



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls



Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

Spotlight Initiative Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned

April 2024

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Foreword

Mid-way through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains the most pervasive human rights violation in the world, and continues to be a significant barrier to development. Despite the progress made over the past three decades, globally, 1 in 3 women worldwide are still subjected to violence within their lifetime.

The converging and multi-faceted crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict, and growing economic inequalities are exacerbating all forms of VAWG, while women's human rights continue to be eroded by fundamentalist and authoritarian movements. VAWG not only threatens women and girls' safety, health, and wellbeing, but limits their social and economic agency, furthers their marginalization, and, ultimately, prevents them from fulfilling their potential. The societal costs of violence profoundly impede collective progress and make the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals impossible.

Launched in 2017 with €500 million from the European Union, Spotlight Initiative is the largest targeted effort of the UN to end violence against women and girls. Over the past six years, the Initiative has radically shifted the landscape of programming on violence against women and girls. In more than 25 countries across five regions, the Initiative has employed a uniquely comprehensive, whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach that addresses all key drivers of violence against women and girls.

Embodying a set of principles that are at the core of the UN, Spotlight Initiative has pioneered a new way of working with communities, civil society and women's movements, ensuring meaningful engagement in governance, creating openings for political influence and decision making, and strengthening civic space. Spotlight Initiative has created critical partnerships in spaces where none existed before and built a new model of localization at state, district and community levels, placing VAWG at the centre of national development priorities, while supporting local communities to address violence in their specific contexts.

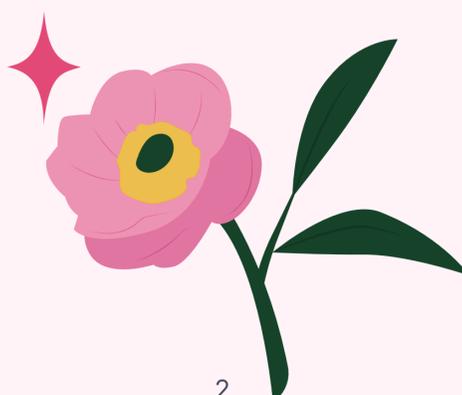
In alignment with the UN development system reforms, Spotlight Initiative represents a unique opportunity to move beyond piecemeal, disconnected, and small-scale interventions to a whole-of-UN approach which orients programming based on on-the-ground capacities, capitalising on the collective expertise, institutional knowledge, and resources of UN agencies to build more coherent, more effective programmes.

Spotlight Initiative's results to date have been transformational, demonstrating that catalytic change is possible when we truly prioritise women and girls. Since 2019, with Spotlight Initiative's support, the conviction rate for perpetrators of gender-based violence has doubled across 12 countries; almost 500 laws and policies have been signed to end violence against women and girls; national budgets to address gender-based violence have increased 10-fold across 14 countries; and 2.5 million women and girls have accessed gender-based violence services, as of 2022.

With this in mind, Spotlight Initiative commissioned the production of this Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned to advance the broader evidence and knowledge base on ending VAWG and share effective practices that can be replicated and scaled up more widely.

Presenting a suite of over 50 case studies across the six original 'pillars' of the Spotlight Initiative, as well as cross-cutting themes, the Compendium provides policymakers and practitioners with practice-based knowledge on ending VAWG that is high-impact, innovative, sustainable by design and rooted in local needs and context. Codifying this expertise is particularly pertinent as Spotlight Initiative transitions to its next generation of programming and expands its universal reach, with the goal of further reducing the prevalence of violence in target communities from 1 in 3 to 1 in 5 women and girls within a decade. I encourage you to use the Compendium as a key source of information and evidence in designing and implementing programming to end violence against women and girls, to drive progress not only on Goal 5: Gender Equality, but across all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Erin Kenny
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Spotlight Initiative



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This Compendium could not have been possible without the courage of women and girl survivors who have spoken out about their experiences, and the resilience of women's rights advocates and feminist movements who remain so central to the fight to end gender-based violence.

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List of abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUC-WGDD	The African Union Commission - Women, Gender and Development Directorate
AWLN	African Women Leaders Network
CSGRG	Civil Society Global Reference Group
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CariSECURE	Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision Making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean Project
CEJIL	Center for Justice and International Law
CHAMP	Collaborative HIV Prevention and Adolescent Mental Health Programme
CLE/FLE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Family Life Education
COTLA	Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSNRG	Civil Society National Reference Group
CSRRG	Civil Society Regional Reference Group
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DVIC	Domestic Violence Intervention Centre
EAT initiative	Temporary and Free Accommodation in Hotels for Women, Girls, Boys and Adolescents Survivors of Violence
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
EVAW	End Violence Against Women
EVAWG	End Violence Against Women and Girls
FB	Facebook
FDS	Defense and Security Forces
FF	Femicide/Feminicide
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FV	Family Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
FOKUPERS	Forum Komunikasaun Ba Feto Timor Loro Sa'e
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HP	Harmful Practices
ICF	Inner City Fund
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ILO	International Labor Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IT	Information Technology
JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
LCDZ	Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPD	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
PacFemCOP	Pacific Feminist Community of Practice
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PINAY	Pinay Careworkers Transnational
PLE	Esperanza Protocol; El Protocolo de la Esperanza (in Spanish)
PNG	Papua New Guinea

List of abbreviations

POWA	Productive Organization for Women in Action
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRMIS	Police Records Management Information System
RFI	Radio France Internationale
ROM	Results-Oriented Monitoring Methodology
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGA	School of Gender Activists
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SMS	Short Message Service
SN	Strategic Note
SOCO	Scenes of Crime Officers
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SHRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Medical
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNTF	United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAPP Act	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VAWG-WebMS	Violence Against Women and Girls Data System
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEP	Women Empowerment Principles
WHO	World Health Organization
WPHF	Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey

