



# Spotlight Initiative

## **ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT**

**PROGRAMME TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
AND GIRLS IN BELIZE**

**PROGRAMME START DATE: 01 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 – 31 DECEMBER 2021**



<p><b>Programme Title &amp; Programme Number</b></p>	<p><b>Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme</b></p>
<p>Programme Title: Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00119130</p>	<p>All six districts of Belize.</p>
<p><b>Recipient Organization(s)</b></p> <p>UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA</p>	<p><b>Key Partners</b></p> <p><i>In this section, please list your government partners; please also list whether you've partnered with "civil society organizations", including "national or local/grassroots organizations" or "women's rights organizations", but there is no need to include the specific names of individual CSOs here. Similarly, please list if you've partnered with academic, the private sector or others (though no need to name the specific organizations here, either)</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Health &amp; Wellness</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of National Defense and Border Security</i></p> <p><i>Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology</i></p> <p><i>Attorney General's Ministry</i></p> <p><i>National Women's Commission</i></p> <p><i>National Committee for Families and Children</i></p> <p><i>CSOs and CSO Networks</i></p> <p><i>Civil Society National Reference Group</i></p> <p><i>Academia</i></p> <p><i>UN Agencies/UN Programme Partners:</i></p> <p><i>European Union</i></p> <p><i>UN Women</i></p> <p><i>ILO</i></p> <p><i>PAHO/WHO</i></p> <p><i>UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>OHCHR</i></p> <p><i>IOM</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).



**Programme Cost (US\$)**

**Total Phase I budget, and (where OSC approved) Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 2,948,751 USD**

**Phase I and (where OSC approved) Phase II Spotlight Initiative funding:<sup>2</sup> 2,475,000 USD**

**Agency Contribution: 473,751 USD**

**Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:**

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (+ II, where OSC approved) (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	901,278	129,400
UNFPA	592,602	143,971
UNICEF	981,119	295,175
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,475,000</b>	<b>568,546</b>

**Programme Start and End Dates**

**Start Date:**  
01.01.2020

**End Date:**  
31.12.2022

**Report Submitted By: Birgit Gerstenberg, UN Resident Coordinator**

<sup>2</sup> The Spotlight Initiative Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).



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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>HoA</b>	Heads of Agencies
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MNDBS</b>	Ministry of Defence and Border Security
<b>MHDFIPA</b>	Ministry of Human Development Families and Indigenous People's Affairs
<b>CSNRG</b>	Civil Society National Reference Group
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>RUNOs</b>	Recipient United Nations Organizations
<b>SI</b>	Spotlight Initiative
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Report
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls

## **Executive Summary**

The 2021 Annual Report presents key achievements during the reporting period and demonstrates how Spotlight Initiative has continued to have a catalytic effect in advancing legislative, policy, and programme interventions to end violence against women and girls across the six programme outcomes. Under Outcome 1, the Spotlight Initiative opened up spaces for survivors, policy and decision-makers to critically assess family law legislations, including the Domestic Violence Act and make recommendations for strengthening family violence legislation to increase access to justice for women and girls. In keeping with the principle of “Leaving no one behind” spaces included the voices of many marginalized migrants, rural and indigenous women and girls. Additionally, key legislation such as the Cyber Crime Act and the Criminal Code were reviewed, the latter to support the operationalization of a sexual offenders’ registry. Two key national plans and policies, the National Gender Policy (NGP) and the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (NGBVAP) were revised and strengthened through a consultative process that involved state and non-state actors and increased the capacity of 40 government officials to develop plans and policies responding to gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The contribution of the Spotlight Initiative to both key national frameworks has ensured that the national response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is guided by evidence-based national policies and plans which will allow for stronger multi-sectoral coordination, and more effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of the national and sub-national response to VAWG and will allow for the development of the sector and sub-national plans on ending VAWG to be realized. Also, in keeping with the principle of “Leaving no one behind” these key national frameworks also focused on specific interventions for the most marginalized women and girls. Women in the security forces will now enjoy increased protection from sexual violence as a result of the Spotlight Initiative supported Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme (JSVRP) with an action plan which was developed for implementation with the three security forces (Police, Belize Defence Force (BDF) and Coast Guard). This was endorsed at the highest level by the Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and is currently being rolled out across the security sector.

Under Outcome 2, women and girls affected by violence, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination will benefit from improved service delivery through the strengthened institutional capacity of 25 private and public sector organizations. The capacity of 10 institutions from the essential service sectors for gender-based violence (GBV) response (health, justice and policing, social services and coordination and governance of coordination) was enhanced to develop prevention and response programmes for ending sexual violence through gender transformative training. Additionally, the capacity of the judiciary has been strengthened through training and mentorship to address family law cases which will improve access to justice for women and men, boys and girls, particularly those in geographic areas without a family court who have previously not benefitted from the same level of services offered to those persons in geographic areas where there is a family court. The Information Technology (IT) capacity of the judiciary has also been strengthened to improve the existing system of data gathering and

management as well as to allow citizens greater access to justice during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The institutional capacity of 10 private sector institutions to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG was also strengthened through the completion of the adaptation process for the Belize Gender Equality and Diversity Seal for public and private sector organizations which seek to champion women's empowerment by addressing the issue of women's limited economic empowerment, strengthening employers' recognition of gender-based violence, promoting the elimination of all forms of discrimination of all forms within the work environment, and foster zero tolerance to gender-based violence and to end to violence against women and girls was completed.

Under Outcome 3, as a result of prevention interventions under the Spotlight Initiative in 2020 and 2021 almost 16,000 women and girls, men and boys have increased knowledge of VAWG, family violence legislations, available services and increased awareness of gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours to promote and end to VAWG and to support women and girls in accessing and advocating for their rights. The 16,000 women, girls, men and boys reached include marginalized groups from migrant communities, those with disabilities, LGBTQI couples, adolescent mothers, and rural women and girls. Additionally, 54 communities, including rural and indigenous communities, now have the capacity to advocate for gender equality and ending VAWG through the establishment/strengthening of advocacy platforms to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction through the support of the parenting programme. 12 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have increased their capacity to plan and implement programmes on ending VAWG through developed or strengthened strategies for ending VAWG as well as capacity to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights and awareness of harmful social norms and gender stereotypes has increased for over 300,000 persons who were reached by 10 campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotypes.

Under Outcome 4, women and girls' survivors benefitted from increased coordination of services, improved access to services through the availability of wrap-around services for survivors of domestic violence, and improved experiences in shelters resulting from four key national guidelines or protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination which have been developed or strengthened. These include the development of a GBV Multisectoral Protocols, the development of Standard Operating procedures for GBV, the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the operation of shelters, and the development of Guidelines and Technical Design for a one-stop sexual and domestic violence unit under to purview of the police department with accompanying draft SOPs. Additionally, in response to the principle of Leaving no one Behind, almost 1300 marginalized women and girls have increased knowledge of and access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services through the implementation of mobile centres in hard-to-reach communities. The mobile centres allowed access to services that were not previously available or to which access had become restricted as a result of COVID-19.

Under Outcome 5, Belize's capacity for evidence-based decision making on policies and programmes has been strengthened through access to globally comparable data on GBV as a result of the completion and launch of the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study. Additionally, GBV information systems are being strengthened to increase capacity for data collection, case management and reporting on VAWG through the strengthening of FAMCARE, the national system for case management and reporting on GBV which will allow for improved targeting of prevention and service delivery interventions to the most marginalized and vulnerable women and girls.

Under Outcome 6, CSO capacity has been increased to strengthen social accountability and over 27 CSOs as well as 4 CSO networks have been engaged on an ongoing basis in the development of a CSO Engagement Strategy to support coordinated CSO actions on Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).

At the end of 2021, the programme had achieved an almost 80% implementation rate and is well poised to move into Phase II of implementation. Strong partnerships and technical guidance from the European Union Delegation Team along with partnerships with the Government of Belize at the highest level have significantly contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment and the overall national response to ending violence against women and girls. A new government administration which was elected in late 2020, demonstrated strong commitment and political will to end violence against women and girls and family violence and has continued to engage at the political and technical levels with the initiative.

Additionally, continued engagement and partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly at the community level, have provided multiple opportunities to expand prevention and service delivery reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations. In 2021, the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) continued to strengthen its capacity and played a key role in the governance of the Spotlight Initiative. Despite ongoing economic and social challenges and challenges to the implementation of activities posed by COVID-19, the Spotlight Initiative and implementing partners were able to adopt methodologies and approaches to contribute to impacting the national response to violence against women and girls.

## **Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status**

During the reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative continued implementation within the context of political, social and economic challenges. With Belize's General Election conducted in November of 2020, with the change in administration, there were changes to the key ministerial portfolios and political and technical leadership of the various line ministries. This presented some delays in getting the implementation of key activities off to an early start in 2021. However, the new government as well as leadership within the various line ministries, demonstrated strong political will and commitment to gender equality, women's empowerment and ending violence against women and



girls. After several sensitization sessions and high-level government meetings were conducted to provide information on the Spotlight Initiative, secure buy-in and ensure the sustainability of achievements accomplished in 2020, the Spotlight Initiative's implementation progressed. Shifts in priorities within the Ministry of Education, as they underwent curriculum reform, have resulted in delays in the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for adolescents and youth in school as well as engaging boys in schools on harmful masculinities. Spotlight Initiative is engaged in advocacy at the highest levels with the Ministry of Education to ensure the inclusion of CSE as part of the curriculum reform. In the interim, available resources for CSE and engaging boys were used to strengthen and expand CSE to reach adolescents and youth in out of school settings and to adopt a peer education approach to reach school-aged boys in out of school settings. Through this very successful approach, many young people in school are also being reached through out-of-school settings.

Economically, the country's poverty estimates continue to increase. In its 2021 report, *Developing a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Belize*<sup>3</sup>, the Inter-American Development Bank noted "the hit from the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the fragility of the Belizean economy, which has experienced chronic low economic growth and increasing debt over the last 15 years". The report further explained that in 2020, the pandemic shook the foundations of the economy by hitting the tourism sector, which constitutes 39% of GDP, 40% of total employment and 42% of total exports in 2019. Given its dependence on tourism inflows, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the economy contracted by 16% in 2020, taking the size of the economy back to the GDP level of 2011. In 2021, this contraction continued as the impact of COVID 19 intensified, resulting in a decrease in social spending, a 10% cut in salaries for public officers and teachers and several austerity measures being put in place by the Government to support economic recovery.

In addition to its economic impact, COVID-19 continues to affect the social fabric of Belizean society. In 2021, Belize continued to face multiple challenges, limiting access to services for populations in the most rural areas, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and recovery from major flooding following Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. Health services, including Sexual and Reproductive Health services and other non-COVID related health services, were severely curtailed and resources, both human and financial, were redirected to the national COVID-19 response. Ensuring that sustained services are delivered, particularly to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) is critical as Belize's 2020 GBV report showed that cases of violence against women and girls continue at an alarming rate. Noteworthy from the 2020 GBV report is the peak in reported cases that occurred during the early period of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which government-imposed State of Emergency measures, restricting movement for non-essential purposes and led to people spending more time at home, where many share living spaces with their aggressors. This demonstrates the need for ongoing and innovative responses to GBV even during COVID-19 to ensure that women and girls are able to access services and support in a safe manner. Although

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<sup>3</sup> Inter American Development Bank: *Developing a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Belize*, 2021.

COVID-19 still posed some challenges to programme implementation in 2021, RUNOs worked with implementing partners (IPs) to adjust to the realities of COVID-19 and were able to advance implementation with fewer challenges than those experienced in 2020. CSOs continued to build on prevention and service delivery response initiated during 2020, filling critical gaps at the community level, particularly through small face to face outreach and education sessions and provision of services such as mobile health services to hardest to reach communities while adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols as well as expanding the reach of GBV prevention interventions through online education, awareness and training sessions through Zoom platforms.

RUNOS continuously contextualized and assessed political, social and economic changes during various stages of implementation in 2021 and relevant measures were designed and implemented to ensure continued implementation, acceleration and sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative continued to implement the 2020 COVID-19 Plan which saw the reprogramming of funds to support the government and CSO partners in addressing gaps in service delivery and sustaining service delivery, increasing communication to support prevention and strengthening the capacity of government and CSO actors to respond to COVID-19 as well as to adopt programme and service delivery to the realities of COVID-19. Some examples of these adoptions included strengthening IT capacity for provision of training, services, meeting etc. online and adjusting service delivery modes to ensure adherence to COVID-19 protocols. One example of this was the support provided to community-based CSE Trainers and young people with requisite video conferencing platforms and support for access to the internet in order to access CSE education, especially in rural communities, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Another example was the utilization of large open spaces such as school facilities in rural communities to facilitate service delivery.

The 2020 COVID-19 plan was finalized at the end of Q2, 2020 and was shared with the European Union (EU), who had no objection to the planned actions. In 2021, as the pandemic continued, the Spotlight Initiative, continued to support the implementation of activities under the COVID-19 plan that were rolled out in 2020. Some key activities include communication interventions to raise awareness of GBV and to increase knowledge on available services, support to capacity building initiatives to increase effective implementation of relief response for most vulnerable families and the establishment of local /community-based support service delivery network in partnership with CSOs which allowed for the provision of minimally acceptable services to survivors, particularly in underserved rural areas.

Despite the challenges mentioned, at the end of 2021, the Spotlight Initiative Programme was on track. This was largely due to the development and implementation of an acceleration and sustainability plan at the end of Q2 2021. An assessment of activities that required acceleration was conducted which informed the development of the plan. Reporting on progress towards acceleration was done on a monthly basis during technical and coordination team meetings and Heads of Agencies as well as the EU technical focal point were kept abreast of the progress of implementation. Based on the implementation of the acceleration and sustainability plan, the

programme was on track for completion by December 2021. The six months no-cost extension that has been extended to the region will be utilized to finalize 100% of activities and plan for Phase II implementation.

As the programme concludes Phase I, a major emphasis is being placed on the sustainability of Spotlight Initiative activities. RUNOs are currently working to review and strengthen the sustainability plan by assessing what sustainability actions were achieved and what actions need to form a strong focus in Phase II of Spotlight Initiative implementation to ensure ownership and continuity of actions within the Spotlight Initiative and beyond. Some examples of sustainability actions that are being reviewed and strengthened include (a) the endorsement of the National Gender Policy (NGP), ensuring that the plan is socialized among key stakeholders and that sector plans are developed to support the implementation of the NGBV Action plan; (b) Strengthening the social sector workforce by providing capacity building for social sector work force in responding to family violence which will result in stronger response of various sectors to family violence; (c) development and roll-out of the Essential Service Package (ESP) and ensuring integration of the ESP into all sector plans and protocols; (d) endorsement and roll out of the Multisectoral Response Protocols and SOPs for GBV; (e) roll out of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication strategy with a focus on producing data and evidence to support monitoring for behaviour and social change; and (f) Expanding capacity for effective implementation of FAMCARE including training on the use of FAMCARE GBV modules.

**Implementation progress by Outcome area:**

<b>Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas</b>	<b>Implementation progress as of 31 December 2021</b>
<b>Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework</b>	84%
<b>Outcome 2: Institutions</b>	83.3%
<b>Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change</b>	77.8%
<b>Outcome 4: Quality Services</b>	73.6%
<b>Outcome 5: Data</b>	100%
<b>Outcome 6: Women’s Movement</b>	84.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	83.8%

**Programme Governance and Coordination**

In 2020, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed to strengthen coordination and technical coherence of the Spotlight Initiative in Belize by outlining roles and functions at various levels, discussing how various roles interrelate with each other as well as describing mechanisms for ensuring effective reporting, coordination and accountability. The SOP continues to guide programme governance and coordination in 2021 and has contributed significantly towards working as One UN under the UN reform, by strengthening interagency coordination, accountability and

programme governance and is continuously reviewed and updated based on lessons learnt during Spotlight Initiative implementation.

As per the SOP, joint UNCT leadership coordinated by the Resident Coordinator (RC) supports the effective implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. Under the RC, the Heads of Agencies (HOAs) are responsible for the oversight, review and validation of the cooperation between agencies on the Spotlight Initiative. The RC engages HOAs of RUNOs for bi-monthly meetings to review the progress of implementation and identify areas for action by the HOAs. A quarterly report is provided to the RC and HOAs on the progress of implementation, highlighting key challenges and areas for attention and action at the RC/HOA level. In addition, the wider UNCT is kept apprised of the joint programme's progress by receiving periodic updates and the opportunity to engage in a holistic UN approach to supporting effective implementation. The RC and HOAs support effective coordination of the Spotlight Initiative staff through ensuring collective accountability to commitments, high-level information exchange to strengthen partnerships, as well as improving coordination and collaboration of the UN system internally and externally with EU and implementing partners. The RC is supported by a Technical Coordinating Unit (TCU) which is comprised of an RCO Team Leader, a Spotlight Initiative Programme Coordinator, who also serves as the M&E Officer, and a Spotlight Initiative Communication Officer. A Technical Coherence Consultant, fully funded by UNICEF, is part of the TCU. In addition to the oversight and guidance provided by the RC and HOAs, two separate spaces have been created to ensure effective coordination and effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Spotlight Initiative; Monthly coordination meetings are held between the TCU, RUNO Focal Points, Technical Coherence and Operations and Budget Focal Points.

Monthly coordination meetings provide the space for oversight of the programme, strategic decision making, and decision making regarding budget and financial implementation. Monthly coordination meetings are informed by monthly technical meetings. Technical meetings are attended by the Programme Coordinator, Communication Officer (RC), Technical Coherence Consultant and RUNO Programme Officers. The focus of technical meetings is to plan, discuss the progress of implementation, identify areas for coordination and collaboration, streamline technical coherence, identify challenges, and update plans for acceleration based on country-level feedback, particularly within the current COVID-19 context, and brainstorm solutions for issues that have been identified.

#### ***a) National Steering Committee***

The National Steering Committee (NSC) is the highest governing body of the Spotlight Initiative and is led by two passionate women leaders as Co-Chairs of the NSC, the Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator. The European Union Delegation (EUD), in the form of the EU Ambassador, also provides important leadership alongside the 2 Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs are devoted to maintaining a strong partnership with all members of the NSC and with the Spotlight Initiative through continued engagement as demonstrated in ongoing involvement of activities beyond the NSC meetings such

as engagement in programme oversight, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communication and visibility and engagement with civil society. The NSC meets quarterly and includes representation at the highest level from the following: Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, Ministry of Education, Culture & Technology, Ministry of Youth, Sports and E-Governance, Ministry of Home Affairs & New Growth Industries, Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local Government, Ministry of Health & Wellness, Head of the European Union Delegation to Belize, Recipient United Nations Organizations UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, and 20% representation from the CSNRG.

In 2021, three (3) meetings of the NSC were held using a mixed modality of virtual and in-person meetings. During these meetings, the NSC approved the 2021 Annual Work Plan, reviewed and approved the 2020 Annual Report. Additionally, the NSC received updates on progress and challenges in implementation as well as the implementation of the Acceleration of Sustainability Plan. The NSC provided feedback and recommendations on the baseline. The Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs subsequently provided no objection to the study thus allowing its public release and further participating in the launch of the Baseline Study along with the EU Ambassador and other members of the NSC.

As a result of its involvement and leadership in the Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs, requested a high-level meeting with the RUNOs and the EU, on behalf of the government, to ensure alignment of the Government of Belize's national agenda, Plan Belize, with the Spotlight Initiative. At the end of this meeting, key commitments were made by the Government of Belize to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and end VAWG. These commitments are followed up during NSC meetings as well as monthly technical meetings with the EU.

#### ***b) Civil Society National or Regional Reference Group (CSNRG)***

An Interim Civil Society National Reference Group (ICSNRG) composed of 15 members was established in May 2019, to support the design phase of the programme. The group was actively engaged in working sessions with the government, the UN and the EU across all of the programme's outcome areas. In addition to the ICSNRG, multiple CSOs, representing a wide cross-section of beneficiaries, including vulnerable and marginalized groups were included in the CPD development process. The ICSNRG was replaced by the CSNRG during the last quarter of 2020 and comprises 8 diverse members. In July 2020, a call for nomination went out for participation in the CSNRG. 10 nominations were received. However, only 8 successfully met the specified criteria. Consequently, the CSNRG was formed with these 8 members from national, local and grassroots CSOs. The CSNRG is inclusive and aimed at leaving no one behind, featuring the participation of groups representing women and girls, youth, indigenous groups, LGBTI groups, and CSOs focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In 2021, 10 regular monthly meetings and 6 special meetings were held focusing on the development and implementation of activities in the CSNRG Annual Workplan (AWP) and receiving regular updates from RUNOs on the progress of implementation. In 2021, the CSNRG received a total budget of \$40,000 USD to support the implementation of its Annual Work Plan. During the last quarter of 2021, the work plan was evaluated and revised in preparation for Phase II. Based on a review of the work plan the following were key achievements of the CSNRG in 2021:

- Annual workplan and budget developed and submitted to and received approval from the Spotlight Initiative Technical team.
- CSNRG Representatives were nominated to the National Steering Committee (NSC), Youth, Regional and International Reference Groups. Within the NSC, the CSNRG is able to table concerns and participate in the decision-making process at the national level. As members of the Youth, Regional and International Reference Groups, the CSNRG can exchange ideas, discuss best practices and challenges that are encountered. This also provides additional insight regarding the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative at various levels.
- A Technical Consultant was contracted to develop a workplan for Jan 2022 - Dec 2023, an Advocacy Strategy, an M&E Tool and a CSNRG Scorecard. These documents will enable the team to undertake regular oversight visits and ensure that the activities being implemented reach the most marginalized groups and persons. The Scorecard has been completed and will be utilized as a monitoring tool of the CSNRG to hold the initiative accountable for delivering planned results and engaging CSOs, and the Advocacy strategy and M&E tools are pending review and finalization from members.
- The CSNRG's Information Communication Technology (ICT) capacity was strengthened through the establishment of 3 ICT hubs to support greater functionality of CSNRG members and also to enable the CSNRG to support actions under Outcome 6 geared towards strengthening CSOs and women's movement to advocate and design, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes on family violence.
- Additionally, the CSNRG has played a significant role in supporting the Spotlight Initiative by presenting 4 Case Studies at the Human Rights Capacity Building Session in July/August. This created a space for meaningful dialogue with a results-based approach and highlighted the important work of the CSNRG and CSOs in leaving no one behind and working toward EVAWG.
- In support of Outcome 6, the CSNRG supported CSO conversations with social sector CSOs to identify opportunities for increased coordination and networking and are contributing to the development of a CSO engagement strategy.

While the CSNRG has seen great success and a concerted effort by the citizenry and various bodies to actively effect change and EVAWG, there are still concerns regarding systemic and structural violence that have led to generational trauma, legal and policy reforms. e.g., the hate crime legislation, the legal review of the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC), the Equal Opportunities Bill (E.O.B), and the development of a victim advocacy strategy using a trauma-informed approach to supporting women and girls. The CSNRG is hopeful that with the proper technical documents, guidance and support from the Spotlight Initiative Coordination team through

established monthly meetings and ongoing engagement of the CSNRG in programme implementation and renewed commitment from the CSNRG members, in terms of increased availability as well as filling vacant seats within its membership, we can move forward toward the shared goal of eliminating family and gender-based violence.

***c) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees and other governance mechanisms***

The United Nations Gender and Human Rights Theme Group (UNGHR) was formed in 2020 with the overall purpose of institutionalizing human rights and gender equality principles and mainstreaming as a central part of the UN’s development work. It aims to achieve this objective through strengthening system-wide coherence and collaboration on human rights and gender mainstreaming and technical support to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in integrating human rights and gender equality principles and international standards into the work of the UN and in supporting national partners to implement gender equality and human rights obligations. The UN Gender and Human Rights Theme Group has a strategic role in supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDGs, as per the areas indicated in the Gender Scorecard, Human Rights-based Approach and Leave No One Behind guidance to Development Cooperation. This UNGHR provides technical guidance and oversight to ensure that gender and human rights are effectively addressed within the Spotlight Initiative and that the gender and human rights focus of SI is aligned with international standards.

In 2021, the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) interagency task force was established to ensure a coordination mechanism for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse with UNICEF PSEA Focal Point as the Chair. Two key leadership dialogues on UN standards of conduct relating to sexual exploitation and abuse and on creating a “speak-up culture” were carried out: one with all UN Staff and the other with CSO Implementing Partners (IPs). The training with CSO IPs included the wider UN system in Belize to collaborate, given the shared obligation to implement the UN protocol in the country with three objectives: (1) to raise awareness about the UN’s mandate on PSEA, (2) to strengthen capacity to conduct PSEA self-assessment and implement action plans, and (3) to sensitize partners on victim assistance and reporting mechanisms. The UNCT approved a PSEA Action Plan to ensure that risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, where present, are managed and mitigated. This contributed to ensuring that all relevant Spotlight Initiative IPs were PSEA compliant, a critical standard for engaging IPs.

***d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools***

Belize completed its’ first Business Operations Strategy 2021-2025 based on guidance issued by United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The programme worked with the UN Gender and Human Rights Group platform and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) developed and approved by United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the common UN approach to eliminate violence against women and girls inter-agency efforts and works, at country-level.

The way of working as one UN under the UN Reform has been strengthened and is effectively guided by clear mechanisms for working together with the use of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP is key to coordination and governance. Given the multiple UN agencies involved in Spotlight Initiative implementation, there was a need to establish clear roles and responsibilities as well as dedicated spaces for coordination. This SOP for Spotlight Initiative has been converted into a live document that is being updated to further strengthen partnerships at all levels and effective partnerships among UN agencies, the EUD, the Government of Belize, the CSNRG and wider partnerships, including with other members of civil society.

The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), in line with the use of UN Reform, along with the leadership of Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) Head of Agency created a space to facilitate a more effective and results-driven way of working within the UN Spotlight Initiative country programme to reduce duplication and improve collaboration. Improved collective planning and resource mobilization amongst agencies are on the increase. The approach to teamwork and harmonized approach is the new working norm within the Spotlight Initiative country team. Spotlight Initiative is also incorporated within the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UN SDCF), Priority Area 4: Peace, Safety, Justice and the Rule of Law, which proposes a two-track approach to tackle this persistent challenge: the first component is to strengthen the related systems and institutions for the promotion of rule of law, justice and transnational safety and security (Outcome 7), whilst the second involves working with people and communities to eradicate the culture of violence, including gender-based violence, and the socio-economic-environmental conditions that make people and societies vulnerable to violence and crime (Outcome 8).

## **Programme Partnerships**

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative built on and expanded partnerships established in 2020 and also established new partnerships, particularly with CSOs. The Spotlight Initiative continued to engage with seven key government entities: the Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous People's Affairs (MHFIPA)', the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security (MNDBS), the National Women's Commission (NWC) and the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC). These partnerships were critical in securing high-level political buy-in from the government and fostering long-term national ownership over the Spotlight Initiative and EVAWG work more broadly. Partnerships with these key government entities were also important in ensuring the sustainability of Spotlight Initiative activities as actions undertaken sought to build capacity and integrate EVAWG into various national plans, policies and programmes. These partnerships were also critical in strengthening the legal and policy environment for EVAWG as well as strengthening the capacity for prevention and service delivery to ensure that solutions are generated to expand reach to the most marginalized, including in times of emergencies.



In 2020, partnerships were also established with 10 Civil Society Organizations. These include the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA), Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), Child Development Foundation (CDF), Pathlight International, Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), Youth Enhancement Services (YES), Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) and GoJoven Belize Alumni Association (GO Belize), and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB). In 2021, these partnerships were further strengthened, and partnership agreements were signed with two additional CSOs; Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC), and the Belize Association of Planners (BAP). Although a formal partnership agreement was not signed with the Belize Network of NGOs (BNN), they were engaged at the highest level and provided strategic inputs and guidance to support strengthening CSO Networks. Formalizing a partnership with BNN will be key to fostering sustainability, in Phase II. Partnership with the BNN provides a unique opportunity for advocacy at the highest level, through the NGOs Senator, to ensure that key interventions, including national GBV plans and programmes, remain relevant and considered for financial and technical support. The efforts to strengthen networking, coordination and partnership among Women’s Groups and relevant social sector CSO actors ensure that those community-based and grassroots organizations have access to contribute to the national agenda for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) and ending VAWG. The hope is that a well-coordinated social sector civil society can ensure strong and evidenced-based contributions to the national dialogue for social sector strengthening, especially as it relates to supporting women and girls.

Strong partnerships with the Government of Belize, including at the highest level, partnerships with CSOs, particularly at the community level, ongoing engagement with the EU delegation with avid interest, commitment and support from the EU Ambassador and the technical team, as well as cooperation with other UN agencies, continues to contribute to strong programme implementation, impacting the lives of women and girls, men and boys.

#### **a) *Government***

The Spotlight Initiative continues to enjoy the highest level of partnership and engagement with the Government of Belize. As a result of high-level meetings held in the last quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 with members of the new administration, the Government of Belize affirmed its commitment to Spotlight Initiative and appointed representatives at the highest level to serve on the NSC. In addition to the Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People’s Affairs (MHDFIPA) co-chairing the NSC, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in that same ministry is the Spotlight Initiative Focal Point for the Government. This has provided multiple opportunities for high-level engagement to review the progress of the Spotlight Initiative, identify and address bottlenecks and secure support in advocating with other key government leaders to address gaps and bottlenecks to advancing Spotlight Initiative activities.

The MHDFIPA also serves as an implementing partner. Through this partnership, the social workforce is being strengthened to provide high-quality multi-sectoral services for victims (including

in times of emergency) through the sustained capacity of service providers. Key multisectoral protocols for the prevention of VAWG were also developed and FAMCARE, a comprehensive case management system, is being strengthened to improve case management, monitoring, data collection and reporting on VAWG. This partnership is key to achieving the principle of “leave no one behind” since the Ministry of Human Development is the lead ministry in the country’s response to VAWG and provides strategic leadership to all other government ministries and CSOs.

The National Women’s Commission (NWC) falls under the purview of the MHDFIPA and is the national body appointed by the Government to function as a strategic guidance and oversight mechanism for the achievement of gender equality, equity and women’s empowerment in Belize (GEEWE). The NWC strategically supports strengthening national policies and national plans of action to advance gender equality and end VAWG; as such, it played a critical role in the preparedness, coordination and response to the Spotlight Initiative COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan in 2020. The leadership of the NWC in these critical areas of the Spotlight Initiative demonstrates national ownership and contributes to the sustainability of these Spotlight Initiative supported activities.

The Ministry of National Defence and Border Security (MNDBS) supported the revision of key legislation related to family violence under Output 1.1. Additionally, the MNDBS is supporting strengthening data systems for improved data and M&E on family violence through the harmonization of the GBV information system and building capacity of service providers in the use of the GBV information system (Output 5.1). The uniformed services under the Ministries of MNDBS and Home Affairs, namely the Belize Defence Force, Coast Guard, Police Department, and in collaboration with Immigration and Customs Department personnel have reviewed and strengthened existing policies, protocols and procedures that support a zero-tolerance for violence against women in security forces, as well as developed/strengthened complaint and reporting mechanisms available to address discrimination within the security forces. The resulting Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme was endorsed at the highest level by the ministers of the Ministry of Defence and Border Security, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries and will be launched along with an Education and Sensitization Tool Kit in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022. The engagement of these ministries was motivated by increased reports of sexual harassment and abuse within the security forces, and the lack of proper protocols and/or response mechanisms to protect and support victims. These allegations of misconduct increased at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and became a national concern.

The Ministry of the Attorney General was selected as a partner based on its ongoing work and expertise in the justice sector, specifically as it relates to strengthening legislation and access to justice. The Attorney General of Belize provided strategic leadership and guidance for legislative reform and continues to be intimately involved in leading Spotlight Initiative activities relevant to her ministry. Partnerships in this area contributed to improving legislative and policy frameworks to address impunity and provided for coordinated action to end violence against women and children.

The Family Court, Magistrate Court, and Legal Aid Office have benefited from the capacity strengthening of court officials operating in family courts structures and proceedings, including the provision of medium-term mentorship (Output 2.1). The capacity of the judiciary to gather and manage data to improve access to justice case management, decision making, inform accountability and inform legislative review was also strengthened by the Spotlight Initiative (Output 5.1)

In order to strengthen the evidence base for legislative review, the NCFC has been engaged in strengthening family violence legislation through district and community consultations to understand the gaps in reporting and response mechanisms related to violence against women and girls, including family violence, familiarity and awareness of legislation that support these mechanisms, and awareness-raising on rights of women and children, advocates and other community actors to respond and report incidences of violence (Output 1.1). These consultations have included marginalized groups of women and girls including migrant and indigenous women as well as women and girls with disabilities.

Through the partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MOECST), actions to advance comprehensive sexuality education were initiated in 2020 with the partnership being endorsed at the highest level by the CEO of the Ministry of Education. The MOECST was selected for implementation of the scale-up of CSE in-school programming, as the inclusion of CSE as part of the HFLE Curriculum and Positive Youth Development Curriculum presented the highest opportunity to reach a broader coverage of students in school. In 2021, the MOE was also a key collaborator in the training of over 1,000 teachers, school administrators and parents in the Mandatory Report of Child Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Family Violence and has endorsed these digitized modules as part of the Professional Development of teachers.

A partnership was established with the Ministry of Health and Wellness in 2020. However, activities were not slated for rollout until 2021. The partnership with the Ministry of Health and Wellness is key to strengthening service delivery and ensuring that policies and protocols are in place to guarantee non-discriminatory access to services for marginalized and vulnerable populations in keeping with the principle of “leaving no one behind.” However, as noted under contextual shifts and implementation status, since 2020, partnerships with key government ministries were impacted by COVID-19 as government ministries involved in service delivery focused their resources on responding to COVID-19. While some measures were taken to ensure that Spotlight Initiative activities continued to advance, as the response created major human and financial resource demands on an already strained health sector, particularly with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021, it became increasingly challenging for the Ministry of Health to prioritize Spotlight Initiative activities. With seeming ease in the number of COVID-19 cases and no new variant on the horizon, the Ministry of Health and Wellness was engaged continuously in 2021 and agreed on new approaches to implementation of activities in 2022, including utilizing RUNO operational processes and ensuring capacity development of senior health professionals in all four health regions, which will also ensure continuity and overall sustainability.

### ***b) Civil Society***

As reflected in the 2020 Annual Report, following a joint UN call for proposals in the first quarter of 2020, a joint evaluation of proposals was completed based on pre-established guidelines by the Spotlight Initiative technical and coordination teams, and partnerships were formalized with six (6) CSOs; the Belize Family Life Association, Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), Child Development Foundation (CDF), Youth Enhancement Services (YES), Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), a local women-led CSO and Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE). The joint call for proposal contributed to working as one UN as CSOs applications were received by the RCO and jointly evaluated against a criterion established by all RUNOs. Operational challenges were faced in establishing partnership agreements as one UN with CSOs owing to different operating systems among RUNOs. Consequently, there are some instances where more than one RUNO is partnering with the same CSO. Efforts are being made to ensure that there is programmatic coordination. Some examples are joint monitoring visits and bilateral meetings between RUNOS to develop strategies for continued support and monitoring of CSOs where these joint partnerships exist.

In order to ensure implementation of activities for which CSOs did not apply in the joint call for proposals or for which CSOs applied but did not meet the established criteria, RUNOs engaged in dialogue with additional CSOs and provided technical assistance to support the development of proposals, helping to foster engagement and partnership with a diverse set of civil society organizations. Consequently, partnership agreements were established with 4 additional CSOs; Pathlight International, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Human Rights Commission of Belize, and Go Belize.

CSOs were chosen because of their track record of reaching the hardest to reach, working with marginalized groups and innovation, which they bring to programme implementation. In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative further strengthened CSO partnerships established in 2020 and new partnerships were established with two (2) additional CSOs, BENIC and BAP, resulting in partnerships with 12 CSOs. Remarkably more CSO partners are engaged in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative than government partners.

In 2021, seven (7) CSOs supported the implementation of actions under Outcome 3, geared towards the prevention of VAWG, with a strong focus on leaving no one behind while three (3) CSOs supported the strengthening of service delivery (Outcome 4) to reach the most marginalized groups, in the spirit of leaving no one behind, and four (4) CSOs supported activities to strengthen CSOs and autonomous women's movement. It is important to note that a few CSOs, such as the Human Rights Commission of Belize, Go Belize and POWA, have implemented activities across several outcome areas.

While CSOs are engaged directly in the implementation of activities across Outcomes 3, 4 and 6, CSOs are also being engaged indirectly to support the delivery of results under Outcomes 1, 2 and 5 as well. As an example, actions geared towards strengthening family law legislation included consultations with CSOs and CSOs were engaged in identifying beneficiaries for participation in the process. As another example, under Outcome 5, CSOs were represented on the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study Steering Committee. As it relates to the implementation of community-based programmes focused on empowerment, protection and prevention of family violence (Outcome 3), Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), a feminist CSO, Child Development Foundation (CDF), a Faith-Based CSO, Youth Enhancement Services (YES), and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) CSOs representing marginalized young girls, Toledo Institute for Environment and Development (TIDE) an environmental CSO, Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN), a regional CSO and the Human Rights Commission of Belize (HRCB), were all engaged in the implementation of community-based activities during the reporting period. Noteworthy is that these organizations work across multiple groups of beneficiaries including rural and indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities, LGBTQI populations, men and boys, migrant women and adolescent girls, including those in early marriages and unions, in keeping with the principle of Leaving No One Behind.

Under Outcome 6, in 2020, the Spotlight Initiative established a partnership with one umbrella CSO, Go Belize, and in 2021 partnership was established with 2 additional CSOs: the Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC), an umbrella organization representing 3 indigenous CSOs, and Belize Association of Planners (BAP). An additional partnership agreement was also signed, under outcome 6, with HRCB who was already engaged in the implementation of activities under Outcome 4 with a different RUNO. These partnerships were crucial to strengthening networks of CSOs and by extension community-based women's rights groups, to ensure that the Spotlight Initiative reaches and engages the majority of CSOs and women's rights groups. Specifically, the umbrella organizations engaged organizations representing marginalized groups, including LGBTQI persons and indigenous women and girls, and served as an important platform for mobilizing and strengthening CSOs' participation across the country.

Partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Belize is key to strengthening its capacity as a social accountability platform with the responsibility to hold accountable state and non-state actors in ending all forms of violence, including family violence against women and children. This strengthening will enhance their positioning to better support women's rights groups and relevant CSOs to use the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG. The support to HRCB includes three results that address institutional and brand strengthening; training and expansion of reach across districts; and partnership development of state and non-state entities both locally and globally. Partnership with the Belize Association of Planners (BAP) supports capacity building of women's rights groups, CSOs and informal leaders for decision making, networking to mobilize constituents, and advocating for increased accountability as it relates to the national response to family violence.

Although there are a limited number of CSOs responding to social service delivery including the response to family violence against women and girls, the opportunity for coordinated capacity strengthening across several interventions of the Initiative has increased. This capacity strengthening will ensure some sustainability in the interventions beyond the Spotlight Initiative programme cycle and CSOs being able to provide more rounded and holistic service delivery to marginalized populations. Additionally, it provides for strengthened capacity of CSO partners - and among CSO partners and governments - on GBV case management and in the use of the referral process in services at the national and local levels.

### ***c) European Union Delegation***

Throughout the process of developing and implementing the Spotlight Initiative, the UN Country Team has been working closely with the EU Delegation under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator. Additionally, the EU and UN have jointly advocated with the Government at the highest level to secure political buy-in and support as well as sensitize development partners through their Heads of Missions and technical-level colleagues.

This close collaboration, which started in 2019 with the development of the CPD, continued into 2021 with the EU Delegation being involved in all key elements of the Initiative as follows:

- **Governance Role:** Since the establishment of the National Steering Committee during the first quarter of 2021, the EU Ambassador has actively participated in all three meetings of the NSC.
- **Technical Role:** The EU Technical Focal Point meets with the Spotlight Initiative technical and coordination team on a monthly basis to review progress on implementation and provide technical guidance. Ten (10) monthly meetings were held in 2021. These technical discussions provide a space for the SI technical and coordination team to update the EU on progress towards implementation and receive feedback and guidance from the EU in various programme areas including strengthening engagement of CSO and the women's movement. The space is also utilized to receive recommendations from the EU on various areas of the SI implementation including providing recommendations on improving programme visibility, revisions and inputs to relevant reports and documents, identification of areas where the EU can engage in advocacy with the government to advance the SI agenda, strengthening the M&E capacities of the SI, etc.
- **Supporting Advocacy, Communication & Visibility:** The EU Ambassador and team actively participated in a field mission in September 2021 to view some of the Spotlight Initiative activities and engage with IPs and programme beneficiaries. The EU Ambassador and team also engaged with the RC and HOAs to discuss progress and challenges in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. The EU Ambassador also actively participated in the launch of the Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study in November as well as that of the 16

Days of Activism campaign and continues to express a high level of interest in and commitment to Spotlight Initiative implementation.

The ongoing involvement of the EU in the Spotlight Initiative during the reporting period has served to deepen relations between the EU, the UN, the Government of Belize and CSOs as well as foster a deeper understanding of the situation of VAWG, the existing gaps and challenges and the programming needs for Belize. The lessons learnt and opportunities presented by the Spotlight Initiative can serve to inform the EU's continued engagement and technical cooperation as well as that of Government and CSO partners in Belize beyond the Spotlight Initiative.

#### ***d) Cooperation with other UN agencies***

The Spotlight Initiative partnered with OHCHR to conduct capacity building on Human Rights for CSOs through a series of online capacity building sessions. Additionally, IOM was engaged in the planning and design of the FAMCare Consultancy to build a Harmonized GBV System under the pillar. IOM shared valuable technical documents, expertise and advice to guide the process. Meetings were held at the HOA levels to discuss partnerships. The Spotlight Initiative also partnered with UNHRC to support service delivery and education on GBV and the laws for migrant women and girls. PAHO/WHO is also physically present and contributed to Spotlight Initiative as Associates Agencies. UN entities not physically present in the country and are contributing to national needs and priorities under the cooperation Framework are responsible for their active engagement which is in turn facilitated and supported by the RC/RCO to fill the gap with the support of UN Women (Associate Agency) through the implementation of Pillar 6 which includes support to CSOs for advocacy as designed and approved in the Country Programme Document.

#### ***e) Other Partners and resource mobilization***

In 2021, ongoing efforts were made to strengthen partnership with the media, not only to support visibility and communication on Spotlight Initiative but also to build the media capacity to report on VAWG and to contribute to advocacy efforts in ending VAWG. A training session was conducted with the media on reporting on VAWG. This was part of a broader 'Leave No one Behind' 101 Media Training Workshop hosted by the UNRCO which includes a session on reporting on family violence and gender-based violence. All News reporters (including radio and social media reporters), editors, and Government of Belize Communication Officers were invited to attend either in person or virtually.

A partnership was also established with the media to socialize the findings of the baseline study. RUNOs along with representatives from government and CSOs appeared on three morning shows of media houses to discuss the findings of the baseline study and its implications for policies and programmes on ending VAWG.

Partnerships with other donors to jointly address VAWG have yielded additional resources under various other funding envelopes to advance work on ending VAWG. One example is funding

secured from the UN Trust Fund for Women to support the strengthening of shelters for survivors of GBV. Cross-fertilization of portfolio priorities has been employed in the design of new projects to continue activities for which Spotlight Initiative was a catalyst. For example, additional technical support for the advancement of a Harmonized GBV Information System under the newly approved Infosegura 3 Project. Additionally, UNDP as a RUNO has been able to expand support for Violence Against Women Campaigns by recently supporting the first of its kind Women's Indigenous Forum both in conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. They have also been able to access support for the strengthening of the Judiciary and the review of legislation through other funding envelopes.

## **Results**

### **Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes**

Having adapted implementation modalities and approaches to adjust to the realities of COVID-19, the RUNOs and stakeholders at all levels were able to build on the results of 2020 and contribute to an even greater impact on the national response to ending VAWG in 2021.

As it relates to the principle of Leaving No One Behind, the Initiative was able to partner with CSOs to reach women and girls in hard-to-reach communities with services and information. This included rural and indigenous migrants and those with disabilities as well as members of the LGBTQI population. Partnerships were strengthened with CSOs and coordination for service delivery was strengthened among CSOs as various CSOs identified new ways of working together to pool and maximize resources and reach hard-to-reach communities. CSOs collaborated to plan and implement joint activities such as the Mobile Women's Center, each assuming leadership roles based on their areas of expertise. The example of the Mobile Women's Center is further elaborated under Outcome 4 and lessons learned, and new opportunities have been detailed further in this report. These lessons learnt will be applied to strengthen and scale-up service delivery in 2022.

The Spotlight Initiative also provided renewed impetus to umbrella social sector CSO networks for their engagement (and in some instances reengagement) in the national response to VAWG. For example, the partnership with the Belize National Indigenous Council (BENIC) provided a crucial platform for reaching indigenous Maya and Garifuna males and females with information and services and for challenging harmful social norms. The inclusion of national indigenous networks is key not only to achieving outputs under Outcome 6 but also to inform innovative and efficient ways to deliver culturally sensitive, relevant and appropriate information and services, engage communities and stimulate change at the community level. The Initiative has also forged partnerships and strengthened coordination across a number of key government sectors including the social and justice sectors. Underpinned by the Essential Services Package for women and girls subject to violence (The UN Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence) key stakeholders operating in health, social services, justice and policing are



strengthening and redefining their national response to violence against women. This includes the mapping of state and non-state actors in GBV, the development of multisectoral response protocols, the establishment of a sexual violence unit within the police department, the establishment of a Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme within the security forces and defining of an Essential Services Package (ESP) for Belize. The process of defining an ESP for Belize provided a platform for the engagement of key stakeholders to identify and consider the unique service needs of marginalized groups.

Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative contributed to the establishment of a structure for formal capacity building and mentorship to strengthen the national officials within the legal sector to be able to provide quality arbitration services for women and girls victims of violence, specifically seeking to strengthen family court processes and enhance the capacity of court officials contributing to improved access to services under Outcome 4 as well as institutional strengthening under Outcome 2. The Spotlight Initiative further strengthened the capacity of the judiciary sector through the procurement of IT Equipment to improve the existing system of data gathering and management. The judiciary was further supported with the modernization and digitization of courts to allow citizens greater access to justice during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These IT System upgrades included networking and mediation hardware, to increase access to justice for the most vulnerable. Video conferencing equipment for criminal courts enabled continuous hearing of cases during the pandemic in order to avoid an increase in the backlog of cases.

During the process of implementation, RUNOs worked to integrate the principles of UN Reform which resulted in the continued implementation of its joint Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP has contributed significantly to strengthening RUNOs capacities to deliver results in a joint manner. The joint call for CSOs as implementing partners also required the revision and adaptation of agency-specific policies to formulate a joint CSO call process including the selection of partners and development of work plans. Simplified application forms were developed for CSOs to apply for Spotlight Initiative support and CSOs were only required to submit one application which was then advanced with the support of the relevant RUNO. CSO Partners (administrative and technical staff) are being trained jointly on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and are supported in developing action plans to strengthen their institutional policies, procedures and codes of conduct to reflect stronger guidelines for preventing SEA among staff and beneficiaries. Overall, this new way of working as one UN team improved not only programme management but also the quality of activities in Belize in 2021.

***Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)-  
Programme Coordinator/M&E Focal Point***

In an effort to promote participatory and inclusive approaches to M&E, RUNOs have commenced integration of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) throughout the lifecycle of its actions and interventions. This transition to more PME methodologies and approaches has been

recognized as a progressive process within the SI Belize programme, underpinned with the intent to meaningfully engage key stakeholders and enhance their decision-making power in the process from the design stage to the implementation of corrective actions. Consequently, involving CSO stakeholders and beneficiaries from the national and community levels across Belize from the onset of programming is crucial to strengthening local ownership and the sustainability of results addressing the needs and advancement of the rights of women and girls especially.

Progressively evolving monitoring and evaluation to a more systematic process across the various interventions has been the aim to close out Phase I and will continue to be the aim when considering the design and implementation of Phase II in Belize. To realize this aim, two process results were put in place in 2021 to advance PME, (1) revision of activities and methodologies/approaches and ensuring documentation and integration into activities; and (2) Integration of PME actions into the Spotlight Initiative monitoring and evaluation plan and Civil Society National Reference Group Plans.

*(1) Revision of activities and methodologies/approaches and ensuring documentation and integration into activities.*

The tools, methodology and/or concrete strategies that have been adopted to actively commence integrating Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) included Stakeholder Analysis and Beneficiary Assessment (BA). In the Stakeholder Analysis and Beneficiary Assessment (BA), all RUNOs were actively involved in the conceptual design of all activities and alignment with the Spotlight Initiative Monitoring and Evaluation Indicator Framework (beneficiary identification and count) underpinning the stakeholder analysis approach. This has allowed for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and the targeting of beneficiaries in a participatory way throughout or at different stages of design, implementation and review of activities.

At the activity level, based on the status of implementation, RUNOs were able to inject some level of PME methodologies. For example, in 2021, through the implementation of the Mobile Women Center, a Process Assessment of Mobile Women Centers was conducted. This assessment involved direct engagement with implementing CSOs partners (POWA, HRCB, BFLA, CDF) and Community Leaders (Women Groups, Community Health Workers, Political Representatives, Village Chairpersons) documenting their involvement in the design and implementation of the Mobile Women Centers. CSOs, Community Leaders and beneficiaries (women and girls) provided feedback on the benefits, weaknesses and recommendations which were incorporated in the overall Mobile Women Center Programme Design. This allowed for the Mobile Women Centers to benefit 1000+ women from rural and hard-to-reach communities with lifesaving GBV and SRH information, legal support services, sexual and reproductive health services, as well as psychosocial and counselling support.

Additionally, CSOs and Women's Groups partners and/or beneficiaries participated in community-level dialogues to assess the reach and impact of interventions. Firstly, a series of dialogues and consultations were carried out with Implementing Partners to define and align interventions to the expectations of the Spotlight Initiative outcomes. This process was done several times to understand, articulate, and support the alignment of interventions with the revised results framework and methodological notes (including re-defined field indicators), as well as to support the re-design of interventions to address barriers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and national response restrictions. Secondly, CSOs and RUNOs met with target groups/populations to present the proposed intervention and methodologies and gather feedback to strengthen the interventions for a greater impact on women and girl beneficiaries. Thirdly, continued check-ins were held with CSOs, Women's Groups and beneficiaries to measure effectiveness and adjust methodologies to address challenges and/or barriers such as COVID-19 restrictions and humanitarian crises.

*(2) Integration of PME actions into Spotlight Initiative monitoring and evaluation plan and Civil Society National Reference Group Plans*

At the national level and directly related to the governance and management of the SI Initiative, PME actions were conducted through partnership meetings with the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) through a deep dive and roundtable discussions on the Spotlight Initiative using face to face sessions allowing for a broader understanding of the SI Belize Programme and how recommendations from the CSNRG can help to advocate, advise and enhance actions. These partnership meetings were also supplemented with field visits with the UNRC, RUNOs, HOAs, and CSNRG members on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and how CSOs such as the Productive Organization for Women in Action – POWA engage with the issue regularly. Field visits as such provided hands-on experience in implementing GBV interventions in the southern part of the country by Implementing Partners such as POWA and its effects on the work of the Spotlight Initiative.

Across the RUNOs, PME principles and actions have been integrated into existing interventions, wherever they stood in terms of implementation stages. This, however, presents the challenge of systematizing PME from design to implementation. Nevertheless, implementing PME in 2021 has helped to make corrective action and adjustments via consultations and validations with key CSO stakeholders and beneficiaries, and collective and frequent discussions with all partners involved such as CSO IPs, the CSNRG, RUNOs, the RC and the EU Delegation.

## **Capturing Change at the Outcome Level**

### **Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Frameworks**

In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative supported the strengthening of key pieces of legislation which will provide increased protection to women and girls. The Cyber Crime Act of 2020 was reviewed, and recommendations were made for its amendment, which will take place in 2022. Additionally, an interim review of the Criminal Code to operationalize the sexual offender's registry to improve the current regime and review and amend the indictment rules to offer better protection of women and children was conducted. Other Amendments to the Indictment Rules recognize the fact that sexual offences, particularly involving children, are neither reported immediately nor with sufficient particularity. Allowing cases to be indicted as continuous offences instead of framing them in a range that sometimes does not capture the entire criminality of the perpetrator, was an invaluable tool also addressed in 2021. A second amendment addressed making delayed reports by women and children admissible in court to allow the crown to provide a fact-finding tribunal. This amendment will provide critical assistance in determining these types of cases. In addition to the legislative amendments and recommendations for amendments made, the Spotlight Initiative developed and strengthened a close working partnership with the Judiciary at the highest level, including the Chief Justice, Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecution. This partnership is key in advancing the legislative review agenda and ensuring the effective implementation of key legislations.

Policy frameworks and National plans on GBV have been strengthened through the evaluation and revision of the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (NGBVAP) and the National Gender Policy (NGP). Spotlight Initiative provided technical and financial resources for the revision of the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan which was also costed and now has an accompanying M&E Framework. The National Gender Policy (NGP) was also completed with an accompanying costing and M&E Framework. A cabinet paper has been prepared for presentation to the cabinet for their endorsement which it is expected will then follow in short order. The revised NGBV Action Plan and Gender Policy will contribute to results in Outcome 2 through institutional strengthening, as these key frameworks will allow for the development of sub-national plans on VAWG and the integration of VAWG into the existing sector plans. Women's rights advocates were consulted during the National Gender Policy Process and the Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) provided inputs to the legislative review agenda. This has contributed to advancing actions under Outcome 6 focused on CSOs and women's rights advocates engaged in advocacy efforts to end VAWG. Additionally, the process of developing the NGP and the NGBV Action Plan increased the capacity of 40 government officials to develop action plans on VAWG. The costed National Gender-based Violence Action plan's accompanying M&E Framework was developed through a participatory process involving a cohort of 10 government officials who followed the process. This approach was aimed at building government officers' capacity, transferring knowledge and fostering ownership, which contributed to institutional strengthening under Outcome 2, as these officers can now support the integration of VAWG into their sector plans. The capacity building of additional government participants in various sessions exceeded 30 persons.

Through virtual community consultations in Cayo and Stann Creek Districts, survivors of violence, including women from rural communities and migrant women, were able to share their experiences on accessing justice through family law legislation, seeking support, and accessing essential services with 30 key government officials (5 males, 25 females) representing Human Services, Police, and Family Courts. These virtual consultation spaces provided an opportunity for government officials to learn, understand and respond to women and girls' survivors of violence, including women from rural communities and migrant women, on the laws and policies available to protect them, and to hear from communities on the gaps that need to be addressed in order to fully

guarantee protection as a human right. Government officials became privy to some of the main challenges faced by women and girls' survivors when reporting incidences of violence and gained awareness of the varying practices among duty bearers that are contrary to the processes and protocols laid out in the legislation. It was recognized that although the legislation exists there were some gaps in understanding of what the legislation means and the kinds of support it affords to victims. Recognizing these gaps as an opportunity, and in line with the UN Delivering as One approach, UN agencies leveraged a complementary advantage by including a training component to address these challenges for these women and girls within one RUNO's existing quarterly multi-agency sessions to provide government actors from multiple sectors with increased knowledge of the legislation and procedures for better responding to the needs of women and children.

There has been important progress made in awareness, engagement, and response by the security forces to address and respond to VAWG, including within the forces themselves. A Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme (JSVRP) with an action plan was developed for implementation with the three security forces (Police, Belize Defence Force ( BDF) and Coast Guard). As part of the process to collect and validate data for the development of the JSVRP for National Security Forces, several Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were held, engaging a total of 69 service members (from various ranks and age groups) (34 males, 35 females) across the country. The FGDs captured security officers' perception of workplace culture, unwanted gender-related experiences in the workplace and sexual violence prevention and response at installations of all security forces. In addition, FGDs were held with senior management of the Belize Security Forces to present and validate a results framework for the proposed reporting mechanism. Having a clear understanding of these perceptions contributed to a strengthened and responsive programme design that ensures all barriers that impede women's access to critical services are removed; this includes the key messages of the sensitization and education roadmap.

The Joint Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (JSVPR) Programme focuses on prevention strategies, supporting survivor recovery, and assisting survivors from the Belize Security Forces to be fully mission capable and engaged. The programme informs internal policies and procedures of the BDF, Belize Coast Guard (BCG) and The Belize Police Department (BPD) through a gender-responsive, culturally competent, and recovery-oriented approach. To support behaviour change, linked to Outcome 3, an education and communication toolkit is being developed and piloted across the three security forces to ensure that positive gender-responsive attitudes and behaviours are reinforced. Additionally, at the ministerial level, buy-in has been demonstrated with the commitment to include a Human Resources structure for safe, confidential, and gender-responsive reporting of incidences of sexual violence among security officers, and the inclusion of a more comprehensive module on sexual harassment and violence against women in the recruit 2022 training cycle.

## **Outcome 2: Institutions**

Women and girls affected by violence, including groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, will benefit from the strengthened institutional capacity of private and public sector organizations. In 2021, 25 public and private sector institutions increased their capacity to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG.

The capacities of 78 service providers (Females - 58, Males - 20) representing 15 government and 19 civil society organizations were enhanced in the five modules of the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which is a partnership by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC, that aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence. These service providers and institutions were equipped with the capacities needed to lead the process of defining an Essential Package for Belize. In addition to the 78 service providers, the technical and functional capacities of 10 institutions from the essential service sectors for GBV response (health, justice and policing, social services and coordination and governance of coordination) were strengthened to enhance programme design, implementation, evaluation and reporting, inclusive of normative document design and application, through their participation in a Gender Transformative training. A hybrid approach, which has become one of the key approaches adopted to implement COVID 19 safety protocols while guaranteeing maximum participation, was utilized to implement the training with some participants engaging face to face and others participating virtually.

Additionally, the capacity of the judiciary has been strengthened to address family law cases which will strengthen access to justice for women and men, boys and girls, particularly those in geographic areas without a family court who have previously not benefitted from the same level of services offered to those persons in geographic areas where there is a family court. In 2021, the Spotlight Initiative collaborated with the Magistrate and Family Court of Belize to strengthen Court Officials' involvement in the hearing of matters dealing with children and families. Four (4) procedural training modules were developed that broadly contributed to ending violence against children and families and to the strengthening of policy and legislation that guarantee increased protection of women and girls. In addition to recognizing the roles of the magistrates, the intervention considers the supporting roles that social workers, prosecutors, clerks of court and intake officers play in the administration and facilitation of justice for children, women, and support to families. The training served to build the capacity of 42 state actors (18 males, 24 females) to respond to family violence, expanding the range of services available, linked to Outcome 4 and addressing social norms and behaviours that promote violence against women and girls, linked to Outcome 3.

In order to ensure the practical application of knowledge received during the training, 11 Magistrates (3 males, 8 females) benefited from courtroom mentorship to develop their ability to adjust behaviours and practices for more child-friendly and gender-responsive service delivery within the court system. The mentors supported, guided, and advised the magistrates on implementing legislation whilst ensuring that the safety of women and families, and the best interest of children, were considered. Throughout the intervention, the restrictions of COVID-19 combined with the institutional limitations of the Magistrate and Family Courts created barriers for greater one-on-one mentorship and coaching, both in time and number of persons. The participation and commitment of the Acting Chief Justice assured that the interventions will be scaled up and support to Court Officials regularized for improved delivery of courtroom and accompaniment services which was noted as a challenge for women and girl survivors accessing justice.

The capacity of the judiciary was further strengthened through the procurement of IT Equipment to improve the existing system of data gathering and management. The judiciary was further supported with the modernization and digitization of courts to allow citizens greater access to justice during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This IT System upgrades included networking, hardware and mediation hardware to increase access to justice for the most vulnerable. Video conferencing equipment for criminal court enabled continuous hearing of cases during the pandemic in order to avoid an increase in the backlog of cases. The upgrade of the Case Management System to version 3 allows for better and faster management of processes and application of family court matters including child maintenance verification and processing of payment. This has resulted in an increased capacity of the judiciary to gather and manage data to improve access to justice case management, decision making, inform accountability and inform legislative review which will ultimately strengthen access to justice for survivors of violence.

100% of staff at the family court and 90% of staff at the magistrate's court (96 members of the judiciary) were trained in the use of the new system. The training was designed to be sustainable whereby persons trained will continue the training to magistrates and court personnel countrywide on demand. During the process of upgrading to CMS3 two (2) manuals were developed, one (1) Operational and one (1) User manual. Additionally, best practices were documented.

In addition to strengthening institutional capacity for essential service delivery and access to justice, the Joint Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (JSVPR) Programme, developed under Outcome 1, provided an opportunity to strengthen the institutional capacity of the security forces by standardizing support services for survivors and also promoting more proactive strategies such as prevention education, training, response capability, reporting procedures, and accountability to enhance the safety and well-being of all members of the security forces. While there is a dearth of research on sexual violence in Belize and even less in the Belizean military organizations, the research process in support of the development of the JSVPR Programme has provided an opportunity to conduct data collection via a desk review and more qualitative methods drawing from focus group discussions and stakeholders' consultations thus contributing to the availability of comprehensive, aggregated data on sexual violence under Outcome 5. The development of this sub-national plan contributes indicatively to ensuring duty bearers have strong implementation procedures internally for responding to violence against women, significantly increasing awareness of and response to gender-based violence in communities from a survivor-centred approach.

Furthermore, to transform the attitudes of security force members on their ideas and beliefs about power, gender, and VAWG—thus tackling harmful institutional norms—the Spotlight Initiative supported the Ministries of National Defence and Border Security, and Home Affairs (MNDBS) and New Growth Industries (MHANGI) on the development and implementation of a roadmap for education and sensitization among service members and civilian staff of the security forces (Police, Defence Force and Coast Guard). The training and communication plan will clearly delineate the roll-out of concrete strategies and interventions for prevention strategies, supporting survivor recovery, and assisting Belize Security Force survivors of sexual violence, including GBV, to access critical support services and resources. It also advocates for the development of organizational policies to support the JSVPR Programme. The issues of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH) impacts the core strength of a military and police organization; it impacts

service members, their dependents and civilian staff morale, their team spirit and their motivation. Therefore, challenging and changing deeply rooted institutional norms is key. Finally, to ensure the desired impact of the intervention, an annual attitudinal survey will be developed and administered to establish a baseline, specific to security force members, as part of the intervention. Subsequent surveys will support the continued annual monitoring of the change in perceptions related to violence against women and girls. Through this annual survey, the changes in attitudes will be measured and an analysis conducted on how this has translated into changes in practices and behaviours, as well as informal opportunities to adjust and improve interventions. This monitoring methodology provides in the interim an opportunity for Spotlight Initiative to measure the impact of a targeted intervention to address harmful attitudes towards VAWG, both internally and externally. In the long term, a foundation for continued monitoring, evaluation, and support by UN Agencies.

The institutional capacity of 10 private sector institutions to develop strategies, plans and programmes and respond to VAWG was also strengthened through orientation on key considerations for advancing gender equality and GBV prevention through workplaces. Committing to the Gender Equality and Diversity Seal process, these organizations will undertake a path to be recognized for their performance in integrating gender transformation and diversity considerations in their organizational policies and procedures. This whole-of-organization approach supports the leadership of these organizations in promoting gender equality, equal opportunity, inclusion, non-discrimination, safety, and freedom from gender-based violence. In 2020, the Spotlight Initiative completed an adaptation process for the Belize Gender Equality and Diversity Seal for public and private sector organizations which seeks to 1) champion women's empowerment by addressing the issue of women's limited economic empowerment; 2) strengthen employers' recognition of gender-based violence; 3) promote the elimination of discrimination of all forms within the work environment; and 4) foster zero tolerance to gender-based violence and to end to violence against women and girls. In 2021, building on this result, the Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the National Women's Commission, was successful in securing the commitment of 10 Private Sector Organizations to strengthen their capacity through the adoption of the Gender Equality and Diversity Seal. These private sector entities include influential private sector companies with local and regional presence such as the regional food industry giant GraceKennedy Limited, national construction supplies giant Brother's Habet, national beverage giant Bowen and Bowen, the national water company – the Belize Water Services Limited, the national sugar producer – Belize Sugar Industry – with reach to over 5,000 cane farmers, the national citrus company – the Citrus Products of Belize Limited, three major national media house – Channel 5, Love FM and KREM, and the national development bank – The Development Finance Corporation. Committing to the Gender Equality and Diversity Seal process, these organizations will undertake a path to be recognized for their performance in integrating gender transformation and diversity considerations in their organizational policies and procedures. This whole-of-organization approach supports the leadership of these organizations in promoting gender equality, equal opportunity, inclusion, non-discrimination, safety, and freedom from gender-based violence.

As a critical component of the certification process, organizations are supported and empowered to document steps, actions and innovative initiatives taken throughout the processes and lessons learnt from the Action Plan for improvement. Initial discussions were held with the Ministry of the



Public Service and Constitutional Reform on incorporating this commitment into the 100 Women Leaders Forum Declaration encouraging women-led governments, private sector and civil society organizations to commit to the implementation of the Gender and Diversity Seal.

### **Outcome 3: Prevention**

Prevention interventions under the Spotlight Initiative in 2020 and 2021 combined have contributed to the engagement of almost 16,000 women and girls, men and boys who have participated in community-level programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights. Additionally, advocacy platforms have been established and/or strengthened in 54 communities to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction through the support of the parenting programme. 12 CSOs have developed or strengthened strategies for ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, and over 300,000 persons were reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotypes.

### **CSE out of school has been strengthened in line with international standards and a cadre of 80 community-based youth master trainers have been trained to support the roll-out of CSE out of school.**

The Spotlight Initiative, working directly with the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA), contributed to an increase in the number of young women and girls, and young men and boys who benefited from programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights. Utilizing the CSE Manual, updated in 2020 in line with international standards for CSE, BFLA expanded its Peer-Education capacity training to 80 community-level peer educators and equipped them with CSE toolkits to support the roll-out of CSE among the out of school young people, particularly from rural communities. These community-level CSE trainers were subsequently able to deliver training to 328 out-of-school young people and an additional 51 teachers, social workers and youth officers in 2021.

With a focus on ensuring the sustainability of the CSE Peer Education Programme and ensuring that the national reach of the CSE community level trainers can be sustained and expanded, the Spotlight Initiative supported the establishment of a National CSE Peer Education Network with an accompanying CSE Action Plan. Most significantly, to ensure that the capacities of the CSE trainers are in line with regional standards, the Spotlight Initiative facilitated the training and certification of 15 (fifteen) of the 80 (eighty) community-based CSE Trainers through the Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) Course on CSE delivery under the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme.

As previously mentioned, although plans were in place to expand CSE for young people in school during Phase I, these activities were deferred to Phase II to allow the Ministry of Education time to conclude its internal strategic realignment processes. This component is critical for the sustainability of CSE in schools and the Spotlight Initiative continues to engage with the Ministry of Education at the highest level to ensure the prioritization of CSE in schools as part of its curriculum reform efforts.

### **Over 2,000 women, girls, men and boys have regularly attended community programmes promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviours, including sessions on family**

## **violence resulting in increased awareness, advocacy for increased access to protection and services.**

Almost 150 rural and migrant women and girls survivors of violence participated in virtual and face to face community consultations and education sessions (42 persons (3 males, 39 females), including 39 migrant women and girl survivors of violence participated in the virtual community consultation and 95 persons (91 women and 4 men) participated in face-to-face community sessions). The sessions, engaging women and girls countrywide, provided a safe space for women and girls survivors of violence, to increase their knowledge of the legislation, to share their experiences, knowledge and perceptions on the laws and policies available to protect them, identify gaps that exist for their protection as a rights holder, and to generate recommendations on how these processes and services can be improved. The sessions also provided direct access to government officials whose responsibilities are to administer these key and essential social services.

One gap consistently identified during the consultations was the absence of on-site counselling support and referrals for women and girls. The virtual consultations also provided a deeper understanding of the gaps in legislation and institutions' capacity to provide services from a trauma-centred approach. Having key government officials as part of the facilitation and support mechanism also provided them with the opportunity to hear directly from beneficiaries on the glaring disparities between legislation and practice when accessing services including, in some instances, lifesaving services. An unexpected result of these consultations was an opportunity to directly engage a migrant women's group (10 females) to discuss these legislations within their own unique migratory context. The consultations identified the need for in-depth dialogue with women and girls at the community level as well as the need to address barriers for key populations of women, including women with disabilities, migrant women, LGBTI and Trans women, and migrant women. One strong and important recommendation was made to "revise the Domestic Violence Act to make provisions for accompaniment services, to allow the Police to follow through with cases dropped by survivors when there is evidence of domestic violence, to allow for the Police and Social Workers to secure protection orders on behalf of survivors, to recognize femicide and to recognize the right to protection by same-sex couples".

Following the consultations with survivors, a session was also held with 27 key state and non-state actors (5 males, 22 females), to discuss the findings from the consultations with women and girls. The discussions focused on clearly defining the parameters of protection within the legislation against the gaps identified by survivors accessing these protection services as well as developing a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the state actors indirectly supporting the survivors and providing guidance to CSOs who represent or accompany survivors, especially women and children facing intersecting forms of discrimination. Actors agreed that there is a need to revisit safety protocols for dealing with survivors. These have already started through the child-friendly spaces at police stations, which can be adapted to provide safety for women survivors.

The uncertainty of COVID-19 presented both negative and positive lessons. Through the virtual space, more women were comfortable speaking out about their own experiences with violence. On the other hand, the limitations of connectivity created barriers for women in extremely rural communities, women with disabilities, and women currently experiencing intimate partner violence. Despite these barriers, the impetus for ensuring all women understand family violence legislation and access to essential services lies with government ministries. Discussions have been initiated

with the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous People's Affairs (MHDFIPA) to incorporate these knowledge-sharing sessions into their plans for outreach and support to rural women's groups. For the duration of the Spotlight Initiative Programme, advocacy at both the technical and policy levels to ensure that these commitments are followed through will continue. The documentation of the strong recommendations coming out of these dialogues, especially as good practices will provide results-based evidence to support continued monitoring by UN Agencies beyond the Spotlight Initiative.

In addition to directly engaging women and girls' survivors of violence, almost 2,000 parents and children, including almost 200 children with disabilities, were reached with parenting interventions that were designed to address gender norms, attitudes and practices and delivered through civil society and government partners utilizing tested methodologies, such as parenting peer support groups, including through social media (Facebook and WhatsApp), home visits, and community outreach. In 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with its socioeconomic shocks and two hurricanes (ETA/IOTA), the focus was expanded to ensure parents and families had access to urgent mental health and psychosocial support. One key lesson learnt is that parents and families are more receptive to discussing family violence when immediate humanitarian needs are being addressed. As such, the parenting interventions in 2021 included some forms of relief for families, including access to counselling, mental health support, referrals to the national social systems, and access to food assistance.

The Care for Child Development (CCD) Programme implemented under the MHDFIPA was designed to address intergenerational manifestations of violence through direct mentorship and counselling of CCD and Parenting Educators. The CCD programme was strengthened with an additional component that focused primarily on violence in the home resulting in 54 new Parenting Educators (2 males, 52 females) with strengthened capacities to deliver and support families with parenting needs. 54 communities in Belize, including rural and migrant host communities, now have access to a steady platform to access essential support mechanisms, including psychosocial support and mental health referrals. 519 parents (48 males and 471 females) and 493 children (277 males, 216 females), including 197 with disabilities, were engaged through the CCD Parenting Programme. 145 parents (63 males, 82 females) benefited from parenting psychosocial support. Challenges with the changing protocols for COVID-19, such as curfews, size of groups and no-movement days, have forced some additional concessions in how sessions were implemented, such as the frequency of presentational interactions, provision of mobile data and/or covering of transportation costs, to ensure the full and steady participation of parents. In many cases, parents took advantage of the direct access to Parent Educators to share their personal struggles or sought clarity on some of the positive parenting concepts shared.

876 children (336 males, 540 females) were engaged in psycho-educational activities that became a critical outlet for these children who were suddenly displaced because of country wide school closure. Community leaders, advocates, teachers, and faith-based leaders, representing 25 communities in Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, and Cayo Districts, who participated in the Family Violence training sessions were able to apply their knowledge and identify these children in need of psychosocial interventions. Additional children who were referred experienced barriers in connectivity limiting and, in some instances, forfeiting their participation. To ensure opportunities for

engagement, community leaders and other trained members have committed to providing support to these children and others that they are able to identify for support. Civil Society partners who led on these components have also committed to ensuring that no one is left behind by providing ongoing support to parents, community leaders, women, and children within their target locations.

In addition to these 876 children, under the community engagement activity “*Capacity for Positive Practices - Service Delivery - Violence Prevention*” targeting adolescent girls and boys, 127 participants (101 boys, 26 girls) were engaged in participatory sessions on GBV in Belize’s Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. The participatory methodology provided them with an opportunity to share their own experiences in a safe space. CSOs on staff counsellors organized responses for those in need of further mental health and psychosocial support.

In addition to parents and children Spotlight Initiative also empowered over 50 couples with information and skills for healthy relationships as well as reached over 7,000 persons indirectly through social media. A training tool kit was developed to work with couples, including adolescents, in formal and informal unions. A special session was held with a magistrate on legal rights and matters related to separation, custody, divorce, separation of assets etc. In Dangriga, an estimated 150 women and girls received training in sexual reproduction. Twelve couples received couples’ support sessions and an additional 25 persons who were at various statuses in their union were also trained. Participating couples included same-sex couples as well as heterosexual couples. These couples were selected through community engagement as an open invitation, and additional couples joined through word-of-mouth which increased participation.

In Belize City’s South Side 70 youths were mentored which included 36 boys and 34 girls from the Youth Hostel, Walker’s World and BFLA. An additional 2,000 persons were reached through radio and TV shows and Face Book Live Stream in discussions targeting youth on the topic of healthy relationships and challenging social norms. A common tool kit entitled Healthy Relationships Between Adolescent Couples and Mentorship Guide for Men and Boys developed by the YWCA in consultation with POWA was used to carry out training in Belize City, Corozal and Dangriga.

**Over 1,800 faith-based leaders, community leaders, including indigenous leaders and women mobilizers trained to implement interventions to address the root causes of family violence resulting in an expansion of support and services available to women and girls at the community level and capacity for community-led prevention interventions.**

Building on the results of 2020, the Spotlight Initiative continued the roll-out of the Family Violence Toolkit, a Toolkit on the Root Causes of Family Violence which was developed and piloted in 2020. An additional 1,242 persons (64 males, 1,178 females) participated in training on the Family Violence Toolkit, an added component of Psychosocial Support. The toolkit’s methodology is aimed to fully engage faith-based and community leaders, raising their awareness on what is family violence, including domestic violence and child abuse, as well as highlighting their responsibilities to report, provide support and counselling and protection for women and children victims and/or survivors of violence. The training enhanced their understanding of the criticality of care to reduce trauma and worst-case outcomes, as well as highlighted and debunk myths surrounding why women remain in violent relationships. The impact and awareness were evident through the increased

demand from FBOs, CBOs, schools, and even private sector organizations to have their leadership and staff training.

The mobility restrictions of COVID-19 allowed for the emergence of an unexpected result and a promising practice – the empowerment of Women Community Mobilizers. Initially, these women were identified and engaged to support on the ground with the mobilization of community members to participate in the training and trauma therapy sessions. Building their capacities on family violence, legislation, and awareness of available services and psychosocial support resulted in their keen ability to recognize, report and support 162 women and girls in violent situations during 2021. Introduction to, and accompaniment with, the Ministry of Health’s Public Health Officers provided an additional level of on-the-job training on such skills like effective communication, observations, and acclimation to the varying economic realities of community members.

Based on lessons learned, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Child Marriage and Early Unions (CMEU) were included as topics within the Family Violence Toolkit. During the training, many of the participants expressed the need for a deeper understanding of these issues; some of the information shared during the training motivated analysis of some situations that could possibly be SEA and CMEU. These concerns tied into some of the challenges IPs experienced while providing support to the Women’s Mobile Centers. The Spotlight Initiative was able to respond by extrapolating the content for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and CMEU to train Community leaders, organizations that primarily interact with children, such as the Belize Sports Council, Marriage Officers, and Justices of the Peace (JPs). 146 persons (64 males, 82 females) were trained to represent 25 communities across Belize. The impact of this intervention has far-reaching implications, as Belize is currently ranked second in the Caribbean for the prevalence of CMEU with that 23.5 per cent of women and men, girls, and boys, between the ages of 15-49 having been in or are currently in a marriage or union before age 18<sup>4</sup>.

Addressing gender norms, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours requires a focus on identifying practices that do not promote gender-equitable norms. Results from the baseline study highlight this fact, that while women know that they should report (69%), only 41% are confident in the system to do so. At the community, level reasons point to the attitudes and behaviours of duty bearers within the government system. A direct intervention to address the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and practices of duty bearers consisted of a Gender Workshop organized with 3 Women Development Officers (WDO) from the Department of Human Services in Dangriga, Stann Creek who were trained as trainers. 25 women community members participated in Gender Workshops done by WDOs and were further supported to strengthen their capacities through peer education sessions with parents on Gender Roles and Healthy Relationships.

Initial community intervention to utilize sports as an innovative mechanism to raise awareness of family violence had to adapt due to contact sports restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift focused on engaging 17 community male and female football clubs in community engagement to raise awareness of the root causes of family violence and strengthen advocacy for access to essential services in these very remote communities. During community

consultations, Village Council and Alcalde<sup>5</sup> Leaders expressed a desire to be a part of these sessions to better position them to support the women and girls in their communities. The willingness of Alcalde Leaders to participate in sessions on family violence and violence against women and girls is recognized as transformational in that it veers away from the generational and intergenerational beliefs of Mayan indigenous groups on gender roles and norms. 546 persons (274 males, 272 females) including Village leaders were trained in topics of Child Abuse, Self Esteem, Human Rights, Family Values, and Gender and Gender Based-Violence. Due to the remoteness of these communities, digital technologies were limited, including internet connectivity and adequate devices for greater participation. Additionally, knowledge of the use of technology created some resistance, especially among leaders. Sessions were delivered in person within the communities, at schools, community centres and other safe spaces. The challenge of this approach was borne by the partner whose staff were repeatedly at risk for exposure to COVID-19. To mitigate this, the provision of PPEs for staff and space preparation was built into the programme adjustment costs

### **Over 1,000 teachers and school administrators trained in the prevention of family violence resulting in the creation of safer school communities**

Two separate teacher training interventions were implemented under the Spotlight Initiative. In partnership with Pathlight Belize, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MoECST) and the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN), the Mandatory Training on Reporting Child Abuse and Human Trafficking were digitized and scaled up to include family violence. The intervention reached 1,183 teachers and school administrators from 60 primary and secondary schools across Belize. The aim of the training was to reinforce to these key decision-makers their responsibility as mandatory reporters, the importance of reporting any suspected violence against children first in the best interest of the child, and as a potential signal for other forms of violence within the home. What emerged was evidence-based knowledge of duty bearers' own experiences with violence, often unresolved. Feedback from participants that the sessions brought to the front buried traumatic experiences and even current experiences with violence that affected their ability to provide support to others. Efforts were made by the implementing partner to ensure that these sessions were safe and trauma-centred with necessary access to counselling and mental health support. As an incentive for participation, the MoECST agreed to include the training as credits for the annual Professional Development for Teachers. As schools reopen in 2022, it is expected that the knowledge and experiences gained will translate into increased reporting and access to support for children and families.

The impact of school closure on children and families showed increased numbers of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, during the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The reduction or loss of livelihoods in some households increased incidences of violence making the home unsafe for children and women. Teachers are often privy to the private pains of mothers and children who experience violence in the home making it important for them to be equipped to provide some form of support services and referrals. It is with this persuasion that an intervention to train teachers in psychosocial support and trauma therapy techniques was designed. 181 teachers are

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-1407.html>

now equipped to provide this support to children and families, including an understanding of and access to local referral pathways.

**Over 1,100 men and boys attended gender-transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces resulting in an increase in knowledge and shifts in attitudes toward men and boys.**

The Engaging Men and Boys Programme trained sixteen (16 trainers) who reached 578 men and 224 boys. Additionally, the Addressing Gender Equality Tool Kit was developed to conduct education sessions for boys in school through out-of-school settings. Through this effort, SCLAN was able to reach 280 male youths, despite a late start with this particular activity. Additional prevention interventions targeted male youths engaged in 14 clubs that develop and implement community initiatives, including addressing family violence. The training modules included understanding what is gender, what it means to be a young man, exploring who they are, exploring masculinity, domestic violence and the law, young men and relationships, effective communication, and understanding anger and managing emotions. Details of these modules are covered in the 'Engaging Men and Boys to Advance Gender Equality and Help Prevent Gender-Based Violence' Toolkit.

Additionally, 80 men and boys participated in workshops addressing harmful masculinity were conducted in the two northern districts of Belize (Corozal and Orange Walk) under the theme 'Engaging boys and Improving their Well-being to End Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG). Men and boys have often been perpetrators of violence - violence against women, against other men, and against themselves - without stopping to understand how our socialization of boys and men may contribute to this violence. The aims of these workshops were to foster meaningful reflection on gender norms, violence against women and girls, and the role of boys in bringing an end to violence against women and girls. Follow up sessions to engage these groups and to measure changes in attitudes and practices will be done during Phase II.

17 community Youth clubs were engaged in the Toledo district with 284 indigenous young members (150 males, 134 females) supported in organizing and orienting themselves for community development actions. The 17 clubs were existing groups of young people around environmentally protected areas who have been actively advocating for the protection of their communities and rivers. As part of the drive to engage young persons, especially young men in becoming champions for ending violence against women and girls, the programme's CSO partner Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) redeveloped an intervention that allowed young persons to raise awareness on family violence, and identify how and where to access support services. The excitement of the young people to take on this challenge was palpable, primarily because some of them have witnessed the effects of gender-based violence within their homes and communities. They reported feeling empowered to now do something to help support their friends and families. Young people see their role in addressing family violence as part of the goal of protecting their communities. Executive members of the clubs have been conducting peer education sessions with other young people within their communities as well as neighbouring communities. They have the

vision to engage all 26 communities (an additional 9 communities) ensuring the protection of young people, families, and communities from displacement and being free from violence.

**Over 1,700 key informal decision-makers and decision-makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for the implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights**

1706 key informal decision-makers and decision-makers in relevant institutions have strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for the implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG including family violence and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, and women and girls' rights. These include 1,183 teachers and school administrators (505 males, 678 females) who were trained in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse, Human Trafficking and Family Violence; 181 teachers (45 males, 136 females) trained as trainers in Psychosocial Support; and 342 persons (47 males, 295 females) representing 50 Private Sector organizations strengthened their capacity and understanding of family violence, to support advocacy on behalf of women and girls' survivors of violence.

**Over 300,000 women and men, boys and girls were reached by 6 campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination**

In 2021, Spotlight Initiative, through SCLAN developed and launched a media campaign challenging social norms and highlighting the important role that men and boys play to advance gender equality. The campaign was carried out in several languages on mainstream media including television advertisements during peak time as well as via social media on SCLAN FB Page. The persons reached totalled 42,182. Notably one of the videos produced entitled: "Relay for Change: Mentoring Youths to Prevent Violence in Belize" was prominently featured on the Spotlight Initiative Website.

Additionally, at the peak of the pandemic in 2020, the Spotlight Initiative supported a COVID-19 Public Awareness Campaign led by the National Women's Commission, which continued into 2021. During this campaign, which used several mediums to reach masses of Belizeans, an estimated 278,882 were reached. Through text blasts on the local telephone networks, 250,000 persons received messages about where support and help can be accessed by GBV Survivors. Using posters 2,400 persons were informed of the GBV Referral Pathway. An additional 1,200 persons were reached with information cards promoting the GBV complaint mechanism. Flyers promoting the GBV Referral Pathway in English, Creole and Spanish reached 3,600 persons. The airing of a one-minute video ad and two 30 second videos promoting emergency hotlines, GBV Referral Pathway services, the GVB Complaint Mechanism and behaviour change messages against GBV on 12 national and local media houses reached 21,682 persons.

In 2020, a Private Sector campaign was developed and launched to engage private sector organizations and information hubs (posters with referral pathways) as a safe way for women and girls to access information about available services and how and where to access these services. Private sector leadership felt that it was important not only for their spaces to be used but felt that having staff trained provided an additional layer of support and outreach, especially for those women and girls who were fearful to ask for help. This campaign continued in the Corozal and Orange Walk



Districts, where 342 persons representing 50 private sector organizations were trained and transformed their business places.

As part of the collaborative approach to advancing the agenda to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), International Women's Day was observed with a social media "Women's Month Sheroes" campaign. The campaign was centred on acknowledging 8 women and girls (4 women, 4 girls) who inspire and lead in Belize. The objective was to feature those who were in leadership capacities in unconventional and innovative sectors and who could be a source of inspiration to encourage others to explore their fullest potential. The campaign also addressed perception and sought to position women as essential contributors to society's development beyond the traditional and expected roles and functions. The 8-day campaign reached over 11,000 Facebook viewers. Additionally, Belize participated in the Global Campaign themed 'Digital generation. Our generation' which sought to highlight the digital realities that girls face and solutions to excel on their diverse pathways as technologists for freedom of expression, joy, and boundless potential. At the Country level, the campaign reached 455 women and girls.

As part of its interventions to empower couples, POWA hosted a series of live shows entitled "MENtors" virtually via FB Live on Sundays which evolved into a public awareness campaign. The 5 shows combined in both districts (Corozal and Dangriga) had a total of 7,480 viewers. An additional 7,500 persons were reached during the 16 days of activism activities, 4,000 persons reached by Docuseries on VAWG, 2,317 persons reached by #With Her Talks and 987 persons reached by a Panel on Engaging Men and Boys during the 16 days of activism.

### **Development of a National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy**

Given the importance of evidence-based prevention initiatives that effectively shift individual and socio-cultural norms including those affecting women's sexuality and reproduction, the Spotlight Initiative facilitated a partnership between government and civil society actors at the national and community levels to develop Belize's first National Social and Behavior Change Communication Strategy. Although there are many prevention interventions, prior to the strategy, these interventions were not coordinated or adequately targeted to ensure sustained changes in behaviour and social norms. The strategy provides an opportunity for evidence-based prevention interventions and agreements on key national messages and prevention interventions.

Guided by the Social Ecology Model (SEM), building on intervention and lessons learned in the implementation of SBCC activities under Outcome 3, the interventions therein address knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and practices across all levels of social ecology. Additionally, key sub-groups within these major groups, especially vulnerable and marginalized populations, are further targeted to ensure that communication interventions are within the context of leaving no one behind. The Strategy is accompanied by a costed implementation and monitoring and evaluation plan to support stakeholders in its implementation and reporting. Going forward, the strategy will inform all interventions under Outcome 3 in order to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach and discussions are underway with national authorities to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to guide agencies working on SBCC for ending VAWG in utilizing the SBCC Strategy to guide their interventions. The capacity of an SBCC Network, which is accompanying the process, is being built

through their ongoing participation. The engagement of the SBCC Network as well as the national authorities responsible for VAWG response is key to ensuring ownership and sustainability of the strategy.

#### **Outcome 4: Service Delivery**

##### **Women and girls' survivors of violence and most risk groups will benefit from improved and coordinated service delivery through key national guidelines and protocols for essential services that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.**

The Spotlight Initiative has contributed to strengthening institutional capacity for multi-sectoral coordination and the delivery of essential services to women and girls survivors of violence through the development of a GBV Multisectoral Protocol, development of Standard Operating procedures for GBV, development of SOPs for the operation of shelters, and the development of Guidelines and Technical Design for a one-stop sexual and domestic violence unit under to purview of the police department with accompanying draft SOPs. The technical design has been approved and the draft SOPs are being reviewed through a collaboration with the Ministry of Human Development and Family Court Multi-agency sessions.

A draft GBV Multisectoral Response Protocols and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the essential services sectors were developed/strengthened and specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Protocol is underpinned by a rights-based, survivor-centred, best-interest-of-the-child approach aimed at advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in a confidential, cultural and age-appropriate, safe, respectful and non-discriminatory manner. The Protocols were designed to ensure comprehensive, coordinated delivery of services with appropriate accountability of the agencies delivering services to each other and to the survivors. The Protocols will (I) offer a structured approach for systematically planning and executing the implementation of services for gender-based violence; (II) provide a basis for the monitoring and improvement of services for gender-based violence based on local needs and conditions, as well as country-level context; and (III) support agencies and communities in the establishment of quality controls for harmonization and consistency in the quality of services provided for gender-based violence. Additionally, through the Women's Department in collaboration with NWC Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters were reviewed for adoption in the COVID-19 Pandemic and considered for natural disasters. The three shelter facilities are now finalizing the SOPs and two have completed the training of shelter staff, volunteers and board of directors.

In 2019, the Government of Belize, with support from one UN agency working in the area of child protection, began to explore the possibility of creating a Center for Investigation of Sexual Offences, Child Abuse and Domestic Violence to create a holistic, one-stop facility for the identification, investigation, and interview of victims of domestic violence, sexual offences, and child abuse to

address the challenges encountered by victims in navigating multiple agencies has resulted in delays in investigations as well as victims abandoning legal proceedings. Following a study tour to Jamaica to explore the work being done, a technical working group was formed to explore the establishment of such a centre in Belize. The technical design for the Center builds on the recommendations of the working group and seeks to remove challenges connected to the stigma faced by women and children in accessing justice, health, and social services. Further, to protect victims and provide proper and adequate services, the Center proposed protocols for service delivery for the treatment of victims to be done in a collaborative, efficient and confidential manner.

The technical design has been accepted by the government, but the piloting of these spaces has been stalled due to the Government's budgetary constraints. Despite these challenges, the Spotlight Initiative leveraged an existing convening space to incorporate these protocols for analysis and feedback through its Multi-Agency Technical Sessions being rolled out in 2021. Agencies such as the Magistrate and Family Courts, Community Rehabilitation Department, Human Services Department, Women and Family Services Department, and Police were able to review these protocols and make recommendations for strengthening them for more seamless service delivery. These recommendations are intended to feed into the strengthening of the technical design. This cohesive approach to the roles and responsibilities of agencies working on all these forms of gender-based violence provides an opportunity for developing trauma-focused expertise amongst officers from various agencies.

**Almost 1,300 women and girls have increased knowledge of and access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services**

Access to essential and integrated GBV and SRHR services by rural women and girls is extremely limited, which is a major impediment to the advancement of their rights. The Spotlight Initiative, working closely with the Government of Belize and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), designed and implemented the Mobile Women Centers model to provide essential services to women and girls in rural communities as well as other groups of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence.

For the first time, four civil society organizations (The Child Development Foundation, the Belize Family Life Association, The Human Rights Commission, and the Productive Organization for Women in Action) worked closely together to jointly deliver essential services (SRH/Health, Legal, and Psychosocial Support and counselling) in response to GBV in underserved communities. As a result, 804 persons - 690 Females & 114 Males were reached through 6 Mobile Women Centers benefitting in 31 rural communities. A further 11 migrant communities also benefitted from legal-specific services through partnerships with other UN agencies. In keeping with the principle of Leaving no One Behind, these Mobile Women Centers were able to deliver life-saving information and services to areas with no access to services, especially those areas populated by indigenous Maya (Yucatec, Que'chi, Mopan Maya), indigenous Garifuna, and migrant women.

While clients were able to access multiple services of their choice, all persons who accessed the Mobile Women Centers benefited from information sharing and awareness building on topics such

as SRH, GBV, legal support, and psychosocial support, as well as from COVID-19 screening and education. Two key features of the Mobile Women Centers are community engagement and the provision of childcare and transportation to maximize women's access to the Centers. Community-level mobilizers and volunteers included the school Principals and teachers, Community Health Workers (CHWs), leaders of women groups, social workers, youth leaders, and village council members, as well as community members who assisted with the promotion of the Center and the mobilization of clients. The childcare spaces were equipped with props and materials, as well as activities with parents, that challenged gender norms, gender roles, gender identity, social norms and other behaviours.

In addition to the Mobile Women's Center, through interventions across Outcomes 1, 3, 4 and 6, 212 women and girls received pertinent information to increase their knowledge of existing essential services. Virtual consultations and forums, with 130 women and girls' survivors, helped to unpack legislation and services available, where, and how to access these services, the rights of duty bearers to offer services, their rights as rights holders, including what kinds of services are available in and around their communities. 57 mothers were engaged in positive and empowerment activities and discussions to help understand what family violence, especially domestic violence and child abuse is, and some protection and support services and interventions to help alleviate their suffering. 25 Women Community Mobilizers in the Cayo, Orange Walk, and Corozal districts received training on family violence, including domestic violence and child protection, and psychosocial support to support women and girls in their communities on issues connected to domestic violence, child abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Additionally, a psychosocial assessment was conducted with 43 mothers to determine the kinds of follow up support and services needed. These mothers benefited from initial mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) because of the effects of COVID-19 on their livelihoods resulting in higher levels of stress. Parents expressed difficulties managing their emotions, especially negative ones, in the face of little or no resources to support their households. Men who participated expressed outbursts of anger towards their partners and children when unable to cope with the demands of taking care of their families and homes. 11 women and 9 adolescent girls were referred to the Women's Mobile Centers and Migrant Mobile Clinics for additional support including SRH, legal services, migration, and birth registration services. These individuals were supported throughout the process to access services and further support beyond these spaces and within the national response system was provided. Referral support for SRH was limited for the 9 adolescent females because of the parental consent requirement for supportive sexual and reproductive health assistance.

The Women Community Mobilizers identified 162 women in need of social and protection intervention. These women were referred to the CSO implementing partner. Of the 162 women, 23 were identified to be in serious domestic violence situations and were assisted with counselling and safety plans. Additionally, 10 women were enabled with counselling and legal support to safely leave domestic violence situations and the other 13 women were assisted with safety plans on remaining at home with regular check-ins from the counsellor. Through another CSO partner, 3 women and girls were referred and supported with counselling and psychosocial support. While interventions were primarily targeting women and girls, 15 men and boys also participated and gained a better

understanding of the impacts of harmful masculinity, unequal gender norms, attitudes and behaviours have on women and girls' safety, ability to access essential services and exercise their rights.

### **75 Government service providers have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls' survivors of VAWG including family violence**

With the support of the Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry of Human Development strengthened the national social workforce structure and capacity and most importantly, reverse the trajectory seen because of the COVID-19 pandemic where almost 90% of the human resources were diverted to emergency response leaving hundreds of women and children vulnerable and in need of protection. A consultancy team has been hired and has begun engagement with the Government to present a module overview for feedback and to meet the team of 75 social workers. As part of a collaborative effort, the Essential Services Package will become a cross-cutting theme across the modules, with a focus on social services. Progress has started with the development of training modules for social workforce strengthening. Initial discussions around the content of the modules have identified critical thematic areas, including linkages to the Essential Services Package and the level of support needed to provide these minimal services to women and children.

At the management level, the Social Workforce Strengthening (SWS) process, through the development of a Social Workers Supervision Framework, will improve supervision, coaching, and monitoring and evaluation systems through a holistic planning process for administering cases. Increase utility of the FAMCARE system as a single platform for case management, ensuring accessibility at field levels and making supervisory visits to the field more strategic and targeted. Social workers will benefit from a robust training and coaching process that also seeks to translate into a more client-focused approach, reducing ambiguity and improving autonomy for first-level decisions. Through the ongoing relationship with the Minister of MHDFIPA, and in her capacity as co-chair of the National Steering Committee, the Spotlight Initiative technical and coordination team will continue to advocate for increased numbers of social workers to manage cases with efficiency and from a survivor-centred approach. This advocacy began as a joint UN multi-faceted approach to address the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on the availability of key services, including social and protection services. One such support was the development of a Business Continuity Plan that provided a structure for improving and maintaining the delivery of services, especially social and protection services to women and children.

## **Outcome 5: Data and Evidence**

### **Belize now has access to globally comparable data on VAWG**

Under the Spotlight Initiative, a Baseline study was completed and launched providing Belize with globally comparable data on the prevalence of VAWG, including family violence. The modality for the collection of this administrative data underwent significant changes mainly due to the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent impact on access to women and girls. The entire data collection process was done using virtual methods, including KABP Survey. The ethical considerations of such a method required the exclusion of some questions that could potentially put

women and girls' survivors at increased risk. The availability of data on the prevalence of VAWG provides an opportunity to scale up awareness and advocacy to support enforcement of legislation, accountability of service providers and improved access to quality essential services, especially in hard to reach and marginalized communities. Civil society organizations and grassroots women's movements have long been responding to VAWG at the community level, the baseline study provides validation of the work they have been doing, and an opportunity for civil society to design interventions to scale that specifically targets the gaps where government resources are shorthanded. Actions have been undertaken to socialize the evidence of baseline study data in digestible formats and language for women's rights groups and relevant CSOs to have strengthened capacities to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence.

### **GBV information systems are being strengthened to increase capacity for data collection, case management and reporting on VAWG**

With the support of the Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs contracted a consultant to upgrade FAMCARE to include a module to conduct case management of GBV cases from the first report to closure. The process was followed and supported by a technical team of ministry personnel and a government focal point selected by the CEO of the Ministry of Human Development Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs. Two training manuals have been developed (1 user manual and 1 technical manual). The first pilot testing of the system has taken place with ministry personnel, the technical project team and the women district officers country wide. A feedback session with the consultant followed to discuss input, answer questions and offer clarification. Following this session, tweaks to the system are being completed and a stakeholder validation session will take place. Training and capacity building is planned for ministry personnel as the final deliverable of the consultancy. Discussion regarding data sharing and data privacy matters has been furthered with the CEO of E-Governance and the Minister and CEO of Human Development. The current system design supports data exchange and sharing and has several layers of permission for the various users. The dashboards and interface are modern and user-friendly. Upgrading this system will contribute to institutional capacity for data collection and reporting which is a critical gap in the national response. Improved data on GBV will support evidence-informed policy and decision making and targeted programme response.

### **Outcome 6: CSOs and Women's Movements**

#### **Recommendations were produced through multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**

Through the 6 Women's Forum, 11 recommendations were documented following the presentation on the Domestic Violence Act. During the presentation, women and girls had the opportunity to share their own experiences as survivors of violence and the services available to them and the quality of delivery. Feedback and recommendations were along 4 broad areas including *education and awareness, strengthening of the DV legislation, access to services, and accountability*. It should be noted that these 4 areas of focus have also been identified across several interventions as key areas for strengthening. In collaboration with the RUNOs, the Civil Society National Reference

Group (CSNRG) and other relevant CSOs, a position paper will be developed to be presented at the National Steering Committee (NSC) to seek the government's commitment to addressing these gaps in legislation and enforcement. The women participating in these forums represent urban and rural women, migrant women, women with disabilities, Les/Bi women, and girls, furthering the principle of leaving no one behind.

**The Spotlight Initiative has engaged with CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG including family violence**

A core role of the Spotlight Initiative is that we are tasked with looking at civil society participation within both national and global contexts. A core role of the Spotlight Initiative is to support civil society participation within both national and global contexts. At the national level, while there are some civil societies, particularly those represented by environmental NGOs/CSOs, that have the opportunity to be heard by decision-makers, this is not representative of the situation of the wider social sector and civil society organizations nor is it representative of the situation of all the populations that they serve. With the absence of a dedicated network of social sector civil society organizations, and women's movement actors responding to ending violence against women and girls, the push to mobilize these actors became a necessary action to break through the siloed and fragmented interventions being implemented. This is key to ensuring that the services are being provided or strengthened and the data that is being collected finds its way into the advocacy messages that empower civil society and support their own advocacy for the populations they serve. To this end, the engagement of two networks, one responding to HIV/AIDs and the other Indigenous People, began as a learning opportunity to identify and respond to some institutional gaps, especially from a gender-transformative perspective. Through these two partnerships, 12 CSOs and 4 Women's Groups now have access to a collaborative space to advance the response to GBV and VAWG in their constituencies, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of violence. 3 Women's Groups from Red Bank, Mahogany Heights, and Corozal, have been trained to provide GBV and SRH services within their communities. 3 CSOs were also engaged to provide critical psychosocial support to women and girls impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In all 15 CSOs, there is a broad representation of key populations, including youth, women and girls, women with disabilities, Les/Bi women, Trans Women, Indigenous women and girls, and LBGTIQ persons.

Through stakeholder consultations, 12 CSO members shared their perspectives and recommendations for institutional strengthening linked to their collective and individual strategic plans and M&E Framework. These key institutional elements allow these CSOs to have a more structured and long-term response plan for EVAWG that is also aligned with the national GBV action plan. Another critical benefit is CSOs can better ground their intervention design and implementation in evidence that is specific to their key population.

**Women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs were provided with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG including family violence at the local and national level**

The intended intervention for this expected result was aimed at strengthening the Belize NGOs Network for increased inclusivity of social sector NGOs and CSOs and their subsequent representation at national decision-making levels. In 2020, this process was constrained due to several factors, following a year of consultations. The opportunity for a peer exchange with our

sister Caribbean country, Jamaica, was also not realized due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lead Agency for Outcome 6, made several adjustments to advance this result, including the engagement of the CSO Hub developed under the Global Fund as part of the collaborative civil society response to HIV/AIDs; and the Belize National Indigenous Council, as an opportunity to increase the reach to indigenous women and girls, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Even with these efforts, the participation of Women's movement groups and relevant CSOs remained unorganized internally—in their institutional capacity—and siloed in their ways of designing and implementing GEWE and VAWG interventions. In 2021, the focus of this intervention shifted to engaging women's movement actors, relevant CSOs and key government stakeholders in conversations to clearly identify the gaps and barriers to social sector networking and coordination. Three dialogues were held to gather information to better adjust interventions for impact.

The first of these sessions was held with CSO partners implementing institutional strengthening interventions under Outcome 6, with the aim to convene a space for networking and partnerships, and technical peer to peer support. Some of the discussion points and takeaways from that initial meeting contributed to strengthening the areas for discussion in this working session. Technical support from the wider range of RUNOs and the Civil Society National Reference Group for Spotlight Initiative was requested through a Technical Working Session. The aim was to define an approach to strengthening the engagement of civil society to enable their effective contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Spotlight Initiative and other national investment opportunities for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment and ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Key actions were identified throughout the discussions to ensure that the next steps are actionable and determine a level of responsibility and accountability beyond the session. These included a continuum for the development of the Engagement Strategy for CSOs and Women's Movement, in collaboration with the CSNRG; support to the CSNRG to coordinate working group sessions to define clear actions to be coordinated within the scope of the Spotlight Initiative and beyond; a mapping of CSOs and Women's movements to look at structural and implementation capacities, and methodologies (rights' based, etc); and defining value-added benefits to other CSO mapping exercises currently under the Spotlight Initiative, particularly under Outcome 6 with CSO partners.

27 CSOs, directly or indirectly engaged across the Spotlight Initiative, 4 Women's Groups, the Belize NGOs Network (as the main NGO/CSO network), and 3 quasi-government agencies (National Women's Commission, National Committee for Families and Children, and National AIDs Commission) were engaged in the first of a series of CSO dialogues to advance the development of a strong Social Sector CSO Engagement Strategy for GEWE and EVAWG. The feedback, recommendations, gaps, and barriers clarified coming out of these dialogues will be synthesized into a strategic plan for CSO engagement, coordination and partnership. This strategy is intended to serve as a guideline for future engagement of CSOs in Belize, what their capacities are, how they engage with decision-makers, and what gaps exist, especially in relation to institutional capacities.

### **Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs were supported in the use of appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG**

To this end, the programme focused on engaging the Human Rights Commission as a social accountability mechanism and the lead agency for monitoring and support on HR. The engagement sought to strengthen their institutional capacity to adequately respond to and advocate for necessary



support and access to services for civil society, formal and informal groups, communities, and beneficiaries, including women and girls. While support is primarily aimed at strengthening the organization's capacity to respond to and advocate for ending VAWG, it has a broader impact inclusive of all possible HR violations. Through ongoing discussions, three overarching areas have been identified as part of the advocacy and accountability responsibilities: data systems, enforcement protection, and civil society participation.

The institutional strengthening component of the HRCB has been constrained, due in part to the existing structure and strong dependence on volunteers. Despite this, the organization was able to leverage safe spaces to provide support to women and girls, including migrant communities who are at risk of becoming victims or experiencing human rights violations. Community outreach, in collaboration with other government and CSO partners, has engaged 129 persons (46 males, 83 females), from migrant communities in Belize and Toledo Districts, and LGBTIQ communities in Belize and Cayo districts, through awareness-raising on access to services and reporting processes for human rights.

#### Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs with increased knowledge of social accountability

A social accountability learning capsule has been developed under the Programme, through a CSO Partner and is scheduled for implementation in 2022, using a virtual methodology through the University of the West Indies Open Campus, to ensure the reach of relevant CSOs, women's rights advocates, and grassroots women's groups with important information that outlines their role as rights' holders and duty bearers.

#### **Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have used knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, including family violence**

30 Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs participated in a two-day webinar on Human Rights. These webinars were facilitated by OHCHR on existing tools and portals for monitoring and reporting Human Rights issues in the country. Engagement with participants was high, including an interactive session with real-life case studies presented by members of the CSNRG. The participating Women's Groups and CSOs gained a deeper understanding of the Human Rights monitoring platform that provided a snapshot of the country's performance, and most importantly where to find the recommendations presented to the country to improve its human rights performance. The session briefly reviewed the Shadow Reporting process, highlighting to participants the role they can play in holding the country responsible for its human rights commitments, including the protection of women and girls.

7 CSO partners engaged were trained in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) with the aim that they will adapt, update and strengthen their own internal processes to comply with the SEA requirements under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines.

## Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	310,911	27,004	
Girls (5-17)	6,123	768	
Men (18 yrs. and above)	36,439	20,736	
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	1,941	90	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355,414</b>	<b>48,598</b>	

## Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Ref #	Challenges	Mitigation Measures
1.	The Ministry of Education’s realignment of its 2020-2025 strategic plan with the vision of the current government has delayed the implementation of planned activities for strengthening institutional and individual capacity to deliver CSE in schools as well as engaging boys in school until 2022 under the Spotlight Initiative’s Phase II implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreement with Ministry of Education to pursue CSE in School activity in Phase II of Spotlight Initiative</li> <li>- Through direct implementation and partnership with the Belize Family Life Association, it was agreed to expand the reach of CSE out-of-school.</li> <li>- A strategy was adapted to conduct the school peer education component with school-aged boys through various youth and community groups</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Protocols for Multisectoral Response to Gender-based violence were challenged by time constraints of key stakeholders and informants negatively impacted consultative processes in terms of their availability and the quality of inputs or lack thereof.</p> <p>Given COVID-19 restrictions and concerns, the design of activities was altered to accommodate dedicated and small-group in-person engagement of key stakeholders, however, budgetary constraints further limit the number of persons as well as the participation of persons who contract COVID-19 prior to workshops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued utilization of hybrid (virtual and face-to-face) consultative/validation sessions to support the process</li> <li>- Technical and Political validation process defined to finalize approval draft Protocols for Multisectoral Response to Gender-based Violence</li> </ul>
4.	<p>The fourth wave of COVID-19 resulted in outbreaks among healthcare workers in a short period of time reducing significantly the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Wellness to respond to secondary care services and with higher demand for primary healthcare workers to support hospitals, creating an inability to complete “Increase Access to SRH” Activity as scheduled (SI Activity 4.2.1)</p> <p>Additionally, waves of the various strains of COVID-19 have delayed community interventions in marginalized and indigenous communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activity deferred to Q1 2022 with agreement by the Ministry of Health and Wellness for direct implementation by UNFPA with technical support from the Ministry.</li> <li>- Implementing partners revisit intervention methodologies to ensure continued engagement and change.</li> </ul>
5	Mobile Women Centers – (a) Increased demand on the SRH Services which are significantly curtailed in the public health system due to the pandemic; (b) weaknesses in logistics management resulted in an overflow of clients, long waiting times, and limited-service providers to serve all persons accessing the Centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased the number of nurses at the Mobile Women’s Center to anticipate the demand for SRH services</li> <li>- Delivery of the Mobile Women’s Centers over a 2-day period in the community hub to address the demand for all services.</li> </ul>
6.	CSE Peer Educators Training – (a) Full participation of targeted schools/ organizations was limited by the impact of COVID-19 impact as well as other end of year demands for schools. For instance, training was scheduled with one high school but needed to be deferred because of the increase of COVID-19 cases affecting the school community and in spite of the initial commitment made by other high schools to participate in the peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sessions were organized with other school groups and institutions to reach young persons in schools/attached or out of school.</li> </ul>

	education training, the training was not realized because of the school's time constraints as the full training would not be delivered completely before the end of the school term.	
7.	Engagement of women's groups and relevant social sector civil society actors around institutional strengthening, advocacy, and accountability	- Lead the development of an Engagement Strategy for social sector CSOs and the Women's Movement, including an action plan that defines the roles and responsibilities of CSOs
8.	The Data Collection methodology for the National Capacity Development Plan was intended to include face-to-face interviews. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the lockdown measures, the methodology could not be applied.	- Telephone interviews and virtual sessions were arranged with both government and non-government stakeholders to collect data in order to meet deadlines. A capacity assessment at the individual and institutional levels of relevant key state actors and CSOs to respond to family violence was conducted and a costed national capacity development plan was developed.

### **Lessons Learned and New Opportunities**

During the reporting period, several lessons were learned through the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative and several new opportunities emerged. The implementation of the Mobile Women's Center provided valuable lessons in partnering with CSOs and communities to deliver community-based services to marginalized women and girls. First, adopting a whole community approach by partnering with community leaders (village council, school principal, teachers, neighbourhood watches, women's groups, youth groups) strengthens support for mobilization and increases volunteerism in support of the implementation of the Mobile Women's Center. Because of this approach, it was noted that community-level mobilization yielded high participation of women from all the targeted communities and, as such, led to the successful implementation of mobile centres which require stronger logistics management (e.g. appointment systems, and number system to better manage order and access to multiple services) involving a minimum of 2 days at each Hub for the Centers and an increase in the number of service providers to make the Centers more efficient and able to reach more persons while in the communities. Additionally, it is important to ensure that mobilizers receive adequate information/training on the package of services and mobilization techniques, including documentation and follow-up. Finally, an exit strategy must be implemented at the end of each mobile centre intervention to 1) collect any information deemed relevant to the location and the population; 2) identify opportunities for linkages to existing services for those that will require follow up and support, and 3) enhance the overall design and execution of the Centers.

Some key lessons were also learnt relevant to civil society engagement. While rolling out the activities for Spotlight Initiative, a missed opportunity appears to be the capacity strengthening of CSOs to proceed with the implementation of the other pillars. Belize is a small country with even smaller CSO movements. This is also reflected in the number of CSOs who can access or participate as direct implementers in the process because of our own UN systems and national structures. There are many civil society and grassroots organizations that may not be formalized working in the area of GEWE and VAWG, even with limitations. A focus on CSOs capacity strengthening and strengthening of service providers first before pushing forward with the prevention and service delivery activities, in consideration of the size of CSOs and their own limited human resources and capacities, would have contributed to bridging some of the gaps that still

remain after 2 years of implementation. While there are several CSOs very actively engaged across Spotlight Initiative pillars, it is noted that, at this stage, when they are being engaged around institutional issues, such as how they are registered, staffing, policies, and other operational factors, that these are issues that should have been addressed as part of the initial capacity building as opposed to the later stage of implementation when they have already been implementing the best way possible. The focus moving forward has to be increasing dialogues with CSOs and supporting them to concretize a roadmap for successful CSO and grassroots movement engagement as implementers in social programming and flagging the importance of them being as strong as possible to continue to attract funding. Key to the success of this is highlighting to CSOs the opportunity presented through the Spotlight Initiative which allows them to continue implementation of key actions on GEWE and VAWG while investing time and resources to strengthen their institutional capacity and position themselves as leaders in this field as well as to mobilize resources to continue the movement started under Spotlight Initiative.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the nature of the training, the virtual space has been a challenge for engaging individuals interested in the Engaging Men and Boys to Address Gender Equality Training. Moving forward, a hybrid approach will be prioritized for workplace training: both in-person trainings with COVID-19 precautions and virtual training will be used. In conducting the activity focused on couples and adolescents in early unions, CSOs intended to target couples only. However, during implementation, it was recognized that persons with various relationship statuses were interested in participating. In addition, persons who started the training being in a relationship found themselves single by the time the training concluded. This they attributed to the knowledge and awareness gained about GBV and Healthy Relationships. It was also recognized that there was a need to also provide training to the LGBT community. As such, POWA held a training session, especially for the LGBT community in Dangriga.

Important lessons were also learnt around Monitoring and Evaluation. Monitoring, and evaluation, including participatory M&E, were incorporated and advanced by all RUNOs with Spotlight Initiative partners. This process included a critical eye to reaching targets, adjusting interventions for greater impact or in response to COVID-19 realities, and documenting and reporting shifts, gaps, and opportunities for cross-agency collaborations. Although this puts RUNOs in a great position, the actions required from the Spotlight Initiative M&E role fell short in advancing such collaborations. A lesson learned is the need for periodic review and updates of data collected and progress on the targets that could drive change, prioritizing adjustments, and coordination where targets were lagging. Another lesson learned is the need for a participatory approach to M&E versus the development of tools and templates; this is important primarily because indicators, much like pillars, are shared across RUNOs as are implementing partners. This lesson learnt is being applied through the development of various approaches to engage IPS and increase capacity for PM&E.

As it relates to lessons learnt relevant to UN Reform, opportunities where a One UN approach was adopted continuously demonstrated that a coordinated UN approach advances the achievement of the Spotlight Initiative. One example is the joint UN approach to capacity-building of IPs on PSEA. PSEA has become a critical part of the UN's support to partners (government and civil society) to ensure compliance with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines. The Spotlight Initiative is a convergence of several government actors, civil society organizations and grassroots women's movements whose engagement with the UN extends beyond the Spotlight Initiative. An

opportunity was seen and seized to raise awareness on PSEA with teachers and school administrators, sporting institutions, and community leaders; and more in-depth training was provided to CSOs including reviewing their individual internal processes with recommendations on how they can improve for optimum compliance with the UN PSEA core standards.

***a) New Opportunities***

During the reporting period, several opportunities emerged for expanding prevention and service delivery, strengthening programmes and policies and building partnerships around ending VAWG at all levels. At the community level, community consultations were planned and implemented to give voice to women and girl survivors of violence, including rural and migrant women, on the laws and policies available to protect them, their knowledge and perceptions, gaps in their protection as rights holder, and recommendations on how these processes and services can be improved. An emerging gap, in addition to the methodology being utilized, was the need for more community-level engagement that seeks to respond to the unique challenges and barriers within the community. Building on an existing intervention, the Spotlight Initiative was able to align existing programmes to implement six (6) Women's Forums for rural women in the Belize District, including one with migrant women. This approach provided an opportunity to introduce the women and girls to family violence legislations, the protective and rights measures included, and in turn hear their experiences accessing services across sectors (police, health, and courts). Finally, the sessions provided opportunities for women and girls to make recommendations on how to improve knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviours on legislation and service delivery, including accompaniment specific to rural communities where there is a glaring gap in available services and support.

Opportunities for strengthening partnerships and increasing engagement of the EU Delegation also emerged in 2021. Established spaces for technical exchanges between the Spotlight Initiative technical team and the EU Delegation technical team provided opportunities for sharing progress, challenges and lessons learnt and securing technical feedback and inputs from the EU Delegation. Additionally, opportunities arose for the EU Ambassador to engage with the RUNOs, IPS and programme beneficiaries to view first-hand some Spotlight Initiative supported interventions and gain a deeper understanding of the impact that Spotlight Initiative is making in the lives of women and girls. These engagements will be further strengthened and will continue into 2022.

Opportunities for strengthening CSO Engagement also emerged during the reporting period. Given the continued challenges for CSO participation at a national level, and the experiences of the Spotlight Initiative to support the institutional strengthening of CSOs it was considered that a strategy for engaging CSOs and the women's movement in Belize would help to create a roadmap that outlines the critical actions needed for CSOs to be meaningfully engaged and represented at all levels. The goal is to ensure that civil society is meaningfully engaged in the Spotlight Initiative, from sub-national to national levels, to the extent that their skills and expertise can contribute to determining and achieving mutual goals and targets, including those laid out by the Spotlight

Initiative, towards Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Initially, the SI Workplan's only activity targeting Men and Boys that was planned was implemented by SCLAN. However, as of recently, even those CSOs traditionally focused on women and girls now recognize the role that Men and Boys play in achieving Gender Equality. This can be attributed to public awareness campaigns as well as a shift in social norms and a non-traditional opportunity to fight GBV. In adapting to the COVID-19 reality and the need to continue SI implementation an opportunity was presented to expand the reach of advocacy using virtual platforms. Two UNGA Side Events were organized by SCLAN as well as a Panel discussion. The side events provided an opportunity for SCLAN to advance the discussion on GBV, its effects on development and the COVID-19 impact on the achievement of their pillars. The Panel Discussion married data on GBV and its development effects, compiled by another partner—the Belize Crime Observatory—, with personal stories from trainers and advocates. The plan is to continue creating spaces and forums to advance the discussions on EGBV with a data-driven approach.

## **Promising Practices**

**Women Community Mobilizers:** Community Mobilization is an effective method for getting members of any community mobilized. In varying contexts, this mobilization is done through identified and trained community members who would, in turn, provide ongoing to the target beneficiaries of the interventions. Through the Spotlight Initiative in Belize, the identification, training, and support of women and girl survivors or, at risk of violence, has been identified as a *promising practice*. Women Community Mobilizers received training on the family violence toolkit, psychosocial support, and referral pathways. Introduction to, and accompaniment with the Ministry of Health's Public Health Officers provided an additional level of on-the-job training on such skills like effective communication, observations, and acclimation to the varying economic realities of community members. Through this process, the Women Community Mobilizers assisted 162 women and girls to understand their rights, build up their capacities, access essential services including, in some cases, emergency protective services, and develop protection plans for those remaining in abusive relationships and homes.

### **Mobile Women Center Children's Space:**

The Children Space within the Mobile Women Center (MWC) was designed to provide a safe and interactive space for children to be while women (mothers and caregivers) were being attended to by the service providers of their choice. This, however, evolved as the Mobile Women Centers were being implemented in 2020 and 2021, with the space being used also to challenge gender norms and behaviours and perpetuate unequal power relations and control and against at an early age.

The space was equipped with props and materials and activities conducted were geared toward challenging gender identity, gender roles, social norms and other behaviours with the children as

well as parents and their children. Through Spotlight Initiative Belize Programme, the Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) has now been equipped to incorporate this space as part of their GBV and SRH education and awareness programming with preschool and primary school-age children within the school and community environments.

### **Engaging Men and Boys to Advance Gender Equality**

The Public Awareness Campaign in various languages reached 66,931 persons and 1114 men and boys attended gender-transformative programmes. A total of 16 trainers were trained who volunteer in their spare time and work full-time jobs. Currently, the demand for training in both the private and public sectors abundantly exceeds the demand. Although the programme was not adopted in the school due to challenges with COVID-19 in the Ministry of Education, school principals have reached out requesting that the training is conducted in their entire schools. In addition, a cohort of the Belize Coast Guards was trained, and a request has been received to expand the training to the entire force. Requests have also been received from the Police and Belize Defence Force. It is, therefore, necessary to expand the number of trainers and the reach of the project using the toolkit developed. There is an opportunity to scale up and replicate the programme to continue engaging men and boys.

### **Work with Couples, Including Adolescents in Formal and Informal Unions**

The activity to work with couples, including adolescents in formal and informal unions, was carried out to transform the imbalance of power and build healthy relationships, manage conflicts and understand family violence formed part of the work under Pillar 3.

Initially, the activity was intended to target couples only. However, during implementation, it was recognized that persons with various relationship statuses were interested in participating. In addition, persons who started the training in a relationship found themselves single by the time the training concluded. This they attributed to the knowledge and awareness gained about GBV and Healthy Relationships. It was also recognized that there was a need to provide training to the LGBT community so POWA held training for this demographic in Dangriga.

## **Communications and Visibility**

### ***a) Overview***

The Spotlight Initiative accelerated the rollout of the Communications and Visibility Plan in 2021 and this approach gave prestige to the programme at the national level. The Communications and Visibility Plan focused on four main objectives:

1. Raise awareness of family violence and its prevalence in Belize by publicizing data and supportive facts, creative messaging to key audiences, exhibiting thoughtful leadership on violence against women and girls, media sensitization, and training.

2. Illustrate and promote the impact and results of Spotlight Initiative-supported interventions: By finding, sharing, and promoting the stories of women and girls whose lives have been positively transformed by Spotlight Initiative-supported interventions.
3. Support the design and implementation of social and behaviour change communication initiatives; by providing a technical lead in the creation and delivery of initiatives geared towards gender and social norms change.
4. Ensure visibility for the Spotlight Initiative, its donors, and partners by coordinating consistent and coherent branding, high-profile endorsements from social influencers, top-tier media placements, organizing publicity events, and campaigns.

The Spotlight Initiative Multi-Year Communications and Visibility Plan 2020-2021 was endorsed by the National Steering Committee in February 2021 when the Annual Work Plan was approved. During this reporting period, the Spotlight Initiative Communication Officer in the RCO worked closely with the UN Communications Group and the Spotlight Initiative Communication Focal Points in the three RUNOs which led to producing videos, human interest stories, fact sheets and other information materials on Spotlight Initiative and carried out communications initiatives using Livestream and social media to meet the objectives outlined above. Baseline study results were highlighted on major communication stations reaching approximately 15,000 people on their social media; video messages and social media messages including infographics and flyers reached approximately 25,000 people on individual agencies and the UN platforms in Belize. In 2021, communication efforts supported the widening of visibility within the Spotlight Initiative, which has allowed for greater recognition of the programme among stakeholders. Additionally, this has given opportunities to assist partners with national events and to be considered for future events which cover VAWG and gender equality. Highly attended events also broadened media hits and expanded “following” on social networks. The challenge of limited funds for communication activities allowed a different approach to reach the target audience. This challenge is noted as a lesson learned with full integration of communication and visibility built within each Outcome in the Phase II planning. Another lesson learned to address challenges was the benefit of the direct support by the Communication Officer to RUNOs to enhance documentation of interventions and increase visibility and which will also be built into the Phase II process.

The communication efforts supported during 2021 focused on widening the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative, which has allowed for greater recognition of the programme among stakeholders. Additionally, this has given opportunities to assist partners on national events and to be considered for future events which cover VAWG and gender equality. High-attended events through also broadened media hits and expanded following on social networks.

All activities in the plan during the reporting period were not executed as there were challenges in funding all communication initiatives with limited funds. However, it is noted as a lesson learned with full integration of communication and visibility within activities for Phase II. Another lesson learned to address challenges was the benefit of the direct support by the Communication Officer to RUNOs to enhance documentation of interventions and increase visibility which will also be considered for Phase II.



Objective	Activity	Means of Communication	Output
1. Raise Awareness of family violence and its prevalence in Belize by publicizing data and supportive facts, creative messaging to key audiences, exhibiting thought leadership on violence against women and girls, media sensitization, and training.	Develop Infographics generated from the outcomes of the Baseline study for advocacy. These can be digital and print.	Digital and video infographic information is widely shared on social media and presented during morning talk shows.	1 Video 5 Infographics 3 Morning Show Appearances with an average of 5,500 views each on social media and viewership on broadcast media
	Conduct a media sensitization workshop on VAWG reporting that will also include the development of standards for ethical and gender-sensitive reporting.	Panel led by UN Women and in collaboration with UNRCO	1 reporting on family and gender-based violence panel
	Develop testimonials, success stories, and case studies from the project to publish on Spotlight Initiative Website, RCO Website, and other RUNOs and partner websites.	Human Interest Stories and Videos	12 Human Interest Stories 21 Videos
	Include Spotlight Initiative updates in UN RCO and Other RUNO newsletters.	Newsletter	1 Newsletter, <i>Spotlight Initiative Belize, 2021: A Year in Review</i>
2. Support the design and implementation of social and behaviour change communication initiatives; by providing a technical lead in the creation and delivery of initiatives geared towards gender and social norms change.	Support the development of a costed a national social and behaviour change communication strategy and support implementation of key actions targeting individuals and communities to promote change in knowledge, attitudes, norms, and practices to bring an end to family violence	N/A	Although the strategy is still being developed and will be implemented during Phase II, support was given by Communication Focal Points and RUNOs for consultations and the draft report.
	Support the establishment community of practice on social and behaviour change communication focused on ending family violence	N/A	Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Coordination Network was established with a TOR
3. Ensure visibility for the Spotlight Initiative, its donors, and partners: By coordinating consistent and coherent branding, high-profile endorsements from social influencers, top-tier media placements, organizing publicity events, and campaigns.	Social media posting of Spotlight Initiative video features, posts, and interviews.	Social Media	12 posts
	Social Media and News Media posting of video clips of Spotlight Initiative successes	Social Media	6 posts
	Organize campaigns or visibility events (virtual or onsite, depending on COVID-19 measures) to mark global world days such as International Women's Day, International Day for the elimination of violence against women in conjunction with 16 days of activism to end GBV, etc.)	Social Media, Virtual and Onsite Events	2 Campaigns, 16 days of activism (including the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), and Engaging Men and Boys
	Development and Annual Report	Digital Annual Report	1 Digital Annual Report
	Spotlight Initiative branded materials including T-shirts, hats, tote bags, drawstring bags, folders, notepads, etc.	Promotional Items	RUNOs received requested promotional items which were: caps (146), folders (120), t-shirts (200), tote bags (70), draw string bags (70), pens (200), pencils (150), pop sockets (160), note pads (150), water bottles (75), banners (6), vinyl stickers (135), masks (240), polo shirts (47), pouches (for sanitary napkins) (30), lanyards (70), and keychains (70)

## **b) Messages**

The Spotlight Initiative disseminated the following messages to the public through various means of communication, including digital and social media. These messages were:

- Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.
- The Baseline Study found that 11.2% of the respondents agreed that a man is justified in beating his partner and individuals in rural areas are slightly more likely to agree.
- Women 25 years and older are most affected by domestic violence which occurs in all areas of the country.

These key messages were well-targeted and effective as there was increased engagement with content shared on social media platforms on the UNRCO page on a regular basis and during commemorative days relevant to EVAWG and Gender Equality. Additionally, the launch of the Baseline Study in November gave way for the addition of messages to engage the public, and engagement on key data generated from the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices (KABP) survey. This included a stakeholder launch, appearances on morning shows and highlighting this date during the media training undertaken jointly with the UNRCO. Events attended by high-level officials were also avenues to highlight key messages for visibility. Additionally, the 16 days of activism campaign activities raised awareness on key messages through supported events like the national launch and were also important to increase visibility for the work of the Spotlight Initiative in Belize.

## **c) Media and visibility events**

- **Through the Spotlight Initiative, the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) certified trainers in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to support young persons who are out of school, 24 March 2021** - The Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - as one of the Recipient United Nations Organization (RUNO) for the Spotlight Initiative in Belize - partnered to scale up comprehensive sexuality education programming for out-of-school youth. [Belize Family Life Association \(BFLA\) through the Spotlight Initiative certified trainers in Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\) to support young persons who are out of school | Spotlight Initiative](#)
- **Official Handover Launch of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment to the Spotlight Initiative Civil Society Reference Group (CSNRG), 12 May 2021** - An official handover ceremony of ICT equipment to CSNRG. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, and co-chair of the National Steering Committee, UN Resident Coordinator, RUNO Heads of Agency, European Union Delegation, and members of the CSNRG. The event was covered by the national press, including coverage by the Government of Belize Press Office. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/press/government-belize-united-nations-and-european-union-official-handover-ict-equipment-spotlight>
- **The Judiciary in Belize supported to address Gender-Based Violence through the Spotlight Initiative, 21 June 2021**- The Chief Justice of Belize, Madam Michelle Arana, received equipment to improve the case management of the Judiciary particularly relating to gender-based violence and family matters from the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr Ian King. Members of the media

were invited through a media advisory and the launch received media coverage. [Belize judiciary supported to address gender-based violence through the Spotlight Initiative | Spotlight Initiative](#)

- **Launch of Training and Mentorship of Court Officials, 3 July 2021-** The Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the Magistracy, launched the Training and Mentorship of Court Officials at the opening of a series of training for magistrates, social, legal, and judicial officers at the University of the West Indies Open Campus (UWIOC). Media was invited to attend virtually through a media advisory and the launch received media coverage. [Spotlight Initiative Belize Launches Training and Mentorship of Court Officials | Spotlight Initiative](#)
- The **Spotlight Initiative held a High-Level Meeting with the Government of Belize, 23 July 2021-** High-level government officials, as well as policy and decision-makers responsible for leading the implementation of various areas of Plan Belize, attended the meeting. Key recommendations from the meeting included the development of a Cabinet information paper on Spotlight Initiative to include its contribution to the Women's and Families Agenda and increased commitment and collaboration of respective Ministries. Press release was sent to all members of the media. [Spotlight Initiative holds High-Level Meeting with the Government of Belize | Spotlight Initiative](#)
- **The Spotlight Initiative hosts High-Level Briefing to Review And Approve The Joint Sexual Violence Prevention And Response Programme, 3 July 2021-** The Spotlight Initiative hosted a high-level briefing attended by Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of National Defence and Border Security, Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Home Affairs and New Growth Industries, and Minister of State in the Ministry of National Defence and Border Security, Hon. Oscar Mira, along with their senior personnel. The High-Level Briefing that reviewed the newly formulated Joint Sexual Violence Prevention and Response (JSVPR) Programme. The event received media coverage with interviews from key stakeholders who attended. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/press/spotlight-initiative-hosts-high-level-briefing-review-and-approve-joint-sexual-violence>
- **Virtual Launch of the Baseline Study and Morning Show Appearances Highlighting Data, 8 November 2021-** An official launch of the report was held virtually with the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, the European Union, Civil Society Organizations and key government and non-government stakeholders. The launch introduced the data and provided key information and recommendations for critical interventions based on the data and analysis. Additionally, the Baseline study was discussed on three national morning shows during the week of 8 November by RUNO Programme Officers and members of the Baseline Study Technical Steering Committee. [Spotlight Initiative Launches Baseline Study Report With Key Data on Perceptions and Norms on Violence Against Women and Girls and Family Violence | Spotlight Initiative](#)
- **Spotlight Initiative Belize Newsletter 2021, a year in review, January 2022-** The Newsletter reviews some of the many highlights and accomplishments of the programme in Belize and was disseminated to all partners including government ministries, the EU delegation, CSOs, and regional counterparts. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/publications/spotlight-initiative-belize-2021-year-review>

#### **d) Campaigns**

##### **Engaging Men and Boys**

The engaging men and boys' campaign was supported to bring public awareness on harmful and social norms and gender stereotyping. This campaign reached 2,182 persons and was lead by SCLAN with the support of the Spotlight Initiative. Gender equality advocates voiced ads and social media campaigns with messages in different languages: Creole, Garifuna, Maya, Spanish, sign language and Ketchi. Advertisements were aired during prime time on television and radio as well as via social media on SCLAN FB Page. Notably one of the videos produced entitled: "Relay for

Change: Mentoring Youths to Prevent Violence in Belize" was prominently featured on the Spotlight Initiative Website.

### **16 Days of Activism**

The promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including leaving no one behind, cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to VAWG. This is why international campaigns like the 16 days of activism are important to support at the local level to bring awareness and highlight the work being done with and for gender equality. Additionally, partners who implement programs for the Spotlight Initiative value support and this, in turn, gives the programme opportunities for high visibility.

The launch of the 16 days of activism, aired on the Government of Belize Press Office Page, had **7.5 thousand views with 158 reactions and 12 comments (links: [1](#) and [2](#))**. The event included **90 in-person participants** which included staff and volunteers. Additionally, other engagements over 16 days of activism included:

- **Launch of Women in Spotlight Initiative episode** which was part of a wider docuseries put together by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Belize. The episode highlights some of the many women who are at the forefront of eliminating violence against women and girls in Belize.
  - The Launch of the Docuseries was presented on November 25, 2021, on **Love FM's Morning Show which received 4,000 views**.  
<https://www.facebook.com/lovefmbelize/videos/434306818132047>.
  - Additionally, the Women in Spotlight Episode was aired daily on television from November 25 to 28 during the 6 pm Evening News on Love TV. Though Love TV does not have a specific way to measure the exact number of listeners per show, the most recent census done revealed that Love TV maintains a viewership of over 90% of the country while Love FM has a countrywide listenership with an estimated 240,000 people tuning in.
- **#WithHer Talk hosted by Miss Universe Belize 2021** shared on her Instagram page with **2,317 views and 230 likes**. Additionally, it had **478 views** on the Spotlight Initiative Global Instagram page.
  - See [global Instagram page](#), [here](#).
- Iris Salguero [Page](#): **Panel Discussion on Engaging Men and Boys** during the 16 Day of Activism had **987 reached with 190 engagements including 14 shares** from the United Nations Belize Facebook Page.

### e) Human interest stories

The following human-interest stories from the 2021 reporting period were as follows:

1. [Relay for Change: Mentoring Youths to Prevent Violence in Belize | Spotlight Initiative](#)



*Lincoln Flowers, Youth Empowerment Coordinator, Department of Youth Services who attended a session. Photo: SCLAN*

Preventing violence against women and girls will require a generation of men and boys who believe, model and promote gender equality in all places and spaces. Meet three men in Belize who are opting in to promote positive masculinity. By participating in Spotlight Initiative-supported #EngagingMenandBoys sessions, these men are learning more about emotional wellbeing, balance and their critical roles as mentors for the next generation of boys and men. **[Outcome 3]**

2. [In Belize, teacher training makes schools safer for children | Spotlight Initiative](#)



*Tashera Swift-Myers is a school counsellor at Belmopan Comprehensive School who underwent training. Photo: Spotlight Initiative/Perla Hinojosa*

In Belize, everyone whose job involves contact with children must report suspected child abuse and trafficking to the authorities. This includes teachers and school personnel. But according to Tashera Swift-Myers, a school counsellor who teaches life skills to third- and fourth-year secondary school students at Belmopan Comprehensive School, not everyone is aware of these obligations. **[Outcome 3]**

3. [A community mobilizer in Belize empowering women in her community | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Jane Martinez talking to young women at St. Hilda's Anglican School. Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative

Jane Martinez, Principal of St. Hilda's Anglican School, became a community mobilizer through a community-based capacity building workshop on the root causes of family violence offered by the Child Development Foundation (CDF) and supported by the Spotlight Initiative. **[Outcome 4]**

4. [Youth taking the lead on navigating comprehensive sexuality education in Belize | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Anthonisha Gabriel in Dangriga. Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative

BFLA is a civil society organization that is providing comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) training to community-level peer educators supported by the Spotlight Initiative. The CSE training aims to assist youth in Belize by empowering them to make informed decisions about relationships, sexuality and how to navigate a world where gender-based violence, gender inequality, child marriage & early unions, adolescent pregnancies, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) still pose serious risks to their health and well-being. **[Outcome 3]**

5. [Improving services for women and girls in Belize by building institutional capacity | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Stakeholders during Training Session. Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative

In November 2021, the National Women’s Commission – the governance and oversight mechanism for responding to gender issues including gender-based violence (GBV) – conducted a training workshop with key stakeholders. This included members of the police, social services, judiciary, health and coordination and governance of coordination sectors. The training aimed to enhance their skills, knowledge and competencies so that they can mainstream gender and take gender-based violence considerations into their programme design, implementation, evaluation and reporting. **[Outcome 2]**

6. [Fifteen and capable: In Belize, youth leadership in action | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Karla Ash is a youth advocate leader in Belize. Photo: UNICEF Belize/NVISION

Karla’s club is only able to meet in person with 10 members at a time. Despite the challenges, she ensured that members were able to attend information sessions on family violence by organizing a schedule in line with COVID restrictions.

The sessions have helped Karla and her group identify family violence and learn how to talk about it, as well as gain a better understanding of women and girls who face intersecting forms of discrimination. **[Outcome 3]**

7. [Youth for tomorrow: young people in Belize are building a sustainable, violence-free future | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Marshall Choco with his Family. Photo: UNICEF Belize/NVISION

Marshall says this is important as many of the young people he works with are not aware of their rights or how to recognize abuse. In fact, after a training he attended with support from the Spotlight Initiative, Marshall realized that he had witnessed family violence himself, but did not have the information to know what to do. **[Outcome 3]**

8. [In Belize, young people are helping to eliminate violence one family at a time | Spotlight Initiative](#)



Christa Salam, 19, leads a youth group that does community and environmental work. Photo: UNICEF Belize/NVISION

Christa is part of a Spotlight Initiative-supported programme with Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment (TIDE), which combines learning about children's rights and family violence with caring for the environment and the community. The programme addresses family and gender-based violence by using community-based youth groups for outreach and education. **[Outcome 3]**



9. [Building resilient, violence-free communities through youth activism | Spotlight Initiative](#)



*At just 15, Kathie Coy is already making positive changes in her community. Photo: UNICEF Belize/NVISION*

Through the Spotlight Initiative and the Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment (TIDE), Kathie and her team have organized five zoom sessions with another southern community-based organization, POWA in order to help families and young people learn about family violence. **[Outcome 3]**

**f) Testimonials:**

- “The European Union, through funding provided to the UN implemented Spotlight Initiative, has already started to reach victims in Belize through the provision of shelters and services aimed at healing the hurt experienced by these victims of GBV. We are committed to working in partnership with the UN, the Government of Belize and the relevant CSO partners.”- **Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas and Turks And Caicos Islands, 16 Days of Activism Belize Remarks**
- “I was highly impressed witnessing the strong commitment and excellent results of the UN Agencies implementing the EU financed Spotlight Initiative in Belize.”- **Ambassador Marianne Van Steen, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas and Turks And Caicos Islands, Site Visit to Mobile Women’s Centres**
- “ The measure of any country is how we treat our women, girls and the most vulnerable. If there is any form of violence against women, our shoulders must be put to the wheel to make sure that we eliminate this terrible scourge.”- **Hon. Dolores Balderamos Garcia, Minister of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs, High-Level Meeting**
- “The COVID-19 pandemic has not only shown the world, but also the CSNRG that, as community-based leaders, advocates and influencers, we are able to still carry out the very important work we do, as we work with the marginalized, the vulnerable and the indigenous communities.”- **Ms. Melissa Zuniga, CSNRG President, Handover of ICT Equipment**
- "I accepted because it is a good initiative to help women get out of violent situations, women realize that they can do it and begin to love themselves and their children enough to leave. " **Jane Martinez, Community Mobilizer who attended a capacity building workshop on the root causes of family violence offered by the Child Development Foundation (CDF) and supported by the Spotlight Initiative.**

- "CSE training is inclusive and open to everyone and addressed sexual education for all genders and orientations." - **Alek Armstrong, Community-level Peer Educator in Belize City on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) training to community-level peer educators by BFLA supported by the Spotlight Initiative.**
- "We have learned some much in trainings and have received so many positive evaluations and responses. It has been such a meaningful experience to see the change in front of our eyes. Both men and women have learned so much about gender equality, healthy masculinity, and what it means to be accountable in these session." **Jacqueline Dragone, Executive Director of SCLAN on Engaging Men and Boys Training supported by the Spotlight Initiative**

**g) Photos**



High-Level Meeting with Government of Belize, 23 July 2021 Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative



EU Ambassador site visit with Resident Coordinator and RUNO Heads of Agency, 19 September 2021 Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative



Engaging Men and Boys Training of Police Officers, Photo: Knight & Day Photography/SCLAN, UNDP Belize



Youth Advocate Leader, Krista Salam with TIDE, Photo: NVISION/ UNICEF Belize



POWA at Southern Mobile Women Centres, Photo: Perla Hinojosa/Spotlight Initiative Belize

## h) Videos:

[Spotlight Initiative Belize - 2020 Highlights - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Docuseries - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Baseline Study Report Key Findings - YouTube](#)  
[Patchakan Women Mobilisers - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Accomplishments of Work in Belize 2021 - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Belize- Mobile Women Centers - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Compilation Video \(different languages\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Osmany Salas \(English\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Osmany Salas \(Spanish\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Aurelio Sho \(Mopan Maya\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Trevan Castillo \(Garifuna\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public awareness Campaign- Juan Caal \(Qe'qchi Maya\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys Public Awareness Campaign- Gerald Jones \(Creole\) - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys- MANNON - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys- Department of Youth Services - YouTube](#)  
[Engaging Men and Boys- GILMORE - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative End Violence - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative in Belize- Zoila's Story - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Belize- couples in early union, POWA Corozal 2021 - YouTube](#)  
[Spotlight Initiative Belize- Couples in early unions, POWA Dangriga 2021 - YouTube](#)  
[#WithHer Talks Episode #4: Belizean beauty queens - YouTube](#)

## **Next Steps**

As the Spotlight Initiative concludes Phase I of Spotlight Initiative implementation over the next quarter and engages in Phase II planning, the following key next steps will be prioritized:

### **Conclusion of Phase I:**

Under Outcome 1, the Spotlight Initiative will work to finalize a compilation of recommendations for legislative review, including recommendations from consultations with survivors and the CSNRG, to guide the continuation of the legislative review process in Phase II. Under Outcome 3, the Spotlight Initiative will finalize prevention activities, including the initial implementation of SBCC strategy based on available resources. Under Outcome 4, the Spotlight Initiative will finalize the design of the ESP and continue to expand services to hardest to reach communities. Under Outcome 6, the Spotlight Initiative will continue to engage CSO and strengthen CSO capacity, including CSO networks. Work with the CSNRG will continue with a view to strengthen partnership and collaboration with the CSNRG and ensure that the CSNRG plays a key role in decision making.

Some key actions to support completion of Phase I include a focus on continued partnership with the EU Delegation at all levels ensuring that the delegation is kept abreast of all key development as well as identifying opportunities for joint communication and visibility events to promote EU partnership and vital contribution to Spotlight Initiative. Additionally, the Spotlight Initiative will continue to strengthen inter agency collaboration in keeping with the one UN Approach under UN Reform. Specifically, RUNOs will work collaboratively to plan, implement and monitor Spotlight

Interventions while ensuring alignment with the broader UN frameworks. The Spotlight Initiative will also continue accelerated implementation of the initiative to ensure that 100% implementation is realized within the no-cost extension period.

## **Preparation for Phase II**

As the SI team awaits the Midterm Assessment Report, the focus is on an assessment of the programme performance which will allow the team to draw on the lessons learnt from Phase I to identify key actions for strengthening and scaling up in Phase II. Key to this is the development of a sustainability plan, which, along with the MTA Report, will guide the development of the Phase II proposal. Some key actions that are being considered include (a) the endorsement of the National Gender Policy (NGP), ensuring that the plan is socialized among key stakeholders and that sector plans are developed to support the implementation of the NGBV Action plan, (b) Strengthening the social sector workforce by providing capacity building for social sector orce in responding to family violence which will result in a stronger response of various sectors to family violence (c) development and roll-out of the Essential Service Package and ensuring integration of the ESP into all sector plans and protocols (d) Endorsement and roll out of the Multisectoral Response Protocols and SOPs for GBV (e) rollout of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication strategy with a focus on producing data and evidence to support monitoring for behaviour and social change (f) Expanding capacity for effective implementation of FAMCARE including training on the use of FAMCARE GBV modules.

# ANNEXES

## ANNEX A: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

### Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
	<b>Legal age of marriage</b>				
Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.	0.25	0.00	0.50	0.00	
	<b>Parental Authority in Marriage</b>				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	<b>Parental Authority in Divorce</b>				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	<b>Inheritance rights of Widows</b>				
	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
	<b>Inheritance rights of Daughters</b>				
	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
	<b>Laws on Domestic Violence</b>				
	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	
<b>Laws on Rape</b>					
0.25	0.50	0.25	0.25		
<b>Laws on Sexual Harassment</b>					
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25		
	<b>National level</b>				

Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	Evidence-based Participatory Development	Evidence-based Participatory Development	Evidence-based Costed M&E framework Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	Evidence-based Participatory Development	
	<b>Sub-National Level</b>				
	Evidence-based	Evidence-based	Does not apply/ there is no plan	Evidence-based	
Indicator 1.3 Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women’s rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 2021</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
	<b>Developed or Strengthened</b>				



<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.</p>	0	4	4	4	
<p>Indicator 1.1.3 Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women’s rights advocates within the last year.</p>	0	4	1	4	
	<b>National</b>				
<p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&amp;E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.</p>	Evidence-based	Evidence-based	<i>see comment box for reporting list of action plans</i>	Evidence-based	<p>Action Plan: National Gender Based Violence Action Plan, Sector: National Women’s Commission, Over reporting period: Evidence-Based Costed M&amp;E Plan Needs of All Women &amp; Girls Action Plan: Joint Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Programme, Sector: Ministry of Defence and Border Security, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and New Growth Ministries, Over reporting period: Evidence-Based Needs of All Women &amp; Girls</p>

					Action Plan: National Capacity Development Plan, Sector: Cross Sectoral, Over reporting period: Evidence-Based Costed M&E Plan Needs of All Women & Girls
	<b>Sub-National</b>				
	0	6	0	6	
	<b>Government Officials</b>				
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to draft and costed action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks, within the last year.	0	20	40	30	
	<b>Women Government Officials</b>				
	0	15	27	20	
	<b>Government Officials demonstrate awareness</b>				
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights	0	75	139	105	
	<b>those Officials who participate in developing laws &amp; policies</b>				

standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women’s rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.

0	50	27	55
<b>Women Government Officials demonstrate awareness</b>			
0	40	22	65
<b>Women Officials who participate in developing laws &amp; policies</b>			
0	30	5	35

### Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes		
<b>Coordination Mechanism?</b>							
<u>Indicator 2.1</u> Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
<b>Health</b>							
<u>Indicator 2.3</u> Extent to which VAWG/HP is integrated in 5 other sectors (health, social services, education, justice, security, culture) development plans that are evidence-based and in line with globally agreed standards.	No integration	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	We do not currently have data. Activities will be considered for Phase II. Kindly note that there is a challenge to meet this indicator in Phase I as there are no Spotlight Initiative activities		
	<b>Education</b>						
	No integration	No integration	No integration	No integration			
	<b>Justice</b>						
	Low integration	Low integration	Low integration	Medium integration			
<b>Security</b>							

	Low integration	Medium integration	Medium integration	Medium integration	that supports integrating VAWG into sector plans. Although there are some sector plans that integrate VAWG, these were not developed with support of SI and also predated Spotlight Initiative. Reporting on this in SMART requires that the plans be named and Spotlight Initiative cannot claim these plans as results.
	<b>Social Services</b>				
	Medium integration	Medium integration	Medium integration	High integration	
	<b>Culture</b>				
	No integration	No integration	No integration	No integration	
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 2021</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
<u>Indicator 2.1.1</u> Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.	0	36	23	45	
	<b>Government Officials</b>				
<u>Indicator 2.1.7</u> Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, within the last year.	0	230	180	280	
	<b>Women Government Officials</b>				
	0	160	106	185	
	<b>Government Officials</b>				

Indicator 2.1.8 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to integrate efforts to combat VAWG into the development plans of other sectors, within the last year.	0	120	149	164
	<b>Women Government Officials</b>			
	0	55	83	77

### Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	5%	5%	5%	5%	Kindly note that MICS 6 will not be available within the 2021 Annual Reporting period. This is a national indicator and Spotlight Initiative can only contribute towards this process.

Indicator 3.3 Existence of with at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	0	3	0	4	
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 2021</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	<b>In-School Programmes</b>				
	0	1250	2,402	1,550	
	<b>In-School Programmes Girls</b>				
	0	500	1,220	650	
	<b>In-School Programmes Boys</b>				
	0	750	1,182	900	
	<b>Out-of-School Programmes</b>				
	0	1130	1,307	1,520	
<b>Out-of-School Programmes Girls</b>					
0	40	679	215		
<b>Out-of-School Programmes Boys</b>					

		1,090	628	1,305	
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction, within the last year.					
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	0	355,414	100,000	Reported on campaigns such as 16 days, day of the girl child, to name a few and as reflected in Output Indicator 3.2.5. The reach has been the population tuned into the media houses. Within Phase II planning, a new approach is being considered for campaigns and to capture disaggregated data.
	<b>Total</b>				
Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces, within the last year.	0	1,050	1,312	1,350	
	<b>Men</b>				
	0	50	1,082	200	
	<b>Boys</b>				
	0	1,000	230	1,150	

<p>Indicator 3.2.4 Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction</p>	0	50	54	60	
<p>Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.</p>	0	0	10	0	
	<b>EVAWG Policies</b>				
<p>Indicator 3.3.2 Number of relevant non-state institutions that have developed and/or strengthened strategies/policies on ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with international HR standards, within the last year.</p>	0	20	12	20	
	<b>EVAWG Policies including LNOB</b>				



	0	20	0	20	
	<b>Decision Makers</b>				
Indicator 3.3.5 Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year.	0	1,225	1,706	1425	
	<b>Women Decision Makers</b>				
	0	600	1,109	700	

### Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
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<b>Women</b>							
<u>Indicator 4.1</u> Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.	0	0	0	8	This data is required from the Belize Crime Observatory as well as from each sector specifically and this will not be available until April 2022 or after for 2021. The approach for the data collection was using a singular request through the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Spotlight Initiative Focal Point.		
	<b>Girls</b>						
	0	0	0	0			
<b>Reported</b>							
<u>Indicator 4.2</u> a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators.	0	0	27	0	This data requires verification from the Government of Belize. The approach for the data is using a singular request through the Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples' Affairs.		
	<b>Brought to Court</b>						
	0	0	3	0			
<b>Convictions</b>							
	0	0	2	0			
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Milestone 2021</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>		
<b>Developed</b>							
<u>Indicator 4.1.3</u> Existence of national guidelines or protocols that have been developed and/or	No	Yes	0	Yes			
	<b>Strengthened</b>						

strengthened in line with the guidance and tools for essential services.	No	No	0	No	
<b>Government Service Providers</b>					
<u>Indicator 4.1.4</u> Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.	0	550	124	650	
	<b>Women Government Service Providers</b>				
	0	250	23	300	
<b>Developed</b>					
<u>Indicator 4.1.9</u> Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	<b>Strengthened</b>				
	No	Yes	No	Yes	
<b>a) Girls with Knowledge of ES</b>					
<u>Indicator 4.2.1</u> Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased <b>KNOWLEDGE</b> of a) to quality essential services, and b)	0	500	12	730	Kindly note that 0 has been inserted for Access to longer term services since this is being
	<b>a) Women with Knowledge of ES</b>				

<b>accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery</b> within the last 12 months	0	1,280	1,084	1,570	discussed in Phase II planning process.
	<b>b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services</b>				
	0	500	0	730	
	<b>b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services</b>				
	0	1,280	0	1,570	
<b>Strategies Designed</b>					
<b>Indicator 4.2.2</b> Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased <b>ACCESS</b> to a) <b>to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services,</b> within the last 12 months	<b>a) Girls with ACCESS to ES</b>				Kindly note that 0 has been inserted for Access to longer term services since this is being discussed in Phase II planning process.
	0	260	12	520	
	<b>a) Women with ACCESS to ES</b>				
	0	1,080	733	1,340	
	<b>b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services</b>				
	0	140	0	150	
<b>b) Women with Access to Recovery Services</b>					
	0	300	0	320	
<b>Strategies Designed</b>					

Indicator 4.2.3 Existence of strategies for increasing the knowledge and access to services for women and girls, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	0	0	No	0	Although the Technical Design for the sexual and domestic violence unit has been accepted by government, the piloting of these spaces have been stalled due to budgetary constraints of Government.
	<b>Strategies Designed that include LNOB</b>				
	0	0	0	0	

### Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
	<b>Prevalence</b>				
Indicator 5.1 Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time	No	No	Yes	No	
	<b>Incidence</b>				
	No	No	Yes	No	
	<b>IPV</b>				
Indicator 5.2 Existence of publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, family violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	FGM data not publicly available as this is not prevalent in the country
	<b>FGM</b>				
	0%	0%	No	0%	
	<b>Child Marriage</b>				
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
	<b>Femicide</b>				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Family Violence</b>					
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

	Trafficking				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<u>Indicator 5.3</u> National statistics related to VAWG/HP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	2) Sex 3) Age 6) Geographic Location 7) forms of violence	2) Sex 3) Age 6) Geographic Location 7) forms of violence	2) Sex 3) Age 6) Geographic Location	2) Sex 3) Age 6) Geographic Location 7) forms of violence	Baseline study completed and launch. Baseline study provides national data on a wide range of indicators.
Output Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
<u>Indicator 5.1.2</u> A system to collect administrative data on VAWG/HP, is in place and in line with international standards, across different sectors	1. Health 4. Security 5. Social Services	1. Health 3. Justice 4. Security 5. Social Services	1) Health 3) Justice and Policing 5) Social services	1. Health 3. Justice 4. Security 5. Social Services	
	<b>Government Personnel</b>				
<u>Indicator 5.1.4</u> Number of government personnel from different sectors, including service providers, who have enhanced capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards, within the last year	0	50	0	75	Training modules have been developed but training has not yet been rolled out.
	<b>Women Government Personnel</b>				
	0	30	0	40	

<p><u>Indicator 5.1.5</u> Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG</p>	0	20	0	25	Training modules have been developed but training has not yet been rolled out
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### Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
<p><u>Indicator 6.1</u> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG</p>	0	20	0	25	

<p><u>Indicator 6.2</u> Extent to which there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage efforts to end VAWG</p>	0	50	0	75	<p>This activity was not finalized in 2021. Data should be available for Phase II. Actions have advanced in Phase I to strengthen the social mechanisms through the Civil Society National Reference Group and Human Rights Commission of Belize, which will improve women's rights organizations, autonomous women's movements, and relevant CSOs access to social accountability structures at the community level.</p>
<p><u>Indicator 6.3</u> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG</p>	0	20	0	20	
<p><b>Output Indicator</b></p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone 2</b></p>	<p><b>Results for Reporting Period (2021)</b></p>	<p><b>Target</b></p>	<p><b>Reporting Notes</b></p>



<p><u>Indicator 6.1.1</u> Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year</p>	0	20	11	30	
<p><u>Indicator 6.1.3</u> Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women’s rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG, within the last year.</p>	<p><b>Youth</b></p>	0	5	16	5
	<p><b>LNOB</b></p>	0	5	16	5
<p><u>Indicator 6.1.4</u> Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year</p>	0	30	34	35	

<u>Indicator 6.2.1</u> Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG, within the last year	0	20	130	25	
	<b>CSOs with strengthened capacities</b>				
<u>Indicator 6.3.1</u> Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.	20	20	49	25	
<u>Indicator 6.3.2</u> Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year	0	20	37	25	

## ANNEX B: RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Country Programme / Regional Programme: BELIZE/Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls

Reporting Period: 01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Risk Assessment <small>(All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)</small>			Risk Monitoring: <small>How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?</small>		Addressing the Risk: <small>Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.</small>	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk <small>Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]</small>	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<b>Contextual risks</b>						
Political changes can affect political commitment to Spotlight Initiative	3	2	Quarterly	Government Press Office	Continued engagement with elected officials will be done throughout the year (2021). Spotlight Initiative team to carry out High Level Meeting in July 2021 with Government Officials and define key recommendations and next steps. This plan will align the work of Spotlight Initiative and build within the Government's Family and Women's Agenda to ensure sustainability in the long term and involvement of policy and decision makers in government. The objective of such intervention is to maintain momentum throughout the life cycle of the initiative.  CSNRG to continue to advocate.	RUNOs/RCO

Natural Disasters/Ongoing threat of COVID-19	5	4	Monthly virtual programme monitoring meetings	Programme Reports	Adjustment Spotlight Initiative activities to respond to the reality of COVID-19 allowed addressing context specific risk factors, available assets, reprogramming of funds and accelerating interventions in recognition of GBV as a shadow pandemic. This also presented an opportunity to deeply engage with civil society partners and support Government in coordinating a national response. Monitoring evolution of the impact of the pandemic on women and girls to be done.	RUNOs
<b>Programmatic risks</b>						
Capacity of government and CSO partners to reach the hardest to reach population	3	3	Monthly virtual programme monitoring meetings	Programme Reports	Continue ensuring linkages with existing programmes in rural communities, develop a plan for coordination of service delivery to the hardest to reach populations to reduce cost of reaching communities and to maximize the impact of interventions. Build capacity of local personnel to deliver some services and interventions (community health workers, teachers, nurses, etc.)  CSO members of CSNRG include representatives of excluded populations in addition to women and girl (LGBTQI, Indigenous, sex workers, youth)  Due to a limited pool of CSO partners implementing interventions or providing support for family violence issues, actions have been centered around institutional capacity strengthening of CSOs to address gaps in the geographic areas of reach.	RUNOs
Availability of complementary resources (in addition to Si resources) owing to funds being diverted to COVID 19 response	3	3	Monthly	Financial reports	Meetings with the Regional Offices and Headquarters to discuss the need for high-level advocacy from HQ  Documentation of additional funds supporting programmatic elements prior to Spotlight Initiative. Identification of new funds available with other donors and global funds	RUNOs/RCO
Fear of discrimination and victimization among women's rights advocates	4	4	Ongoing discussions with CSO and women's rights advocates-monthly	CSO reports	Strengthen the network of CSO actors and CSNRG to increase support and protection for women's rights advocates through legislative and policy reform. Ensure actions related to data collection, in the face of COVID-19, considers the protection of women and girls who are victims or at risk for family violence	RUNOs

Male marginalization: tendency of stakeholders and CSOs to highlight the marginalization of men and boys as a justification for including them as a focus for inclusion in programme	3	2	ongoing communication to highlight how Spotlight impacts families	Communication Plan	Provide data and evidence to demonstrate the scale of women's and girls' experiences of violence within the family and demonstrate their vulnerability to GBV.  Highlight the important role that men play in partnering with women to bring an end to GBV.  Engagement of CSO Partners with a specific focus on addressing male socialization and harmful masculinity	RUNOs/RCO
Delays in project implementation due to internal procedures especially due diligence and quality assurance (new)	3	3	Monthly virtual programme monitoring meetings	Programme Reports	Close engagement with senior management to resolve bottlenecks and accelerate work processes  Close coordination with EU and government MHDSTPA on issues affecting implementation  Ensure SI steering committee is functional	RUNOs/RCO
<b>Institutional risks</b>						
Limited availability of disaggregated data to inform evidence-based programming	2	2	Regular Meetings of technical steering committee (baseline)	Meeting reports	Baseline Study Reports available to inform programming in quarter 2 of 2021 and disseminated to CSO and Government partners	RUNOs/RCO
Capacity of institutions to implement programmes at scale and to provide essential package of services particularly psychosocial services	3	3	Monthly virtual programme monitoring meetings	Programme Reports	Ensure capacity assessment is undertaken and identify innovative approaches for service delivery in areas where capacity is weak e.g. psychosocial support. (contract NGOs such as Project Heal to train trainers or to provide a package of services in areas where it is most needed)  Joint monitoring meetings with key IP: MHD, NWC, NCFC, MNS	RUNOs/RCO

Lack of formal frameworks/ mechanisms among government and CSO partners which enables coordinated service delivery, joint planning and programme cohesion	3	3	Monthly steering committee meetings	Meeting reports	<p>Engage partners in joint planning and the design of models for service delivery that mandates coordination and collaboration, integrate behaviour change communication into capacity building sessions to address individual and institutional behaviour change that will foster improved partnerships</p> <p>Engagement strategy for CSO Partners and networks in individualized discussions to highlight synergies then facilitate bilateral discussions leading to possible partnerships among CSOs</p>	RUNOs/RCO
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>						
CSOs lack structure for receiving funds and mechanisms for ensuring accountability for funds	3	3	Ongoing financial assessment of implementing partners	Financial assessment reports	Evaluate structure and function of CSOs and identify CSOs that have capacity to manage resources. Establish MOUs with CSOs that allow for multiple CSOs to benefit from funding pool managed by one CSO with proven track record of efficient and effective management of resources.	RUNOs
<b>Assumptions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Spotlight Initiative has significant political and administrative support and facilitates the commitment and continued support of government regardless of a change in administration</b></li> <li>✓ <b>There is significant national commitment to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to ensure continuity of the programme even during times of emergency</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Government and non-government stakeholders have an interest in harmonizing conceptual frameworks, policies and plans at all levels to ensure evidence-based programming on VAWG.</b></li> </ul>						

## ANNEX C: CSO ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Country/Regional Programme: BELIZE/Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls

Reporting Period: THIS IS A CUMULATIVE REPORT SINCE THE START OF THE SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMME UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2021

Total budget for Civil Society Reference Group's (CSRG) workplan since programme start		\$40,000.00													
Name of Recipient UN Organization (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner? Please indicate if the RUNO has/has not partnered with the CSO prior to the Spotlight Programme start.
<b>OUTCOME 1: Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of VAWG and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans.</b>															
Output 1.1: National and regional partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international human rights standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.															
	1	1.1													
Output 1.2: National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG in line with international human rights standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.															
	1	1.2													
Output 1.3: National, sub-national and/or regional partners have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.															
	1	1.3													
<b>OUTCOME 2: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG and harmful practices, including in other sectors.</b>															
Output 2.1: Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.															
	2	2.1													
Output 2.2: Multi-stakeholder national and/or sub-national coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened that are adequately funded and include multisectoral representation and representation from the most marginalized groups.															

	2	2.2														
<b>Output 2.3: Partners (parliamentarians, key government officials and women's rights advocates) at national and/or sub-national levels have greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG.</b>																
<b>OUTCOME 3: Gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors change at community and individual levels to preventVAWG and HTPs.</b>																
<b>Output 3.1: National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in- and out-of-school settings.</b>																
UNFPA	3	3.1	Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 20,542.50	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 20,542.50	\$ 20,542.50	Yes	Existing	
UNICEF	3	3.1	Pathlight International	International	Women and girls from ethnic minorities and/or religious minorities	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 45,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 39,275.00	\$ 39,275.00	Yes	New	
<b>Output 3.2: Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem, and transforming harmful masculinities.</b>																
UNICEF	3	3.2	Youth Enhancement Services	National	Adolescent girls	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 35,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 32,832.50	\$ 17,139.69	Yes	Existing	
UNICEF	3	3.2	Toledo Institute for Environment and Development	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 40,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 31,835.50	\$ 31,835.50	Yes	Existing	
UNDP	3	3.2	Young Women's Christian Association	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$ 45,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	24.44%	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 22,248.63	Yes	Existing	
UNDP	3	3.2	Productive Organization of Women in Action (POWA)	Local/Grassroots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$ 42,250.00	neither	n/a	n/a	15.38%	\$ 42,250.00	\$ 42,250.00	Yes	Existing	
<b>Output 3.3: Decision makers in relevant institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, and women and girls' rights.</b>																
UNICEF	3	3.3	Productive Organization of Women in Action (POWA)	Local/Grassroots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 21,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 14,730.00	Yes	Existing	
UNICEF	3	3.3	The Child Development Foundation (CDF)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 46,000.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	Yes	Existing	
UNDP	3	3.3	Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN)	Regional (operates in at least two countries within same region)	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$ 92,750.00	neither	n/a	n/a	10.51%	\$ 92,750.00	\$ 76,709.97	Yes	New	
<b>OUTCOME 4: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services, including for long-term recovery from violence.</b>																
<b>Output 4.1: Relevant government authorities and women's rights organizations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRHR services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of violence, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.</b>																
	4	4.1														
<b>Output 4.2: Women and girls survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer-term recovery services and opportunities.</b>																
UNFPA	4	4.2	Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 42,332.75	neither	n/a	n/a	10%	\$ 42,332.75	\$ 42,332.75	Yes	Existing	
UNFPA	4	4.2	Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA)	Local/Grassroots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$ 35,178.00	neither	n/a	n/a	17%	\$ 35,178.00	\$ 35,178.00	Yes	New	





## ANNEX D: INNOVATIVE, PROMISING OR GOOD PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

COUNTRY/REGION: BELIZE/CARIBBEAN

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 JANUARY 2021 - 31 DECEMBER 2021

### Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

GOOD PRACTICE	PROMISING PRACTICE			INNOVATIVE
Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Mobile Women's Center Children's Space	Community Women Mobilizers	Engaging Men and Boys Training and Public Awareness Campaign	Work with Couples, Including Adolescents in Formal and Informal Unions
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b></p>	<p>The Children Space within the Mobile Women Center (MWC) was designed to provide a safe and interactive space for children to be while women (mothers and care givers) were being attended to by the service providers of their choice. The Children's space formed a part of the Mobile Women Center intervention that supported Outcome 4 which seeks to provide available, accessible, and quality essential services, including long-term recovery from violence.</p> <p>The space was equipped with props and materials and</p>	<p>Community Mobilization is an effective method for getting members of any community mobilized. In varying contexts, this mobilization is done through identified and trained community members who would, in turn, provide ongoing to the target beneficiaries of the interventions. The identification, training, and support of women and girls' survivors or at risk for violence has been identified as <b>a promising practice</b>. Women Community Mobilizers received training on the family violence toolkit, psychosocial support, and referral pathways.</p>	<p>The Public Awareness Campaign in various languages reached 66,931 persons and 1114 men and boys attended gender transformative programmes. A total of 16 trainers were trained who volunteer in their spare time and work full time jobs. Currently the demand for the training in both the private and public sector abundantly exceeds the demand so this has been identified as a <b>promising practice</b>. Although the programme was not adopted in schools due to challenges with COVID-19 in the Ministry of Education, school principals have reached out requesting that</p>	<p>In conducting the activity focused on couples and adolescents in early unions CSOs intended to target couples only. However, during implementation, it was recognized that persons with various relationship status were interested in participating. In addition, persons who started the training in a relationship found themselves single by the time the training concluded. This they attributed to the knowledge and awareness gained about GBV and Healthy Relationships. It was also recognized that there was a need to also provide trainings to the LGBT</p>

	<p>activities conducted were geared towards challenging gender identity, gender roles, social norms and other behaviors with the children and with the parents and their child. Through the Spotlight Initiative Belize Programme, the Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) has now been equipped to incorporate this <b>promising practice</b> as part of their GBV and SRH education and awareness programming with preschool and primary school age children within the school and community environments.</p>		<p>the training is conducted in their entire schools. In addition, a cohort of the Belize Coast Guards was trained, and a request has been received to expand the training to the entire force. Requests have also been received from the Police and Belize Defense Force. It is therefore necessary to expand the number of trainers and the reach of the project using the toolkit developed. There is opportunity to scale up and replicate the programme on engaging men and boys.</p>	<p>community. As such POWA held a training session especially for the LGBT community in Dangriga.</p> <p>The activity to work with couples, including adolescents in formal and informal unions, was carried out to transform the imbalance of power and build healthy relationships, manage conflicts and understand family violence formed part of the work under Pillar 3, and has been identified as an <b>innovative practice</b>.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b></p>	<p>The objective of the activity was a first to provide a safe and interactive space for children to be while women (mothers and care givers) were being attended to by the service providers of their choice. However, the objective expanded with the space being used to challenge gender norms and behaviors and perpetuate unequal power relations and control . through participatory activities on gender and gender socialization.</p>	<p>The objective of the practice was initially to identify women and girls for participation in community engagement activities to raise awareness and strengthen support to family violence, including domestic violence and child abuse. However, the realities of the COVID-19 context provided an opportunity for further development and response to ensure that marginalized women and girls are not left behind. This</p>	<p>The goal of the activity was to engage men and boys as critical beneficiaries to the success of actions in pillar 3 and to reach a wider audience to be able to impact and train more people</p>	<p>Past efforts at engaging men and boys have yielded limited success. Consequently, the strategy proposed innovative approaches to reaching and engaging men and boys as partners in ending family violence including but not limited to clubs for men and boys, mentorship and or leadership programmes. Addressing social norms was also pivotal in order to build better relationships as couples.</p>

		translated into dedicated training to build their capacity to provide follow up care and support to those participating in the community activities, as well as capacity to identify, respond and report women and children in situations of violence.		
<b>Stakeholders involved:</b>	<p>Direct beneficiaries of the Children space were children 5-14 years old. Indirect beneficiaries were parents/guardians/Caregivers that wished to access services being provided in the Mobile Women Center. Stakeholders include school management, administrations, teachers that support with use of school facilities and use of teachers who supported the facilitators in the activities with children. Additionally, parents who participated in activities with their children after they received service(s) of their choice.</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples Affairs (liaise and facilitated the approval for Mobile Women Centers to be implemented during lockdown measures), the Ministry of Health and Wellness</p>	<p>The direct beneficiaries of this practice are women and children at-risk or in situations of family violence. Indirectly, general community membership and leadership also benefit from support and sensitization on family violence, the obligations of the state to respond and the advocacy for key essential services at the community level.</p> <p>The Child Development Foundation (CDF) led the implementation of this intervention, recruiting key women community stakeholders.</p> <p>Additionally, the Department of Public Health in the Ministry of Health, were engaged by CDF to allow Women Community Mobilizers to accompany them during their community campaigns. Public Health Officers were visiting communities to support the</p>	<p>Beneficiaries included training in workplaces which covered the Youth Department, Development Finance Corporation, the National Women's Commission Committee Members, Belize Defence Force in Belize City and Camp Belizario, Belize Coast Guard, Julian Cho Society, Belize Community Police, Belize Defence Force Instructors, The HUB staff (adults), Hope Haven Adults.</p> <p>Additionally, school-aged boys, thought a peer-education programme were trained through the Belize City Shadow Council, Belmopan Active Youths, Belize Defence Force Youth Cadets, Hope Haven Youths, Orange Walk Home of Hope, Maud Williams 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Formers, Cayo Child Advisory Body, Restore Belize Youths, Orange Walk Child Advisory Body, Red Cross Youth Group in San</p>	<p>Adolescents in early unions was the initial target however as trainings evolved young persons wanted to participate who had various relationship statuses. Mature couples were involved to mentor the younger couples and person who were preparing to be in future relationships were also welcomed. The building of relationship and the exchange between the mature and younger couples was enriching and proved beneficial to all. A special session was also provided to the LGBT Community which proved to be a safe space to discuss challenges faced in relationships.</p> <p>The Engaging Men and Boys Facilitator's Toolkit was jointly developed by YWCA (leading) and POWA supporting. POWA Sisters mobilized the community members and assisted in the logistics and delivery of the trainings.</p>

	<p>(provided approval for implementation of Mobile Women Center and acted as referral agent for continued service support), the Belize Police Department (facilitated the partners and UN agencies during Mobile Women Center and provided anonymous support for safety and security), the Human Rights Commission of Belize (provision of legal support services), the Child Development Foundation (provision of psychosocial support and counselling), the Belize Family Life Association (provided sexual and reproductive health services), the Productive Organization for Women in Action (GBV information sharing, implementation of children space) also played an integral role in the implementation of the Mobile Women Centers.</p>	<p>acceleration of COVID-19 health and safety protocols, including vaccination. This collaboration provided Women Community Mobilizers with support and served as a learning opportunity for techniques to engage families in sensitive dialogue on family issues.</p>	<p>Pedro, The HUB Youths, and Belize City Child Advisory.</p> <p>Private Sector, Security Armed Forces, CSOs, NGOs, youth groups, schools, and City and Town Councils were instrumental stakeholders in identifying beneficiaries as they are already established groups or organizations with members interested in trainings. Additionally, in some cases, these stakeholders provided logistical support to host trainings.</p>	<p>Community Activists delivered the mentorship component of this activity which had to be modified due to COVID-19 Restrictions. Facebook Live shows entitled “MENTors” was the mode of delivery of the mentorship workshops on Sundays. These were well received by young persons. The five shows focused on Men in Agriculture, Music, Community Engagement, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Sports and Men as teachers Ministry of Human Development, Families and Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs mobilized the community, and participated and supported in some of the face-to-face training. Additionally, a special information session was organized with participation of a volunteer magistrate who provided legal education on matters directly affecting the participants including: obtaining divorce, separation of assets, custody matters to name a few.</p>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b></p>	<p>The Children Space can be considered a promising practice as it provides a safe space for parents be able to bring their child(ren) and also able to access necessary lifesaving</p>	<p>The Women Community Mobilizers met a critical gap at community level where services to women and children are most needed but often not available. Their willingness and agility in</p>	<p>It is a promising practice since the trainers volunteer to conduct trainings, using their free time and weekends to prepare and deliver.</p>	<p>The approach to the trainings were innovative. We learnt that although persons may not be in relationships, we can start to prepare them from adolescence so that when they find a partner</p>

	<p>services without having the responsibility for caregiving act as a barrier to access services. Additionally, the children space is a stimulating environment that allows children to interact in activities based on the UNICEF Return to Happiness Programme using props and other activities. Lastly, the children's space also acts as an outlet to address gender norms and unequal power relations with children at an early age through one-on-one activities and games. This has allowed POWA as the partner leading on this activity to strengthen their community outreach programme by expanding activities that can further stimulate and engage younger children. These spaces have been tested in the Mobile Women Centers and Mobiles designed to provide services to migrants and asylum seekers and be fully utilized by beneficiaries.</p>	<p>responding to the needs of their community and partnership with other state community responders, such as the Ministry of Health's Public Health Officers, increased access to families, but also provided an additional level of on-the-job training on such skills as effective communication, observations, and acclimatization to the varying economic realities of community members.</p>	<p>Additionally, participants are exposed to different perspectives on masculinity that challenge the social norms that are engrained in them, and the critical they play in society for advancing gender equality.</p>	<p>they will be able to make healthier choices. Educating the youth about their rights, the various forms of abuse and communication and conflict management should aid them in making healthier relationship choices and avoid them becoming victims of GBV.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>At the start of the Mobile Women Center these spaces were focusing on reducing the barriers to access and thus were not fully equipped with enough props and personnel to support the engagement with children in an effort to challenge gender norms</p>	<p>A significant challenge for Women Mobilizers is the varying levels of services available at community levels. This limits the extent to which referrals and accompaniment can be provided, especially in cases where services are outside of the</p>	<p>COVID-19 affected the training plan but also presented an opportunity to reach a wider audience virtually. With COVID-19 restrictions, training had to shift to online mode and progressively changed to face-to-face as restrictions seized.</p>	<p>Challenges faced were mostly COVID-19 related. Several of the POWA Team contracted the virus and so too did several trainees. This delayed implementation in some instances. The adoption of FB Live as a virtual platform was</p>

	<p>at an early age. As the Mobile Women Center's progressed, these spaces were equipped with props, activities and supported by the Community Pre-School (Kindergarten) teachers who were also taught some of the techniques to utilize in class sessions with children on a daily basis.</p>	<p>community of municipality. Most of these women have limited resources and cannot adequately provide support to scale. With the support of The Child Development Foundation (CDF) they are currently able to mitigate these challenges and barriers to ensure reach. An additional mitigation action is the provision of basic advocacy awareness to support conversations with community leaders in sub-national dialogues for access to services.</p>	<p>Conversely, the demand for the training exceeded the number of trainers that are currently trained, willing, and available to deliver trainings for this practice to be sustainable.</p>	<p>used to carry out a public awareness campaign and what was initially planned as an in-person mentorship of young men. As series of FB Live shows on Sundays were well received and resulted in wide reach since the viewers included entire families and not only the youth.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b></p>	<p>Impact: Through the creation of these spaces, quality essential Mobile Services for Women in rural hard to reach areas addressing the immediate and long-term effects and recovery from violence, became available, accessible and acceptable.</p> <p>Output: Child space of the Mobile Women Center was implemented to provide a safe and stimulating environment for children, allowing parents to access safe and confidential essential services.</p>	<p>Through this process, the Women Community Mobilizers assisted 162 women and girls to understand their rights, build up their personal capacities, access essential services, in some cases emergency protective services, and develop protection plans for those remaining in abusive relationships and homes.</p>	<p>The effects have been a wider reach of the public awareness. Using hybrid methods of training and advocacy delivery was also welcomed by younger persons. This method is being further explored to widen the reach and scope of trainings. Panel Discussions and forums to advance the topic of GBV is being advanced involving other partners in the eco-system with a data driven focus.</p>	<p>Empowerment and impetus created in people trained on EVAWG will continue advocacy. The training also harnessed inclusivity of marginalized groups with no one being turned away who wanted to attend trainings, even if they were single. Special trainings were also conducted for LGBT Groups as POWA was able to put together a good team of trainers complimented with the community members which helped to build trust and have better turn out. The trainings also experienced immediate action with gaps identified for example, a volunteer magistrate was identified and able to advise on a</p>

				divorce matters and even a person's divorce was granted. 'A Belizean Toolkit to Promote Healthy Relationship with Adolescent Couples & Mentorship Guide for Men and Boys' is also an output from this practice being finalized by May 2022.
<b>Adaptable (Optional)</b>	This practice can be replicated in mobile outreaches in the rural and urban settings offering services to women.	This process can and must be adaptable to first ensure that the individual community contexts are strongly considered when engaging and strengthening women to take leadership in ensuring women and children have access to essential services at the community level.	Youth were more inclined to do virtual training, however, more mature individuals preferred face-to-face. Additionally, face-to-face settings are more suited for some of the modules. Therefore, hybrid trainings in the future would be something to explore.	The practice is easily adoptable, far reaching and can prove cost effective.
<b>Replicable/Scale-Up</b>	There is a high possibility of replicating and extending this practice to like mobile outreaches as the Mobile Women Center and Mobiles for Migrants and Asylum Seekers.	To expand coverage for every woman and child, including those facing multiple and intersecting forms of stigma and discrimination, women with increased capacity will ensure that accessibility is prioritized.	Expand training of trainers to meet demands for trainings to train more people in workplaces and school-aged boys.	We have easily replicated the activity in Corozal, although it was initially carried out in Dangriga. There is opportunity for regional and international scope as well.
<b>Sustainable</b>	Training preschool level teachers in addressing gender norms and partnering with schools and community programs to conduct outreaches and to facilitate the availability of teacher volunteers to provide/support the care services. Additionally, scale up of Care Services – ensuring that government incorporate care services for service delivery	Continued identification and training of women to ensure that there are enough 'boots on the ground' to provide greater coverage for women and children.	The toolkit would facilitate sustainability to advance a wider cohort of trainers in more communities, including in rural areas where more men and boys can be engaged.	Continued training in the rest of the country since 3 of the 6 districts were targeted based on studies. Explore Training of trainers to contribute to sustainability.



	(mobile or static) as part of essential services delivery.			
<b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b>				
<b>Additional details and contact information:</b>	<p>This activity was spearheaded by the Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) through the leadership of community and feminist activist Michelle Irving and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:powa2grow@gmail.com">powa2grow@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>The Child Development Foundation (CDF) led to rollout of this intervention. Diana Shaw is an advocate and leads a dynamic team of trainers, counsellors and mobilizers. <a href="mailto:Diacafe@yahoo.com">Diacafe@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p>This activity was implemented by Spouses of the CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) who also developed the toolkit. Executive Director, Jacqueline Dragone can be contacted at <a href="mailto:jdragone@sclan.org">jdragone@sclan.org</a> <a href="http://www.sclan.org/">http://www.sclan.org/</a></p>	<p>This activity was implemented by the Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA) with a tool kit jointly developed along with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) <a href="mailto:powa2grow@gmail.com">powa2grow@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t9u07zsrkx1n2g/AABANP8QFhXpkzK-2rdlZxOJa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t9u07zsrkx1n2g/AABANP8QFhXpkzK-2rdlZxOJa?dl=0</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ryl0j90lx2zhuy/AAD0Q8huyDgxXSQCm9AQBmYJa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ryl0j90lx2zhuy/AAD0Q8huyDgxXSQCm9AQBmYJa?dl=0</a></p>

## Section B: Knowledge Production

Knowledge Products developed by the Spotlight Initiative Country programme below, as well as Knowledge Products in the pipeline.

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Comprehensive Sexuality Education Manual	Capacity Development Module	The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Curriculum is a simple guide that focuses on three important themes: value of self, understanding the body and behavioural changes and developing sustainable health choices.	May 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
Comprehensive Sexuality Education Training Aid Flipchart	Capacity Development Module	The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Training Aid Flipchart is created to provide CSE trained educators with a tool to support conducting training and sessions with other persons and is particularly intended for use with out-of-school youth. The flipchart is a condensed version of the BFLA CSE manual and provides summary content and activities in key areas.	May 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
Mapping of State and Non-State Actor in GBV	Mappings	The Report provides a mapping of state and non-state actors involved in the prevention, service delivery and social norm change as it relates to family violence and gender-based violence in Belize. An understanding of efficiency in service delivery in addressing family violence, gender-based violence and social norms change from a systems approach will be highlighted within this report to assess the responsiveness, appropriateness,	December 2020	<a href="#">Link</a>

		adaptability, availability and accessibility of programmes within the police, health, social and justice sectors in Belize.		
GBV Pocket Guide	Guidance Note/Tool	<p>The Pocket Guide and its supporting materials provide all humanitarian practitioners with information on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to support a survivor of gender-based violence (GBV)</li> <li>2. Who discloses their experience of GBV with you</li> <li>3. In a context where there is no GBV actor (including a GBV referral pathway or a GBV focal point) available.</li> </ol> <p>The Pocket Guide uses global standards on providing basic support and information to survivors of GBV without doing further harm. We encourage the adaptation of this resource to your local context with the support of a GBV specialist and in a manner that maintains a survivor-centred approach.</p>	December 2020	<a href="#">Link</a>
Family Violence Toolkit	Capacity Development Module	Community-based training on the root causes of Family Violence with Toolkit	July 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
Spotlight Initiative Belize Newsletter- A Year in Review	Newsletter	The Spotlight Initiative in Belize has made great strides toward eliminating family violence which includes violence against women and girls. The newsletter reviews some of the many highlights and accomplishments of the programme in Belize thus far.	January 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>
Spotlight Initiative Accomplishment Work in	Multimedia	This video highlights the work of the Spotlight Initiative with interviews from state and non-	December 2021	<a href="https://youtu.be/71wuRudsaZA">https://youtu.be/71wuRudsaZA</a>

Belize 2021		state partners reflecting on the work accomplished in 2021.		
Engaging Men and Boys Facilitator's Toolkit	Guidance Note/Tool	<p>This toolkit is for adolescents, young people, youth, peer educators and peer leaders in schools, youth and community groups. It can also be used by school counsellors, teachers, and people working in the social services delivery field, youth development and health education programs in communities, and anyone who wants to use it in supporting boys and young men in ending violence against women and girls.</p> <p>The goals of the toolkit are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide young people with knowledge on healthy masculinity and the necessary skills to transform masculinity.</li> <li>2. To provide peer educators and peer leaders a reference that they can use when teaching violence and healthy masculinity.</li> <li>3. For use in creating more awareness on general health for adolescents and young people.</li> <li>4. To encourage advocacy for and build conversations around masculinity towards and ending violence against women and girls that will and more so, promote accountability and responsible behaviours.</li> </ol>	February 2022	<a href="#">Link</a>
National Capacity Development Plan (NCDP) in Response to	Capacity Development Module	The Capacity Development Plan defines goals, activities, expected outcomes, responsible institutions, planned and required resources per	December 2021	<a href="#">Link</a>

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Family Violence		year and the period for achievement of each goal and is the foundation for defining the costing analysis used as a tool for the implementation of the National Strategy.		
HFLE Life Skill Curriculum	Capacity Development Module	A curriculum That will not only reinforce the connection between health and education, but also uses a holistic approach within a planned and coordinated framework and focuses on the development of a whole person.	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A
Gender Equality and Diversity Seal	Guidance Note/Tool	The Gender Equality and Diversity Seal is the official recognition following the certification process that recognizes a business or organization (public and private sector) for its performances in delivering transformational gender equality results. Its objectives are to (1) Embrace diversity and inclusion, eliminate gender discrimination, promote learning, support critical reflection, and encourage innovative thinking on gender transformation, (2) Represent progress/ success of businesses and organizations that promote gender equality; and, (3) Measure and certify the competence and achievement in the advancement of gender equality (women's rights in particular)	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A
National Social and Behavior Change Communication Strategy	Capacity Development Module	The Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy (SBCCS) on Ending Violence against Women and Girls is intended for use by government and civil society stakeholders involved in the national response to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). The SBCCS provides a wide range of	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A

		communication actions across all levels of the social ecology aimed at fostering changes in knowledge, attitudes, practices/behaviours as well as addressing social and gender norm changes that are at the root cause of VAWG.		
Essential Service Package for Belize	Guidance Note/Tool	The Essential Services Package is a guidance tool identifying the essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence, including services that should be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors. This package also provides guidelines for the coordination of these services.	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A
Multisectoral Response Protocols for GBV	Capacity Development Module	A multi-sectoral response protocol to GBV represents a holistic and coordinated approach aimed at harmonizing and correlating programmes and actions developed and implemented by a variety of institutions (but not limited to these) in the areas of psychosocial welfare, law enforcement (police, prosecutors and justice departments) and health.	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A
Mobile Women Center Programme Design	Guidance Note/Tool	The Mobile Women Center programme designed will outline coordination of high quality service as defined in the Essential Package of Service to reach women and girls subject to violence in Belize. The scope and approach for the delivery of mobile women centers include a mobile brigade approach led by civil society organizations providing individual services to all women. These services include legal support, SRH services, Psychosocial support and counselling, and Information and Awareness on	Expected to be finalized June 2022	N/A

		SRH and GBV in the hard-to-reach rural communities.		
Guidance Note on Engaging CSOs and Women's Rights Groups in Belize	Guidance Note	Guidance on engaging civil society in Belize which include lessons learned and best practices.	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A
Training Package for social services workforce strengthening	Capacity Development Modules	<p>Online training modules targeting frontline social workers and supervisors, including but not limited to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fundamentals in Social Work and MHDFIPA practice</li> <li>- Process of Planned Change (including M&amp;E)</li> <li>- Building Relationships and Engaging Clients</li> <li>- Interviewing Skills (particularly interviewing children)</li> <li>- Case Management process (theory &amp; FC applications)</li> <li>- Risk and Family Assessment</li> <li>- Intervention Planning</li> <li>- Crisis Intervention Skills</li> <li>- Client Monitoring and Evaluation</li> <li>- Social Work Documentation and Report Writing</li> <li>- Family Social Work and engaging parents</li> <li>- Child Protection Investigations</li> <li>- Court Preparation and Representation</li> <li>- Social Work Supervision and Administration</li> <li>- Trauma</li> <li>- Self-care for Social Workers (preventing burnout)</li> <li>- Family Violence</li> <li>- Community Development</li> <li>- Networking and Resource Mobilization</li> </ul>	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A

Joint Sexual Violence Response Programme	Guidance Note/Tool	The JSVPR aims for women and girls to enjoy their right to a life free of violence within an inclusive and gender-equitable Belize. The JSVPR Programme will provide response services when sexual assault occurs within the Belize security forces, focus on prevention strategies, support victim recovery, and assist members of the security forces to be fully mission capable.	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A
Training Modules for Court Officials	Capacity Development Module	<p>The training modules seek to strengthen Court Officials' involvement in the hearing of matters dealing with children and families. Through collaboration with the Magistrate Court and Family Court, University of the West Indies, Open Campus training modules will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Interest of the Child Adjudication;</li> <li>• Problem-solving principles and practices in the courtroom;</li> <li>• Best Practices for the Interviewing of Children; Court Room Management;</li> <li>• Matters relating to child victims and children in conflict with the law;</li> <li>• Use of Alternative Sentencing; and,</li> <li>• United Nations Framework on international standards of child rights.</li> </ul>	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A
Training Curriculum for Engaging Men and Boys	Capacity Development Module	One of the outcomes within the National Gender-based Violence Action Plan calls for men's and boys' increased understanding of the dynamics of gender and GBV so they can be actively involved in reducing Gender-based Violence in Belize. The training curriculum is a facilitators' manual divided into five (5) modules	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A



		which underscore several thematic areas on engaging men and boys.		
Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters	Guidance Note/Tool	SOPs being produced through the Women's Department in collaboration with NWC Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters were reviewed for adoption to the COVID-19 Pandemic and consideration for natural disasters. The three shelter facilities are now finalizing the SOPs and two have completed the training of shelter staff, volunteers and board of directors.	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A
A Belizean Toolkit to Promote Healthy Relationships Between Adolescent Couples & Mentorship Guide for Men and Boys	Capacity Development Module	This toolkit is designed to be used by facilitators and coaches to guide couples, including adolescents in formal and informal unions, to transform the imbalance of power and build healthy relationships, manage conflicts, and appreciate peaceful and cordial family interactions	Expected to be finalized by May 2022	N/A