

# Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned



## Summary

### Background

The Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned presents the programmatic learning and impact generated by the implementation of Spotlight Initiative from 2018 to 2023. As the first demonstration fund for the UN reforms, the Compendium documents Spotlight Initiative's unique approach to coordination in operating and delivering jointly across UN agencies to bring about a comprehensive and rights-based programme on ending violence against women and girls. Presenting a suite of over 50 case studies across six interconnected outcome areas or pillars, as well as cross-cutting themes, the Compendium provides policymakers and practitioners with innovative, practice-based knowledge on ending gender-based violence that can be replicated and scaled up more widely. The development of the Compendium involved a participatory process, drawing on existing tools and research, as well as the expertise and contributions of Spotlight Initiative programmes.

This Summary of the Compendium provides a snapshot of the depth, reach and impacts of Spotlight Initiative's programming efforts and comprehensive, whole-of-society approach.

### Spotlight Initiative

Spotlight Initiative is the largest targeted effort of the United Nations to end all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. Launched in 2017 with an investment of €500 million from the European Union, Spotlight Initiative represents an unprecedented global partnership on ending gender-based violence. Employing a uniquely comprehensive, whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach, the Initiative focuses on addressing specific forms of violence (determined regionally), including intimate partner and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

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 to end violence against women, 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 gender-based violence at the centre of national development priorities, while supporting local communities to address violence in their specific contexts.

A flagship programme of the United Nations Secretary-General, Spotlight Initiative capitalises on the collective strengths of the UN system to support the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and accelerate progress not only on Goal 5, but across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Initiative's comprehensive model has been found to be 70-90 percent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence than siloed or piecemeal approaches. Over 5 years, Spotlight Initiative has invested 506.9 million USD across its 34 programmes.



Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



# Visual Summary of the Top Innovative and Good Practices across pillars



## PILLAR 1: LAWS AND POLICIES

- 1 Legal reforms in Mexico safeguard the rights of orphans of femicide
- 2 Femicide Reparation Policy for survivors and their families in Ecuador
- 3 Women with disabilities in Zimbabwe influencing policy decisions and plans
- 4 Regional Action Plan for Africa to eliminate VAWG
- 5 National Strategic Action Plan in Trinidad and Tobago supports interagency coordination



## PILLAR 2: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- 1 Greater budget allocation in Timor-Leste for women's rights
- 2 Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Papua New Guinea
- 3 Chiefs Forums in Malawi as key allies on ending VAWG
- 4 Revised protocol addressing GBV cases in higher education in Ecuador



## PILLAR 3: PREVENTION

- 1 Safe Space Mentorship Programme in Malawi challenges social norms
- 2 Peace Huts in Zimbabwe address GBV locally and collectively
- 3 CHAMP community-based approach in Trinidad and Tobago empowers adolescents
- 4 Parenting for Childhood Development Programme in Papua New Guinea shifts behaviours that perpetuate VAWG
- 5 Comprehensive SGBV complaints mechanism for school children in Tajikistan
- 6 Secondary school curriculum revision in Vanuatu mainstreams SRHR information
- 7 The Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa commits to ending VAWG in their institutions
- 8 Religious leaders as champions of gender equality in Tajikistan
- 9 "Spring in Bishkek" mobile game educates on women's rights in Kyrgyzstan
- 10 #YoMeOcupo campaign in Argentina about men's household responsibilities
- 11 Multi-initiative strategy to prevention in Ecuador
- 12 Entre Nos chatbot in El Salvador raises awareness on gender and masculinity
- 13 Cure Violence community mobilisation model in Honduras helps prevent femicide



## PILLAR 4: QUALITY ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- 1 Temporary refuge for women survivors and their families in Mexico
- 2 Mobile women's centres in rural Belize bridge the gap in access to basic services
- 3 Bus of Solidarity in Kyrgyzstan delivers gender-sensitive legal services
- 4 Taxi drivers in Niger promote safe public spaces for women and girls
- 5 GBV helplines in Samoa provide services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- 6 Integration of VAWG in emergency response plans promotes access to services and referral in Tajikistan
- 7 Mobile one-stop centre model in Zimbabwe improves access to essential services in hard-to-reach areas
- 8 Decentralised one-stop centres in Mali provide essential services
- 9 Specialised DVICs at police stations in Jamaica improve access to justice
- 10 Community and Survivor Funds in Malawi ensure economic justice for survivors
- 11 Alternative livelihoods for traditional zones in Liberia reduces the practice of FGM
- 12 Model protocols in Indonesia for handling GBV cases of women migrant workers
- 13 Gender Responsive Policing Training in Trinidad and Tobago



## PILLAR 5: DATA

- 1 InfoViolencia digital database for GBV cases in Mozambique
- 2 PRMIS in Grenada for monitoring crime data
- 3 Primero System in Trinidad and Tobago for case management on violence against children
- 4 Flores en el Aire, a qualitative data approach in Ecuador
- 5 Cross-dimensional and cross-national research on femicide in Latin America
- 6 Mobile SAV App in Liberia for reporting cases of rape, physical and domestic violence
- 7 DNA lab in Uganda strengthens prosecution of VAWG cases
- 8 Innovation hacklabs in Africa spark new ideas and technology



## PILLAR 6: WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

- 1 Funding civil society and grassroots communities through the UN Trust Fund to EVAW and WPHF
- 2 Transnational federation of Filipino domestic and care workers unions and associations
- 3 School of Gender Activists in Tajikistan builds a cadre of local experts
- 4 PacFemCOP advances best practices in feminist discourse and movement building
- 5 The Esperanza Protocol for the protection of women HRDs in Latin America
- 6 CSNRG contributes to the success of Spotlight Initiative in Samoa

### SYNERGIES ACROSS MULTIPLE PILLARS: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

1 A comprehensive approach to end violence against women and girls in Malawi

2 The establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Mechanism of Integrated Care for Women Victims of Violence in Mozambique

3 The declaration of rape as a national emergency in Liberia results in a National Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Roadmap

\$506.9 million invested

280.2 million USD in Africa

66.9 million USD in Asia

55 million USD for the Pacific

53.8 million USD for the Caribbean

50.8 million USD in Latin America

122 countries reached

As of 2022

26 through Spotlight Initiative's country programmes

30 through Spotlight Initiative's two civil society grant giving programmes

66 through Spotlight Initiative's five regional programmes

Spotlight Initiative's results have been transformational, with the conviction rate for perpetrators of gender-based violence doubling across 12 countries; 500 laws and policies having been signed to end violence against women and girls; national budgets to address gender-based violence having increased 10-fold across 14 countries; and 2.5 million women and girls having accessed gender-based violence services, as of 2022.

# Innovative and Good Practices across Pillars

Spotlight Initiative focuses on addressing the root causes of violence and gender inequality through implementation across six pillars of work:



## Pillar 1: Laws and Policies

Case studies under this pillar discuss **new national and subnational laws and policies** that were implemented to end violence against women and girls, including in Mexico, Ecuador, and Zimbabwe. Ensuring that **regional and country-level action plans** are also in place is a key focus in this section, highlighted by case studies from the Africa Regional Programme and Trinidad and Tobago.



## Pillar 2: Institutional Strengthening

In Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, **gender-responsive budgeting practices** are foregrounded. A case study on successful innovative **gender lens-trainings for duty-bearers** in Malawi is shared, and good practices related to the development of **gender equitable national and higher level curriculum** in Ecuador are detailed.



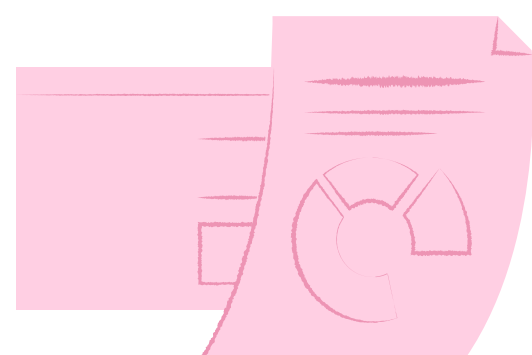
## Pillar 3: Prevention

The importance of **mentorship and the creation of safe spaces** in Malawi and Zimbabwe are highlighted, while interventions implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, Papua New Guinea, Tajikistan, and Vanuatu showcase the positive impact of **curriculum-based education initiatives**. Case studies from Uganda and Tajikistan explore the benefits of facilitating **community dialogues**. The results and practices associated with designing **campaigns and creative communication efforts** in Kyrgyzstan, Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Trinidad and Tobago are described.



## Pillar 4: Quality Essential Services

Case studies in Mexico, Belize, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Samoa, and Tajikistan highlight the importance of delivering **mobile and flexible services**. Results achieved and practices scaled through **one-stop centres** in Zimbabwe, Mali, and Jamaica are explored, while **economic justice initiatives** are shown to strengthen service delivery in Malawi and Liberia. The final set of case studies focus on the various **service delivery guidelines** developed in Indonesia and Trinidad and Tobago.



## Pillar 5: Data

Case studies under this pillar illustrate the strong contributions made by **national databases** created in Mozambique, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ecuador, **cross-national femicide research** in Latin America, and **new technologies and applications** developed in Liberia, Uganda, and across Africa.

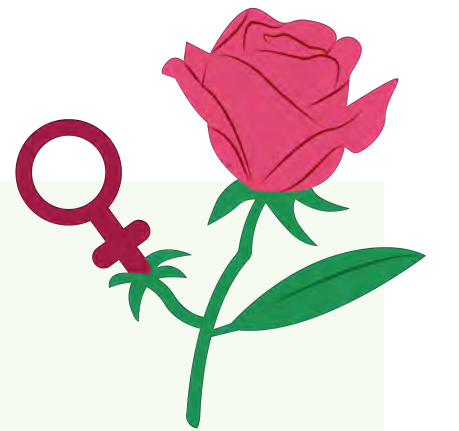


## Pillar 6: Women's Movements

Case studies contributing to Pillar 6 include Spotlight Initiative's work in **funding civil society through two UN Funds**: the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, as well as **network and coalition building** taking place in the Safe and Fair Programme in the Philippines, Tajikistan, the Pacific Region, and the Latin America Region.

# A Systemic Approach to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - Good Practices

Extensive case studies in Malawi, Mozambique, and Liberia highlight the impacts that occur when **working synergistically across multiple entry points**. This integrated programming work sits at the heart of the approach and innovations that Spotlight Initiative led. Read one shortened case study below.



## ***A comprehensive approach to ending violence against women and girls in Malawi***

### **Overview**

Over one third of women in Malawi will experience physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and one in five girls have been sexually abused before the age of 18. In addition, early marriage (a harmful practice) is rampant, with nearly half of girls in Malawi having been married before the age of 18. Although important steps have been taken in the country, there is still a long way to go. One promising indicator was that the government demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the gender equality agenda and ending violence against women and girls through its ownership of and participation in Spotlight Initiative.

### **Results**

By leveraging existing government and community structures and resources, Spotlight Initiative was able to implement interconnected interventions that fostered changes at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Some of the most strategic and impactful allies in accelerating progress were traditional leaders. Remarkable results under Pillar 1 (Laws and Policies) occurred due to their engagement, including the passing of 52 by-laws that focused on ending sexual and gender-based violence and child marriage. Their engagement under Pillar 2 (Institutions) through the Chiefs Forum complemented this work by monitoring the implementation of these by-laws and policies. Concurrently, the Chiefs Forum apparatus accelerated efforts under Pillar 3 (Prevention) and Pillar 4 (Quality Essential Services), as traditional leaders began to engage in awareness raising activities in their communities and to identify and refer cases of child marriage and harmful practices.

In line with this comprehensive approach, the Malawi Police Service collaborated with traditional chiefs and other community structures in order to track cases of child marriage and gender-based violence through the Safe Schools Mentorship Programme and the One School One Police Officer Initiative. The Mentorship Programme supported young women and girls' access to services and to demand cultures of justice, equality, and accountability. Overall, 17 percent of all gender-based violence cases in Malawi were reported by the 37,727 mentor and mentees between 2019 and 2023. Both Spotlight Initiative interventions facilitated police investigations and prosecutions, bringing justice to the most marginalised women and girls.

Recognising the critical role that men play in ending violence against women and girls, Spotlight Initiative also leveraged existing informal men's groups by developing, with their participation, a training methodology called the Barbershop Toolkit Programme. Mobilising over 3,800 men across all six Spotlight Initiative districts, the programme fostered mindset and behavioural shifts at the individual, family and community levels (Pillar 3).

The successful implementation of this multidimensional approach was achieved through the formulation of robust governance and coordination mechanisms, harmonising the actions of diverse stakeholders under a common approach.

### **Key Elements of Success and Practices for Replication**

- Adopt a UN interagency approach, which is aligned with UN reform and has clear coordination mechanisms, to facilitate connectivity across different interventions and create greater impact.
- Adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to both the design and the implementation phase of initiatives to ensure increased national and local ownership and the adoption of bottom-up approaches.
- Push for the systematic inclusion of interventions on violence against women and girls in countries' development plans at all levels, with concrete budget lines.
- Embed sexual and reproductive health and rights within policies and legislative frameworks and build the capacity of decision-makers on this issue to promote greater sustainability.

# Lessons Learned

Spotlight Initiative has yielded key lessons across its priority pillars, providing valuable insights for experts, programme designers, policymakers, and civil society organisations working to address gender-based violence. A total of 13 themes emerged for further exploration, highlighting common trends and learnings across the implementation of Spotlight Initiative programmes. The following is a summary of the key lessons derived from these themes:



**1 Centering gender-based violence as a high-level political priority** can ensure active government involvement in programme design and secure dedicated budget lines and funds for strong political commitment. It also establishes partnerships between government and civil society organisations to sustain initiatives and extend their impact to the most marginalised communities.



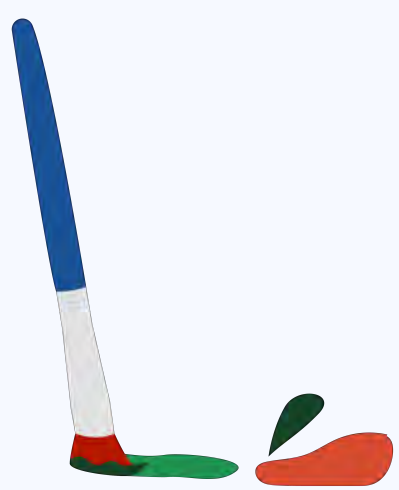
**2 Addressing challenges and sociocultural norms in a given context** can reduce gender inequalities and discrimination. When complemented with community support, programmes can transform socio-cultural norms and shift narratives toward more equitable and inclusive practices.



**3 Addressing child marriage and harmful practices** can improve levels of awareness among individuals and communities, the utilisation of services, and prompt action against the harmful practice. Well-defined action plans, leveraging the influence of traditional leaders, and effective allocation of resources reduces instances of violence experienced by young women and adolescent girls.



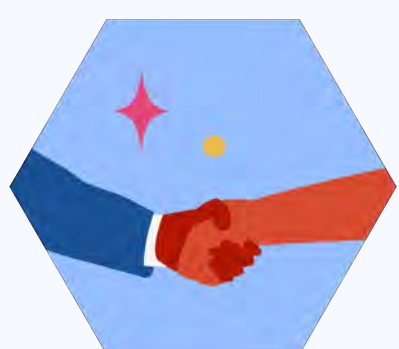
**4 Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to end sexual violence** can increase access to services, mitigate violence and improve health outcomes among women and girls. Strategies to support this include integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights into national laws and policies, mainstreaming information through education systems, and incorporating HIV and AIDS awareness and destigmatisation into ongoing and planned efforts.



**5 Engaging youth/adolescents and girls** can create meaningful and sustainable change. Developing community-focused initiatives, partnering with educational institutions, utilising digital channels, and promoting youth-led advocacy programmes helps improve individual, household and community-level sexual reproductive health and rights outcomes.



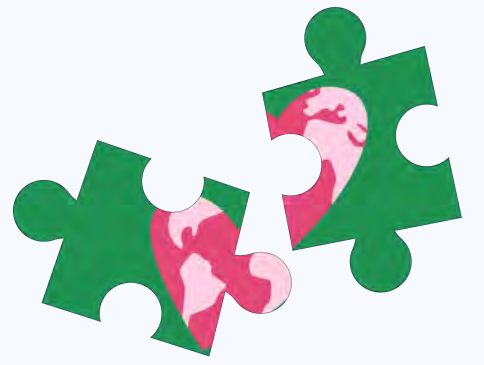
**6 Engaging men and boys** can address problematic notions of toxic masculinities. Engaging community leaders and role models, creating peer opportunities for healthy relationships among men and boys, targeting schools for awareness activities, and utilising creative methods like media and theatre are effective strategies for changing social norms around gender-based violence.



**7 Engaging religious, traditional and faith-based leaders** can build their capacities to act as agents of change. Key strategies for engaging religious and faith-based leaders include collaborating with them to establish by-laws and pass legislation, and working with religious networks to provide sustainable solutions for influencing social norms.



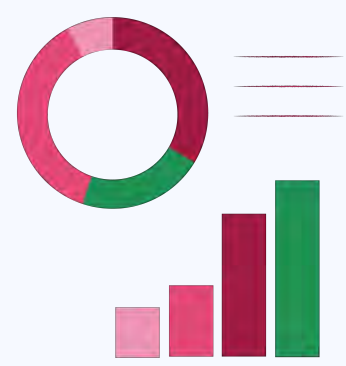
**8 Engaging the private sector** can support the development of robust workplace policies and provide workers with access to support mechanisms that address gender-based violence. It also supports the fortification of leadership and political desire to tackle workplace violence and demonstrate commitment towards gender equality.



**9 Engaging with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus** can establish safe environments and enhance access to essential services for survivors, especially in war and conflict-affected contexts. Humanitarian partnerships help improve safety and reduce violence and harmful practices against vulnerable women and girls.



**10 Adapting to COVID-19, conflict and other crises** can ensure the provision of direct support and emergency services to women and girls. Virtual innovations have enabled uninterrupted and wider-reaching services. Complementarily, new partnerships and flexible funding models have supported the achievement of intended gender equality outcomes despite changing circumstances.



**11 Embedding design perspectives** can improve programme relevance and resonance with different target groups, especially when aligned with local culture. Implementing a thorough context, gender and power analysis, along with utilising past evidence and learnings, leads to more effective gender equality outcomes.



**12 Supporting UN reform and multi-sector governance structures** can enhance coordination across agencies and organisations working towards ending violence against women. Regional collaborations strengthen programmes, optimise resource use, boost efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts.



**13 Ensuring the sustainability of programming and exit strategies** can build systems and standardised processes owned by national stakeholders, including governments and civil society organisations. Securing funding before programme closure ensures continuity, while implementing tracking mechanisms supports future fundraising efforts.



# Recommendations

- **Fund boldly and for the long run.** Spotlight Initiative intends to scale to a 1 billion fund, but more funding is required to end violence against women and girls. Since this work requires unravelling deeply entrenched gender norms and bias, funding must be longer-term, moving from 5-year funding cycles to cycles of at least 10 years. Other areas that require significant investment at the country and local levels include the establishment of adequate gender budgets and national action plans, funding for diverse and quality services that leave no one behind, data infrastructures to facilitate access to justice, and support to civil society and activists mobilising solutions to end violence against women and girls.
- **Fund comprehensive models that work across multiple pillars and coordinate agencies within a country through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society and one UN reform approach.** Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive model has been found to be 70-90 percent more effective at reducing the prevalence of violence than siloed or piecemeal approaches and small scale interventions.
- **Support the expansion of civic space and build strong feminist movements and leadership in countries and regions in order to hold government and duty-bearers to account.** It is imperative to support feminist movements to ensure that violence against women and girls remains a political priority. Investing in feminist movements is recognised as one of the most effective strategies to end violence against women and girls.



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