

Sustaining our gains on ending violence against women and girls: fostering national ownership through multi-stakeholder engagement

Introduction

Sustainability for the Spotlight Initiative includes a collaborative effort that outlines the key steps and conditions required by all involved to move from where the programme currently stands, towards a locally and nationally/regionally owned vision for ending violence against women and girls. This includes ensuring that achievement of a programme's goals across its comprehensive theory of change are not jeopardized and that progress towards these goals will continue by local, national and/or regional stakeholders. In essence, it is the path to how we ensure that impact continues while keeping its values intact (e.g., civil society partnership, 'Leave No One Behind', 'Do No Harm', etc.). This plenary session on "***Sustaining our gains on ending violence against women and girls; fostering national ownership through multi-stakeholder engagement***" thus intended to provide a space to reflect on the role of key stakeholders and to exchange on promising approaches and lessons on fostering national ownerships through multi-stakeholder engagement and sustaining gains of GBV programs.

Key Highlights and Lessons

- **Government ownership:** Ensuring political buy-in and ownership at the Ministerial and highest political level is key for garnering national ownership. This can be done through strategic engagement of government stakeholders from the very inception of the program design throughout implementation and ensuring they are leading actors of Spotlight Initiatives activities. Furthermore, setting up multi-stakeholder mechanisms, strengthening institutions, developing financing framework, gender responsive budgeting as well as pooled funding mechanisms is key for ensuring ownership and sustaining efforts.
- **At programmatic level,** working with existing structures within government, advocating at all levels (at the country and regional level) through a multisectoral approach, alignment to the local context, strengthening technical support within institutions and partnership and advocacy with civil society is key to embedding and sustaining critical initiatives on EVAWG, such as comprehensive sexuality education.
- **Civil society** is at the heart of sustainability – evidence shows that supporting civil society, women's organizations and feminist movements is the way to push for the advancement of women's rights, sustain gains and fosters ownership.
- In designing **sustainability plans**, critical elements such as designing interventions that are sustainable from the onset, setting up internal review mechanisms and adjusting interventions throughout implementation, working hand in hand with government and

civil society in designing these plans and soliciting feedback and inputs from rights holders were highlighted.

- **Educational Institutions:** Using global normative standards and principles (such as the essential services package, LNOB, a survivor centered approach), contextualization, engaging all key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, institutionalizing monitoring, and evaluation (M&E) frameworks and advocacy plan, and supporting gender transformative environment helps sustain and embed changes within educational institutions.
- **Private sector:** Harnessing an inclusive process with government, trade unions, companies and jointly developing a strategy and guidance on private stakeholder engagement, using data and evidence, advocacy on the criticality of investing in GBV programmes is crucial for bringing onboard the private sector, and ensuring ownership.
- **Media:** The whole ecosystem of media has a central role in EVAW as it can expose violence, share evidence, raise awareness with a wide reach of the target community. However, it is important to transform, scale and amplify the messages that needs to be conveyed. Thus, establishing alliance with the media through agreed upon principles, criteria, M&E frameworks, putting in place a recognition mechanism and capacity development tools on gender responsive reporting is key for sustainable changes, and ensuring accountability of the media.

Resources

- [Promising approaches and lessons on sustaining the gains of Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#)
- [SHINE Discussion Summary; Sustaining our Gains for the Future of Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#)