during the project formulation period. Subsequently, a representative group comprising 16 of the 44 CSOs, women’s groups and the most marginalised groups in Liberia, including rural women, persons living with disabilities, transgender persons and people living with HIV/ AIDS, all working on sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights at the national and county levels, was identified and became the interim Civil Society National Reference Group.



Civil society participation in Liberia

- 44 CSOs consulted on interim Civil Society National Reference Group formation
- 16 CSOs identified to form the interim Civil Society National Reference Group

Malawi Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 20,000,000	USD 990,484
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA

Partners: UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNHCR, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Youth Sports and Manpower Development, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, NGOs and CSOs

Early implementation activities in Malawi had three objectives: (1) support the refurbishment and rehabilitation of safe spaces and help victims access services; (2) ensure the availability of a high-quality baseline for key indicators; and (3) conduct a high-level launch that would bring attention nationally to the issues of violence against women and girls and harmful practices.

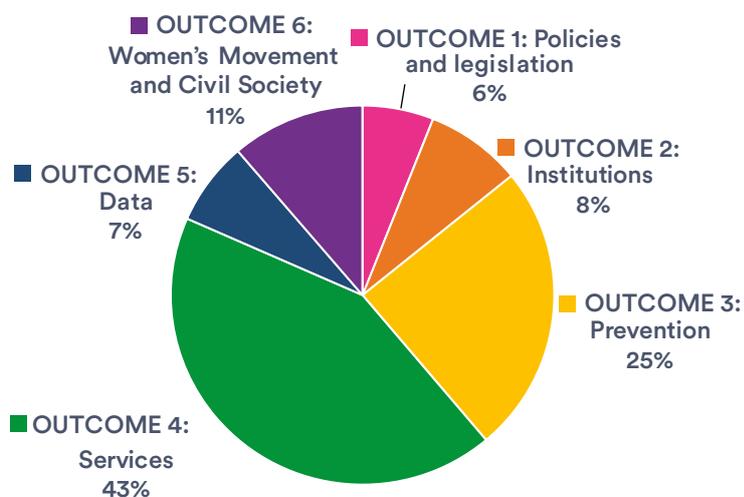
Interventions targeted the districts of Mzimba and Ntchisi, where they improved access to sexual and gender-based violence services in hard-to-reach areas, provided safe spaces and reduced the financial and social costs for victims accessing services and the justice system. These two districts were prioritised based on challenges, for instance their lack of services and support available to sexual and gender-based violence survivors, and because they could benefit from quick-win interventions that would yield results. Planned activities were completed in Mzimba District, while in Ntchisi, some were still underway at the end of the reporting period.

Objective 1: Support the refurbishment and rehabilitation of safe spaces and help victims access services

Rehabilitating Community Victim Support Units to Include Safe Spaces

Led by UNFPA, Community Victim Support Units were refurbished to create more safe spaces for women and girls. The Community Victim Support Units in the Mzimba District was completed, while the one in Ntchisi was still under renovation at the end of the reporting period. These rehabilitated spaces offered women and girls who had experienced violence access to quality services as well as temporary shelter.

To support the refurbishment/rehabilitation of safe spaces and help victims access services,



UNFPA partnered with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare as well as the District Councils of Mzimba and Ntchisi. Project implementation was community-based, using existing community structures to ensure ownership and sustainability from the start.

Mentoring

This intervention provided survivors and those at risk of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices with access to regular mentorship sessions to equip them with preventive skills. In Mzimba, 20 mentors were trained on gender-based violence (GBV), survivor services and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The mentors were drawn from influential and active women's groups within the communities. Mentoring sessions were conducted in the four Group Village Heads of Mapupo Ndhlovu, Yakhobe Soko, Mhabi Shaba and Mahlahubani Qoto in TA Mzukuzuku. In the Ntchisi district, mentoring sessions were conducted in Champhoyo, Kayoyo, Nthondo and Sambakusi, reaching 100 community members. The mentors also reached out to 988 women through different fora such as funerals,



Leaving No One Behind is a core principle of the Spotlight Initiative and work is underway to safeguard the rights of albino women across several African countries
Credit: UN Women Malawi

church gatherings and women's groups.

The renovated safe spaces also provided an opportunity for girls to meet and discuss various issues. In Mzimba, a sister-to-sister training was held, reaching 20 adolescent girls who came from the girl guides and youth clubs and who had been rescued from child marriages. This innovative approach to training equipped this cohort with knowledge and skills on GBV issues, taught them how to discuss these issues with other young girls and clarified how to report and refer cases of violence.

Revamping and Strengthening Community Networks on GBV

Sensitisation campaigns raised awareness of GBV issues and the services available to victims. This outreach also shed light on the financial support that the Spotlight Initiative was providing to survivors to overcome financial constraints that prevent access to justice. Nine campaigns, organised by the District Spotlight Initiative Teams, youth clubs, Community Victim Support Units, mentors and male champions, were conducted in the four Group Village Heads in both districts to build this awareness, and they reached

4,165 people.

Youth network members also received a training on the Theatre for Development approach and how to use these skills to support GBV messaging in TA Mzukuzuku. From the four Group Village Heads, 21 participants (10 women and 11 men) attended the training. The male champions, together with the youth networks, conducted 20 campaigns in the four Group Village Heads. They reached 2,968 people.

Capacity Building on Integrated GBV Service Provision

For both the Mzimba and Ntchisi Districts ToTs were conducted on the provision of coordinated GBV services and referrals. As a result, "quickwin" district and community plans were finalised. Participants came from the police community, youth network, Community Victim Support Units, women's forum, Embangweni Mission Hospital, Area Civil Protection Committee, traditional leaders, Area Development Committee and extension workers. The community committee then developed their implementation plan indicating their roles and responsibilities in quick-win activities. This was followed by a training

for 37 members (15 women and 22 men) of the community networks. Twelve male champions were also oriented on the quickwin activities. The interventions equipped them with knowledge on GBV, established their roles and developed action plans.

Community Funds for GBV Survivors

The project provided community funds to help GBV survivors afford medical reports and transportation to formal justice courts. The financial resources also helped ensure that victims could afford to pursue court cases. Further, mobile courts were established in hard-to-reach communities and four mobile courts sessions were held in TA Mzukuzuku. The courts successfully adjudicated two cases of violence against young girls resulting in imprisonment and hard labour

Malawi 2018 facts and figures

Objective 1: Safe Spaces

Rehabilitating Community Victim Support Units

- Community Victim Support Unit in Mzimba refurbished

Mentoring

- In Mzimba, 20 mentors trained on GBV, survivor services and sexual and reproductive health and rights, mentoring sessions conducted in four Group Village Heads and sister-to-sister training reached 20 adolescent girls
- In Ntchisi, mentoring sessions reached 100 community members and 988 women

Revamping and Strengthening Community Networks on GBV

- Nine campaigns in the four Group Village Heads reached 4,165 people
- Male champions, together with the youth networks, conducted 20 campaigns in the four Group Village Heads and reached 2,968 people

Capacity Building on Integrated GBV Service Provision

- 37 people from community networks trained
- 12 male champions oriented on quick-win activities

Objective 2: Baselines

- December 2018 U-Report poll reaches 54,680 respondents
- 64% of U-Reporters believed that sexual and gender-based violence was an issue
- 79% U-Reporters believed that the role of men was very important in ending GBV

for the perpetrators. Overall, case reporting and referrals improved.

Objective 2: Ensure the Availability of a High-quality Baseline for Key Indicators

This objective included a meta-analysis of existing data and grey literature, and a U-Report to gauge the perceptions of Malawians on key issues related to violence against women and girls and harmful practices. The baseline collection will be finalised in June 2019.

The U-Report is a new mobile-based platform that captures youth voices on issues affecting them. It is free of charge on the two main mobile networks in Malawi. A roadmap for polling throughout the Initiative was developed collaboratively with the Technical Team, setting out six themes on understanding sexual and gender-based violence and key questions to be asked throughout the Initiative. Each poll will be repeated every two months as one way to keep watch on changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices. The first poll was conducted in December 2018 with a total of 54,680 respondents. It found that 64% of U-Reporters believed that sexual and gender-based violence was an issue. A total of 79% U-Reporters believed that the role of men was very important in ending GBV. On this objective, UNICEF partnered with Airtel and Telekom Networks Malawi, the two main mobile networks in Malawi. UNICEF also leveraged its existing partnerships with the Center for Child Well-Being and Development at the University of Zurich and Malawi's Centre for Social Research to support the meta-analysis to substantiate and inform programme design and implementation.

Objective 3: Conduct a High-level Launch to Bring National Attention to violence against women and girls and harmful practices

Due to planned elections in the country, a launch date was not set.

As part of other communication activities carried out during the reporting period, the Initiative worked to inform journalists in the Southern Region about the Spotlight Initiative. Promotional materials were produced and distributed to them during the Annual General Meeting of Blantyre Press Club held in November 2018. As a result, the journalists agreed to form a Spotlight Initiative Media Network to advance media reporting for the Initiative at the national and district levels. The

Mali Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 18,000,000	USD 1,444,519
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR

Partners: Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille, Ministère de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux, Ministère de la Sécurité et de la Protection Civile, Ministère de la Santé et de l'Hygiène Publique, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Emploi et de la Construction Citoyenne, Ministère des Affaires Religieuses et des Cultes, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances, Ministère de la Communication et de l'Economie Numérique (Voir liste en annexe), NGOs, CSOs

Activities in 2018 in Mali focused on **strengthening service provision and care for GBV survivors**. Capacity building and communications initiatives targeted the Koulikoro and Ségou regions.

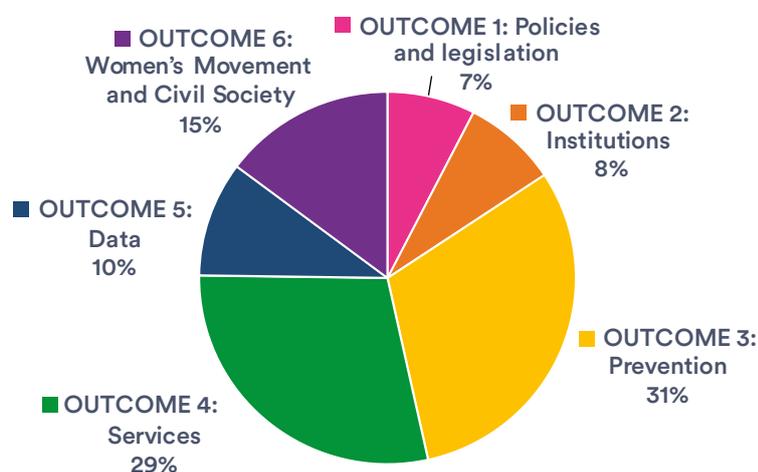
The programme built the technical capacities of service providers and care centres. **Approximately 120 personnel (87 women and 33 men) working in the health, justice and social services sectors as well as women's rights organisations, were trained on the medical, psycho-social, legal and judiciary elements of gender-based violence.**

The trainings drew participants from local villages as well as regionally. The programme also procured computers and other materials for regional facilities. Going forward, a pavilion for GBV cases will be rehabilitated.

Improved Service Provision

- 120 health personnel trained on the medical, psycho-social, legal and judiciary elements of GBV

To improve data collection in its target regions, the Technical Monitoring and Evaluation Group held a workshop to review baseline data from which monitoring indicators will be developed. **Twenty-five participants (12 women and 13 men) attended this workshop**, including representatives from the different ministerial sectors involved in programme implementation, representatives of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group and UN technical focal points.



Programme implementation during the reporting period also **focused heavily on communications and access to information on prevention and care**. Programme partners carried out direct messaging campaigns through social, traditional and community media, with the aim of sensitising target populations, local leaders and government, assuring both local ownership and leadership of the programme. The adopted strategy employed both in-person outreach as well as social media messaging. With beneficiary testimonials, the programme produced videos and visibility tools (Banderoles, Kakemonos) featuring key messages on gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as early marriage, as well as on the services available for holistic care. **Spotlight Initiative video messages reached approximately 200 people (120 women and 80 men).**



On the announcement of her marriage, Oumou, aged 13, decided to flee her family. Worried about his daughter, Bintou cancelled the wedding and agreed to have Oumou go back to school

Credit: UNFPA/UNICEF Mali/Seyba Keïta

Enhanced Data Collection

- 25 participants (12 women and 13 men) attended a workshop to review baseline data and develop monitoring indicators

Increased awareness raising

- Direct messaging campaigns use social, traditional and community media
- Video messages reached approximately 200 people
- Workshops promote a “zero-tolerance” approach to violence against women and girls

To discuss salient issues in its two target regions, UN agencies organised information sharing and **awareness-raising workshops**. These events brought together a diverse set of actors including the governor, youth groups, CSOs such as Association pour le Développement des Droits de la Femme and women’s associations and organisations such as Women in Law and Development in Africa and Coordination des Associations et ONG Féminines du Mali. These trainings and information-sharing sessions also reached specific community-level groups that

“I am happy my daughter is not married. I advocate for the total abandonment of child marriage in Mali.”

Bintou Touré
Proud father, Mali

could relay information and promote a “**zero-tolerance**” approach to violence against women and girls.

Overall, programme implementation led by five UN agencies (UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR) drew its strength from a tripartite partnership between religious and customary leaders, CSOs and national and local government. Specific government ministries engaged included the Ministry of Women, Child and Family Promotion, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the Ministry of Justice. Each of these actors played important roles in information sharing, case management, community sensitisation and programme design.

Mozambique Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 20,000,000	USD 901,238
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF

Partners: UNESCO, IOM, WHO, UNAIDS, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Education and Human Development, Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Communication and Transport, NGOs, CSOs, Non-Governmental State Institutions Parliament, Ombudsman, Attorney General's Office, Professional Council of the Judiciary, Family and Minors Courts, Supreme Court

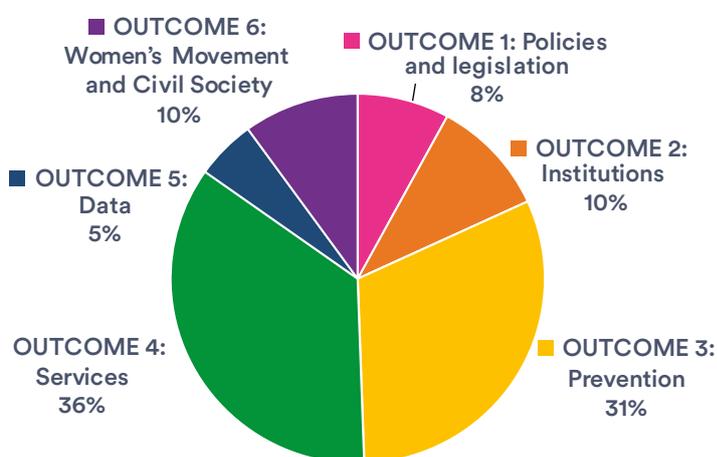
In Mozambique, the Spotlight Initiative reporting period was characterised by an intensive period of Country Programme formulation and stakeholder engagement. Key results achieved were three-fold. First, the Team succeeded in **finalising the Country Programme**, following a highly participatory and inclusive consultation process. Second, the Team **established key partnerships** and explored opportunities for further resource mobilisation. Third, the Spotlight Initiative **commenced communications and outreach** via social media and to high-level partners.

Finalising the CPD

Apart from the technical-level meeting that took place between RUNOs and the EU delegation in Mozambique, the Team organised **three multi stakeholder consultations** and **one specific meeting with CSOs**, at their request. These meetings informed the Country Programme development process.

Building on the previous multi-stakeholder workshops, the final validation workshop took place on 9 November, and this was when the **Government of Mozambique endorsed the draft**. All multi-stakeholder workshops brought together more than 100 participants, including government officials from key ministries. The workshops provided an important platform that facilitated agreement on key strategic issues, including the **selection of the districts where the Spotlight Initiative would focus its work**.

Just prior to the final validation workshop, on 2 November, the Team also organised **technical level meetings with government officials** as well



as an inter-ministerial level meeting to secure buy in from all key ministries. This meeting included the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Action and representatives of key line ministries including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Justice, together with the Resident Coordinator and RUNO Heads of Agencies.

Civil Society Engagement

Another achievement during this reporting period was the **establishment of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group**, which UN Women facilitated by convening several consultative meetings. The Group took part in all multi-stakeholder consultations organised by the UN. Further, the CSO consultations and the establishment of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group helped significantly in building solid partnerships with different CSOs.

Multi-stakeholder and technical workshops drew over 100 representatives:

- Ministry of Gender
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Justice, Religious and Constitutional Affairs
- Ministry of Statistics
- Development partners
- CSOs, including the members of the interim Civil Society National Reference Group
- Resident Coordinator
- RUNO Heads of Agencies

Private Sector Outreach

The Team laid the groundwork for Spotlight Initiative's implementation by establishing partnerships with key stakeholders, identifying data gaps, exploring opportunities for private sector engagement and further resource mobilisation. For instance, one of the early implementation activities focused on **accelerating the sexual and gender-based violence response in the Mozambican private sector**. In this regard, UN Women started discussing potential areas of collaboration with Banco Comercial e de Investimentos (commercial banking), Vodacom (telecommunications), TMCL (telecommunications), Tecnologia e Consultoria Agro-Pecuária or TECAP (agribusiness) and Total Mozambique (oil and gas). UN Women also commenced a desk review and field work in the selected districts. The study assessed the private sector's internal and external contributions to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. It expanded the partnership space by **engaging corporations in all districts where the Spotlight Initiative will be implemented**, using corporate social responsibility to advance efforts to end violence against women and girls.

Other consultations also moved resource mobilisation efforts forward. Following a dedicated meeting with development partners on 31 October 2018, **Canada expressed interest in contributing to the second phase of the Spotlight Initiative**.

“For the first time in Mozambique, civil society has a real voice and is given the power to influence a programme of this scope to end violence against women and girls.”

Nzira de Deus
Executive Director of Fórum Mulher, a women's rights network in Mozambique and member of the Spotlight Initiative's National Steering Committee

To address violence against women and girls, UN Women engaged the private sector

- Banco Comercial e de Investimentos (commercial banking)
- Vodacom (telecommunications)
- TMCL (telecommunications)
- Tecnologia e Consultoria Agro-Pecuária or TECAP (agribusiness)
- Total Mozambique (oil and gas)

Other development partners, including the Austrian Development Cooperation, the World Bank, and the countries of Germany, Japan, Sweden and Spain also joined these meetings and provided inputs to the Country Programme.

Communications

UNICEF led the communications and visibility activities for the Spotlight Initiative in Mozambique. The agency engaged with traditional media and brought its attention to key events happening during the reporting period, including the validation workshop that took place in November. As a build up to the launch of the Spotlight Initiative, **a social media campaign was conducted (see #16days, #HearMeToo, #OrangetheWorld and #SpotlightEndViolence)**. The campaign commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on 25 November 2018.

Niger Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 17,000,000	USD 1,929,956
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: PNUD, UNFPA, ONU Femmes and UNICEF

Partners: Ministère de la Promotion de la femme, Ministère de la justice, Ministères du Plan, Finances, PF, Enseignements, Santé, Jeunesse, Défense, Parlement, Conseil islamique, INS, Interieur, Police, Gendarmerie, NGOs, CSOs

Early implementation activities in Niger set the stage for the full-fledged implementation and launch of the Country Programme in 2019. **In 2018, the Spotlight Initiative Country Team held a national Country Programme validation workshop, launched a campaign against child marriage led by traditional leaders and strengthened the medical management of obstetric fistula.**

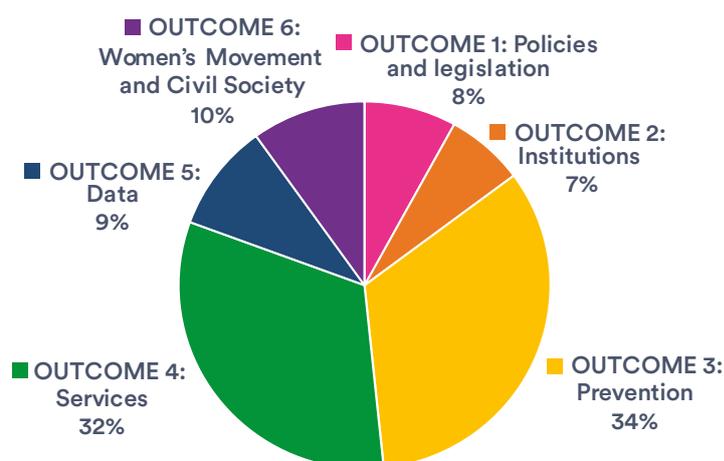
The national validation workshop was held at the Homeland Hotel on 7 November 2018. Participants represented, inter alia, the:

- Ministry of Women's Promotion and Children's Protection
- Ministry of Interior and Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of National Defense
- Civil Society Organisations
- EU Delegation
- UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes

The Country Programme was validated by all participants.

Early implementation activities also included the purchase and installation of lab equipment in the National Reference Centre for Fistulas. This meant that all testing could be done in-house, which greatly **simplified the management of fistula cases**. Furthermore, **100 kits for the surgical management of fistula cases** were distributed according to needs across the various fistula centres. The socioeconomic rehabilitation of patients was planned for early 2019.

Finally, as part of sensitisation efforts on the prevention of child marriage and ending violence against women by the Association des Chefs Traditionnels, **five awareness-raising caravans in the Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder**



2018 Niger Country Programme highlights

- Country Programme validated in November 2018
- Lab equipment installed in National Reference Centre for Fistulas
- 100 kits for the surgical management of fistulas distributed
- Association des Chefs Traditionnels hosts 5 campaigns to end child marriage

regions were organised with the participation of local administrative authorities, particularly the cantonal, village and religious leaders.

Going forward, the annual work plan will be developed during a national planning workshop, then validated by the Technical Committee and approved by the Steering Committee. Regional planning workshops will be undertaken in Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri. A baseline study, consultations on multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and the development of a Communications Strategy are among other activities that will be implemented in early 2019.

Nigeria Country Programme

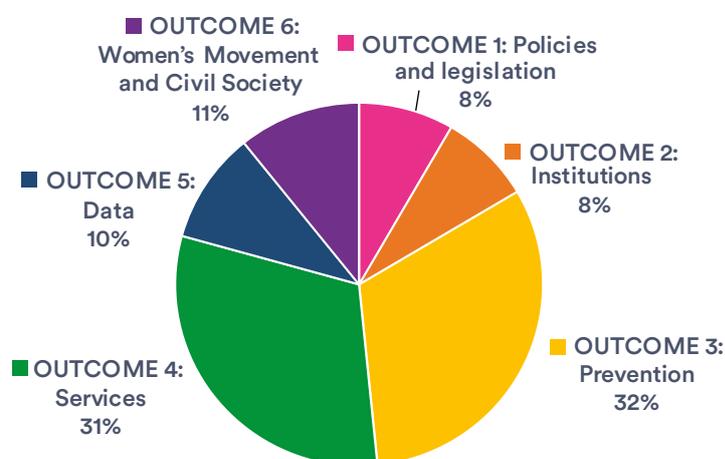
Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 25,000,000	USD 2,189,793
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNESCO and UNFPA

Partners: Ministry of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals, Ministry of Education, National Bureau of Statistic, National Human Rights Commission at Federal and State level, the Office of the Vice President for federal level, CSOs

The UN in Nigeria, in collaboration with the EU, embarked on a rigorous and inclusive process to ensure that the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme was developed through an in-depth analysis of the local context and country specificities. Key success factors to date included a **strong ‘One UN’ approach** with the involvement of all relevant UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, a **close relationship between the UN and the EU**, extensive consultations with a **wide range of CSO partners** and engagement of working-level government partners as well as the private sector and the media. With regard to civil society, a broad-based group of just over **100 civil society networks and organisations across Nigeria** were meaningfully engaged through bilateral and multilateral consultations, including through the establishment of an interim Civil Society National Reference Group.

In developing the Country Programme, the Team emphasised **six key results**. First, it ensured the **contextualisation** and technical quality of the



Country Programme. This came through a detailed examination of baseline data, best practices and lessons learned, analysing existing evidence of the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks, and horizon scanning for innovation and learning opportunities. Second, the Team **expanded civil society consultations**. It brought together a wider range and diversity of partners than has previously been engaged in work on ending violence

CPD development: six key results

1. Contextualisation and technical quality
2. Expanded civil society consultations
3. Media engagement
4. Inclusion of youth voices
5. Increased alignment with the EU
6. High-level government commitment

“The Spotlight Initiative provides a new, sustainable model for partnership, working as One UN and more closely with the EU, the government and civil society.”

Edward Kallon
UN Resident & Humanitarian
Coordinator in Nigeria

against women and girls into a participatory co-designing process, through state and local-level consultations. Third, the Team **engaged with the media**. It expanded existing partnerships and explored new collaborations through a number of media consultations. Fourth, the Team improved the inclusion of youth voices, which it sourced from regional youth engagement workshops it conducted. It used **Youth Cafés**, which provided an open and safe environment for youth to voice their concerns and ideas and inform the direction and activities of the Spotlight Initiative in Nigeria. The Team also engaged new CSOs led by youth.

Fifth, the Team **increased EU engagement** throughout the process to ensure better alignment with the EU's initiatives. It also tapped into joint political engagement as well as the EU's existing CSO engagement and outreach efforts. Sixth, the Team pursued **high-level government commitment** via direct engagement with ministers and the Presidency to ensure national ownership at all levels. The Team conducted outreach to the President and the Vice President's offices and held an inter-ministerial meeting.



A Nigerian woman shares her ideas during a state level consultation to inform the development of the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme - over 100 civil society networks and organisations were consulted in the process
Credit: UN Women Nigeria

Nigeria entered into its political season in 2018, with elections planned for February 2019. In consideration of this and in consultation with the EU, the UN in Nigeria chose to delay the national launch as well as some state-level consultations.

Uganda Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 22,000,000	USD 1,018,418
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

Recipient UN organisations: UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR

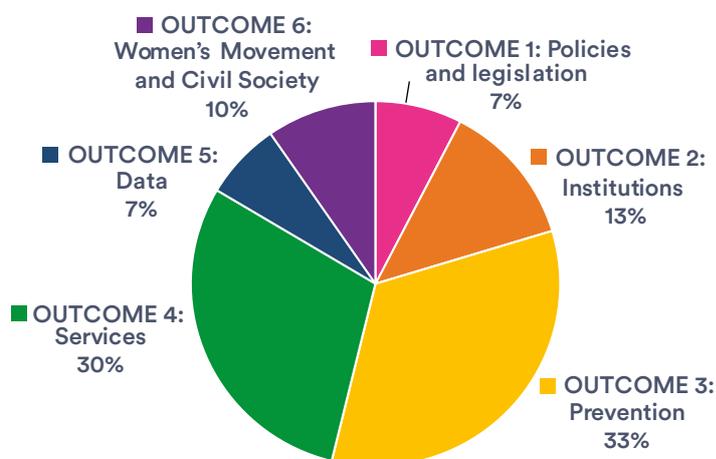
Partners: EU, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Local Government, District Local Governments, National Planning Authority, Equal Opportunities Commission, OHCHR, IOM, PULSE LAB (RCO), GOs, CSOs

In 2018, the Spotlight Initiative's Uganda Country Programme **design process generated buy-in and visibility for the Initiative. Meetings with a wide-range of stakeholders culminated in a residential programme design workshop and national stakeholder consultations**, which took place at the Garden Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda from 15-17 August 2018. Approximately **60 people attended**.

The following early implementation activities were jointly prioritised by the Spotlight Initiative Team, in addition to the stakeholder consultations:

- To improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health services and help address Uganda's high maternal mortality rate (336/100,000 live births), the Spotlight Initiative, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, planned to **install solar lighting systems in two health facilities/maternity wards in the Amudat District**. Procurement was delayed due to the unavailability of inputs and installation will now be completed before the end of the second quarter of 2019.
- To improve women's and girls' safety and security in refugee settlements and host communities, the Spotlight Initiative planned to support the procurement and **installation of 45 solar streetlights in two refugee settlement/host communities in the Arua District**. The procurement and installation of these lights was underway and will be completed before the end of the second quarter of 2019.

A high-level national launch event and baseline study will be completed in the second quarter of 2019.



60 participants attended national stakeholder consultations, including representatives from:

- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Uganda Police Force
- District local governments
- Inter-Religious Council of Uganda
- Religious and cultural leaders
- Women's networks
- CSOs
- Youth
- the Private Sector Foundation of Uganda
- UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes

Zimbabwe Country Programme

Spotlight Initiative Phase 1 (EU Funding)	UN Agency contributions for Phase 1
USD 21,000,000	USD 1,683,606
Start Date End Date:	January 2019 December 2022

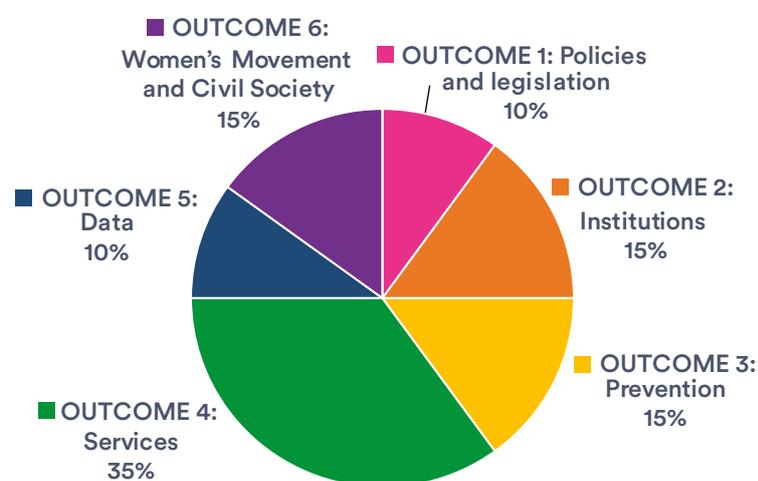
Recipient UN organisations: ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women

Partners: Ministries of Women Affairs, Community, SME Development, Health and Child Care, Public Service, Labor and Social Welfare, Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Finance and Economic Development, Education, Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Office of the President and Cabinet, CSOs, independent commissions and oversight bodies, private sector, media, social marketing and public relations firms

From July to December 2018, the Inter-Agency Technical Team that developed the Zimbabwe Spotlight Initiative Country Programme undertook **two major activities: a series of consultative meetings** with government, civil society and partners to inform the Country Programme; and **field missions by Team members** to the target districts of the provinces where the Initiative will be implemented.

Consultative Meetings and CPD Development

To develop the CPD, **eleven consultative meetings were convened with approximately 200 people in attendance.** The consultations included: (1) six outcome-specific consultations; (2) a one-day consultation with representatives from government ministries and independent commissions; (3) a half-day seminar for civil society on the modalities for the nomination and selection of representatives of the formal Civil Society National Reference Group, and where experts from civil society presented evidence on what works in the traditional justice system and on building social capital among women in Zimbabwe; (4) a two-day consultation with over 120 stakeholders from government, independent commissions, CSOs, and development partners (including the EU, among others); and (5) an inter-ministerial consultation between the Inter-Agency Spotlight Initiative Technical Team and representatives from the Office of the President and Cabinet and key government ministries on the Country Programme, before its submission in December 2018.



Consultative meeting participants represented

- Government ministries and departments
- Parliament
- Independent commissions
- Vulnerable groups
- Private sector
- Faith-based organisations
- Trade unions
- Civil society organisations and groups working on women's rights, sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices, sexual and reproductive health and rights, child rights, HIV and disabilities

Spotlight Initiative Inter-Agency Technical Team Joint Field Missions

Members of the **Inter-Agency Technical Team** conducted their **first joint field visits** during the week of 18 November to four of the five identified provinces for the delivery of Spotlight Initiative's interventions in Zimbabwe. In each province, the Team visited the target district that had been identified using a set of gender-based violence, sexual and gender-based violence, harmful practices, sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV and poverty prevalence data.

The field missions were essential to informing the Inter-Agency Team's development of the Country Programme. **Eighteen members from the six RUNOs, RCO and government participated in the field missions.** Government representatives came from the Office of the President and Cabinet, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, and the

2018 consultations in Zimbabwe

- 6 Outcome-specific consultations
- 1 day-long consultation with government and independent commissions
- ½ day seminar for civil society
- 2-day consultation with over 120 stakeholders
- 1 inter-ministerial consultation

Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage. The largest group (seven members) went to Mashonaland Central Province, which, according to data from the Zimbabwe National Statistic Agency (ZimStat), had the highest prevalence of early marriages (39.1%) and sexual and gender-based violence (40%). At the district level, government officials from the Ministry of Women Affairs were instrumental in convening meetings with the provincial and district administrators and officials, and in organising community meetings in the wards visited.

In each province visited, **the Teams held introductory meetings** with the provincial and district administrators, officials from the Office of the President and Cabinet, and government ministries. The Teams also engaged representatives from CSOs and from the Victim Friendly Units (VFU) of the police. The range of

“We cannot fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals unless we end gender inequality and violence against women.”

Dr. Natalia Kanem
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UNFPA

institutions visited at the district and community levels in the provinces included hospitals and health clinics (all provinces), GBV community-based shelters where they existed (Manicaland), magistrate courts (Manicaland), and schools (all provinces). **Community and focus group meetings were conducted** in all the provinces at ward levels. **Traditional leaders and village elders took part** in the community meetings, and health and education officials and service providers were interviewed within the institutional settings in which they worked. In Mashonaland Central, the Team also engaged with private sector actors in mining and agriculture.

Activities planned for early 2019 include a **high-level national launch of the Spotlight Initiative**; the development of an Annual Work Plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework, and the development of a Communications and Visibility plan.

Through field visits, the Team found:

- a culture of silence on reporting on gender-based violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices
- cultural, gender and religious norms that reinforce violence against women and girls
- communities struggling with how to report cases
- limited access to services and justice, with perpetrators left unprosecuted
- lack of information and knowledge on available GBV-related services
- need for a coordinated multi-sectoral institutional response to sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices
- economic strife and poverty that drives violence against women and girls
- a lack of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and CSOs presence
- a changing social fabric

Portfolio Development in the Pacific Region²

The Pacific region has some of the highest rates of violence against women recorded in the world – twice the global average, with up to two in every three Pacific women impacted by gender-based violence. The regional focus for the Spotlight Initiative in the Pacific is intimate partner violence and domestic violence.

To address the full spectrum of violence against women and girls in the Pacific, the Spotlight Initiative will base its regional Theory of Change on where specific forms of violence are most prevalent and where the Initiative can have the



Market vendors at Tavua market in Fiji show their support for ending violence against women and girls by wearing orange as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The Pacific region has twice the global average rates of violence against women.

Credit: UN Women Asia Pacific

“Domestic violence affects every class, every race, every group. It is a universal problem. There isn’t a country in the world that does not have this problem.”

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

greatest impacts given the context, capacities and momentum in the region. Actions to address Intimate Partner Violence and domestic violence will be used as a springboard to tackling intersecting forms of violence against women and girls in the region. Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence and domestic violence.

The Initiative used several indicators to ascertain Intimate Partner Violence in the Pacific. Ten different

² Reporting period for this section is until the end of May 2019

Prevalence Indicators

- Physical and/or sexual violence committed by a current/former intimate partner (lifetime)
Source: UNFPA kNOwVAWdata 2018
- Prevalence of physical violence against women and girls (any perpetrator, lifetime)
Source: UNFPA kNOwVAWdata 2018
- Women justified wife beating
Sources: FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, 2014; FWCC 2013; Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili, 2012; Ministry of Internal Affairs RMI 2014; Nauru Ministry of Home Affairs 2014; Palau Ministry of Health 2014; SPC 2009; SPC, 2006; Garcia-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg,

Heise and Watts 2005; SPC, 2010; The Equality Institute on behalf of the Asia Foundation, 2016; Understanding Violence Against Women and Children in Timor-Leste: Findings from the Nabilan Baseline Study – Main Report, The Asia Foundation, Dili, Timor-Leste, VWC 2011

- Non-partner sexual violence (lifetime)
Source: UNFPA kNOwVAWdata 2018
- Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
Sources: Pacific: SPC Provisional Pacific Development Indicators; Timor: UNICEF database

indicators were identified and weighted to arrive at a composite measure of prevalence. Since there were considerable data gaps in the Pacific, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) was not used. Instead, a proxy GI, made up of five GI indicators³ that had sufficient data available for the Pacific, was used.

Virtual Civil Society Consultation

The Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat convened a virtual consultation with civil society actors from the Pacific region on 22 January 2019. Participants provided inputs and recommendations on the regional context, focus area, experiences of good programmes and practices, and challenges related to ending violence against women and girls in the Pacific, all of which informed the design of the Initiative in the region.

Regional Technical Meeting

The third stage of portfolio development involved discussions with regional experts from civil society, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Community, the UN, the EU and other actors at a Regional Technical Meeting of the Spotlight Initiative held on 4-5 February 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting yielded substantive inputs on the regional context, theory of change and priorities for the Regional Programme, including on the application of primary and secondary criteria for country selection.

“Ending violence against women starts at a very young age. It starts with educating young boys and young girls and telling them that they are equal.”

Ofa Ki levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki
Women's rights activist and filmmaker from the Pacific region

Spotlight Initiative in the Pacific:
Draft Pacific Investment Plan scheduled to be approved in May 2019

Spotlight Initiative Countries:
Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu

Funding Availability:
Earmarked allocation of €50 million for four countries and a Regional Programme

Full-fledged Country and Regional Programme Development:
Expected to commence in May 2019 and end in October 2019

³ 1) Maternal Mortality Ratio out of 100,000, Source: Pacific SPC, National Minimum Development Indicators, MDG5; Timor: WHO Maternal Death Surveillance and Response, 2015; 2) Adolescent Birth Rate out of 1,000, Average Urban and Rural, Source: SPC, National Minimum Development Indicators, MDG5 Timor: UNICEF Database; 3) Percent Female Parliamentarians, Source: Pacific: Pacific Women in Politics (2019) Timor: Women Political Leaders Global Forum; 4) Women Labour Force Participation, Source: Pacific SPC, National Minimum Development Indicators, MDG5 Timor: ILO 2013. Timor-Leste, Labour Force Survey; 5) Female Tertiary Completion Rate Source: Pacific SPC, National Minimum Development Indicators, MDG5 Timor: UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report

Portfolio Development in the Caribbean Region⁴

In the Caribbean, the Spotlight Initiative will focus on family violence, which was identified as the best entry point to address the continuum of violence against women and girls in the region. The definition of family violence for the Spotlight Initiative considers the various family forms in the Caribbean region and the broader context of unequal gender-power relations in which they are situated. Efforts to tackle family violence will guide the design of the Initiative's programmes and activities.

Prevalence of Family Violence: The Initiative used several indicators to ascertain rates of family violence in the Caribbean. Ten indicators were identified and weighted to arrive at a composite measure of prevalence for the region. Similar to the Pacific, there were considerable data gaps, and the Gender Inequality Index (GII) was not used. Instead, a proxy GII made up of five GII indicators⁵ was employed.

The data gaps in the Caribbean region made it impossible to determine any indication of prevalence for some countries. Further, most countries of the Eastern Caribbean had no data based on prevalence and no gender inequality indicators that could support their ranking in terms of prevalence. As a result, the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat relied significantly on secondary data such as capacities, relevant existing and planned initiatives, and the enabling environment.

Virtual Civil Society Consultation

The Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat convened a robust virtual consultation with civil society actors in the Caribbean region on 25 January 2019. They provided critical inputs on key priorities, lessons learned, good practices and challenges related to violence against women and girls in the Caribbean, and their contributions substantially informed the design of the Regional Investment Plan.

Prevalence Indicators

- Physical and/or sexual violence committed by a current/former intimate partner (lifetime)
Source: Haiti Demographic Health Survey 2016/2017; Jamaica Women's Health Survey 2016; Trinidad and Tobago Women's Health Survey 2018
- Physical and/or sexual violence committed by a current/former intimate partner (past twelve months)
Source: Haiti Demographic Health Survey 2016/2017; Jamaica Women's Health Survey 2016; Trinidad and Tobago Women's Health Survey 2018
- Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years old who were first married or in union before 18
Source: UNICEF Global Database 2018 – MICS
- Wife beating is justified
Source: UNICEF Global Database 2017
- Rate of female intimate partner/family related homicide
Source: UNODC Global Study on Homicide 2018

⁴ Reporting period for this section is until the end of May 2019

⁵ 1) Adolescent Birth rate out of 1000, Source: UN Global SDG Database; 2) Women Labour Force Participation, Source: World Bank 2019 (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TL.F.CACT.FE.ZS>); 3) % Female Parliamentarians, Source: World Bank 2019 (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS>); 4) Educational attainment: at least bachelor's or equivalent, Source: UNESCO Data 2019 (<http://data.uis.unesco.org/>); 5) Maternal Mortality ratio out of 100,000. Source: State of the World's Children Statistical tables 2017 – UNICEF



Civil society, Caribbean Community, UN and EU colleagues participate in the development of the Spotlight Initiative's Caribbean Regional Investment Plan at a regional meeting in Jamaica Credit: Spotlight Initiative

Regional Technical Meeting

The Spotlight Initiative held a Regional Technical Meeting on 25-26 February 2019 with regional experts from civil society, the Caribbean Community, the UN and the EU in Kingston, Jamaica. Experts provided critical inputs on the regional context, theory of change and priorities for the Regional Programme, including the application of primary and secondary criteria for country selection. The experts recommended a longlist of countries for the Spotlight Initiative's investment in the Caribbean region.

Spotlight Initiative in the Caribbean:
Draft Caribbean Investment Plan
scheduled to be approved in May 2019

Spotlight Initiative Countries:
Belize, Granada, Guyana, Haiti,
Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago

Funding Availability:
Earmarked allocation of €50 million for
five countries and a Regional Programme

**Full-fledged Country and Regional
Programme Development:**
Expected to commence in May
2019 and end in October 2019

Partnerships

Engagement with Civil Society Organisations



Panelists share a moment of solidarity at the launch of the Spotlight Initiative's Latin America investment held on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2018, New York City, USA
Credit: UN Women/Ryan Brown

Civil society advocates and organisations continued to be linchpins of the Initiative at global, regional, national and local levels. Modes of engagement have included, inter alia, virtual consultations, targeted bilateral meetings, multi-stakeholder consultations, validation workshops and technical consultations at all levels.

Civil society's leadership and recommendations informed the design of the Initiative at the global level and infused Country and Regional Programmes. Civil society partners are also shaping the way the Initiative works with them, advising the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat on different mechanisms and strategies of engagement, providing inputs to guiding documents and producing analyses and recommendations.

Overall, civil society have been vital subject matter experts helping the Initiative develop its programmes and holding it accountable to

“The Spotlight Initiative will empower women’s movements and civil society, including the most marginalised women and girls such as women with disabilities, indigenous women, migrant women and youth.”

Achim Steiner
Administrator, UNDP

“The Count Me In! Consortium has been actively engaged with the Spotlight Initiative to ensure that resources support local and regional women’s rights organisations with a track record of working on violence against women and girls. In direct response to our recommendations, which we developed in consultation with more than 400 feminist activists around the world, the Spotlight Initiative included a sixth pillar of work dedicated to supporting women’s rights organisations through country and regional programs. Now we are looking forward to continued civil society engagement with the Spotlight Initiative through the Civil Society Regional and Global Reference Groups.”

Nathalie Margi
Senior Advocacy Officer, Urgent Action Fund,
and member of the Count Me In! Consortium

its commitments – and, ultimately, helping the Spotlight Initiative forge a new way of working with them as key custodians of the 2030 Agenda.

In service of the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) principle of national ownership, the Initiative will make all possible efforts to shift the balance of power away from international NGOs towards national and, especially, local and grassroots organisations. To this end, the Initiative will require all Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes to track and report publicly on the resources allocated to as well as the number of new, grassroots, local, women-led organisations they engage as implementing partners to deliver results.

Principles guiding the Spotlight Initiative's engagement with civil society:

- a human-rights based approach
- leaving no one behind
- national ownership

In July 2018, the Secretariat began work on establishing the Civil Society Global Reference Group, in a process led by civil society. A Selection Committee, tasked with setting up the Group, was constituted by an open call for applications and comprised five civil society representatives and two members of the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat.

Key guiding principles for setting up the Spotlight Initiative's Civil Society Reference Groups:

- Inclusion
- Feminist- and civil society-led
- Human rights-based
- National ownership
- Transparency
- Accountability

This was followed by the launch of an open call for nominations in October 2018 to the Global Reference Group which resulted in nearly 300 applications from around the world. Leading up to the establishment of the Group, members of the Count Me In! Consortium supported and advised the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat, serving as an interim Global Reference Group.

By the end of 2018, all Spotlight Initiative countries in Latin America⁶ and Africa had established their interim Civil Society National Reference Groups and some of these countries were in the process of setting up their formal Groups. The interim Groups were formed on the basis of a recommendation from civil society that mechanisms were necessary to engage them systematically during the programme design stage; the Initiative had originally intended for the Groups to be in place at the start of programme implementation.

At the regional level, a formal Latin America Civil Society Regional Reference Group was formed and an interim Africa Civil Society Regional Reference Group.

Key principles anchored the process of setting up both the interim and formal Civil Society Reference Groups, and guidance on their set up was jointly developed by the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat and civil society partners. Funds for the effective functioning of these crucial mechanisms at the country and regional levels were included in the budgets of Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes respectively.

⁶ Guiding principles were inclusion, feminist-led, human rights-based, national ownership, transparent, open and civil society-led process



“We have had more than 4,000 femicides in the last 10 years In Honduras. This number doesn’t include the deaths which have not been registered as official because of the lack of evidence.”

Jessica Sánchez, Coordinator of the Civil Society Group, Honduras

For **Country and Regional Programmes** in Africa and Latin America, therefore, hundreds of civil society advocates and organisations,⁷ including and beyond the interim and formal Reference Groups, were engaged in all stages of the development and finalisation of the Regional Investment Plans, Country Programme Outlines and Country and Regional Programmes.⁸

Once the Spotlight Initiative's Civil Society Global Reference Group is formed and functioning in mid-2019, it is anticipated that the National, Regional and Global Groups will support and inform each other's work and the work of the Initiative over its lifespan, and will be key contributors to its success.

In adherence to the Initiative's principles of accountability and transparency, in 2019 a Global Repository will be set up where information on all

Spotlight Initiative job postings and consultancies, RUNOs' calls for proposals to engage civil society as implementing partners, and details on the Initiative's Civil Society Reference Groups at all levels will be routinely published over the lifespan of the Initiative.

In 2019, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund will launch calls for proposals funded by the Spotlight Initiative. These calls for proposals will prioritise working with women's rights, women-led organisations, especially those representing or working on behalf of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, to deliver results under Outcome 6 of the Spotlight Initiative, which is dedicated to partnering with and supporting the women's movement. This will further broaden the Initiative's partnership with and commitment to civil society.

CSO Engagement in Numbers

10-15%

of the Programme Outcome Costs of all Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes were dedicated

to **Outcome 6** on partnering and supporting women's movement building and mobilizing civil society at country and regional levels

CSOs will receive and deliver, on average,

40-42%

of Spotlight Initiative Country Programme Outcome costs, across all Outcome areas, for Country Programmes in Latin America and Africa, amounting to over

US\$ 9 million in Latin America and **US\$ 50 million** in Africa

The Secretariat has recommended that all efforts be made to ensure that approximately

50-70%

of **Spotlight Initiative Country Programme funds** being delivered via CSOs should be channelled through **national and, in particular, local and grassroots organisations**

10%

 of the Spotlight Initiative's total allocation per region

will be delivered via UN trust fund grants to CSOs, amounting to approximately **US\$ 43.3 million** across Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific regions (Asia to be confirmed)

⁷ E.g. grassroots and community-based organisations, women's funds, national and international NGOs, among others

⁸ Regional Programmes for Latin America and Africa are expected to be finalised in mid-2019

Inter-agency Collaboration

The Spotlight Initiative is a flagship initiative of the UN Secretary-General that models the UN development system reforms, leveraging a whole-of-system approach in service of achieving the SDGs. As such, the Initiative is coordinated from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and, throughout 2018, the Spotlight Secretariat and its core UN agencies (UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP) worked closely with UNICEF and other relevant UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to operationalise the Initiative. Throughout 2018, the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat and its core UN agencies (UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP) and UNICEF worked closely to operationalise the Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat organised standing meetings with these agency focal points twice every month, throughout the year. During these meetings, the agency focal points were provided with key updates on technical and operational matters as well as on the Initiative's implementation on the ground. The meetings were also an opportunity for the Secretariat to solicit the support and expertise of the agency focal points on technical and operational matters relating to the rollout of the Initiative.

The agency focal points were instrumental in Country Programme development and securing the approval of the 13 Country Programmes in Latin America and Africa. They provided inputs on programme guidance and design and budget reviews, and undertook technical field missions as needed. They also supported the development of technical guidance notes, joint learning sessions, preparations for regional launches and provided advice on programme management.

The Secretariat and agency focal points also planned joint work on the development of Investment Plans for the Caribbean and Pacific regions, and the core agencies (UN Women and UNFPA) seconded staff to the Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat to support this process, most of which will take place in 2019. Regional and country focal points of the agency focal points provided expertise, data and facilitated engagement with regional actors, including the organisation of the Virtual Civil Society Consultations and Regional Technical Meetings. As a result of the agency focal points' engagement, the Initiative's investments responded to regional and country needs in Latin America and Africa.

This past year also saw strong collaboration among the principals of the core agencies who represented the UN system at various Spotlight Initiative high-level launches and events. They used these occasions to reiterate their commitment to the Spotlight Initiative and the issue of ending violence against women and girls.

A joint op-ed issued by the three principals of the core agencies confirmed their commitment to the Spotlight Initiative:

“Guided by common principles of human rights, the benefits of multilateralism, as well as the objectives set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Spotlight Initiative reflects a deep commitment to eliminating gender-based violence across the globe. The Initiative is a flagship programme for UN reform to deliver in an integrated way on the SDGs.”

“Not until the half of our population represented by women and girls can live free of fear, violence and every day insecurity, can we truly say we live in a fair and equal world.”

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General

Communications and Visibility

Overview

Activities supporting global communications and visibility of the Spotlight Initiative picked up pace in 2018. The Secretariat completed the recruitment of a Communications and Visibility Specialist to lead on global strategy, media relations, content development and event planning, in addition to developing the necessary guidance and tools needed to support programmatic communications and activities at the regional and country levels.

The Initiative's outreach activities were supported by a growing list of partners, including the Communications Unit of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development in Brussels, Resident Coordinators' Offices, the UN Division of Global Communications, Recipient UN Organisations, UN Information Centres and the UN Foundation. These partnerships, nurtured through regular meetings, correspondence and joint planning, were critical to reaching new audiences and progressing towards the goal of eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.



“Violence against women and girls often goes unseen and unspoken. It is time to break the silence.”

Neven Mimica,
European Union Commissioner for International
Cooperation and Development

Empowering Communications

The Spotlight Initiative **Communications and Visibility Strategy** and its associated **Communications and Visibility Guide** were rolled out in 2018. The Guide was developed to empower global, regional and country-level communications officers and focal points with the tools necessary for a credible and consistent flow of information about the Initiative, its partners—and most importantly—its impact on eliminating violence against women and girls. The Guide outlined the Initiative’s main communications and visibility objectives, which were to:

- Raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and girls
- Illustrate and promote the impact and results of interventions supported by the Spotlight Initiative
- Provide communications to strengthen Spotlight Initiative Programme design and implementation, and
- Ensure visibility of the Spotlight Initiative, its donors and its partners

In addition to the Guide, a **communications toolkit** was developed and disseminated to support programme advocacy and outreach efforts. The toolkit contained guidance on branding, celebrity engagement, event planning, messaging, press and media engagement, social media and web-writing standards.

Built in partnership with UNFPA, the first phase of the standalone global website for the Initiative (spotlightinitiative.org) was launched during the UN General Assembly in September 2018. The website served as the single entry point for all information on the Spotlight Initiative at global, regional and country levels, from information on Country Programmes to events, campaigns and stories of the women and girls impacted by the Initiative.

An official Twitter account (@GlobalSpotlight) was created in April 2018. As of 31 March 2019, the channel had amassed more than 3,200 followers, without paid advertising or promotion. Plans to expand its audience and reach were underway. The account uses #SpotlightEndViolence as its primary hashtag, and additional hashtags in French (#SpotlightFinDeLaViolence) and Spanish (#SpotlightFinDeLaViolencia) were developed.

The **Spotlight Initiative Brand Guidelines** were updated and disseminated to Programme Teams. Several promotional items such as bags, notebooks, shirts, pens, posters and videos were produced in support of events and launches, all using the updated branding.

Updated with new characters and story lines, the #HerStoryOurStory digital campaign and game (HerStoryOurStory.net) launched on International Women’s Day in 2018. Ariel Award and Emmy International nominated Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez created an avatar in the game and performed a live demonstration at the SDG Media Zone during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in September.

“Gender-based violence does not only hurt women, it hurts society as a whole.”

Cecilia Suárez
Actress and Spotlight Initiative Champion



Cecilia Suarez, Mexican actress and Spotlight Initiative Champion, launches the Her Story Our Story app at the SDG Media Zone on the margins of the 2018 UNGA
Photo Credit: Spotlight Initiative/Caroline Savin

In support of the 2018 UNiTE Campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Spotlight Initiative developed a mini digital campaign to bring to light the stories of the grassroots activists working to end violence against women and girls. The ‘16 stories from 16 advocates’ campaign profiled a different activist on the Initiative’s media channels for each of the 16 days between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and Human Rights Day on 10 December 2018.

Celebrity Engagement

Enlisting high-profile public figures and influencers to promote the Initiative’s messages and activities remained a top priority for the Secretariat. A new global strategy for celebrity engagement was developed and endorsed by the Operational Steering Committee in December 2018.

Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez was the most prominent and vocal celebrity supporter of the Initiative over the past year. In addition to other promotional activities in September during UNGA, she delivered a statement at launch of the Initiative’s investment in Latin America. She has also used her social media accounts to post original content and share Spotlight Initiative messaging to her thousands of followers.



Launches and Events

The Secretariat planned and executed several high-profile events to support its overall communications and visibility objectives in its inaugural year.

On 12 March, the Initiative organised a high-level side event titled 'Under the Spotlight: Ending Violence Against ALL Women and Girls' at the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters in New York.

Speakers, including UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, Secretary-General of the European External Action Service Helga Schmid and UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Dubravka Šimonović, discussed the challenges and opportunities of placing women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination at the centre of policies and programmes to end violence.

The 2018 European Development Days were held in Brussels from 5-6 June, under the theme, 'Women and Girls at the Forefront of Sustainable Development.' During the opening ceremony, a **segment dedicated to the Spotlight Initiative** took place featuring UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa Jaha Dukureh. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica spoke about the Initiative during their keynote remarks and held a joint **Facebook live interview**. UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Catarina Furtado also **spoke about the Spotlight Initiative** at the European Development Days. The Secretariat also used the occasion to host a series of stand-up interviews at its media booth. A recap video is available here: <https://youtu.be/opjv9U1zE6Q>.

The high-level launch of the Spotlight Initiative investment in Latin America took place on 27 September 2018 on the margins of the 73rd UNGA session in New York. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini announced a €50 million commitment to the Spotlight Initiative to end femicide—when a woman or girl is killed because of her gender—in

Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

The President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernández, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Mexican actress Cecilia Suárez and other dignitaries representing governments, civil society and the media spoke at the event.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica held a press briefing to announce the €50 million Spotlight Initiative investment in Latin America.

Media coverage

Interviews, op-eds, articles and stories related to the Spotlight Initiative were featured in several top-tier global media outlets including *Daily Mail*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Devex*, *Europa*, *France24*, *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post*, *MSN*, *NPR*, *Politico* and *Reuters*. More than 600 articles in 15 languages, covering or mentioning the Initiative, were published in print and online outlets in 80 countries.

MEDIA IN FOCUS



The Spotlight Initiative's activities during the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, including the high-level launch of the Latin America investment, a media briefing, and the #HerStoryOurStory launch at the SDG Media Zone were covered by more than 150 media outlets, reaching more than 685 million people. Content was viewed an estimated 1.6 million times and shared almost 5,000 times across social media platforms.

Next Steps

In 2019, the Spotlight Initiative will commence full-fledged Country Programme implementation in Latin America and Africa. Regional Programmes for these two regions will also be finalised and launched.

Investment Plans will be finalised and approved for the Pacific, Caribbean and Asia regions¹¹ in mid-2019. This will be followed by the launch of a multi-stakeholder, consultative process of Country and Regional Programme development in each of these three regions. It is anticipated that Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes for these regions will be approved by the end of 2019, with implementation beginning in January 2020.

The Spotlight Initiative's Secretariat will provide on-demand support (including through technical missions) to these regions to develop their Programmes, thereby ensuring comprehensive,

evidence-based, high-quality interventions aligned with the Initiative's vision and the UN development system reform efforts.

“The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative will empower survivors and advocates to become agents of change in their homes, communities and countries.”

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General

¹¹ Upcoming Spotlight Initiative Country and Regional Programmes in Asia will complement the ongoing ASEAN Regional Programme, the very first Programme of the Initiative, that began implementation in January 2018



Financial Report

Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent for the Spotlight Initiative Fund

(for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018)

Recipient UN Organisations

ILO

UNDP

UNFPA

UN Women

Contributors

European Union

Definitions

Allocation

Amount approved by the OSC for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

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

Contributor Commitment

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

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed EU Delegation Agreement or Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilised, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Recipient Organisation 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 Organisations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Recipient Organisation less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Recipient Organisation.

Recipient Organization

A UN Organisation or other inter-governmental Organisation that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing an MoU with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Recipient Organisations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Recipient Organisation follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

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

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the OSC.

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 UNDP MPTF Office in fulfilment of its obligations as the AA, as per the Terms of Reference, the MoU signed between the United Nations and the UNDP MPTFO, and the Delegation Agreement with the EU.

The MPTF Office, as the AA, is responsible for concluding an MoU with the UN Recipient Organisations and Standard Contribution Agreements with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Recipient

Organisations. The AA 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 2018 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund**. The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

2018 Financial Performance

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the Spotlight Initiative Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2018. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office Gateway, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SIF00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2018, the EU deposited US\$ **146,603,130** in contributions and US\$ **427,913** was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **147,031,043**.

Of this amount, US\$ **11,888,368** has been funded to 4 United Nations Recipient Organisations, of which US\$ **4,824,804** has been reported as expenditure. This equates to an expenditure delivery rate of 41 percent of the funds transferred.

Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses and balance of the **Spotlight Initiative Fund** as of 31 December 2018.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2017	Annual 2018	Cumulative
Sources of funds			
Contributions from donors	21,288,600	125,314,530	146,603,130
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	19,560	408,353	427,913
Interest Income received from Recipient Organisations	-	-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-
Total: Sources of funds	21,308,160	125,722,883	147,031,043
Use of funds			
Transfers to Recipient Organisations	-	5,550,352	5,550,352
Refunds received from Recipient Organisations	-	-	-
Net Funded Amount	-	5,550,352	5,550,352
Secretariat Direct Costs	1,415,313	1,623,650	3,038,962
Administrative Agent Direct Cost	990,410	2,307,928	3,298,338
Bank Charges	7	709	716
Total: Uses of funds	2,405,730	9,482,639	11,888,368
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	18,902,431	116,240,244	135,142,675
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	-	18,902,431	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	18,902,431	135,142,675	135,142,675
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	2,405,730	9,482,639	11,888,368
Recipient Organisations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	329,623	4,495,181	4,824,804
Balance of funds with Recipient Organisations			7,063,554

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from the EU to this fund as of 31 December 2018.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2018 through signed Delegation Agreement and its three Addenda, and deposits made through 2018.

It should be noted that deposits for the Latin America and Africa (Delegation Agreement Addendum 2 and Addendum 3 respectively) were received by the AA on 28 December 2018.

Table 2. Contributors' Commitments and Deposits, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Total Commitments	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017 Deposits	Current Year Jan-Dec-2018 Deposits	Total Deposits
EUROPEAN UNION	342,939,543	21,288,600	125,314,530	146,603,130
Grand Total	342,939,543	21,288,600	125,314,530	146,603,130

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the AA (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Recipient Organisations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December **2018**, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ **427,913**.

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-2017	Current Year Jan-Dec-2018	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	19,560	408,353	427,913
Total: Fund Earned Interest	19,560	408,353	427,913
Recipient Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest	-	-	-
Grand Total	19,560	408,353	427,913

4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Allocations to Recipient Organisations are approved by the OSC and disbursed by the AA.

As of 31 December 2018, the AA has transferred US\$ 5,550,352 to 3 Recipient Organisations (see list below) for the programme implementation in countries selected by the OSC: 8 countries in Africa, 5 countries in Latin America and 1 Programme in Asia.

Direct cost transfers (the Secretariat and the AA) are reflected in the Section 6. Direct Costs.

Transfer by Region/Country

Table 4 provides additional information on the approved amount and transferred amount per project (pre-financing for projects only for Africa and Latin America).

Contributions to the Fund for the Latin America and Africa regions were deposited on 28 December 2018. Therefore, transfers of funds to the OSC approved Country Programmes were made in January 2019 and will be reflected in the next financial report.

Table 4. Approved and Transferred Amount by Region/Country, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Region/Project No	Project Title	Year Jan-Dec-2018	
		Approved	Transferred
Africa			
00111640	Malawi Spotlight Programme	171,575	171,575
00111641	Mali Spotlight Programme	177,513	177,513
00111642	Mozambique Spotlight Programme	180,128	180,128
00111643	Niger Spotlight Programme	174,057	174,057
00111644	Uganda Spotlight Programme	178,872	178,872
00111645	Zimbabwe Spotlight Programme	80,464	80,464
00112285	Liberia Spotlight Programme	121,130	121,130
00112286	Nigeria Spotlight Programme	179,933	179,933
Africa Total		1,263,671	1,263,671
Asia			
00108309	Safe and Fair Programme	29,370,587	3,715,138
Asia: Total		29,370,587	3,715,138
Latin America			
00111637	Argentina Spotlight Programme	113,377	113,377
00111638	Guatemala Spotlight Programme	67,496	67,496
00111639	Mexico Spotlight Programme	192,964	192,964
00112283	El Salvador Spotlight Programme	128,651	128,651
00112284	Honduras Spotlight Programme	69,055	69,055
Latin America Total		571,543	571,543
Grand Total		31,205,801	5,550,352

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year **2018** were submitted by the Headquarters of the Recipient Organisations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organisation and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The **2018** expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office Gateway at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SIF00>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY REGION/COUNTRY

In **2018**, US\$ **5,550,352** was transferred to Recipient Organisations, and US\$ **1,839,284** was reported in expenditure.

This equates to an expenditure delivery rate of **33** percent for the regional portfolio.

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 provide additional information on the transferred amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Region and RUNO.

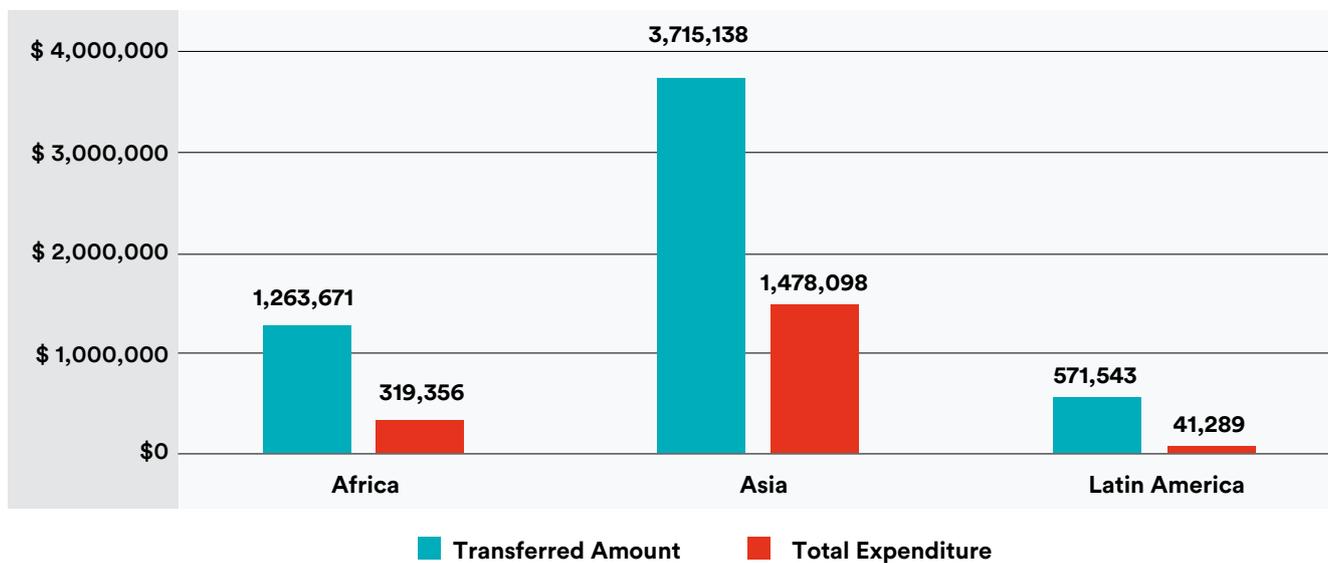
Table 5.1 Expenditure by Project within Region, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Region / Project No. and Project Title		Transferred Amount	Transferred Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Africa					
00111640	Malawi Spotlight Programme	171,575	171,575	67,785	39.51
00111641	Mali Spotlight Programme	177,513	177,513	15,538	8.75
00111642	Mozambique Spotlight Programme	180,128	180,128	8,200	4.55
00111643	Niger Spotlight Programme	174,057	174,057	115,690	66.47
00111644	Uganda Spotlight Programme	178,872	178,872	5,630	3.15
00111645	Zimbabwe Spotlight Programme	80,464	80,464	8,306	10.32
00112285	Liberia Spotlight Programme	121,130	121,130	82,918	68.45
00112286	Nigeria Spotlight Programme	179,933	179,933	15,289	8.50
Africa: Total		1,263,671	1,263,671	319,356	25.27
Asia					
00108309	Safe and Fair Programme	29,370,587	3,715,138	1,478,098	39.79
Asia: Total		29,370,587	3,715,138	1,478,098	39.79
Latin America					
00111637	Argentina Spotlight Programme	113,377	113,377	29,199	25.75
00111638	Guatemala Spotlight Programme	67,496	67,496	3,150	4.67
00111639	Mexico Spotlight Programme	192,964	192,964	0	0
00112283	El Salvador Spotlight Programme	128,651	128,651	9,480	7.37
00112284	Honduras Spotlight Programme	69,055	69,055	0	0
Latin America: Total		571,543	571,543	41,829	7.32
Grand Total		32,205,801	5,550,352	1,839,284	33.14

Table 5.2 Transferred Amount, Reported Expenditure and Financial Delivery by Region and Recipient Organisation, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Region	Participating Organization	Total Approved Amount	Transferred Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Africa					
	UNDP	1,142,541	1,142,541	236,438	20.69
	UNWOMEN	121,130	121,130	82,918	68.45
Africa: Total		1,263,671	1,263,671	319,356	25.27
Asia					
	ILO	16,334,125	2,137,457	846,436	39.60
	UNWOMEN	13,036,461	1,577,681	631,662	40.04
Asia: Total		29,370,587	3,715,138	1,478,098	39.79
Latin America					
	UNDP	571,543	571,543	41,829	7.32
Latin America Total		571,543	571,543	41,829	7.32
Grand Total		31,205,801	5,550,352	1,839,284	33.14

Figure 1: Transferred Amount and Reported Expenditure by Region (January – December 2018)



5.2 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Recipient Organisation and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. All expenditures incurred are reported in the eight categories. See tables below for the reported expenditures by Region.

2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

Table 5.3a Africa Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Budget	Expenditure reported Jan-Dec-2018	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff & Personnel Cost	47,040	-	-
Suppl., Comm., Materials	187,960	39,920	13.34
Equip., Veh., Furn., Depn.	78,100	515	0.17
Contractual Services	335,006	86,849	29.02
Travel	265,770	50,034	16.72
Transfers and Grants	99,580	-	-
General Operating	167,546	121,920	40.74
Programme Costs Total	1,181,002	299,238	100.00
Indirect Support Costs Total ¹²	82,670	20,119	6.72
Total	1,263,672	319,356	

Table 5.3b Asia Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Budget	Expenditure reported Jan-Dec-2018	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff & Personnel Cost	10,222,229	509,179	36.86
Suppl., Comm., Materials	-	1,171	0.08
Equip., Veh., Furn., Depn.	80,000	30,457	2.20
Contractual Services	13,488,489	530,703	38.42
Travel	1,118,483	119,656	8.66
Transfers and Grants	1,200,045	6,274	0.45
General Operating	1,486,906	183,960	13.32
Programme Costs Total	27,596,151	1,381,400	100.00
Indirect Support Costs Total	1,931,731	96,698	7.00
Total	29,527,881	1,478,098	

¹² Indirect Support Costs charged by Recipient Organisations, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

Table 5.3c Latin America Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Category	Approved Budget	Expenditure reported Jan-Dec-2018	Percentage of Total Programme Cost
Staff & Personnel Cost	-	-	-
Suppl., Comm., Materials	52,690	-	-
Equip., Veh., Furn., Depn.	7,500	-	-
Contractual Services	387,585	25,020	64.00
Travel	21,765	9,219	23.58
Transfers and Grants	-	-	-
General Operating	64,612	4,854	12.42
Programme Costs Total	534,152	39,093	100.00
Indirect Support Costs Total	37,391	2,737	7.00
Total	571,543	41,829	

6. DIRECT COSTS

In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the Fund amounted to US\$ **3,931,578**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2018**, US\$ **6,337,300** has been charged as Direct Costs including US\$ **3,038,962** as Direct Costs for the Secretariat, and US\$ **3,298,338** for the AA. Overall US\$ **2,984,804** was reported in expenditure. This equates to an expenditure delivery rate of **47** percent for the Direct Cost.

Table 6.1 Total Transferred and Expenditure of the Secretariat and the AA Direct Cost by RUNOs, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

Recipient Organization	Transferred Amount	Total Expenditure
UNDP	1,415,313	1,044,393
UNFPA	65,190	59,610
UNWOMEN	1,558,460	1,166,090
AA/UNDP	3,298,338	714,711
Total:	6,337,300	2,984,804

Table 6.2 Total Transferred and Expenditure of the Secretariat and the AA Direct Cost by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2018 (in US Dollars)

CATEGORY	Secretariat Management Unit		Transferred Amount		Transferred Amount		Administrative Agent	
	Amount Transferred	Expenditure Reported	Amount Transferred	Expenditure Reported	Amount Transferred	Expenditure Reported	Amount Transferred	Expenditure Reported
Staff & Personnel Cost	844,305	697,786	931,505	740,696	2,396,741	580,327	4,172,551	2,018,810
Suppl., Comm., Materials			34,000	5,069			34,000	5,069
Equip., Veh., Furn., Depn.		1,696		789			0	2,485
Contractual Services	60,000	30,534	210,925	145,182	160,000		430,925	175,716
Travel	160,000	94,481	217,000	92,113	230,000	11,929	607,000	198,523
Transfers and Grants								0
General Operating	258,417	151,571	124,000	161,664	295,818	75,699	678,235	388,934
Total Direct costs	1,322,722	976,067	1,517,430	1,145,514	3,082,559	667,955	5,922,710	2,789,536
Indirect Costs Total	92,591	68,326	106,220	80,186	215,779	46,756	414,590	195,268
Total	1,415,313	1,044,393	1,623,650	1,225,700	3,298,338	714,361	6,337,300	2,984,804

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Recipient Organisations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organisations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

